

JESUS IS LORD AND EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW

I. Philippians 2:1-11

A. Perspective is such an important thing, especially when our perspective differs from God's perspective. I often ask God to give me His heart and perspective because mine and His often differ. His is perfect. Mine is blurry at best. We see through a mirror dimly, a glass darkly. Dr. Ray Pritchard shares the following contrasts as it relates to perspective, how God sees things verses us:

Our View vs God's View

We look at the outward. God looks at the inward.
We value popularity. God values character.
We look at intelligence. God looks at the heart.
We honor those with money. God honors those with integrity.
We talk about what we own. God talks about what we give away.
We boast about whom we know. God notices whom we serve.
We list our accomplishments. God looks for a contrite heart.
We value education. God values wisdom.
We love size. God notices quality.
We live for fame. God searches for humility.
Our view is shallow. God's view is deep.
Our view is temporary. God's view is eternal.

B. Before we start shucking corn this morning, you should know we have a few brothers in our church that with very sincere hearts say to me often, "*If you need anything done at the church, just say the word.*" What I've come to realize is that many of these brothers have significant limitations that keep them from doing much of what they'd like to do. The truth is their spirits are willing but their flesh (*their physical capacities*) are too weak or limited for many of the tasks at hand.

C. My daily prayers as of late before the Lord are similar in that I tell the Lord on the one hand, "*Whatever You want, Lord!*" but then quickly realize that I'm far too weak in my capacity and strength to stand and deliver. Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) reminds me: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" But even as it says that, it also implies: "*I can do very little, and nothing of good consequence, nothing of eternal value, if Christ doesn't strengthen me.*" I'm only as good as His grace enables. My spirit's willing but I'm a weakling! And this reality is but a metaphor for the ultimate Gospel reality expressed in Romans 5:6(AMPC): "*While we were yet in weakness [powerless to help ourselves], at the fitting time Christ died for (in behalf of) the ungodly.*" (Weak & ungodly were us!) The Bread & Cup remind us.

D. Back to perspectives: Our text today should help our perspectives. I believe it will encourage and exhort us. It will deliver some solid incarnation theology coupled with a hefty dose of Gospel reality. We'll read what is believed to be one of the first credal hymns of the church. And yes, we've looked at these eleven verses many times before but I'm praying God will put bright light on them, bring clarity to our perspectives, and prepare us for the Lord's Table.

E. Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV) should bolster our hearts...

1) **V1-2:** *1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (Like-minded; unified in heart; same in attitude. Sounds like more than a suggestion! It doesn't sound optional. Sounds like God wants this!)*

2) **V3-4:** *3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Where'd such a notion come from? Certainly not favorite verses among narcissists! But the next three sentences are profound and give us the bigger picture, the Source of the notion. From Jesus' journey from preexistent glory, to incarnation, to crucifixion, to resurrection, to ascension, to exaltation!)*

3) **V5-8:** *5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (OV: something used for His own advantage) 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, (doulos: slave; bondservant.) being born in the likeness of men. (Incarnation-God became man!) 8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (The Bread & Cup remind us.)*

4) **V9-11: 9** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **(This is the ultimate picture of selfless humility and sacrificial love...)**

F. Are there any acts of service or God-given tasks beneath your dignity? (Share the story of Booker T. Washington's act of kindness for a wealthy white woman.)

II. Communion

A. As you take the Bread & Cup this morning, let the truth of what we just read saturate down into your heart of hearts. Let the Holy Spirit minister to each one of you deep inside. Don't let this be some aimless and meaningless ritual. Bow your hearts before Jesus and confess Him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**B. "And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." "While we were yet in weakness [powerless to help ourselves], at the fitting time Christ died for (in behalf of) the ungodly." (Us!)
(The Bread & Cup remind us.)**

*** Pray & Serve Communion...**

*** Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV) will chauffeur us home today: 14** Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV)

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Romans 5:6 (AMPC)

6 While we were yet in weakness [powerless to help ourselves], at the fitting time Christ died for (in behalf of) the ungodly.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)

14 Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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By Dr. Ray Pritchard

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Booker T. Washington's Act Of Humility

A truly humble man is hard to find, yet God delights to honor such selfless people. Booker T. Washington, the renowned black educator, was an outstanding example of this truth. Shortly after he took over the presidency of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, he was walking in an exclusive section of town when he was stopped by a wealthy white woman. Not knowing the famous Mr. Washington by sight, she asked if he would like to earn a few dollars by chopping wood for her. Because he had no pressing business at the moment, Professor Washington smiled, rolled up his sleeves, and proceeded to do the humble chore she had requested. When he was finished, he carried the logs into the house and stacked them by the fireplace. A little girl recognized him and later revealed his identity to the lady.

