

### **Saturated With Christ to Think the Same Thing**

“It is not possible for us to think the same thing unless Christ saturates our mind and occupies our thinking. Then we shall spontaneously think the same thing, even the one thing. Apart from being saturated with Christ in this way, no two people, not even a husband and wife, will be able to think the same thing. Nevertheless, it was Paul's appeal and expectation that the whole church in Philippi would think the same thing. He begged the Philippians that, if they had encouragement, consolation, love, tenderheartedness, and compassion toward him, they make his joy full by thinking the same thing. But how can a large group of people think one thing? Once again we point out that this is possible only when the believers are occupied by Christ and allow Him to saturate their whole being. Then, and only then, shall we be able to think the same thing.

“Christ is unique, central, and universal. When in an experiential way, not just in a doctrinal way, Christ becomes our centrality and universality, we shall automatically think the same thing.

### **Tests of Thinking the Same Thing**

“We can test whether or not we truly think the same thing by checking if we have the same love, are joined in soul, are free from rivalry and vainglory, count others more excellent than ourselves, and regard the virtues and qualities of others. These matters will always test to what extent we have actually been occupied by Christ, taken over by Christ, and saturated with Christ. If Christ truly possesses us inwardly, our love for all the saints will be on the same level. Furthermore, we shall be joined in soul, and our mind will be occupied with knowing Christ, experiencing Christ, pursuing Christ, and gaining Christ. As a result, we shall not do anything in the way of rivalry or vainglory, but instead we shall count others more excellent than ourselves and regard their virtues and qualities.”

*(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 10, pp.82-83)*

### **Prayer Burdens**

1. PRAY for the 50 gospel friends who have attended various Chinese-speaking meetings recently. Please pray for the saints who are endeavouring to care for them, visit them etc.
2. Please pray for the many friends of our High School and Junior High saints as they seek to invite their friends to 'warm up' events and to IGNITE itself.
3. Our brother, Del Martin just returned from his recent trip to Africa (with Vern Yoder from Pittsburgh, USA). Please pray for the Lord's work to continue there.

### **Announcements:**

#### **General**

1. **LastAdam site**  
The saints are reminded that the LastAdam web site no longer carries the morning revival material. This site belongs to an individual saint and is not sanctioned by the church in Toronto.

### **The church in Toronto**

Philippians Week 9

Nov 27 - Dec 9, 2006

### **Taking Christ as the Pattern and Holding Him Forth (2) — Taking Christ as the Pattern**

*Weekly Bible Reading:*

**Philippians 2:5-11**

*Hymns:*

**86; 87; 377; 138**

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### **Monday & Tuesday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

#### **Philippians 2:5**

**5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

#### **2 Corinthians 8:9**

**9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor in order that you, because of His poverty, might become rich.

#### **Philippians 2:17**

**17** But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

#### **The Mind Which Was Also in Christ Jesus**

“Let us now consider verses 5 through 8 in more detail. In verse 5 Paul says, ‘Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.’ The Greek words translated ‘let this mind be in you’ can also be rendered ‘think this in you.’ The word ‘this’ refers to the counting and regarding in verses 3 and 4. This kind of thinking, mind, attitude, was also in Christ when He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and humbled Himself, being found in fashion as a man (vv. 7-8). To have such a mind requires us to be one with Christ in His inward parts (1:8). To experience Christ, we need to be one with Him to such an extent, that is, in His tender inward feeling and in His thinking.”

*(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 10, pp. 86)*

#### **Taking Christ as the Pattern — By Lowering Our Position and Standard**

“Philippians 2 is the second section, showing us Christ as our pattern, our living example. The principle of this pattern is that someone with the highest life and position would be willing to live in a humble way. Christ has the highest life, the life of God, and He has the highest position, which is equality with God, yet He would not grasp that. Rather, He temporarily set it aside (vv. 5-8). To have grasped His equality with God would not have been wrong. Although He had the human nature, it would have been right for Him to take the standing of God. However, He would not grasp that. He put aside His position of equality with God, and He lived in the

most humble and lowly way. This is the principle of Christ as the pattern.

