

**Introduction:** Why are we here this morning? Has being here on the first day of the week become a habit? Do we feel in our hearts a sense of obligation or guilt? Are we seeking some kind of reward from God however small? All these are wrong reasons. IF any apply to us today, we must pray our ears and hearts will be opened to be rebuked, corrected and trained in what is right in God's eyes by His Word and The Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:14-17) \*\*\* How do we picture God? Is He like us, only better? Is He someone to give us what we want? Is He someone who approves of us, even if we are making no effort to be changed by Him? Again, all these perceptions of God are wrong! IF we are thinking any of these thoughts we must soften our hearts to be changed; and, we must listen to Him humbly and carefully. \*\*\* The Truth about God IS: God IS awesome, infinite and powerful! He IS The Creator of BOTH the vast universe AND each and every person. He IS also THE holy, righteous and perfect Judge. He will NOT tolerate sin; nor will He allow a sinful person to come near Him. We have NO right to be IN His Presence. \*\*\* Yet, paradoxically, from the days of Moses (1400 BC) on Yahweh declares Himself 'compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth; who keeps loving-kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave [the guilty] unpunished' (Exodus 34:6b-7a, NAS). And, God is a mystery, NOT fully knowable by the humans He created, yet He has revealed to us all we need to know. He also said to Moses: 'The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this [Torah – instruction]' (Deuteronomy 29:29, NAS). \*\*\* So, what has God revealed to us about how we can change? \*\*\* Before God's people entered the land Yahweh spoke about to Abraham (Genesis 15), He spoke through Moses about a prophet He would raise up like Moses. He would put His words in the mouth of this prophet and call to account any who would not listen to his words [in obedience] (Deuteronomy 18:14-19). Later, through Isaiah He spoke of the servant of Yahweh; and through Jeremiah He spoke of a new covenant that would write His Word on human hearts; and, through Ezekiel He spoke of putting His Spirit in the hearts of His people. \*\*\* Finally, IN His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, God fully revealed Himself to all people. Jesus – The Savior – is BOTH fully God AND fully human, IN one Person. This IS Mystery! IN His death for us on the Cross, on which both Man and God died (radical!), The Messiah King-Priest showed to all people the full extent of God's Amazing LOVE! \*\*\* This gives us the ultimate purpose for our lives that we should worship Him always, not just on the first day of the week. We must believe ALL of God's Word so we can DO all He has commanded. With this as our way of life we will find that we can enjoy God's LOVE now! And, as we enjoy His LOVE, we will have a strong desire to fall on our knees in total worship of The Three-in-One God. \*\*\* We are now ready to look at our passage:

**Introductory transition:** All of you must think the same as Christ Jesus. (Verse 5)

† Think this in yourselves:

† which also (was the mind) in Christ Jesus.

**Transition:** The Christians in Philippi had just been commanded by Paul to give him joy by having the same mind as God who had given them the gifts of encouragement, LOVE and fellowship. And they are to live having the same way of thinking united with each other in love and thought. They should NOT be proud or selfish; but, in humility they should be elevating other members of Christ's Body.

**God's LOVE in Christ:** Now, before spelling out the extent of God's glorious LOVE for them in THE God-Man Jesus, they are again commanded to think the same as Christ Jesus: THE King of the universe who became The Son of Man to reconcile people to God in full salvation of spirit, soul and body.

## **I. Christ Jesus IS always the essence of God; but, He emptied Himself to BE a servant, and became low to the obedience of death on a cross. (Verses 6-8)**

A. Being fully God, He did not hold onto this, but emptied Himself to be fully a servant in likeness of men. (Verses 6-7)

1. Who being in the 'form' of God. (Verse 6a)

**'Form' of God:** This phrase means that The King-Savior has eternally had the exact essence of God. Through Paul, The Holy Spirit declares Jesus to BE God.

2. He did not consider equality with God something He needed to hold, or grasp. (Verse 6b)

**Hold:** Jesus knows He IS God. He does not need to prove His equality to God to the people He came to reconcile to God. (No one secure in his being worries about what others think.)

3. But He emptied Himself. (Verse 7a)

**Empty:** He did this in (only) two ways (or aspects) as follows:

i. He took on the 'form' of a servant (slave). (Verse 7b)

**Servant:** The prophet Isaiah was told by Yahweh to speak of His Servant (formed in the womb), Who would not only bring back (restore) all the descendants of Israel, but be a light to the nations so all people would be saved (Isaiah 49:1-6). In 450 AD, the church father Leo the Great said this stooping to be a servant was done 'in majestic pity (LOVE)'.

ii. He became in the 'likeness' of men. (Verse 7c)

**Mystery:** In 360 AD, the church father Eusebius said [He became] what was beneath Him, 'in His indulgence and compassion (LOVE)' for people! By becoming a man, a mystery about Jesus is revealed:

He is 100% God AND 100% Man, yet only ONE Person. In our arithmetic, one plus one equals two – NOT ONE!

