

Gospel Living in Difficult Days

Philippians 2:5-11

PREPARE

Quiet your thoughts and welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in your midst.

Begin with prayer. What do you most want to receive from the Lord this day? Perhaps it's the warmth of His loving presence; or you are waiting to hear specific guidance or direction. Take a few moments to release the anxieties and worries you have and receive His good, pleasing, and perfect plan for you today. This time of prayer will be different for everyone.

Read/Pray/Memorize these words of Jesus from Colossians 1:15-20

"¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.."

REFLECT

In your core group, briefly discuss one of these three questions. Break into triads if necessary.

1. How have you experienced the blessing of God in these past few weeks?
2. What burdens, worries, or anxieties have you been carrying and would appreciate prayer for?
3. What's a next step looking forward that you are excited about, fearful about, or uncertain about and want to step out in faith and need prayer support for?

STUDY

Read Philippians 2:5-11

- What is your overall impression of this powerful section of Scripture?

Focus on Philippians 2:5-8

- How do you change your attitude or the way you think?
- Jesus Christ is 100% God and 100% man. How do you see this important theological truth displayed in what Jesus said and did as recorded in the gospels?
- Read John 1:1-14. How does this help us understand how the Son of God "emptied himself" or "made himself nothing"?

- Read Mark 14:32-42. Describe the struggle Jesus faced to be obedient to the will of the Father.

Focus on Philippians 2:9-11

- In Scripture it says that Jesus now “sits at the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19). What does this position reveal about Jesus’ role now?
- Why are there so many in our day who do not bow to the name of Jesus or confess that Jesus Christ is Lord?
- Read Revelation 7:9-12 for a picture of what it will be like when all worship the Son of God. What is it like to picture yourself as a part of that crowd?

Read Colossians 3:1-4

- Imagine what it will be like to appear with Christ in glory...

RESPONSE

1. What would your life look like if your attitude was the same as Christ Jesus as it relates to power, service, humility and obedience?
2. How can you grow so your very nature is changed and your actions flow from an empowered spiritual core to do the right thing and not just mimic the actions of Jesus?
3. Think of a situation coming up this week where you will need to put another person before yourself. Ask God to empower you to be humbly obedient to God’s will.

Remember your assignments!

- Read the whole Book of Philippians this week
- Begin to memorize Paul’s prayer in Philippians 1:9-11
- Contact someone from Baseline who you just miss and check in to see how they are doing.

Close in Prayer: List prayer requests here.