

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage you to worship God each day.

God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law day after day and that the people of God were filled with joy!

Let's Worship God

Philippians week two





Let's Worship God

Philippians

Day 7 - Philippians 1:19-20 - The Christian's Ambition

Paul now begins to look at the possible outcome of his trial and imprisonment in Rome. Whether it is life or death, his one desire is that Christ be glorified. Paul knows that everything that has happened to him is part of God's work in his life and God's plan for the kingdom. Every thing that has happened to Paul is another one of God's finishing touches making Paul the Christian God wants him to be. We don't need to be afraid of the outcome of events. Life has a lot of daily pressure, some of it unexpected, but God has a plan for His people in it all, a plan for their good, and a plan He will complete. Paul lays hold of this great truth at this difficult point in his life.

The Christian needs help from God if he is going to be strong under the pressures of life and live for Christ through them. Such help is there for him. Paul calls it "the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ". God doesn't just control all our circumstances, He sustains our lives from within. Paul links this help with the prayers of other Christians. Paul can ask for God's help himself, and he probably often does, but Paul also needs and asks for the prayers of other Christians. This is our responsibility to each other. We have an obligation to pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ will grow spiritually and that God will be in their lives helping them to love and serve Him.

But Paul does not just sit back passively and wait for this growth to happen in his life. He has fixed his eyes on the goal - bearing much fruit to the glory of God. He is determined to not be ashamed of Christ but to speak of Him and live for Him boldly and confidently and consistently. The overriding purpose of all of this is that Christ be honoured.

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Philippians

Day 8 - Philippians 1:21-26 - Indecision

Paul knows that the outcome of his life will not only bring glory to God but shape him into the man God wants him to be. But how and when this will happen, Paul doesn't know. He just knows that at this point there are two possibilities: life or death.

For Paul Christ is the most important and most valuable thing in his life. His whole life is dedicated to possessing more and more of Christ. Paul defines his life as gaining Christ, and death as the ultimate gain. In life he is absorbed in living for Christ; in death he expects to be in a perfect relationship with Christ. He is torn between these two things because he knows death brings immediate gain of Christ, but continued life means more fruit for Christ.

Paul's personal desire is to die and be with Christ. When a Christian dies all the uncertainties and dangers lie behind. All the certainties and safeties lie ahead in the presence of Christ. The Christian leaves this temporary life and goes to be with Christ. So, death is, for the Christian, the best thing that will ever happen to them. This doesn't mean that it is wrong to grieve those who die or to be sad at leaving loved ones behind. We still miss those who die terribly. But it helps to know that they are experiencing the best, and that we will be reunited with them one day.

But for Paul his personal desire gives way to the need of the Church. God still has a role for him to play in the building up of His Kingdom, and Paul willingly lays aside what he might want to bring glory to Christ by working to see others grow in Christ.

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Philippians

Day 9 - Philippians 1:27-30 - Unity

Paul wants to hear three things about the Philippian church: that they are living worthily, standing firm, and that they are united. They are to live as Christians, men and women who have been brought from death to life and are bearing much fruit to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are to stand firm against the opposition from the world, and they can do all this by being united with believers in their faith.

Steadfastness is grounded in unity. Paul speaks of the unity of the Spirit - standing firm in one spirit. Paul is focusing on the blessings of the Holy Spirit who has given them a new heart, brought them into the church, and lives within them causing them to grow more and more like Christ. The unity of being in Christ is something that God has accomplished. As they face a hostile world Paul is telling them, "Remember what God has done for you; live and grow together in the good things which are your common possession in Christ." Paul also speaks of a unity of heart and mind - with one mind. Paul wants them to be united in their desires, what they consider valuable, what their object in life is. This leads to unity in action - striving side by side. Finally, this is a unity in the faith - the faith of the Gospel. All this unity has to be grounded in the truth, the truth of who God is and what He has done for them. The unity that enables the church to be steadfast against attack and to live worthily, is a unity based on what the Holy Spirit has done and is doing for you, it is a unity that has a desire for Christ above all else and will work together towards His glory, and it is a unity based on the truth of God's Word. The result of this kind of unity is that the world is challenged, and Christians are encouraged.