- B. Being found every way a man, He made Himself low to obey to death: even death on a cross. (*Verse 8*)
1. And having been found to ‘appear’ as a man. (*Verse 8a*)  
**Every way:** This means, in every way that humans can assess a person, they found Jesus to be a man. In other words, they perceived Him as a man like any other man.
  2. And He humbled Himself (literally took the lowest place). (*Verse 8b*)  
**Lowest place:** When His disciples asked Jesus who is the greatest in The Kingdom of Heaven, He said, ‘Whoever humbles (becomes lowest) himself like this child’, (*Matthew 18:1-4*).
  3. Having become obedient until death. (*Verse 8c*)  
**Obedient to death:** Before Yahweh spoke the physical worlds into existence, Father-Son-Holy Spirit decided The Son (Jesus, The Savior) would die to reconcile people dead in their sins back to Yahweh, so they would have Life IN Him. (*Revelation 13:7-10* – This passage warns all who are being made holy by the Faith of The Lamb must endure patiently in faithfulness to Jesus.)
  4. Of death of Cross. (*Verse 8d*)  
**The Cross:** ‘Death’ is emphatically repeated. God wants us to know He loves us so much He was willing to die for us that we may live! This is incredible! No other ‘so called god’ would die for mortals. But God has so much LOVE for broken, sinful people that He DIED so we can live IN Him, enjoying His LOVE in The Holy Spirit by faithfully obeying all He has put IN His Word. The ultimate revelation of God’s LOVE is The Death of His Son, Christ Jesus!

***God’s LOVE is revealed by the death of Christ Jesus on The Cross***

**II. So God also exalted Him to the highest, and gave Him the greatest Name SO all will bow and confess He is Lord, to The Glory of Father God. (*Verses 9-11*)**

- A. Therefore God also exalted Him to the highest place, and gave to Him The Name above every name. (*Verse 9*)
1. Therefore, also, The God raised Him to the highest place. (*Verse 9a*)  
**Highest place:** God exalted Christ Jesus AS The Son of Man to the highest place just as Jesus said would happen to invited guests in His parable of the wedding feast, (*Luke 14:1-11*).
  2. And He freely gave to Him The Name which is above every Name. (*Verse 9b*)  
**Name:** After the Resurrection of The Messiah, God made it clear that the ‘son of David’ who would be king forever was indeed fully God by giving Him His own Name. In a Psalm written by David, Yahweh’s Name is exalted above everything: ‘I bow down toward Thy holy temple [Yahweh] and give thanks to Thy name for Thy steadfast love and Thy faithfulness; for Thou hast exalted above everything Thy Name and Thy Word’, (*Psalms 138:2, RSV*).
- B. So IN Jesus’ Name every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that: Lord IS Jesus Christ to The Glory of The Father. (*Verses 10-11*)
1. So that IN The Name of Jesus: (*Verse 10a*)
    - i. Every knee should bow of [those in] heaven and of [those on] earth and of [those] subterranean. (*Verse 10b-c*)  
**Bow in worship:** In The Bible worship is expressed as bowing of the knee before God. Here, every creature made by Yahweh is worshipping Jesus! May we be given grace IN The Holy Spirit to imitate and worship Jesus because of ALL God’s Word says about His LOVE IN The Cross.

*We are to imitate and worship Jesus because of The Cross*

- ii. And every tongue should confess that: Lord (is) Jesus Christ. (*Verse 11a*)  
**First creed:** The first, and simplest, creed of The Church was: Jesus IS Lord. This confession of submission to Jesus is by faith and the gracious gift of God, (*Ephesians 2:8-10*).
- Worship and confession:** Paul here quotes a portion of what Yahweh spoke through the prophet Isaiah about people of all nations turning to Him to receive salvation and [His] righteousness. (*Isaiah 45:22-25, specifically verse 23*)
2. To The Glory of Father God. (*Verse 11b*)  
**Glory and LOVE:** God is worthy of Glory because of His amazing life-changing LOVE that was demonstrated by His Son when He died on The Cross so that people of all nations could be forgiven by faith to become citizens in His Kingdom, able to obey all He has commanded.

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**Conclusion:** Christians must have the same mind as Christ Jesus, Who being fully God did NOT hold onto equality with God, but became fully a servant in the likeness of men. He made Himself low and obeyed to death: death on a cross. Therefore God raised Him to the highest place so that all creatures would bow in worship of Him and confess Him as The Lord God: TO The Glory of God The Father.

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