

The Gospel of Jesus Lived out in Serving

(Philippians 2:1-11; Rev. 5:7-14)

-SO where are we with the Generations Initiative: Celebrate all the good results already: 100+ joined the WELL last two members mtgs; 72 community groups = added 22 new groups; 300 new families (1100) began to give; more people *serving* (NEED Kids); more in *discipleship* **400 families. \$11.2mill**; 3 more weeks Oct. 25/**Nov. 8 is our First fruits offering; *I'm hopeful YES!!**
*As a family, *we all pitch in together*; "wait and SEE" ☹ = **Blessing** not all in 1 sun. =DISCIPLE mom
-What does the Lord want to teach our church??? PRAY; DESPERATION; WORSHIP/JOY no matter

...**SO what do we do now?** We pray; fast; we wait; we encourage & WE LOOK TO JESUS!!!! ALL EYES ON JESUS!! ="We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on YOU" 2 Chr. 20:12

-Everything we do on this earth is connected to heaven: Our life; our faith; our ministry; Our hopes; our dreams; our needs; our gifts; our failures; our service and our prayers:

-WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR EACH OF US IN THIS MOMENT? You- Your family -As a Church family...

***Faithfulness** in our pursuit to Glorify God and honor Jesus' life and death – in our life and death.
=Faithfulness to the Lord NOW in our life until our death. Are you being Faithful to the Lord?

=Faithfulness how? Faithfulness in what? -Faithfulness in our calling to be a living N.T. Church that reflects the Savior who bought her. We show our faithfulness in our love to the LORD in *how* we love and serve both His Church and this lost world around us.

*How are we doing? How are YOU doing? How would you rate us as a church these last 10 months?

Our motivation to faithfully love, serve, honor and worship the LORD should be in response to Who Christ is and what He has accomplished: ...**"Our eyes are on YOU"** ...JESUS!!

***READ Philippians 2:1-11** (begin w/ verse 6....)

Jesus: ⁶ who, as He *already* existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped [clung to; seized], ⁷ but emptied Himself [set aside all of His divine rights] *by* taking the form of a bond-servant *and* being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. ⁹ **For this reason** also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and *that every* tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is **Lord**, to the glory of God the Father. Jesus=**WORTHY OF ALL Worship Now & eternity**

-This is the major point of both the **nature** and **work** of Christ: **WHO is this Jesus, our God??**

*****"Christianity is the only major religion to have as its central event the humiliation of its God."**

-Bruce Shelley...=**MIND BLOWING**...no other religion on the earth is this crazy, scandalous, shocking, & paradoxical

*Jesus **IS** fully God and fully man; **One Person** w. two undiluted natures =truly God and truly man.

-The illogicality of a holy, all-powerful God taking on the weakness and fragility of man.

=God became a man so that man could be restored to God. The Father sent the Son to us to become one of us. And He did not come as the King He deserved: *no*, He came to be born into poverty, and worse than poverty, He was born into a family that had lost their reputation; Jesus was born into shame and scandal; (not nobility, not well-born, no honorable family name but a humble tradesman-son of Joseph, Jesus of Nazareth)

-Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life. He embodied the Law of God. He was righteous, holy, faithful, and humble. And YET, because He was born into this sin-tainted universe, a broken, sinful, and despairing world...**Jesus became sin for us**; Perfect/sinless Jesus took on *our* punishment that was due to us! Jesus became our substitute for *our* guilty lives and received our due penalty which was death-death on a Roman cross.

Jesus, who is God, became man and *represented* all of humanity in His atonement and appeasement of God's divine judgment; God's righteous wrath was poured out onto Christ for our evil, sinful hearts and rebellion against holy God. Jesus was tortured, beaten, mocked, crucified, suffered the ultimate injustice, Him becoming our very sin on the cross, being separated from the Father on the cross and then dying as a man in our place of judgment. Jesus died for us willingly. Faithfully. Perfectly. Completely. & Eternally!

