

**"EXPERIENCING CHRIST - CHRIST OUR PATTERN"**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

**TEXT: VERSES 5**

**INTRO:** The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians teaches us "**THE JOY OF THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE AS IT RELATES TO CHRIST OUR SUFFICIENCY.**" The reality of that statement is seen in the **CHRISTIAN'S EXPERIENCE THROUGH CHRIST (WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST)** and the **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WE HAVE THROUGH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.** Last week we noted that **CHRIST IS OUR LIFE - 1:21.** Today we will note that **CHRIST IS OUR PATTERN - 2:5-12.**

**A LOOK AT THE TEXT AND THE PROCESS OF CHRIST'S HUMILITY**

***I. THE CONDITION OF CHRIST - VS. 6***

**CHRIST IS THE EXACT IMAGE OF AND EQUAL WITH GOD - HE IS GOD!**

- A. "Form of God"
- B. "Equal with God"

***II. THE CHOICE OF CHRIST - VSS. 7,8***

**CHRIST CHOSE TO HUMBLE HIMSELF BEYOND HUMAN COMPARE  
SEVEN STEPS OF CHRIST'S HUMILITY**

- A. Christ "**Made Himself of no Reputation**" - 7a - In coming to earth, Christ completely **EMPTIED HIMSELF**, that is, He laid aside every advantage and privilege of **DIVINE RIGHT**.
- B. Christ "**Became a Servant**" - 7b - In coming to earth, Christ forsook His position of **LORD** and literally became a **SERVANT**..
- C. Christ was "**Made in the Likeness of Men**" - 7c - In coming to earth, Christ, through the virgin birth, became a **FULL AND COMPLETE HUMAN BEING**.
- D. Christ was "**In Fashion of a Man**" - 8a - In coming to earth Christ appeared as a **MAN** in **EVERY WAY**.
- E. Christ "**Humbled Himself**" - 8b - In coming to earth, Christ **LOWERED** Himself below both God the Father and Mankind.
- F. Christ "**Became Obedient Unto Death**" - 8b - In coming to earth, Christ obeyed the Father's will and **DIED! TOTALLY FOREIGN TO GOD!**
- G. Christ died "**The Death of the Cross**" 8c - In coming to earth, Christ chose to die the **MOST EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL AND SHAMEFUL FORM OF EXECUTIONS EVER...BEARING ALL THE SIN OF THE WORLD**

***III. THE COMMENDATION OF CHRIST - VSS. 9-11***

**CHRIST IS EXALTED BY THE FATHER ABOVE ALL OTHERS**

- A. Christ has a Higher Name - Vs. 9
- B. Christ has a Higher Position - Vs. 10
- C. Christ has a Higher Recognition - Vs. 11

**NOTE: NO GREATER HUMILITY HAS EVER BEEN SEEN THAN THAT WHICH IS SEEN IN JESUS CHRIST...**BUT WE ARE TO PATTERN HIS HUMILITY...**"**LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS**" - VS. 5**

**CONSIDER TWO QUESTIONS**

***1) WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?***

- a. The literal translation is: "**HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES THAT WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS.**"

b. It means that every action that was seen in Christ in His relationship with God the Father and mankind is to be patterned in our life!

-Toward God the Father: **TOTAL SUBMISSION**

[The Un-hesitated and Non-resistant submission to His will]

-Toward Mankind: **TOTAL SELF-LESS-NESS**

[Self-Denial...Self-Giving...Self-Sacrifice...Selfless Love]

NOTE: The Word "**YOU**" in the verses is PLURAL meaning that it applies to the **ENTIRE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST...ALL ARE TO BE HUMBLE.**

c. ILLUSTRATIONS:

-Jesus submitted to the will of the Father - Luke 2:49; John 15:10

-Jesus showed SELF-LESS-NESS to others - John 13:1-17

d. ADMONITIONS:

-From Jesus Himself - Matthew 11:29

-From John the Apostle - 1 John 2:6

## 2) **HOW DO WE DO IT?**

a. A Personal Determination to **OBEY AND DO AS GOD EXPECTS**

-John 2:5

b. A Personal Determination to **DIE TO SELF**

-Luke 9:23

c. A Personal Determination to **YIELD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

-Galatians 5:16,22,23

## 3) **WHEN DO WE START?**

**NOW!**

### **LESSON/APPLICATION**

**CHRIST HAS SET THE EXAMPLE...WE ARE COMMANDED TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE...ARE YOU WILLING TO OBEY?**