



Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion Week of January 30

Scripture: **Philippians 2:5-11**

Sermon Title: *The Christ Hymn*

This is one of the most well-known passages in the whole bible. It is because it describes the mission and purpose of Christ more clearly than any other single passage.

Most likely an early hymn of the church, the incarnation and work of Jesus is given to us in its purity here. Christ descended for us. He emptied himself. He humbled himself. And, "Therefore God also exalted him."

Three things to take away here:

- One, we just need to savor the fullness of Christ's sacrifice of love for us. How can we not be amazed at what he has done for us? And how the Father raised him up!
- Two, we need to willingly "bend the knee to Jesus." This passage is a call for us *live into* a confession that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father."
- Thirdly, Paul calls us to see Jesus as our model here. Even though Christ stands singularly in what he has done, through the power of Christ we can live by his example of humility.

Questions:

1. As Paul gives us this portrait of Jesus, he labels Jesus with certain categories (i.e. "Christ" Jesus, "slave").
List all the categories or titles that are ascribed to Jesus in this passage.
What do they tell you about the person and purpose of Jesus?
2. Paul says that Jesus "humbled himself." How does this fit your understanding of God?
3. Paul concludes the hymn by saying that "at the name of Jesus every knee shall bend... every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."
What is your reaction to this?
What do you think the reaction of your non-Christian friends would be to this statement?
What is our role as Christians to make this statement not a threat but a beautiful promise?