Jesus accomplished salvation for us. He was murdered. He died. **BUT** God raised Him from the dead. In Christ, God's justice and mercy are secured and satisfied. IN Christ, suffering and victory are harmonized. In Christ, our sins are superseded by His love and forgiveness. In Christ, His merit eclipses our fallen lives. His life becomes our life. =**WORTHY of ALL Worship...**

-Rev. 5:7-14 "And He [Jesus] came and took *the scroll* out of the right hand of Him [God, the Father] who sat on the throne. ⁸When He had taken the scroll, the **four living creatures** and the **twenty-four elders** fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the ^[e]saints. ⁹And they *sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased *people* for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

¹⁰You have made them *into* a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth." ¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voices of **many angels** around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ^[f]myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing."

¹³And I heard **every created thing** which is in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, or on the sea, and all the things in them, saying, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb *be* the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion forever and ever."

¹⁴And the **four living creatures** were saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped."

=‘ALL EYES ARE ON JESUS.’ ALL *Hearts* focused on Jesus =**WORTHY of ALL Worship.... YOU???**

In Christ's resurrection, He unleashed this resurrection power on every believer, every follower of Christ that we might now live in His victory, in His power, in His righteousness, in His holiness, in His purpose, and on mission with Him to this world. Resurrection power! The power from death to life; from darkness to light; from guilt to forgiveness; from shame to freedom; from sin-sickness to healing; from despair to hope; from blindness to perfect sight; from tragedy to triumph; from ashes to beauty; from selfishness to humility; from fleshly weakness to spiritual power; resurrection power -the basis of the **life-giving gospel** and the source of our truest identity-security-comfort-assurance-hope-AND **JOY**. *We are forever His!*

Because Jesus rose from the grave, He bought our redemption; Accomplished our election; Enacted our regeneration; and forever reconciled His creation; In Christ, we now have eternal access to the Father and our relationship with the Triune God is restored.

-In God's choosing humiliation on our behalf, we have the unfathomable privilege to worship a God who would go to unthinkable efforts to rescue His creation & restore mankind to relationship with Him.What do we do with this?? What Kind of all-powerful God does this???

OUR REPONSE: Jesus =WORTHY of ALL Worship.... -SO how does our worship manifest now???

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal *interests*, but also for the *interests* of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

-What attitude? What perspective? =**HUMILITY** =our worship comes through our humiliation, our getting low, bowing low, serving low, staying low, staying in our place -dependent, desperate for the LORD and His Presence; desperate to get my worship right...**WHY??** BC He is worthy...He is worthy of it ALL....**my life, my breath, my family, my church, my money=HIS..**He is worthy of it

-**If** we are to live like Jesus, having been transformed by Jesus and we are being made into His image day by day (Rom. 8:29), **then** ...Because of Who Christ is and what Christ has done (accomplished), we are called to be **unified** in the things that **exalt** Christ most as a Believer, as a Church body =(being like-minded, same love, one Spirit, One purpose = ONE MISSION)

1. If you love Jesus, you will learn to love **what** He loves. What does Jesus love most?

His Fathers **glory**. What brings God glory? The Father delights in spending time with His creation. In Relationships. In restoration. In forgiveness. In sacrifice. In humility. In JESUS!!

-**God is glorified in us most when we are most satisfied in Him.** When His presence is our *everything*.

-Jesus wants us to glory in the Father's presence; Abide w/ Him. Want Him most. **He is PRIZE**

2. If you love Jesus you will learn to love **who** He loves =**others**. Christ's mission is to bring people to His Father...for Gods glory. Christ's mission is reconciliation.

-2 Cor. 5:18-20 "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

3. If you love Jesus, you will learn to love **how** He loved others (through His own *humility*) in order to serve them and love them **to** the Father (Rom 2:4 "it's the kindness of God that leads us to repentance")

- How do we seek to bless the needs of those around us?
- We should care what happens to our church body; His Body
- Jesus did not abandon us in our moment in need.

APPLICATION

There are three commands in this passage:

Vs. 3: (with humility) consider one another as more important than yourselves; Remember, people are valuable to God. Look what God did just to rescue them. People are made in God's image and we need to care for people; notice them; value them; engage with them; LOVE them as Christ loves you (**Greatest Commandment**: Mt. 22:37-40 "Love God and Love others")
-John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-Do you genuinely value people in your life (other than self; family; best friends??)

