



A GOD ATTITUDE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

THE MAIN POINT

In Philippians 2, Paul is encouraging the church to submit to the will of God and the “mind”, or attitude, of Christ. When he said in verse 5, “let this mind be in you...”, the mind of Christ means the attitude of Christ exhibited. When he said, “being in the form of God,” he wasn’t necessarily talking about shape or size. John 4:24 tells us that God is Spirit. The writers used human forms to describe divine attributes and activities. The word “form” means *the outward expression of the inward nature*. We’re talking about the kind of attitude we ought to have. *Because your attitude determines your thoughts.*

DISCUSSION

If you have a bad attitude, guess what...you’ll have bad thoughts. Negative thoughts rob you of your joy. And an indifferent thought attitude can sometimes be just as bad as having a *bad* attitude, because instead of “thinking on things above,” we just don’t care. It’s great to have “good” attitude, but Paul is teaching us to go beyond even *that* and have a GOD attitude. A “God” attitude directs our thoughts to think as God thinks about something.

Talk about the three ways to “think” about something and how it affects our attitude.

Example: The doctor says you have cancer. A bad attitude says, “I’m going to die from cancer.” A good attitude says, “I’ll get the treatments and with some luck I’ll survive a few more years.” But a GOD attitude says, “by His stripes I AM healed. I’m not “going” to be healed...it’s already done!” A God attitude calls those things that do not exist as though they did!

We’re told to have His mind, meaning His attitude. In doing that, we strive to be like Christ...and that’s difficult! Because we read about Him and agree that our attitude should be like His attitude.

But how can any mortal man ever hope to achieve what Jesus Christ achieved? (Hint: read John 14:12, John 16:7, 12-14)

Without divine power to accomplish what He wants us to accomplish in our lives, it is impossible to live up to the standard that Christ set. Paul said in Phil. 2:13, “it is God who works IN you.” Life is not a series of ups and downs - it’s IN and OUTS. GOD WORKS IN US AND WE WORK IT OUT. Like working out a math problem, we have to show our work, and show it in full completion. The good news is that God is more interested in the workman than in the work! Just like electricity has to run through a conductor, the Holy Spirit has to work through a means in our lives.

Discuss how much more joy we would have if we could just learn to live out the power of God working IN us.

BEYOND THE GROUP

The word ‘worketh’ in Phil. 2:13 is our English word *energy*. Paul is showing us that it is God’s divine energy at work in us and through us. Because of the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, God’s divine energy is available to us. Read Ephesians 1:18-23. On your own this week, examine how the Spirit works in our lives through the word of God (1 Thess. 2:13), prayer (Eph. 3:20) and suffering (1 Peter 4:12-19)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Father, I thank you that I am the light of the world. Today, I choose to walk worthy of the Lord in every respect, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. I give thanks to my Heavenly Father who has made me to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. This week I choose to walk in lowliness of mind and esteem others as better than myself. As a child of God, I am thoroughly furnished for every good work. I have the mind of Christ, which means I have the attitude of Christ. Let your Spirit lead my actions and bring an abundance of joy into my life and others around me in Jesus name!