

Midweek Study

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in pursuit of **HAPPINESS** Through Philippians



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The Happiest Man Who Ever Lived Philippians 2:5-11

Philippians 2:5 (NKJV) - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

“**Mind**” - The Greek word *phroneite* mean mind, feeling, a **mental state** or habit as opposed to just thinking.
(**ATTITUDE**)

(2:6-11) Most likely this is an early Christian Hymn sung about and to Jesus as God. The significance of this can hardly be overstated. Already by AD 60, less than 30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, they are worshiping Jesus as God. This is remarkable for Jewish persons. Two natural stanzas: **v. 6-8: His Condescension**, and **v. 9-11: His Crowning**.

Six Things about Jesus

1. He Enjoyed Deity in Eternity (2:6)
2. He Renounced His Reputation (2:7)
3. He Endured Humiliation (2:8)
4. He Chose Death (2:8)
5. He Received Recognition (2:9)
6. He Earned a Unique Exaltation (2:10-11)

Philippians 2:6 (NKJV) - who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

“**being**” - the person’s essential nature or that which is unchangeably true about Him.

Colossians 1:15, “He is the image of the invisible God.” That is to say He is a direct representation, a direct reflection of the invisible and eternal God.

“**form**” – *morphe* - it means the essential, abiding characteristics or attributes that belong to someone.

POINT – *In His Person, His Essence, His very being-ness and glory, Jesus was and is God.*

“**did not consider it robbery to be equal with God**” - The idea seems to be that since He is co-equal and co-eternal with God by the very nature of His being, equality with God was not something Christ had to forcibly strive for (as if He did not possess it) or assert (as if He could lose it).

Philippians 2:7 (NKJV) - ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

How is Jesus Like Us (2:7)?

a) He was born like us.

*Away in a manger, No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head
...The cattle are lowing The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes*

Appearing on earth as a helpless human baby... Nursing as any other baby would,
Crying as any other baby would, Carried in a mother's arms as any other baby would,
Being changed as any other baby would, Being taught to talk like any other child.
...The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets.

b) He grew like us. Luke 2:52, "Jesus grew in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man." He grew and developed and had growth spurts. He did not parade the fact that He was God. He was a human being and grew like us. He looked every inch a carpenter and a Jew from Palestine. He was a real man.

c) He was tempted like us. Hebrews 4:15 says, "He was tempted in all points like as we, yet without sin." Jesus experienced the same pressures that you and I do, the same temptations, desires and drives. The same temptations to lie, cheat and steal. He had the same drives but He never gave into them. This is important because He can relate to you when you are struggling.

d) He suffered like us. He felt pain, disappointment. He got tired, fatigued. He felt lonely at times. He grieved, He cried, He was human. In Gethesemane (Matthew 26:38) He said, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death." He knew what it was like to feel pain. He can relate to your pain, problems and pressures. He was God but He became a man.

Jesus was so much man as if He were not God.

He was so much God as if He were not man.

ILLUSTRATION – REVERSED FIREWORKS: What did Jesus give up when He came to earth? His deity? No, no. That is What He is made of. Jesus gave up His GLORY. Imagine if you were to see a FIREWORKS show in reverse. Instead of hearing the gunshot sound off, followed by a whistle, and then BOOM, CRACKLE...and... WOW! Instead of that you had the WOW... boom, crackle, whistle, gunshot sound...and... here's a stick. It is still FIREWORKS, but you don't see the glory of the Fireworks.

What He emptied Himself of was not the possession of deity, but the expression of deity. Instead of expressing Himself in the glory of His deity, Jesus expressed Himself in the humility of a servant.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

What is the Name above every name? Jesus is His earthly name. Lord is the name that was given to Him. **LORD is the name. Isaiah 45:23 (Jehovah is speaking) LORD (GK. KURIOS) is a translation of Jehovah. JEHOVAH = letters of YHWH and the vowels of ADONAI. The Greek word "LORD" translates YHWH from the Old Testament. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that "Jesus is Lord."**

The LOST will bow and confess in submission. The SAVED will bow and confess in worship.

POINT – God decided that the name above every name was LORD, and one day everyone will say, "Jesus is Lord". You have a choice to say this now, willingly and lovingly acknowledging His Lordship – these are the ones who will go into all eternity in a place called Heaven. The ones who refuse to acknowledge Jesus as Lord are the ones who will go into all eternity in a place called Hell, where they will still know that Jesus really is Lord. BOW NOW OR BOW LATER?