



'Back to Basics for Believers Series'

Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians

Message 7 – Humble Living - The Supreme Example Philippians 2:5-7

Paul turns our attention to the Saviour as the greatest example, and the example which we should follow. The verses 5-11 are remarkable, and give us great insight into the overwhelming attitude, sacrifice, and exalting of the Lord Jesus Christ. The verses 6-11 have been labelled as we discovered last week as a hymn to Christ. These verses could be divided into six stanzas. The first three (v6-8) celebrate Christ's humiliation, the last three (v9-11), Christ's exaltation. Last week we only touched the surface of the wonder of Christ's Incarnation, we saw:

1. Christ is the Supreme Example - Jesus Christ is the Person who dwelt in all the glory of perfection, yet, He humbled Himself and came to this corruptible world that knows little more than selfishness, greed and death. It is utterly impossible to fathom what it meant, what it cost for the Son of God to do such a thing. This is what He did, and this is the mind that we should have if we are Christians. The same mind that led to Christ giving up everything He was and had – that very mind is to be in us. Unless we step down, and humble ourselves – step down to where hurting, confused, lost people are – to show them the love of Christ, and to point them to Him, this world has no hope.

2. Christ is Fully God - This is a most glorious thing. Jesus is of the very essence and being and image of God. He is the divine, unchangeable God Himself. He dwells in the very perfection and essence of God; He possesses the very attributes of God Himself. What an awesome Saviour He is, fully God, He had every right to show forth His glory so that all would bow before Him. Yet, He submitted Himself, and lived a life of great humility and dignity. The eternal Son did not think that His divine status gave Him the opportunity to get and get and get. Rather, His attitude was such that as the eternal Son of God, He had nothing to prove, nothing to achieve. As a result, His oneness with His Father was such that He was willing to make himself nothing, therefore meaning He gave and gave and gave.

3. Christ is Fully Man - This step down was so great that theologians call this not just Christ's humility, but the humiliation of Christ. The Sovereign Lord of the universe – He who existed in eternity and perfection, in glory and majesty, in dominion and power stepped down and became a man. But more than this, He who was Lord and Master of the universe – who deserved all the honour and service of all living creatures – took upon Himself the form of a servant. He became the servant of men, not only the servant of God, but the servant of men.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs