

The Philippian Way of Life - 5/17/26
Philippians 2:5-11

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

I. Background to Philippians

- The church in Philippi was the first one Paul planted in Europe
- The city was known for its patriotic nationalism, which accounts for the persecution of Christians who did not worship the national gods
- Paul wrote the letter from prison
- The Philippian church sent Paul a financial gift and supported him while in prison

II. The Focus of the Letter

- It contains a series of short teachings that expand upon a poem about thinking like Christ and living as an expression of Jesus
- Paul encourages them in their persecution to adopt an attitude of humility
 - Take what comes your way
 - Trust the Lord
 - Serve others
- Other teachings:
 - Allow God to align your will with his
 - Don't argue and complain
 - Rejoice in the Lord
 - Stand firm in the Lord
 - Don't be anxious or worry
 - Think rightly about whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent
- Paul uses himself as an example of learning to live in any circumstance

Our life story as a Christian is a lived expression of Jesus's story because we are trying to imitate him.

Philippians 2: 5-11 - Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:11-13 - ...for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Acts 16:9-12 - During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.¹¹ We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.