



Lives Modeled After Jesus

By Johnny Caruso on July 21, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Philippians 2

What should the life of the Christ-follower look like? In Philippians 2:1-11 Paul tells us the foundation is the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our mindset—our attitude and approach to life—should be modeled after that which Christ exemplified in the way He was humbled to be born, die and rise again.

Paul tells us three things:

1. It requires work.

A lot of times we look at the Christian life as something which does not require much effort from us. After all, we are saved by grace. But, Paul says, once we are a Christian we should “work out our salvation with fear and trembling.” Becoming more like Christ is going to require hard work. How could it possibly not require hard work? Anything that is excellent and good requires work. Before we are a Christ-follower we cannot live a life that pleases Jesus. Once we become a Christ-follower we are able, through the Holy Spirit, to live a life that pleases God. Now, we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. But, says Paul, this working *out* is based upon what God is at work doing. “For it is God who works in you to will and act in order to fulfill His good purpose.”

2. Don't complain!

Do not murmur and dispute and grumble. Instead, as you avoid grumbling, you will be blameless and innocent. We become this way by holding to the word of life. Some translations say, “hold firmly.” It has the sense of both hold out, as in share the gospel with others, and hold on, as in keep on believing the truth. Tell others about Jesus, and stick to the real message of Jesus, too.

3. Continue in Jesus' path.

Paul presents himself as a model by telling the Philippians that as they continue in this path, following Jesus, he will be able to boast on the last day that he did not work for nothing. They are the fruit of his labor. That labor is sacrificial: like a drink offering on the altar, he is being poured out, and yet he rejoices because of their faith, and he wants them to rejoice with him. The primary example in this passage is Jesus. Now Paul comes along and shows how that example of Jesus is being worked out in his life. He is sacrificing joyfully for the work of the gospel, and he wants them to live a life of joy as well.

PRAYER: Father, help us this day to live our lives as an example of You in this world.

TOMORROW'S READING: Philippians 3

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