

IV. God the Father Turned Everything Rightside Up (2:9-11)

- A. Jesus' resurrection is Rome's failure.
- B. What these verses describe gets to the crux, the essence, the core of what faith is and how we live by faith in Christ.
 - i. For additional study: Romans 4:18-25
 - ii. Abraham's faith: *believing in the God who raises the dead.*
 - iii. It is only that kind of faith which will enable us to walk in faithfulness to God and love.
- C. Paul weaves 45:22-23 into Philippians 2:9-11.

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How did Jesus as God empty Himself? How did He, as a human, humble Himself?
- How does our text speak to the *faithfulness and love of Christ*?
- To whom was Christ a slave? To whom was He obedient?
- What kinds of expectations do people today have about how God works? How does this compare to what Jesus revealed?
- Why is it essential to have the faith of Abraham (Romans 4:18-25) in order to walk in the humility of Christ as described in Philippians 2:6-11? What exactly did Abraham believe?
- How might Philippians 3:8-9 demonstrate how Paul was "having the same way of thinking" as Christ in his own life for the church? How might you apply this in your life?
- Do you think it would be easier to walk in the Christlike humility of Phil. 2:6-11 if the people closest to you were attempting to live this way too? Explain why or why not?

Slaves of Christ – Part 4

The Crushing Defeat of Rome through the Cross

Jerry Cisar — October 21, 2018

Text: Philippians 2:5-11

Introduction

- A. The Philippian Context
- B. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ dealt a crushing blow to the powers of Rome and its emperor worship.

God will continue to use this same means of "self-emptying as a means to victory" to continue to fight human oppression of one another, human grasping for power at the expense of others, etc.

I. In Your Relationships, Have Jesus' Thinking (2:5)

- A. Verse 5 connects this hymn to us!

Part of what it means to be slaves of Christ is that we give up having a mind of our own and do the will of the Father.

- i. Paul intends 2:6-11 to be the pulse that gives life to everything we do in our relationships to one another.
- ii. One translation of v5 reads, "Cultivate this mind-set in your community...".

When someone says they have a mind to do something, it speaks of a disposition toward something that leads to corresponding actions.

II. As God, Jesus Emptied Himself (2:6-7)

- A. "Who being in the form of God."
 - i. In the Roman mind, Augustus was the form of God.

 - ii. In v6, Paul restates this phrase "form of God" as "equality with God".
- B. Jesus did not use his power *as God* to His own advantage.
 - i. ESV "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped"

 - ii. The image and likeness of God were one step removed from the form of God.
 - a) Jesus vs. Adam

 - b) John 17:5
 - iii. Jesus is God, but did not cling to His position, but rather *made himself nothing*.
- C. But Emptied Himself
 - i. NIV "*made himself nothing*." More literal, "*emptied himself*."

- a) Jesus emptied himself and in so doing undoes all our notions of how God acts, what God does.

Jesus did not conceal God through His incarnation; He revealed God.

N. T. Wright says the "real theological emphasis of the hymn ... is not simply a new view of Jesus. It is a new understanding of God."

- b) When we cultivate this mindset among us, we too will show the world what God is truly like.
- ii. Emptied Himself is explained with two parallel statements:
ESV: *He took the form of a servant [slave], being born in the likeness of humanity.*

Gorman: "*The parallel phrases 'form of God' and 'form of a slave' mean that to the extent that this one really took on the form of a slave, he also really was in the form of God - and vice versa.*"

III. As a Human, Jesus Humbled Himself (2:8)

- A. Jesus didn't stop there!

Not only did Jesus not cling to his power as God, but he didn't cling to his life as a human.

- B. The Faithfulness and Love of Christ.
 - i. Though you don't see the words *faithfulness* or *love*, this text is about the faithfulness and love of Christ.

 - ii. So, we were saved through the faithfulness of Christ, which also means we were saved by the love of Christ. (See Galatians 2:20)

 - iii. Paul is calling us to enter into His life and demonstrate faithfulness and love to one another.