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Philippians

Day 10 - Philippians 2:1-4 - Humility

The Philippians will suffer from enemies of the Gospel, and they are going to need from their brothers and sisters in the Lord encouragement, comfort, true spiritual fellowship, affection, and sympathy. They are to encourage each other in connection with Christ. They are to remind each other that Christ has suffered and died for them; that they are under His love and protection. This kind of encouragement cheers and strengthens and helps the Christian - anything else falls flat. They will receive comfort from Christian love, love that is intelligent and purposeful. The Philippian Christians should also experience true fellowship, which is not just an outward gathering together, but a deep bond in Christ. These things all link together - to offer encouragement in connection with Christ means also to offer comfort from love to a brother, and both mean true spiritual fellowship. If this kind of fellowship exists, there will be affection and sympathy.

Paul then describes the humility essential to Christian fellowship and unity. The idea behind being of the same mind and having the same love is not just having the same thoughts or feelings, but caring about and working for the same thing with the same thoughts and feelings. What is this one thing that we are to work towards - putting others before ourselves. This doesn't mean that we think that just because someone is a Christian they have more brains or more ability or more everything than us. But it does mean that we put them first in our care and concern and ourselves last. How do we do this? By looking out for the things that concern them. The result of this is that if our fellow Christians are looking out for our things, we're going to do better than if we alone looked out for our own things.

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Philippians

Day 11 - Philippians 2:5-8 - Our Perfect Example

Paul sets forth Christ Jesus as our model and example of humility. He makes it very clear that Christ is God. It is Christ's very deity that makes His incarnation so amazing. We are not talking about a rich and powerful man who decides to go incognito while travelling about the world. We are talking about the infinite, eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful God becoming man, becoming hungry, and thirsty, and tired, and sad. And He doesn't become a rich and powerful man, He becomes a man hated, and despised, and rejected, and killed.

Paul tells us that Christ does not count His equality with God a thing to be grasped. What does this mean? It means that He doesn't see the fact that He is God as a banner to be waved at every opportunity. There is a bigger picture here - a plan of redemption, of saving sinners, and though He has every right to not humble Himself and not become man, Christ chooses not to grab on to that right. Does He become less God when He comes to earth? No. But He sets aside some of the glory that comes with being the God-man in order to save us.

Paul makes it clear that Christ does this voluntarily. He makes Himself nothing, humbles Himself, and becomes obedient. Paul describes Christ as a servant or slave. Christ binds Himself to do the will of the Father, even to death. Through the long years of animal sacrifices God is teaching the lesson that in His plan there can be a transferral of sin and guilt from the head of the guilty to the head of the innocent. But the substitution is always incomplete for the animal never chooses to be used in that way. Only a perfect Man can be the perfect substitute by willingly laying down His life for others. This is what Christ has done for us.

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Philippians

Day 12 - Philippians 2:9-11 - Exaltation

We have just seen how Jesus, who is true and fully God, becomes truly man without ceasing to be true and fully God, and experiences death, and not just any death but a death of shame and rejection on a cross. Now in these verses we read about this same Jesus' exaltation.

What happens at the exaltation? God the Father lifts His Son up to be highest of all, Lord of heaven and earth. It's important to understand that nothing has been restored that was taken away. It's not as if Christ is less God while He is on earth and has now become more God. His deity is veiled and now that veil has been taken away, and He is revealed in all His glory as the God-man.

God the Father is the one who has stripped this veil away and exalted Christ. Why? Because of who Christ is - the loving, obedient Son who is fully committed to doing the Father's will. It is a principle with God that he who humbles himself will be exalted. One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, some will do this joyfully and others grudgingly, but it will happen.

What does Christ's exaltation mean for us? First, it proclaims the present reality of a reigning Lord. Jesus is Lord and King, and we can serve Him gladly and rest in the knowledge that He is ultimately ruling over all that happens. But Christ's exaltation also reminds us that the time for men and women to come to faith in Christ is limited. They will not always have the opportunities they do now to trust in Him. The day will come when those who have refused to love Him will see their danger, but it will be too late. This should spur us on to speak of Christ consistently and constantly to those we know.