
The Letter of Paul to the Philippians Part 6
The Spirit of Our Savior
Philippians 2:5-11

I have just a short message for you this morning.

I bet when you saw the title to this sermon, the spirit of our Savior, you might have thought I was going to preach about the Holy Spirit. That would be kind of true but not really.

What I really felt led to talk about was the spirit, small s, that was in Jesus. If the Lord leads I will preach about the Holy Spirit at a later date. But for now I wanted to look into the life of Jesus and see what kind of spirit was in Him.

Have you ever heard the phrase or asked what kind of spirit is that person working in. Or, they are mean spirited, or have a negative spirit. Maybe they have the gift of encouraging, they are very pleasant to be around. In fact, because they are so encouraging you want to be around them more.

This is what I was thinking about as I read through today's passage found in Philippians. Now we are jumping past the last part of chapter one and the first part of chapter two. I am doing this by design because of the way this passage is laid out.

Beginning in chapter two, it begins with the word therefore. I have heard it said when you see this word therefore you need to see why the next statement is there for as it usually is because of what is written before it.

Then next, in the beginning of the passage we are looking at today it begins by saying, "have this attitude in your selves which was also in Christ Jesus."

So, after we see what attitude, spirit Jesus had, we will go back into the teachings found in the last part of chapter one and the first part of chapter two.

Let's begin by reading our passage together.

Philippians 2:5-11, “5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

May God bless the reading of His word.

Last week we talked about how our responsibility as followers of Christ is to love the unlovable, to do good to those who mistreat us, to lend without expecting anything in turn. To love, pray for and to bless our enemies.

That teaching comes from our example of Jesus.

Let's briefly break down our passage this morning. I am going to use an example most of you are familiar with but for those who have not seen this, this is the best visual of what occurred when Christ came to earth, died on the cross and did a work in the hearts of those who accepted His sacrifice.

The first thing we see in this passage is the statement, “**although He (Jesus) existed in the form of God**”

Prior to coming to earth Jesus lived with God in heaven in way that we can't really comprehend. I don't know how you visualize heaven and God. This is something we asked our teens in confirmation class to consider. How do you visualize God?

PIC

This is how I visualize God. A mass of glory with no real shape or form. I don't know if this is accurate or not but this is how I see Him in my mind's eye.

So if Jesus, prior to being born on earth existed in the form of God then He might have been part of this. Looking something like this. He was Spirit prior to taking on human form so we don't really know what He looked like.

But let's say that Jesus, like His Father was a spirit filled with a mass of glory. He was a vessel. Pure, holy and spectacular. Words fail to describe the state Jesus was in before He was born as a human child.

The second attitude we read of Jesus was the fact that **even though He shared His Father's glory, He was always subject to Him.**

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We believe in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. One yet separate beings. A hard truth to wrap our minds around but by faith we do.

Throughout scriptures we read that Jesus was always subject and obedient to the wishes of His heavenly Father. So He didn't regard equality with God the Father a thing to be grasped.

Our passage goes on to say that **Jesus emptied Himself, taking on the form of a bond-servant and was made in the likeness of man. And being found in appearance of a man He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.**

Even though Jesus was always the Son of God, He was willing to be emptied of His glorious position and station in heaven. Now at any time He could have called upon the angels to come and help or even deliver Him but He didn't. He remained in the form of a man until His mission on earth was done.

What was His mission. It is John 3:16. Say it with me.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life."

All of humanity was found to be in a sinful state through no fault of their own. Adam and Eve were sinless in the garden until they were deceived by Satan. When this occur then sin enter into the heart of all humanity. And because our God is a God of justice and holiness, this sin had to be dealt with. Jesus was God's answer.

By becoming obedient to the death of the cross, the holy blood of Jesus was poured out upon the earth. Poured out and available to all those who would accept it.

As we come to Jesus, as we recognize the sinfulness of our own hearts, we ask for forgiveness of known sins, past sins and the sinful nature we were born with. We are found to be like this. Our hearts are stained with sin.

Jesus accepts this humble prayer from the heart and He does the following. He takes the sin from us and then washes us with His own blood, the most powerful cleaning agent in the planet. But it doesn't stop there.

One of the reasons Jesus cleanses us is so we can receive His Spirit in our hearts that is Holy. Only a holy vessel can contain a spirit that is holy. And that is what you are if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are a holy vessel containing a vessel that is holy.

But you might ask, what about those or even myself who still deal with sin in its many forms. True, there is still work to be done on the exterior of your life and mine. That will take a lifetime and will not be completed until we see Jesus face to face. But the truth of what has happened in your heart is a purification process by the blood of Jesus. It is a true fact even though your exterior still needs work.

On the inside you have been cleansed and purified and now have the Spirit of God which is holy inside of you.

We will talk more about this next week but the point of this morning is the blessing of Jesus who operated in a spirit of humility. He was willing to give up His glorious, comfortable life in heaven, be born a human baby, grow up into a man and be poured out for the forgiveness of sins for those who appreciated Him and those who did not.

Even though I preached a sermon before Christmas on this passage we needed to hear it again to set us up for the rest of the teaching in Philippians. But the truth is, can we ever hear this sermon enough?

The love, the grace, the willingness of Jesus the Son of God, to subject Himself to the ridicule, the abuse both verbally and physically and then finally to death but just not any death. An agonizing death of crucifixion upon a wooden cross. Naked, alone, taking on the sins of the world. Your sins and mine.

He did that so you could be this person. One who is pure and holy on the inside. One who is going to join Him and His Father in heaven for eternity. For this we give Jesus our praise.

Let sing to Him in closing.

As we close in prayer, if you have not accepted the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins or if you are unsure, you can today. A simple prayer from the heart will do it.

Come to God, tell Him you believe in His Son Jesus and the sacrifice He offers. Ask for forgiveness of your sins and for the filling of the Holy Spirit.

God will do it, Jesus will do it for it is the reason He came to earth.

If you prayed this prayer let someone know so they can help you in your growth in understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Let me know if you like. This church is here to serve you and your family in any way we can. Let us know how.

Dear Jesus...