

## Church Camp Devotional Messages 2010

14 - 18 June

Devotion 3

Philippians 2.6-11

Sermon notes by Pastor Paul Goh

### Introduction

- A. Broader
  - 1. In verses 1, 2, the apostle has instructed us on the marks of Christian unity and the motivation why we should be seeking unity: namely, be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind
  - 2. And then in verses 3, 4, he tells that how do we attain unto unity
    - a. Negatively, not through strife or vainglory
    - b. And positively, in lowliness of mind, let us esteem others better than ourselves and we are not to look every on his own things but also on the things of others
- B. Narrower
  - 1. And he exhorts us to have this mind
    - a. And this mind involves our thinking, our attitudes, our love
    - b. And this mind or attitude of Christ is our example
  - 2. What is he an example of?
    - a. Firstly, Christ is an example of humility
    - b. Secondly, Christ is an example of looking out for the things of others
    - c. Thirdly, the example of Christ is our hope for our own exaltation

### THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

- I. **A Model of Humility**
  - A. Consider this first, that He is God himself
    - 1. He is the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Godhead
      - a. And he is not lesser than God the Father, neither was he inferior to the other persons of the godhead
      - b. In truth, He is equal with God
    - 2. And as the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Godhead, he is clothed with all glory and majesty
      - a. He was present at the creation of the world,
        - (1) Genesis 1.1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"
        - (2) and by Christ was the heavens made
        - (3) and His glory can be seen in the things that are made, even His eternal power and godhead
      - b. Christ is the brightness of his glory, the express image of God's person and upholding all things by the word of his power
        - (1) And according to the decree of God, he was declared to be the begotten Son of God
        - (2) for Jehovah says, this day have I begotten thee
  - B. And from the abode of heaven and He being filled with all glory and majesty He came down to earth as man
    - 1. He was incarnated
      - a. He was in the flesh
        - (1) That is, He took upon himself the nature of man, except sin

- (2) He was in many ways like us: he hungered, he thirsted and he needed a place to rest his weary head
  - b. He made himself of no reputation and became a servant
- 2. He humbled himself
  - a. Though he was God, filled with all glory and honour, he humbled himself as man
  - b. And he obeyed and fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies concerning himself
    - (1) He came as a suffering servant of Jehovah
    - (2) He came as a lamb dumb for the slaughter
    - (3) And he finally died on the tree of the cross at Calvary, in obedience to the will of the Father
  - c. This is humility or in lowliness of mind
- 3. Beloved, you seek unity, then, be humble or to have lowliness of mind
  - a. Humility is the key to unity
    - (1) Without humility, there will party spirit, I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, I am of Cephas; strife and divisions
    - (2) But with humility, there we will be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord or one-soul and one mind
  - b. Are you one with the body of Christ?
    - (1) You cannot be one in unity if you think you are superior to the body of Christ and refuse to join her
    - (2) It is only through humility or lowliness of mind that you desire to be one with body of Christ

## II. **A Model of Looking on the things of Others**

- A. Christ came to do Father's will
  - 1. He did not come to seek His own will
    - a. He did not come to seek self-glory, to do his own will or vainglory
    - b. Nor a reputation or name and fame for himself
  - 2. But, he came to do the Father's will
    - a. He came as the Seed of the Woman who would defeat the devil at the cross
    - b. He came to die for whom the Father has given unto him
      - (1) They are the ones whom the Father has chosen to be his elect children from eternity
      - (2) And for whom the Holy Spirit will apply the salvation benefits, which are earned by Christ on the cross
    - c. And in His passion
      - (1) In Gethsamane, He agonised over the death that he will be facing
      - (2) and therefore He prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt". Matthew 26.39
      - (3) And he suffered the most cruelest, painful, slow and bitter death ever known to man
- B. And so must you seek to do Father's will
  - 1. And when we do Father's will, we are seeking the unity of the church
    - a. Do not do anything that will break the unity of the church, where the result will be schisms and factions and parties
    - b. That I am of Paul, I am of Cephas, I am of Apollos
  - 2. No, beloved keep the unity of the church by being humbled in lowliness of mind

### III. **A Promise of our own Exaltation**

- A. Christ was exalted
  - 1. He was resurrected from the dead and has ascended into heaven
    - a. Thus, God has rewarded him with the highest name or honour
    - b. That he is King over the things in heaven, things in earth and things under the earth - that is, He is king over this whole universe
    - c. And therefore, all creatures bow the knee to worship Him and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, that brings all glory to the Father
  - 2. The apostle adds a word of comfort
    - a. It is a very difficult thing to imitate Christ
      - (1) It is hard to deny ourselves, our own pleasure and ease
      - (2) It is even more difficult to humble ourselves as servants of Christ
    - b. The apostle's aim was to encourage us to follow our Lord
      - (1) The way of the cross is in no way easy but very difficult
      - (2) And it ends with crucifixion, death in the most bitter and painful way
      - (3) But let us not forget that the way of the cross leads home and this is what He has promised us - our own exaltation
- B. This is the testimony of Scriptures
  - 1. That everyone who humbles himself shall be exalted
    - a. James 4.10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up"
    - b. I Peter 5.5, 6, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time
  - 2. Our own exaltation into heaven is promised and will be fulfilled at our death and at the coming of Christ and therefore, we are given all the encouragement to seek the unity in the church. Amen