

## **Philippians 2: 1-11: The Example of Christ Emptying Himself**

**Key Thought:** Paul wants to give us an example of the Christian life. The supreme example, the goal the Father has in mind for us, is to be like Jesus. What does this look like? Jesus, although God, voluntarily gave up His rights as God in deference to the Father and humbled Himself to save us. His obedience results in His being raised to the highest place. The same example is ours. We humble ourselves for the benefit of others, out of deference to Christ. We are promised that like Jesus, God will reward such acts of humility.

This is contrary to the teaching of the world, which says make yourself first, even at the expense of others. Jesus made Himself last, to give all so that others might be saved.

## **Philippians 2: 1-5: Paul Pleads for Unity and Humility**

- Having a unity of spirit and love for the other saints is the proper reaction when we think of what Christ has done for us.
- The hallmarks:
  - Avoid selfish ambition and vain conceit.
  - Be humble, considering others better than yourself.
  - Looking out for the interests of others instead of your own.
- In other words, be like Jesus.

## **Philippians 2: 6-8: The Emptying of Christ**

- Jesus, being God, did not insist on hanging onto His equality with the other members of the Trinity.
- He made Himself nothing, or emptied Himself of His divine rights.
- The Lord of the Universe became a servant.
- He became like a human being (in every way, save sin).
- He became an ordinary, everyday sort of guy (no celebrity status).
- He humbled Himself further by dying (the immortal voluntarily died).
- Death by crucifixion. A death for the worst criminal (not a noble death).

## **Philippians 2: 9-11: The Exaltation of Christ**

- In response, God the Father raised Him up to the highest place of reward and honor.
- Giving Jesus the Name of Absolute Authority over all things.
- At this Name every created being in the physical and spiritual worlds will bow before Jesus.
- And every created being in the physical and spiritual worlds will declare Jesus the Lord.
- This will bring glory to the Father.