

**DSW Written Service for Bible Month  
Week Two - Philippians Chapter 2**

**Call to worship** - based on Psalm 25.4-5

*The Psalmist wrote:*

'Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me.'

Let us also seek the way and the truth of God.

**Hymn StF 362: Meekness and Majesty**

Meekness and majesty,  
Manhood and deity,  
In perfect harmony  
The Man who is God.  
Lord of eternity,  
Dwells in humanity,  
Kneels in humility  
And washes our feet.

*Oh, what a mystery  
Meekness and majesty:  
Bow down and worship,  
For this is your God,  
This is your God,  
This is your God!*

Father's pure radiance,  
Perfect in innocence,  
Yet learns obedience -  
To death on a cross:  
Suffering to give us life;  
Conquering through sacrifice -  
And as they crucify,  
Prays, "Father, forgive"

Wisdom unsearchable,  
God the invisible,  
Love indestructible,  
In frailty appears:  
Lord of infinity,  
Stooping so tenderly,  
Lifts our humanity  
To the heights of His throne.

Songwriters: Graham Kendrick  
Meekness & Majesty lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd.

**A Prayer of Adoration**

Christ our Saviour,  
you humbled yourself to be born in human form and to die upon a cross:  
we kneel before you now and confess that you, our Saviour, are also our Lord.  
Give us your humility, and make us obedient to your word so that we may be confident in all that  
we do in your name. **Amen.**

**A prayer of Confession**

God of compassion and mercy,  
we are sorry that sometimes we put ourselves ahead of you;  
that we ignore your values of meekness and humility and seek  
power and position; that we use what we have selfishly, without thought for its  
impact on others; that we take refuge in security and familiarity when you call us  
to step out of our comfort zone.  
Forgive us. Envision us. Heal us.  
Empower us to be kind and courageous, godly and generous,  
self-aware and self-giving. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

**Hymn StF 286: What kind of love is this**

What kind of love is this  
that gave itself for me?

What kind of man is this,  
that died in agony?

I am the guilty one,  
yet I go free.  
What kind of love is this,  
a love I've never known;  
I didn't even know his name,  
what kind of love is this?

He who had done no wrong  
Was crucified for me.  
What kind of man is this,  
who laid aside his throne  
that I may know the love of God -  
What kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved;  
it is the gift of God.  
He destined me to be his own  
such is his love.  
No eye has ever seen,  
no ear has ever heard,  
nor has the human heart conceived  
what kind of love is this?

Bryn Haworth and Sally Haworth

## Introduction

In Philippians Chapter 2, Paul is tackling an issue of division within the Christian community at Philippi. So, Paul offers the example of Christ for them to follow. Paul takes an early Christian hymn (vss 6-11) and includes it in this letter. The hymn contains a profound summary of who Jesus is and what he achieved on the cross.

## Philippians Ch. 2

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>[a]</sup> in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. <sup>14</sup> Do all things

without murmuring and arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding forth the word of life so that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with all of you; <sup>18</sup> in the same way also you should rejoice and rejoice together with me. <sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I, too, may be consoled by news of you. <sup>20</sup> I have no one so like myself who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. <sup>21</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me, <sup>24</sup> and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon. <sup>25</sup> Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and coworker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister to my need, <sup>26</sup> for he has been longing for all of you and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup> He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. <sup>28</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again and that I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup> Welcome him, then, in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>30</sup> because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

## Sermon

We live in a world that teaches us to shine by standing above others. We are told to promote ourselves, build a social media presence, and make sure our achievements are noticed. Yet the Bible presents a very different way of shining. In Philippians 2, Paul calls believers to shine—not through self-promotion, but through humility. The path to true spiritual influence is not pride but servanthood. Paul begins by urging the church:

*"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves" (vs3).*

The greatest obstacle to Christian unity is often self-centeredness. We naturally want our opinions, preferences, and desires to come first. Paul challenges believers to adopt a different mindset. Then he points us to the ultimate example:

*"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (vs5).*

Jesus possessed all the glory of heaven. He was equal with God, yet He did not cling to His rights. Instead, He emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, and humbled Himself to the point of death—even death on a cross. The astonishing truth is that the King of kings chose the path of humility. Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. It is choosing service over status and obedience over recognition. If Jesus humbled Himself, how can we justify pride? If Jesus washed the feet of his friends, surely His followers can serve one another?