Vs. 4: do not *merely* look out for your own personal *interests*, but also for the *interests* of others. =**SEE people** and their **needs**. Open your eyes; get out of your circumstances and look at others' lives. =LOOK out for their needs; do something. Spring to action. = See the needs; meet the needs. And invite others into help meet their needs in the longterm. Care for people.

-1 John 3:17-18 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

-Gal. 6:9-10 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Do you have spiritual eyes? Can you see people in their moment of need? When you walk onto this campus-what are you thinking of? (Parking, donuts, child check-in, good seat??) OR I wonder who I will meet today? I wonder who is lonely/hurting this am? I wonder who I can invite to lunch? To connect with? To encourage? To engage? *meet-n-greet is just a way to help you engage with others. Before service/After service. People are valuable to God; they have spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. Some are just lonely!! Need to be invited to your Comm. Group.

Vs. 5: Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, -Give of yourself for others. **Serve others** out of a desire to Glorify God and honor Jesus with your life! Just as Jesus served us with ALL of His life, so we are to serve others (in all humility) and bless them in His Name.
-Col. 1:10 "so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, ^[m]to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work."

Where are you serving the Lord where you actually look like the Lord? Where are you serving where you are representing the Lord in all you do? People are watching! People notice your life!

This entire Generations Initiative has been a test for our church; an opportunity and a challenge for our church in this season of our church's life. Will we each engage with God's mission for the WELL? Will we get into the action or remain spectators and consumers?
-Will we get involved in the life of this church? Into her heart? Will we serve? Will we contribute and sacrifice until it hurts? Do you think God is sheepish in asking you to give of yourself to His Bride? His Church? When Jesus gave EVERYTHING to purchase this Bride? Is asking you to give of some of your time, and some of your money, and some of your prayer too

much to ask? Has God required too much of you??? No, it is right and righteous that you lean into this moment and love His church – and sacrifice for Her – and commit to Her so she can thrive for generations to come. This is the most worthy thing you could invest your life into on this earth....what else is eternal???? What else will your investment outlast on this earth – except His church???

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1.** How should the grace and love we have received from Jesus change the way we treat other believers? What attitudes or behaviors most threaten unity in our community group or church, and what is one practical step we can take to strengthen our unity in Christ? Ephesians 4:1–6.
- 2.** Why is selfish ambition so dangerous to the spiritual health of a church? How can we recognize when our desire for recognition, influence, appreciation, or being right is taking priority over loving others? Romans 12:3–10.
- 3.** Who in your life might be carrying a burden you have overlooked? What would it look like this week to intentionally prioritize another person's needs, even when doing so costs you time, comfort, convenience, or resources? Galatians 6:2; 1 John 3:16–18.
- 4.** What does it mean in practical terms to have the mind of Christ? When you face conflict, disappointment, criticism, or an opportunity to serve, how might your response change if you intentionally asked, “What would reflect the humility and love of Jesus in this situation?” -Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 2:16.
- 5.** What does Jesus' willingness to humble Himself teach us about how we should use our position, authority, gifts, influence, and resources? Where might God be calling you to surrender your rights or preferences for the good of someone else? Mark 10:42–45; 2 Corinthians 8:9.
- 6.** How does the certainty that Jesus is Lord over all things change the way we respond to suffering, obscurity, sacrifice, or a lack of recognition? How can knowing that God ultimately exalts Christ free us from the need to promote ourselves? Isaiah 45:22–23; 1 Peter 5:5–7.
- 7.** If our community group genuinely lived out the humility of Christ over the next month, what would change in our conversations, relationships, service, generosity, and treatment of people who are difficult to love? What is one specific action you will take this week to put the mind of Christ into practice? John 13:34–35; Ephesians 5:1–2.

******The central question of Philippians 2:1–11 is not simply, “Do I believe in Jesus?” but also, “Is the character of Jesus becoming visible in me? – In the WELL?”