

Walking Humbly With God And Others

November 26, 2017

Philippians 2:1-30

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In the Old Testament, the Book of Micah is found in the section called the Minor Prophets. Not because the books are less important but because of their conciseness.

The prophet Micah lived 750-700 B.C. in the countryside of Judah during the reigns of Ahaz and Hezekiah. His ministry consisted of warning Jerusalem and Samaria of God's impending judgment as a result of the leader's sinfulness and

rebellion towards God. Micah's goal was to produce repentant faith in the lives of the Lord's people through the vindication of God's covenant faithfulness and love for a sinful nation. For those who placed their trust in God, they would receive the promise of Zion's restoration and a kingdom of peace.

Micah 6:8 is a key verse and gives a command: *"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

In Philippians Chapter 2, we find a similar challenge with that of the prophet Micah, *"learning to walk humbly with God and others."* The world in which we live tells us that we have our rights...getting our way, dominating over others and accumulating things. But the Apostle Paul tells us that real joy comes when we give up our rights and follow Jesus' model of humility. In his letter, Paul challenges the Philippine believers to live like Christ and to love like Christ. This is easy to say, but hard to implement! The real problem lies in the fact that even though we may have the desire to imitate Christ, we still spend the bulk of our time in this world; with all its allurements, desires, trials and temptations.

So how can we live a Christ-like life? By learning to live like Christ!

Read Philippians 2:1-30 (NIV)

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life — in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I

receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, 30 because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

① EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

1. In *verse 1*, what are the things Paul say the Philippians should *have* in Christ.
2. In *verse 2-4*, list things that Paul asks the Philippians *to be* or *not to be*.
3. In *verse 5*, who is the role model that the Philippians should *imitate*?
4. In *verses 6- 8*, describe what Christ did as God's *supreme model*?
5. In *verses 9-11*, because Christ was exalted by God, *what is* and *will be* every person's response
6. In *verses 12-13*, what does Paul tell the Philippians *to do*? What do you think this means?
7. What in *verses 14-16*, how does Paul say the Philippians could "*shine like stars*"?
8. In *verses 17-18*, in spite of his circumstances, what is the *secret* of Paul's ability to rejoice?
9. In *verses 19-24*, what are the things Paul *praises* Timothy for?
10. In *verses 25-30*, how does Paul expect the Philippians to *receive* Epaphroditus? (*Vs 29*)

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

10. From what you have observed, *why* is Christ to be the Philippians role model?
11. How would you describe Paul's *relationship* with the Philippians?
12. What is the *motivation* and *power* for the Philippians to “work out their own salvation”?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)

Why does this MATTER to me?

14. Do you find it difficult to *submit* to Christ in all areas of your life? Explain.
15. How have you learned to put other's *interests* before yours? Explain.
16. List three things that you think describe *unity* in a church.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
