

“THE MIND OF CHRIST”

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Philippians 2:1-11**. From Roy H. Enoch (11-21-1993).
- B. “Happiness is determined by attitude and not by circumstances.”
 - 1. As Paul wrote to the Philippians, he was chained in prison awaiting his hearing before Nero.
 - 2. He was thankful and rejoicing in spite of his circumstances. Phil. 4:10-13
 - 3. We choose whether we are thankful, compassionate, loving and forgiving, or bitter, selfish, vengeful or complaining.
- C. In our text, Paul describes the “mind of Christ.”
 - 1. In heaven He was God, yet He became submissive as a Son.
 - 2. In heaven He was worshipped, yet He came to earth to serve.
 - 3. He had loving compassion for those in need, even when they did not respect Him.
 - 4. He was persecuted and crucified, yet, He forgave.
- D. Today we want to study the “mind of Christ” to learn how we may be full of joy here and hereafter.

I. IN HEAVEN HE WAS GOD OR DEITY, YET, HE BECAME A SUBMISSIVE SON.

- A. When in heaven He was equal with God (Phil. 2:6). But “emptied Himself” of the glory of being God, that He might become a submissive Son (Phil. 2:8).
- B. Jesus submitted to all authority.
 - 1. He obeyed His parents at the age of 12 (Lk. 2:51-52).
 - 2. He paid the Jewish temple tax for Himself and Peter (Mt. 17:27).
 - 3. He taught the Jews to pay taxes to the Roman government (Mt. 22:21).
 - 4. He was submissive to the will of the Father in all things (Jn. 4:34).
- C. We must be submissive to all authority to have the “mind of Christ.”
 - 1. We must be submissive in the home as God commands.
 - 2. We must obey the laws of the land.
 - 3. We must be submissive to the word of God in the church.

II. CHRIST WAS WORSHIPPED AS GOD IN HEAVEN, BUT HE BECAME A SERVANT (Mt. 20:25-28).

- A. We must learn to follow His teaching and example. Those who would lead, must serve. As the apostles’ Lord, He washed their feet (Jn. 13:12-16).
- B. Those who would be glorified with Christ, must suffer with Him (Rom. 8:17). He suffered for us that we might be justified (1Pet. 2:21-24).

III. HE GAVE UP ALL THINGS FOR HIMSELF THAT HE MIGHT FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF OTHERS WITH LOVE AND COMPASSION.

- A. He emptied Himself of the blessings of heaven and the spiritual body of glory.
 - 1. He took the form of man, and endured the temptations of the flesh w/o sin.
 - 2. He suffered rejection, humiliation, and abuse.
 - 3. The suffering on the cross (the agony of the nails) was great for the guilt of sin.
- B. He had compassion for the sufferings and loneliness of the underprivileged.
 - 1. He exalted the role of women in the family and society.
 - 2. He made servants and slaves free and children of the king.
 - 3. He healed sickness and diseases.
 - 4. He fed the hungry and comforted the widows and lonely.
- C. He described the basis of our judgment as how we serve others (Mt. 25:31-40).
- D. Paul said that we will be judged according to the deeds of the body (2Cor. 5:10).

IV. ALTHOUGH ABUSED AND REJECTED, JESUS WAS FORGIVING TO THOSE WHO WOULD REPENT.

- A. He prayed on the cross for the forgiveness of those crucifying Him (Lk. 23:34).
- B. He often rebuked for unbelief, but continued to give evidence that they might believe.
 - 1. He would teach, encourage, and correct: this is love.
 - 2. He would forgive and encourage to forgive.
 - 3. We must follow His example.
- C. He rebuked to bring to repentance, but reject those who were impenitent. Mt. 23:33-39
- D. He never complained about how people mistreated Him: only because they would not let Him bless them. We need to follow this example.

CONCLUSION.

- A. We can never be full of joy as long as we have the mind of the world: selfish, bitter, revenging and spiteful.
- B. We can only be happy and contented when we have the mind of X: submissive to authority, serving others, compassionate and forgiving.
- C. The most miserable in the church are those who know the truth and will not submit to it.
- D. As God asked Israel through Ezekiel (Ezek. 18:30-32).