

Title: THE IMPACT OF AN IDEAL, PHIL. 2:1-11
(Chatham, NJ; 04/13/14, AM) [D – Expository]

Theme: A lifestyle of service and humility is the impact and theological significance of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and glorification.

Purpose: To remember the reason that we worship and serve God.

Introduction:

1. Jesus' death impacts us in many ways.
2. We receive atonement for sins.
3. The requirements of the law are met in us through Christ.
4. His resurrection assures us that we have everlasting life.
5. But it also impacts the way we live.

I. Have This Mind, 2:3-5

A. A relationship dynamic

1. First, do nothing from rivalry or conceit
2. Christian living is not a game of one-upmanship; we don't seek to determine who is the best or most acceptable
3. Jealousy is at the root of this malady
4. Second, be humble; consider others better
5. "The smaller we are the more room God has," Doan, p. 127
6. "He who humbles himself will be exalted"
7. Third, look not only to your interests, but to the interests of others
8. Is there room in your life for others? Do you do things only out of self-interest?

B. The Mind of Christ

1. Paul wants them to be of one mind, 2
2. It is the mind of Christ that guides us, 5
3. We make his mind "ours"
4. It isn't the mind of society in general
5. Only Christians understand this

II. He Made Himself Nothing, 7

A. He set aside his God nature

1. "Not count equality with God" – he disavowed the worship and respect that he deserved in order to meet us on our level
2. He got up from his throne and washed the feet of the disciples
3. He became a servant: "to give his life as a ransom" Mk. 10:45
4. Obedient to the point of death, 8

B. On Form and Likeness

1. Form of God, form of a servant, human form
2. Form does not mean "in appearance only"
3. This somewhat vague Greek word takes on significance in Paul's theology
4. Implied in "not count equality with God" is that he was equal with God
5. Essentially he was God; he was a servant; he was human (born in the likeness of humanity)
6. All of Scripture and tradition attests to these things

C. Characteristics of Christ

1. Humility – he allowed himself to be humiliated on the cross
2. Service – he spent his life ministering to others

3. That it was God who suffered and served makes this that much more profound

III. Highly Exalted, 9-11

A. Name above all names

1. Jesus is the first of "he who humbles himself" and he gets exalted
2. Seated at the right hand of God, 1 Peter 3:22
3. Affirmed in Ephesians 1:20-23

C. The Worship He Deserves, 10-11

1. Every knee shall bow
2. Every tongue confess
3. "Jesus Christ is Lord"

Conclusions:

1. The movement from humility to exaltation is a moral as well as theological imperative.
2. We are provided with the example in order for us to follow it.
3. Get rid of rivalry and conceit; put on humility and the mantle of a servant.
4. Follow Jesus in this way of life, and you will be exalted at the proper time.
5. Confess that Jesus is Lord now.
6. If you wait until the next life, it will be too late.
7. The Gospel demands that we humble ourselves before God, repent of our sins, believe that Christ is Lord, and accept his way of life.