“We all have to learn this. If today by the sovereignty of God we have a high position and much wealth, we have to lower ourselves. We must lower our position and standard in our living according to the example of Christ. It is not wrong to grasp our position and say that it is something that God has given us to enjoy, but if we do this, we are not taking Christ as our person and pattern. The pattern given to us by Christ is that one has a life in the highest position, yet he is willing to live a life in the lowliest way. We all must learn to lower our position and standard. We may be millionaires, but we should be willing to lower our standard of living and use our substance for the glory of God and the benefit of others. This is the example of Christ, and this is the principle of Christ as a pattern to us who take Him as our life.

“If we say that we take Christ as our life and yet do not take Him as our pattern, there is something wrong. In the past I have seen a number of good brothers and sisters in high positions, such as bank managers and university professors, who did love the Lord. Yet to my realization, some of them were not willing to humble themselves and take a lower position. On the one hand, they have the right to enjoy their position; to grasp one’s position is not robbery. However, Christ for the glory of God and for our benefit emptied and humbled Himself to live not as God but as a slave. He truly had the position of God, being equal with God, yet He humbled Himself to live as a slave.

“Some brothers and sisters are rich only for themselves. When they enjoy their own riches, they are generous to themselves, but in giving their riches to others they are not generous. Their way of living is to spend their wealth and their riches for their own enjoyment. They are not willing to give their wealth for God’s glory and work. No one can condemn them, because according to their position it is legal and right to do this. However, if they mean business to take Christ as their life and pattern, they should lower their standard in the way they spend for their living.

“The principle of Christ as the pattern for our living is that even if we have the highest standard, the highest position, we should not grasp it. We should put that aside and lower our standard. As long as we can live on the earth, that is good enough. We should save the rest of what we have for the glory of God and the benefit of others. If we would not do this, if we would keep our standard and grasp our position, we will waste what God has given us.

“Verse 17 says, ‘But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.’ This person, who took Christ as his pattern, offered everything on the altar. This verse says that Paul himself was being poured out. To be poured out is to lower one’s standard and position in his living.”

*(Witness Lee, A General Sketch of the New Testament in the Light of Christ and the Church - Part 2: Romans through Philemon, Chpt. 18, pp. 212-214)*

### Wednesday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

**Philippians 2:5-6**

say in 2:3, ‘Doing nothing by way of rivalry nor by way of vainglory.’ Because among the saints in Philippi there was rivalry for vainglory, it was necessary for Paul to present Christ as the pattern of a crucified life. Paul presents this pattern in Philippians, not in other books, because in Philippi rivalry for vainglory was a definite problem. As long as certain of the saints there were seeking glory for themselves, there was rivalry. Therefore, Paul showed them that Christ, the Son of God, had a very high position. He possessed the very form of God and had the right to be equal with God. Nevertheless, He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men. Then, being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient even unto the death of the cross. Those Philippian saints who were seeking position and title for themselves surely needed to live according to Christ as the pattern of a crucified life.”

#### **4. Rivalry for Vainglory Can also be Found in Many Local Churches Today**

“We must admit that the rivalry for vainglory found among the saints in Philippi can also be found in many local churches today. No doubt, among the Christians outside the Lord’s recovery there is much rivalry for vainglory. But what about us in the churches? To some extent at least, such rivalry still exists among us. Thus, we need Paul’s word concerning Christ as our pattern. We need to be enlightened and take this crucified life as our pattern so that we may experience the power of resurrection. When we live the crucified life, we shall be ushered into resurrection power, and this power will exalt us.

“We should be warned, however, not to take this word about the crucified life, the power of resurrection, and God’s exaltation as a ground for seeking glory. We should not even seek true glory as something apart from Christ. Do not seek any glory that is other than Christ Himself. We need to say, ‘Lord, I want only You. I am not seeking any exaltation or glory.’ If we take the crucified life as our pattern, we shall experience the power of resurrection. This resurrection power is Christ Himself. Christ is not only the crucified life, but He is also the power of resurrection. “Often the saints complain of weaknesses. We are weak whenever we do not take the crucified life as our pattern. If you are weak in your family life, daily life, or church life, it is an indication that you are not taking the crucified life and therefore are not in the power of resurrection. I repeat, the gate through which we enter into the power of resurrection is the crucified life. Paul’s expectation concerning the saints in Philippi was that they would live this crucified life and then experience the power of resurrection.”

