

Daily Living – The Mind of Christ Phil. 2:5-11

Thesis: To help us understand the mind of Christ so that we can have the same mind.

Introduction:

- A. Throughout this book, Paul speaks of the joy that he has in Christ.
 - 1. Paul uses the idea of “joy” or “rejoice” at least 15 times in this book.
 - 2. Paul wants the church in Philippi to have the same joy.
- B. Paul encourages us to have the same mind with one another (and thereby have the same joy).
 - 1. **Phil. 2:1-2** - Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, {2} fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
 - 2. This can only happen when we have the mind of Christ.
- C. Today, we will notice the mind (or attitude) that Jesus had, and see how we can apply His mind to our lives today.

I. To have the mind of Christ, we must be willing to sacrifice ourselves (2:5-7).

A. Jesus was willing to sacrifice all that He had for us.

- 1. From the very beginning, Jesus was equal with God.
 - a. **Jn. 1:1-2** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the beginning with God.
 - b. **Gen. 1:26a** - Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;”
 - c. **Jn. 1:3** (In fact, Jesus had a prominent role in the creation of the world) - All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - d. **Jn. 10:30** (Jesus even says that He was equal to the Father) - **I and My Father are one.**
- 2. Even though Jesus had this great power, and was equal with God, He was willing to sacrifice it all for us.
 - a. **Jn. 1:14** - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - b. Christ gave up everything for us.

B. Today, we must be willing to sacrifice ourselves for God.

- 1. Paul gives us a great example of one who was willing to give up everything for Christ.

- a. **Phil. 3:3-9** - For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, {4} though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: {5} circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; {6} concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. {7} But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. {8} Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ {9} and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
- b. Paul was willing to give up all that this earth has to offer in order to be faithful to Christ.
2. **Heb. 11:24-26** - By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, {25} choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, {26} esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.
3. Today, we must be willing to sacrifice our bodies for the sake of Christ.
 - a. It may be the riches we possess.
 - b. It may be the comforts of our home and lifestyle.
 - c. It could be a number of things; the point is that we are willing to sacrifice our life for Christ.

II. To have the mind of Christ, we must be a servant to all (2:5-7).

A. Even though Jesus was God in the flesh, He was willing to be a servant to others.

1. Jesus taught us by His example that we need to be a servant to others.
 - a. **Jn. 13:1-5** - Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. {2} And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, {3} Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, {4} rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. {5} After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

- b. **Mk. 10:45** - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
- 2. Jesus even commanded His disciples to become servants of others.
 - a. **Jn. 13:14-16** - If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. {15} For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. {16} Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.
 - b. **Mk. 10:42-44** - But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. {43} Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. {44} And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all."

B. Today, if we are going to have the mind of Christ, we must be a servant to others.

- 1. If Christ (the very Son of God and Creator of the world) was willing to be a servant to others, we must also be willing to be a servant to others.
- 2. When we serve others, we are also serving Christ.
- 3. **Mt. 25:31-40** - "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. {32} All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. {33} And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. {34} Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' {37} Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? {38} When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? {39} Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' {40} And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

III. If we are going to have the mind of Christ, we must be obedient to the will of the Father (2:8).

A. Christ was always obedient to the Father.

1. From His youth, Jesus was obedient to the Father.
 - a. Lk. 2:49 - And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”
 - b. Throughout His ministry, Jesus was concerned about doing the will of the Father.
2. Christ was obedient to the Father even “to the point of death.”
 - a. In a very real sense, Jesus was divided about His death.
 - 1) On one hand, He wanted to die on the cross because He knew that it was the only way to save man.
 - 2) However, on the other hand, He did not want to go through the physical pain and humiliation of the cross.
 - 3) Mt. 26:39 (Three times Jesus uttered this prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane) - O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.
 - b. Because it was the will of the Father, Jesus went to the cross to die for our sins.
 - c. He was obedient to the Father.

B. Today, we must be obedient to the command of the Father.

1. The example of the cross shows us the importance of doing the will of the Father.
2. Ecc. 12:13 (The purpose of our life is to do the will of God) - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
3. We know that if we do the will of the Father, we will dwell in heaven for eternity.
 - a. Mt. 7:21 - “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”
 - b. I Tim. 2:3-4 - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, {4} who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - c. II Pet. 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

IV. Because of the mind that Jesus had, He was given a great reward (2:9-11).

A. God exalted Jesus, and gave “Him the name which is above every name.”

1. Because of the mind (attitude) that Jesus had, God “has highly exalted Him.”
2. It is at His name that every knee will bow.
3. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

B. Today, when we have the mind of Christ, we will have a similar reward.

1. While our name will not be as great as the name of Jesus, God will exalt us.
2. God wants us to have the same attitude of humility that Jesus had.
 - a. **Js. 4:10** - Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
 - b. **Lk. 14:7-11** - So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: {8} “When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; {9} and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. {10} But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. {11} For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Conclusion:

- A. If every knee will bow to Christ and every tongue confess that He is Lord, then why not do so before it is eternally too late?
- B. Jesus showed great humility while He walked on this earth.
 1. He sacrificed His home in heaven to come to the earth.
 2. He was a servant to all while on the earth.
 3. He was obedient to the Father in all things, even in death.
- C. Today, we should have this same mind and attitude.