

Serving Others through Joyful Humility

Text: Phil. 2:16-19

Date: 1-24-21 @ 10:30 am

1. There is joy in serving Jesus As I journey on my way
Joy that fills my heart with praises Every hour and every day

Chorus: There is joy, joy Joy in serving Jesus Joy that throbs within my heart Every moment,
every hour As I draw upon His power There is joy, joy Joy that never shall depart

2. There is joy in serving Jesus Joy; that triumphs over pain
Fills my heart with heaven's music Till I join the glad refrain

3. There is joy in serving Jesus As I walk alone with God
'Tis the joy of Christ my Saviour Who the path of suffering trod

2021 Theme, **Joyfully Displaying the Humility of Christ.**

What does joyful humility mean? Joy is inherently tied to happiness that is rooted in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Humility is a “modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc.” Joyful humility is displaying these meek qualities without a somber countenance and attitude.

How do we develop joyful humility?

Step 1: Permit God to work in us (Phil. 2:12-13).

Step 2: Put away complaining or arguing (Phil. 2:14).

Step 3: Act Purely as God's light bearers (v. 15).

Step 4: Present the Word of Life through service to God and others (Phil. 2:16-18).

Hold forth - holding firmly to something with the intention of presenting an offer of something special. It also means hold fast. A person **cannot truly hold forth**, if they first **have not held fast!**

We must persevere both in giving the word of life (*holding forth*), and living our lives differently than that lost world (*holding fast*).

We must hold forth the Word of God in an act of servant humility towards the world. Keeping the word of life from the unsaved world is the biggest act of pride known to the believer.

When we see the value of what God's word has done for us, we must recognize that we must offer this special treasure to all who will listen to us. What is it that God's word has done for us?

- Created (Psalm 33:6ff; Heb. 11:3).
- Holds the universe together (Heb. 1:3).
- Sustains the universe, and will destroy it (II Pet. 3:3-8).
- The Word (John 1:1) has conquered death and sin and has risen again (Eph. 1:19-20).
- John 3:16; 6:68; Acts 5:20.
- Each of these is a demonstration of Life-giving power!

Labored - work to the point of collapse. What would bring future joy for Paul was that the believers in Philippi were holding forth the gospel for all to see.

The word *offered* is from a picture of where priests offered sacrifices to God (gods) in addition to pouring a drink over the sacrifice. It is called a libation (drink-offering, gift, sacrifice). Paul was vividly saying that he was being poured out as a drink-offering as he prepared for the distinct realization that he was/could be martyred soon.

“The figure is that of a sacrifice, in which the Philippians are the priests, offering their faith to God and Paul’s life is the libation poured out at this offering. Compare 2 Cor. 12:15”.¹ Paul recognized his own offering would be poured out as part of a much larger and more significant sacrifice: the Philippians’ faith and service as a result of that faith.

Paul was willing, indeed joyful, to pour his own blood out in order to be part of a greater service in the lives of the Philippian believers.

Paul lived Christ’s humility by laboring in God’s work and keeping his focus on the main thing: dying to self and living in light of eternity.

Paul views suffering as a doorway to deeper joy in Christ. He sees humble suffering not only as Christ’s path (Heb. 12:2-3), but as the way to spiritual growth and example to his brethren.

1. Paul is commanding us to live in obedience to God’s Word. This includes how we live in front of a lost world, but it also means living by faith when we are alone.
2. When God gives a command, even in the midst of difficult circumstances, we must obey. Even when most everyone else is doing what they think is right in their own eyes.
3. Real service must include being poured out personally as a living sacrifice. It is the opposite of selfishness and pride. It is the humble, joy-filled life (Adapted from Briscoe page 86).

Step 5: Pattern your lives after the example of Godly saints (Phil. 2:19-26).

What would encourage him most was not that his situation would get better; it was that he would hear of the well being of the Philippian believers.

Wouldn’t you think that more than ever Paul would have needed Timothy in Rome/prison? Yet, he urges him to leave!

Joyful humility as seen in this section means:

- 1) Taking the time in God’s Word to read, study, and meditate and then using that in everyday conversations with other people. This is the humble service of Christ.
- 2) Laboring in God’s work by keeping our focus on the main thing: dying daily to self and living in light of eternity.
- 3) Suffering is the ultimate pattern of Christ-infused humility.

Following the pattern of those ahead of us who have learned joyful humility.

¹ Vincent, M. R. (1887). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 3, p. 440). New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons.