



“Have This Mind in You” (Philippians 2:5-11)

INTRODUCTION

Our text contains one of the greatest challenges in the New Testament—and one of the greatest statements. The great challenge is to have the mind or attitude of Jesus (2:5). The great statement is concerning the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus (2:6-11).

After Paul challenges the Philippians to be united, he says the key is to think not of self, but of others (2:1-4). This, he says, was the mind of Christ. He then illustrates this disposition of mind by telling what Jesus gave up to come to this earth to die for us.

I. THE MIND OF CHRIST REVEALED (2:6-8)

A. Jesus did so much for us.

1. He gave up heaven (2:6).
 - a. Jesus has “the form [essence] of God”; He is “equal with God.” Thus in heaven He had all the glory of the Godhead.
 - (1) This affirms the deity of Jesus (John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:1-3).
 - (2) This affirms the pre-existence of Jesus (John 17:5).
 - b. But He did not selfishly hold on to that heavenly glory (“robbery” in the KJV is from the Greek word for “snatch” or “seize”; NASB: “to be grasped”).
2. He came to earth as a servant (2:7, 8).
 - a. It is impossible for us to fully appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made as He left heaven.
 - (1) “No reputation,” literally “[He] emptied himself”—not of His deity, but of His heavenly privileges (see NASB footnote) (2 Corinthians 8:9).

- (2) “The form [essence] of a servant [slave].” Jesus gave up all rights (Matthew 8:20).
- (3) In “the likeness / fashion [appearance]” of a man—with all the pain of mankind (Hebrews 2:17cf.).
 - b. Jesus came to serve, not to be served (Matthew 20:28).
3. He died on a cross (2:8)! (See also John 6:38; Hebrews 5:8, 9.)
 - a. This was the most ignominious death of that day (1 Corinthians 1:23)!
 - b. He did this for us (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- B. We, too, are challenged to live lives of selflessness, surrender, submission, sympathy, sacrifice, and service (Mark 9:35; 10:43-45).

II. THE MIND OF CHRIST REWARDED (2:9-11)

- A. Even as Christ humbled Himself to the nth degree, so God has exalted Him to the nth degree (Hebrews 12:2)!
 1. He has a name [Lord?] above every name (2:9).
 2. Someday all creation will acknowledge that He is Lord (2:10, 11; Isaiah 45:22-25)!
- B. If we will learn to humble ourselves—and put others first—someday we, too, will be exalted (Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14; 1 Peter 5:6).

CONCLUSION

- A. Do you have the mind of Christ?
- B. Are you living daily with the mind of Christ?
- C. You cannot have the reward unless you exhibit the reality of Christ’s mind in your daily living. David Roper