The next morning the embarrassed woman went to see Mr. Washington in his office at the Institute and apologized profusely. "It's perfectly all right, Madam," he replied. "Occasionally I enjoy a little manual labor. Besides, it's always a delight to do something for a friend." She shook his hand warmly and assured him that his meek and gracious attitude had endeared him and his work to her heart. Not long afterward she showed her admiration by persuading some wealthy acquaintances to join her in donating thousands of dollars to the Tuskegee Institute. - *Our Daily Bread*.

Film Clips & Article Links

"He is Lord" - MercyMe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeFn0g4pF-w>

"Who But God" - Wes King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6JJa56i7K8>

"Name Above All Names" - Sovereign Grace Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUpWdjsr-HE>

The Story Behind the Hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus, Name" - Nikos Foundation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_UhtYhhDFI

Bonus Stuff

Psalm 73:26 (ESV)

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV)

29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Matthew 11:28-29 (NKJV)

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 26:36-41 (NKJV)

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said

to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? **41** Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Romans 8:26-28 (ESV)

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (ESV)

9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Hebrews 5:7-10 (ESV)

7 In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. **8** Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. **9** And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **10** being designated by God a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Quote by Sidney Lear

"He never yet rejected the feeble soul which clung to Him in love."

Quote by J.C. Ryle

"Men fall in private long before they fall in public."

Quote by A.W. Pink

"Before He furnishes the abundant supply, we must first be made conscious of our emptiness. Before He gives strength, we must be made to feel our weakness. Slow, painfully slow, are we to learn this lesson; and slower still to own our nothingness and take the place of helplessness before the Mighty One."

Quote by David Dickson

"Affliction is then come to the height and its complete measure, when the sinner is made sensible of his own weakness, and doth see there is no help for him, save in God alone."

Quote by John Calvin

"For men have no taste for (God's power) till they are convinced of their need of it and they immediately forget its value unless they are conditionally reminded by awareness of their own weakness."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"Real true faith is man's weakness leaning on God's strength."

Quote by Richard Sibbes

"As the strongest faith may be shaken, so the weakest, where truth is, is so far rooted that it will prevail. Weakness with watchfulness will stand, when strength with too much confidence fails. Weakness, with acknowledgment of it, is the fittest seat and subject for God to perfect His strength in; for consciousness of our infirmities drives us out of ourselves to Him in whom our strength lies."

Quote by R.C. Ryle

"Our Lord has many weak children in His family, many dull pupils in His school, many raw soldiers in His army, many lame sheep in His flock. Yet He bears with them all, and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to do likewise with his brethren."

Quote by Francis Quarles

"Proportion thy charity to the strength of thine estate, lest God in anger proportion thine estate to the weakness of thy charity."

I Cannot Do Without Thee

Author Unknown

I cannot do without Thee
I cannot stand alone;
I have no strength or goodness
Nor wisdom of my own.
But Thou, beloved Savior
Art all in all to me
And perfect strength in weakness
Is theirs who lean on Thee.

Strength Can Become Weakness

A person who calls himself frank and candid can very easily find himself becoming tactless and cruel. A person who prides himself on being tactful can find eventually that he has become evasive and deceitful. A person with firm convictions can become pigheaded. A person who is inclined to be temperate and judicious can sometimes turn into someone with weak convictions and banked fires of resolution . . . Loyalty can lead to fanaticism. Caution can become timidity. Freedom can become license. Confidence can become arrogance. Humility can become servility. All these are ways in which strength can become weakness.

- Dore Schary, *Bits and Pieces*, December 9, 1993, Page 3-4.