

Read Philippians 2:1-11

What - Paul wrote this letter while in prison in Rome. He was thanking the Christians in Philippi for helping him, and in doing so touched on some VERY important things and taught deeply about the nature of Jesus. He said that we should imitate Jesus as our way of life. He also said that when we do this, it brings him, and therefore we can assume God, JOY. It is also interesting to note that many historians think that verses 6-11 are a song inserted by Paul to illustrate and teach on this point.

Why - These verses contain some of the most specific language pertaining to the nature of Jesus. Paul reminded us that God is a God of power, but not always in the way we as humans see power. God's power is made perfect in weakness. This is a common theme in the bible, and it says to us that we should think more of others than of ourselves. Perhaps more notably Paul reminded us here that if we are to have claim to the name of Jesus, we must follow Him (vs 5) and sacrifice ourselves as He did. In addition to this Paul here emphasized the fact that eventually EVERYONE will be introduced to the person of Jesus and be forced to accept His glory, either from heaven or hell. This description of obedience leading to blessing and a reminder that Jesus will eventually judge evil once and for all are beautifully woven into this short scripture. This is one worth memorizing!

WOW - Jesus was God (vs 5) and He was man (vs 7) at the same time. The apparent dichotomy is settled by the fact that he willingly gave His life for us. A perfect sacrifice who was also the perfect example for us to follow. He humbled Himself willingly. This is so important. God never forces us to do anything. He asks us to follow, tells us what is best for us and reminds us of His love and His desires for our life, but GOD NEVER FORCES US TO DO ANYTHING. He asks that we follow of our own will. Last but not least, we are reminded of the ultimate goal and benefit to following Christ. Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and have it to the full." Verses 10 and 11 reminds us of worship in heaven (see Rev 4 & 5). This picture was put here to show us what is in store for us as children of the King. Phil. 2:1-11 reminds us that a FULL LIFE is a life filled with JOY as we WILLINGLY follow Jesus.