

## 22S12 Philippians 2:5-11 Attitude of Christ

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today I want to continue our study of Philippians with Philippians 2:5-11.

Before we start, let us remember this short letter was most likely written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison in Rome. Paul had first visited Philippi during his second missionary journey, and he has great affection for the church in Philippi. This letter is sometimes called “the Joy Epistle” because of thankful and joyful tone. But remember Paul is in prison in Rome, not very happy circumstances.

I’m reading from the New King James version (NKJV) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let’s read Philippians 2:5-11 (NKJV) *<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your word from Philippians, help us see why Paul is so thankful and joyful despite his situation. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

So, before we start studying today. This section in my NKJV bible is titled “the Humbled and Exalted Christ”. The KJV says, “the Attitude of Christ”. Of course, these headings are not part of the original letter Paul sent. But I do find these interesting sometimes. Regardless of what your translation title says, Paul is going to tell us something important about Jesus.

So, let’s break these verses down a little more. Starting with Philippians 2:5-7 (NKJV) ” *<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

I’ll be honest I don’t really like the NJKV word choices here, Let me read it again from the NLT *<sup>5</sup>You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup>Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup>Instead, he gave up his*

*divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.*

Paul is making a very important point here. Jesus was always God, the NIV bible says, "His nature is God." But He, Jesus, set aside His divine privileges to be born a human, and took a humble position of slave. The Greek word means more like to empty oneself of. Jesus intentionally and purposely allowed himself to become human and took on the likeness of a man, as a servant or slave. Remember Jesus did this for us. He became human for us. He humbled himself for us. Please take some time and think about this.

Now see what Paul says next with *<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.* (Philippians 2:8 NKJV). The NLT translation adds this, *he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

We should never forget this. Jesus sacrificed Himself. He was obedient to God's plan to the point He willfully died a criminal's death on the cross. We are a few weeks from Easter, but in this time as we lead up to Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday, think about how our Lord Jesus humbled himself and was obedient. We should all be trying to follow His example. Be obedient to God's plan.

Paul continues with *.<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV).

We better get this right. Whether or not we want Jesus to be our King, Jesus is King. Right now, we have a choice. We can choose to follow Jesus now and live great lives, fulfilling lives, then when we die be in God's service. Or we can live for ourselves. Selfishly doing whatever we wish in open rebellion against God. We do have a choice but like every choice there are consequences. I pray you choose well. Because in the end every knee will bow to Jesus, the devil and all his demons, every angel, every human will acknowledge Jesus is King of all. You will either do it with great joy and happiness or in fear and terror.

Let's review.

- 1) What did Jesus set aside for us? Jesus being fully God had to empty himself of His divine glory and become human. He did this so He could pay the price for all sin. My sin and your sin. And make the Kingdom of God available to each of us, if we only choose to follow King Jesus.
- 2) Why is it important that Jesus set aside His deity? As God, Jesus could not live a human life and pay the price for our sins. As a man, Jesus was able to live among us, eat, drink, sleep, get tired, breath just like us. As a man, Jesus knew hunger, thirst, laughter, sorrow just like we do. Jesus had to be fully man and fully God, to set us free from our sins and death.

- 3) What is the end? As Christian we know the truth. We know how it all ends. We know that God is God. He is already in charge of everything, He is already King of kings and Lord of lords. We know we must choose during this life because there will come a day when the time for choices is over. And you are either with God or against God. I mourn for those who in selfish deceit choose poorly.

Let me leave you with this. Everyone is selfish by nature. But Jesus is calling us all to a better way of living. Life in the Kingdom of God, where people care about each other. But whether you choose Him or deny Him, He is still King. The King does not need your permission and He won't ask your opinion. I pray you choose Jesus because the alternative is not good for anyone.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for this letter from Paul. Help us to read and meditate on this letter so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to do what you ask and not worry about what others are doing. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

I hope you will join us for the rest of our study of Philippians. Please email me comments or feedback. Thank you for joining me today. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.