

**INTRODUCTION: WORTHY OF FREQUENT MEDITATION** (see 2Cor.4:6; Heb.12:2; Ps.27:4)

**I. THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST** (Phil.2:6-8)

**A. OUT OF GLORY** (Phil.2:6a)

1. *the only-begotten God* (Jn.1:1f /14,18 /29(34)36(49))
2. *the image of His glory* (2Cor.4:4-6; Heb.1:3a)
3. *the fullness of Deity* (Col.1:15-19; 2:9)

**B. INTO HUMILITY** (Phil.2:6b-8(Jn.13:4))

1. *the Son of Man* (Ps.80:17; Dan.7:13(Mt.8:20,etc.))
2. *born of a woman, under the Law* (Lk.2:7; Gal.4:4)
3. *likeness of sinful flesh* (Rom.8:3; Gen.1:26f)

**C. FOR SERVICE** (Phil.2:5f)

1. *to serve not be served* (Mk.10:45; Lk.22:27)
2. *to take away sins by the sacrifice of Himself* (Jn.1:29b; Col.1:20-23; 2:10f; Heb.1:3b)

**D. INTO GREATER GLORY** (Phil.2:8f; see Is.53:10-12; Eph.)

**II. THE INCARNATION OF CHRISTIANS** (Phil.2:1-5)

**A. OUT OF GLORY**

1. *Paul* (Phil.3:4-6)
2. *disciples* (Lk.5:11,28)
3. *rich young ruler* (Lk.18:22f)

**B. INTO HUMILITY**

1. *Paul* (Phil.3:7f,10)
2. *Timothy* (Phil.2:20,21)
3. *every Christian* (1Pt.5:5; 3:8)

**C. FOR SERVICE**

1. *Paul* (Phil.1:1f; see 1Cor.9:19; 2Cor.4:15; 11:7; Col.1:24f)
2. *Timothy and Ephaphroditus* (Phil.2:22,30)
3. *every Christian* (1Pt.5:5,6; 2:13f,18f; 3:1f; see 3:8)

**D. INTO GREATER GLORY** (Phil.3:8f; see 1Pt.5:6b,10; Mt.25:21)

**III. HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IN YOURSELVES!** (Phil.2:5f,1f)

**A. PUT IN FOREFRONT OF YOUR MIND** (Phil.2:5; 3:19; Col.3:2 /Phil.2:2,5; 3:15,19; 4:2,10 /Ezra 7:10)

**B. EXCEL IN EVERY GOOD THING!** (Phil.2:6a; see 1Th.4:1,10; Acts 18:24; 1Pt.4:10; Mt.25:14f)

**C. HUMBLE YOURSELF TO USE YOUR EXCELLENCE TO SERVE OTHERS ALSO!** (Phil.2:3,4; see 1Pt.5:5f; 2:13ff; 4:10; Rom.12:16f; Mk.10:45; see Jms.2:8)

**D. POUR YOURSELF OUT!** (Phil.2:7,8; 17(2Tm.4:6); Is.53:12; 2Cor.12:15; 1Th.1:7,11)

**E. TRUST GOD TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!** (Phil.2:9f; see 1Pt.5:6bf; Lk.6:38; Prov.19:17)

**F. A PRIMARY MOTIVE OF UNBELIEF** (see Mt.10:39)

**G. PRAY FOR GRACE!** (Phil.4:6,7; 13; 19; see Lk.22:42)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP**

**Suggestions:** Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What is "the spirit of Christmas"?
4. How did Christ accomplish this?
5. How was this applied in Paul's life? Timothy's? Epaphroditus's?
6. Does "the spirit of Christmas" mean that we must pretend to be less than God has gifted and called us to be? If not, what does it mean?
7. How does "the spirit of Christmas" explain why some people do not want to become a Christian?
8. What does "the spirit of Christmas" involve in terms of our "mindset"?
9. Describe how each of the four steps (see II; A,B,C,D) should work out in your life.
10. How does all this apply to your:
  - a. Self-image
  - b. Marriage
  - c. Family (parents, siblings, children)
  - d. Fellow church members
  - e. Fellow workers
  - f. Neighbors
  - g. Community
  - h. Nation (hint: JFK)
11. Why is prayer needed for all this?
12. What is a good thing to do each Christmas season?