Paul's concern is not merely individual character but the health of the church. He writes:

*"Make my joy complete; be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind" (vs2).*

Unity flourishes where humility is present.

Pride says, "My way." Humility says, "How can I serve?"  
Pride demands recognition. Humility seeks reconciliation.  
Pride creates division. Humility builds bridges.

Every healthy congregation is made up of ordinary believers who quietly choose the interests of others over their own. The church becomes powerful not when everyone seeks prominence but when everyone seeks to serve. Some of the most influential Christians are not those who stand behind pulpits or lead large congregations. They are faithful servants who pray, encourage, give, visit, and care for others without expecting recognition. Humility creates an environment where Christ is seen and people flourish.

Paul then moves from the church to the world. He says:

*“Do all things without murmuring and arguing,<sup>15</sup> so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world”*

Notice the connection.

Believers shine when they stop complaining.  
Believers shine when they pursue purity.  
Believers shine when they walk in humility.

The world expects arrogance, conflict, and self-interest. When Christians display gentleness, sacrificial love, and joyful obedience, they stand out like stars against a dark night sky. Stars do not draw attention to themselves; they simply shine because they reflect light. In the same way, our task is not to make ourselves famous but to reflect the glory of Christ.

The world notices when Christ-like humility is put on display. God exalted Christ because Christ first humbled Himself. The pathway to true greatness is humility. So let us ask ourselves:

- Am I reflecting the humility of Christ?
- Am I contributing to the unity of God's people?
- Is my life shining as a witness in a dark world?

May we take on the mind of Christ, serve each other in love, and shine humbly to the glory of God.

### **Hymn StF 504: May the mind of Christ my Saviour**

May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
live in me from day to day,  
by his love and power controlling  
all I do or say.

May the peace of God my Father  
rule my life in everything,  
that I may be calm to comfort  
sick and sorrowing.

May the word of God dwell richly  
in my heart from hour to hour,  
so that all may see I triumph  
only through his power.

May the love of Jesus fill me,  
as the waters fill the sea;  
him exalting, self forgetting -  
this is victory.

May I run the race before me,  
strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus  
as I onward go.

*Katie Barclay Wilkinson*

### **A Prayer of Intercession**

Loving God, we pray for the humble in our world, those who have not chosen their position in society:

- for children sold into slavery or prostitution;

- for women living in subservience because of their traditional culture;
- for those whose work is underpaid and undervalued;
- for those who are unemployed;
- for those who do the dirtiest jobs – hospital, and street, cleaners, refuse collectors;
- for ...

Lord, give them hope, and so work in our world by the power of the Holy Spirit, that the dignity of ordinary human beings may be valued, oppression overcome, and the yoke of injustice broken.

We pray for those highly exalted in our world, those who hold the reins of power:

- for the leaders and members of national governments;
- for the managing directors and executives of multi-national companies;
- for the staff of the World Bank, the IMF, and all international economic agencies;
- for the leaders of the different groupings of the world faiths;
- for ...

Lord, help them to understand the effects of their policies. Grant them true wisdom in the decisions that they have to make, and grant them true humility of heart.

We pray for those who have positively chosen the way of humility:

- for those who have put others first, parents caring for children, children caring for parents;
- for teachers and nurses, police officers and social workers, and all who simply try to do the best job they can for the sake of others and the good of their community;
- for aid workers overseas, whose concern is the wellbeing of often starving and dispossessed people;
- for ...

Grant, Lord, that they may know your love, receive your strength, and rest in your peace. Uphold them in times of stress and self-doubt, give them patient endurance, and the knowledge that are doing your will. **Amen.**

### **Hymn StF 345: And can it be**

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?

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!

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

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*

### **Blessing**

May God strengthen our hands in his service, embolden our lives to his glory, and grant us each wisdom, humility and joy as we journey through this week. **Amen.**