

Philippians 2:5–13

“Union with the Humbledly Justifying, Exaltedly Sanctifying Christ”

How do we get the right mind, will, and working out of our salvation? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. In these nine verses, we learn that all of these come from union with the once-humbled, forever-exalted Christ.

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 ▫ Read Philippians 2:5–13

Questions from the Scripture text: What mind are we to have in us (v5)? Who is in the form of God (v6)? What was not robbery for Christ Jesus? What form did He take (v7)? What likeness? How low did Jesus humble Himself (v8)? Who exalted Him (v9)? What name did He give Him? Which knees will bow at the name of Jesus (v10)? What will every tongue confess (v11)? To whose glory? How does the apostle connect v12 to v11? What does he call them here? What have the Philippians always done? Under what circumstances? What are they to do? in what manner? Why (v13)? Who works where? To do what two things? For what?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, Song of Adoration, and Prayer of Confession all come from Philippians 2:5–13, so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *Union with Thee*.

Union with Christ forms in us the mind of Christ, v5. Being transformed comes by the renewing of our minds (cf. Rom 12:2). We offer our bodies as living sacrifices (cf. Rom 12:1) by having in us the mind of Him who took a body to give Himself unto death as a sacrifice for us (v6–8).

Union with Christ joins us to Him in the atonement of His death (v8, cf. Rom 6:3–11) and in the power and purpose of His resurrection life (v9–11, cf. Rom 6:4b–11)—that God might be glorified in Christ’s being glorified by our living as His subjects and worshipers (cf. Rom 6:12–19). This is why...

Union with Christ demands that we be zealous for obedient holiness (v12). Though we often think of vv12–13 in isolation from v3–11, the apostle joins them with a “therefore.” It is the worthiness of this Jesus Whose mind we have, and by union to Whom we are saved, that demands this holy zeal for working out that salvation.

Union with Christ guarantees the success of that zeal, v13. We lack the willing, but God works in us to will. We lack the doing, but God works in us to do. It pleases Him to produce in us that which pleases Him!

Dear believer, everything that you (newly) are, and everything that you must do depends entirely upon your being united to Christ through faith. This is why such a heavy focus of your Christian life ought to be upon those particular means that He has appointed by which He graciously works out in you your union with Himself.

In action, the ordinary means of grace are acts of devotion (worship by Word, sacrament, and prayer weekly in the assembly and by Word and prayer daily in the home). But in function, they are especially acts of dependence (coming to Christ, for Christ Himself, because we have no goodness or strength in ourselves).

He gains nothing by our worship, but when He gives us Himself by that worship, not only does He magnify Himself in the worship, but also all the glory for any good in us redounds all the more unto Him!

How are you saved? How can you love others well? How can you love God well? What then should you do?

Suggested songs: ARP23B “The Lord’s My Shepherd” or TPH448 “Union with Thee”

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpcHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Alright Philippians 2 beginning in verse 5. I’m going to verse 13. These are God’s words. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation.

Taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men. 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. Therefore God also has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Of those in heaven. Of those in the earth. And of those under the earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. To the glory of God the Father. Therefore mind beloved as you have always abide not is in my presence only but now much more in my absence.

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both the will and to do for his good pleasure.

So, Verse 5 says what this mind be in you which was also in Christ. Jesus the way. That we have the right kind of mind or mindset as a Christian is by having in us the mind that is from Christ. Union with Christ forms in us the mind of Christ.

Being transformed comes by the renewing of our minds from this talk to says do not be conformed to the world. But be transformed by the renewing of your mind. And that’s Romans 12:2 because Romans 12:1 says, we need to have our minds transformed or renewed. In order to offer our bodies as living sacrifices.

Well here he says have this mind and you which was also in Christ Jesus and he goes on to talk about how Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice for us. And so the way we get the right mindset or the right mind with which to live the Christian life is from Christ himself, who is the first to have that mind union with Christ forms in us the mind of Christ.

Union with Christ also joins us to him in the atonement of his death. He took the form of a bondservant. And being found in appearance as a man he offered himself up to death. And that on the cross. So union with Christ joins us to Jesus in his death, so his death becomes our death.

And his atonement becomes for our sin. We're not just united to him and his death we're also united to him in the power and purpose of his resurrection life. God highly exalted him. He wrote raised him from the dead and Jesus didn't just rise from the dead. He ascended into heaven.

He didn't just ascend into heaven. He sat on the throne of heaven. And so were united to him in the power of his resurrection life and were united in the purpose of his resurrection life, which is to bring him praise. And so the praise of Jesus is the purpose of our life now as we are united to him both in his dying for our sins and his rising again from the dead for us to walk in newness of life and we actually studied that yesterday in the class from Romans chapter 6.

Now union with Christ demands that we obey him. It talks about what you know our having this mind which is in Christ Jesus and talks about what Jesus did with that mindset giving himself for us talks about Jesus being exalted and since he is exalted. And is our life.

Andy sacrificed himself for us. Verse 12 starts with a very important word. Therefore my beloved as you have always obeyed not as in my presence only but now much more in my absence. Therefore, my beloved work out your own salvation with fear and trembling and we know about that working out our own salvation is because he says it in the phrase leading up to it as you have always obeyed.

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. So part of our salvation that which we are saved for is to obey Jesus and to bring him glory as the one by whose life and death and resurrection we are unable to obey. Our ability to obey Jesus comes from Jesus.

The power to obey the life the goodness to obey. Those don't come from us those come from Jesus. And so since we belong to him and we have his life in us it is necessary that obey that we obey to bring him the praise that he is due. So God has exalted him and one of the ways that he receives praise is when we obey by his life in us.

It says very important that we verse 12 work out our own salvation with fear and trembling but then there's another important word beginning of verse 13. Four. It is God who works in you both to will and to do. For his good pleasure. So not only is his praise the purpose of our obedience and our working out our salvation, but his working in us is the power.

Union with Christ demands that we be zealous for obedient holiness, but it is also the guarantee not only of the obedience but of the zeal to obey. That is he said it is God who works in you both to will. So he's the one who makes us want to obey him.

And to do. For his good pleasure. So everything that we are and everything that we do depends upon our being united to Jesus by faith.

This is why such a so much of the focus of our Christian life is on things like reading the Bible. Praying. Singing. Fifth individually and as a family daily in the home and then especially the word sacrament and prayer. In the public worship on the Lord's Days. Because these are means of grace these are things that Jesus has told us in his word that he works his life out in us as we do those things so we don't do them just to exalt him, of course we ought to exalt him in those things but he has chosen to be exalted by the very things through which he gives us his life to be in us.

So, they're not just acts of devotion, but they are acts of dependence. We are doing this and part right now because we depend upon him. And we need his life to be in us. He doesn't gain anything by our worship does he because he's God. Yet. When he gives himself to us by the worship he both magnifies himself displays his glory.

And does us good. Let's pray and ask him that he would do us that good.

Our father in heaven we thank you for giving us. Your son on Lord Jesus to be our life. That his death would be our death and his resurrection would be our power and our newness of life.

We pray that you would help us. To be devoted to him out of dependence upon him. So work in us both the will and to do according to your good pleasure we pray. In Jesus name amen.