

Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit

Service at Home Sheet 11th October 2026

Bible Month 2: Philippians ch. 2

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Today we continue our study of Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. This letter is a treasure chest of wisdom, and chapter 2 contains the jewel in the crown, bringing us to the heart of the New Testament's message.

So take time to settle yourself, to gather your thoughts. Place your feet flat on the floor if you can, let our hands relax, and take a few slow steady breaths.

Prayer

Gracious God, I offer you this time, in gratitude for all that you have given. Help me to quieten my mind, to make space for what I need to learn, to be aware of your Loving Holy Spirit available to me, even here and now, through the love of Jesus.

Amen.

Now a much loved hymn by Charles Wesley, in which he expresses wonder at the love of God in Christ. Focus especially on verses 2 and 3

Hymn StF 345 And can it be that I should gain

[And can it be that I should gain StF 345 - YouTube](#)

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me who caused his pain,
for me who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou my God shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all, the immortal dies,
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first born seraph tries
to sound the depth of love divine.
'Tis mercy all, let earth adore,
Let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above,
so free so infinite his grace –
Emptied himself of all but love
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast-bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread,
Jesus and all in him is mine.
Alive in him, my living Head
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown through Christ my own.
Charles Wesley 1707-1788)

Prayer of Adoration

'Tis mystery all, let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more

God most high, as we recall your love in Jesus,
we are filled with wonder.
All our attempts to put it into words fall far
short of what we want to say
How can it be that He who was with you from
the beginning,
who shared your plan from the dawn of time,
limited himself to human frailty in one time
and one place,
living a vulnerable earthly life for ordinary
people like us?. How can it be that he
accepted such suffering at the hands of
ordinary people like us?....

How can it be that now victorious,
free from the limitations of time and space,
He still goes on loving us, still pours out the
gift of the Holy Spirit even when we go our
own way ignoring Him?...

We cannot explain it.

We can rejoice in it offering you our praise and worship.

Rejoicing that this is your way of perfect love, your plan from the dawn of time till time shall, be no more.....

All glory to You, Father Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen

So we come to the Bible reading where Paul expresses this great truth

Reading Philippians 2: 5-11

Now Lisa shares her thoughts in response to these much loved words.

Reflection

How God measures the worth of a human life

Look at the life of Jesus- the Servant King, who made sure people who were considered worthless felt valued. We have many examples in the Gospels of him healing, feeding and listening to so many people. He had time for the people others had written off or given up on: the outsiders, those who fell short of perfection, those who broke the rules, those suffering in body, mind or Spirit. These people were the ones that Jesus had time for, the ones who he felt were worth his time.

He was not interested in any kind of status: his true worth lay in his relationship with God his Father. That is where our worth lies.

We are worthy simply because we exist, not because of anything we have achieved, and we can all answer the call of Christ 'Follow me'.

Many of us now have changed in ways we never expected, perhaps because of health issues, advancing years, or circumstances that have shaped us.

If we are willing, we can allow the Holy Spirit to do something with who we are now, not who we were, or who we thought we might be.

God sees potential where we really cannot and he considers us to be worthy of his love; if we look at the life of Jesus we can see that in action.

Jesus saw potential in fishermen and a tax-collectors, people who were shunned by society, and in women who were then considered lesser just by being a woman. Through their encounter with Jesus all these people were restored, revived, released, given new and meaningful life.

And what about us?

Following Jesus today, we can be changed as they were and find our true worth in Him who sought no position of worth or comfort; he who was always travelling, caring and seeking the lost

May we let Him find us, and be glad that God is not interested in us being famous or fabulous. May we just be open, just as we are, to follow his Son where he leads us.

Hymn StF556 Just as I am

[StF 556 Just as I am - YouTube](#)

Just as I am without one plea
but that you died to set me free,
and at your bidding," Come to me!"
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - your love unknown
has broken every barrier down -
now to be yours, yes, yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to
prove,
here for a time and then above,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Charlotte Eliott 1789-1871
adapted by Julia Late Hymns Altd

Reading: Philippians 2: 12-16

Reflection

So Paul invites his listeners to respond to the outpouring of love shown in Jesus, by “having the same mind as Christ”, in humble and obedience. It’s not a matter of earning God’s love, but of responding to it joyfully with an outpouring of generous love. The qualities Paul calls for may seem quite undramatic, ordinary to us, but they would have stood out in contrast to the attitudes and excesses of many of those who lived in cosmopolitan Philippi.

In Graeco-Roman culture, status was all-important, humility scorned. So this concept of Jesus humbling himself would have been utterly shocking. We live in a time where “celebrities,” seen as having “star-quality” are given a great deal of attention in the media, placed centre stage in the public eye. But to Paul, it is the humble who truly shine like stars.

So how are we to shine like stars today? Not by anything showy that hits the news headlines, but in how we react to people around us, in gratitude, humility, attentive listening, and a willingness to respond to their needs where we can.

In the last verses of this chapter Paul commends two of his close friends

to the people at Philippi:

Timothy and Epaphroditus.

Timothy’s name is familiar, mentioned several times in the New Testament, but Epaphroditus is only mentioned here. The people of Philippi, where he had lived, held him in high regard. He had travelled to take a message from the Christians in Philippi to Paul in prison. There he has stayed to help Paul, but has been taken dangerously ill. Now he has recovered and is returning to Philippi; perhaps it’s he who brings the letter. Paul speaks highly of him for risking his life for the work of Christ.

So take a few minutes now to recall people you have known who have supported you, even at great personal cost.

Prayer of thanks and intercession

Gracious God,
all thanks and praise be to you for people who have followed in the way of Christ, walking his way in humble obedience, some in the public eye, some known only to those close to them.

Pray now for people who work in what others see as the humblest of jobs, that they may be properly valued and keep their self-respect even when others overlook them or take their work for granted.

Pray now for people in the public eye, in entertainment or sport, that they may keep a sense of perspective, take their responsibilities seriously, and be better role models.

Pray for people whose position gives them power, that they may have courage to seek what is best for the common good, and not take easy or selfish options.

Pray for people who have lost any sense of direction or purpose, perhaps weighed down by illness, disability or circumstances. May they know they are valued, and find reassurance.

Take time now to pray for people you are concerned for, asking that they may know something of the light of God's presence in their situation.

Finally bring your own needs before God, and be assured that your prayers will be heard through love shown by Jesus, Amen.

The Lords Prayer

Hymn 317 At the name of Jesus

[At the name of Jesus StF 317 - YouTube](#)

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow
every tongue confess him
king of glory now.

'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call Him Lord
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
into whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last
brought is back victorious
when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of than perfect rest

In your hearts enthrone him,
there let him subdue,
all that is not holy
all that is not true:
Crown him as your captain
in temptations' hour,
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again.
With his Father's glory,
with his angel train.
For all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow.
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel 1817-1877

Final Prayer

Loving God, whose love enfolds each of us
even on the lowest of days,
and gives us new hope when our candle
burns low,
Set us alight with that same love,
That we may know and share the presence of
Jesus day by day.

Geoffrey Clarke

Hold on mind the people you especially care
about as you say:

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with us now and evermore
Amen

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