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## God's Thoughts About You Philippians 2:1-11 By Kirk Gambrell

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

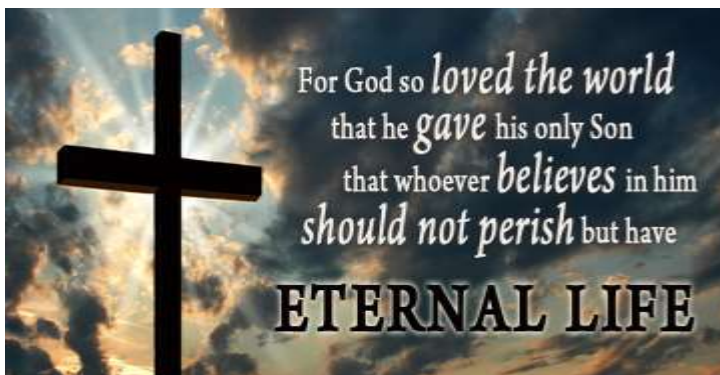
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### 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 today's world it is easy to worry about what other people think of you. Do they think you are pretty or handsome? Do they think you are smart? Do they think you are funny? Do they like to be around you? Today we are going to look at a much bigger and more important question: what does God think of you? Fortunately for us we don't have to guess what the creator of the world thinks of us. He has made it very clear over the course of history, and it has been recorded in the Bible. This morning we will look at Philippians 2:1-11 to see the attitude of God toward all of us and how He has displayed his love.

## **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)**

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in these passages.

**Read Philippians 2:1-11 (NET)** Briefly answer the questions below based on this passage.

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort provided by love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection or mercy,<sup>2</sup> complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose.<sup>3</sup> Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself.

<sup>4</sup> Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well.<sup>5</sup> You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had,

<sup>6</sup> who though he existed in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself by taking on the form of a slave, by looking like other men, and by sharing in human nature.

<sup>8</sup> *He humbled himself,* by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> As a result God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

1. This passage instructs us to have the same attitude as Christ Jesus. Describe the attitude of Christ as portrayed in verses 5-8. What characteristics do you find?
2. Examine the contrast between God, the creator of the universe, and man. Does it surprise you that Jesus would become man and be with us in the flesh? If so, how?
3. What does it mean that Jesus was obedient to death? If Jesus lived a morally perfect life, did he have to die? Share your thoughts with the group.

## 2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

Discuss what we've learned about the Christian God of the Bible from Philippians 2 and the additional verses in the questions below:

4. Why do you think God would send His Son, Jesus, and let Him die on the cross? (John 3:16-17)  
<sup>16</sup> For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him.
  
5. How does Jesus dying on the cross potentially change our relationship with God? (John 1:12)  
<sup>12</sup> But to all who have received him—those who believe in his name—he has given the right to become God's children.
  
6. Three days after the death of Jesus on the cross, he rose from the dead (Luke 24:1-7)  
Why is the resurrection important for our understanding about Jesus?  
Now on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the aromatic spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood beside them in dazzling attire. <sup>5</sup> The women were terribly frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."
  
7. What promises do we have when we believe that Jesus is God, died on the cross, and rose again three days later?

### ③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)

It has been said that “the most important thought you will ever think is what you think when you think about God.” Apply what we have learned about God by answering the questions below:

8. What do you think God thinks about you?

9. What have you experienced this weekend that you will now consider as you think about God?

10. Philippians 2:3-4 challenges us to do nothing out of selfish ambition, and to consider the interests of others. How can we apply this instruction in our lives this week?

11. Verse 1 implies that the benefits of having a relationship with Jesus Christ are encouragement, comfort from His love, fellowship with Him, and affection and mercy. Which of these do you desire most in your life?

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

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

**SERMON NOTES**