*(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 11, pp. 91-94)*

Note: **Bold type** and/or underlining have been added for emphasis in the above verses and quotations.

#### **Suggested Supplementary Reading**

The Holy Word for Morning Revival — Philippians: Week 3, Days 1-2

The Life-study of Philippians, Messages 10-11

chapter three, Paul did not regard himself as having experienced this in full. He still aspired to know, to experience, the power of Christ's resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings."

### **3.^The Urgent Need Among Us in the Lord's Recovery**

"There is an urgent need among us in the Lord's recovery today to experience Christ as our pattern. We desperately need to experience Him as our crucified life. Such a life stands altogether in contrast to a life of rivalry and vainglory. In the church life we either take the crucified life as our pattern or automatically live a life of rivalry and vain-glory. There is no third way. If we do not take the crucified life as our pattern, we shall automatically live in the way of rivalry for vainglory. The issue here is extremely serious. We need to be honest with ourselves and consider the kind of life we have been living in the church. If you review the time you have been in the church life, you will see that whenever you did not take the crucified life as your pattern, you were living a life of rivalry for vainglory.

"Nothing was more troubling to the Apostle Paul than to learn that the saints in Philippi were living in the way of vainglory. He was very concerned that they live a crucified life. As we have seen, this life is Christ Himself as the One who emptied Himself and humbled Himself. Taking this crucified life as our pattern opens the gate of resurrection and brings us into the power of resurrection. The exaltation which is of God will never come by way of rivalry or vain-glory. The more we seek vainglory, the more shameful our situation will be. To pursue vainglory is not a glory at all; it is a shame. Likewise, when we are in rivalry with others, the result is never exaltation. Inevitably the result is that we are brought low. The highest life on earth is the crucified life. Whenever we live a crucified life, God will bring us into the power of resurrection, and in this power we shall be exalted.

"During the years I have been in the church life, I have known many cases of those who were in rivalry for vainglory. Without exception, all those who engaged in such rivalry went downhill. It is utterly foolish to have rivalry in the church life. We should fear this more than we fear a serpent. Whenever you are in rivalry with others, you are without question living in the self. We must condemn this rivalry and repudiate it.

"Furthermore, none of us in the church life should hold to any personal standing. Of course, we must stand firm for the Lord's testimony. However, we should not claim any standing, title, or position for ourselves. Making such claims will never bring us into the power of resurrection.

"In the church life I have seen not only those who were in rivalry for vainglory, but also a good number of saints who took the crucified life as their pattern. Eventually, these saints entered into the power of resurrection where they experienced God's exaltation.

"I earnestly hope that none of the saints in the church life today will seek glory for themselves. Instead of seeking glory, we should seek Christ and Him alone. Then we shall experience the crucified life.

"I believe that in the church in Philippi, two sisters, Euodias and Syntyche, were in rivalry for position or vainglory. Otherwise, there would have been no need for Paul to beg them to 'think the same thing in the Lord' (4:2). If there had not been the problem of rivalry in the church there, there would have been no need for Paul to

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

### **Hebrews 12:1-2**

1 Therefore let us also...put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us,

2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and hās sāt down on the right hand of the throne of God.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### ***The Steps of Christ's Humiliation***

"Verse 6 says, 'Who subsisting in the form of God did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped.' The Greek word rendered subsisting denotes existing from the beginning. It implies the Lord's eternal preexistence.

"The word form refers to the expression, not the fashion, of God's being (Heb. 1:3). It is identified with the essence and nature of God's Person and thus expresses His essence and nature. This refers to Christ's deity.

"In verse 6 Paul tells us that Christ did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. Although the Lord was equal with God, He did not consider this equality a treasure to be grasped and retained. Rather, He laid aside the form of God, not the nature of God, and emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave."

### **1.^Emptying Himself and Taking the Form of a Slave**

"Verse 7 goes on to say that Christ 'emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men.' When Christ emptied Himself, He laid aside what He possessed--the form of God. The word form in verse 7 is the same word as used for the form of God in verse 6. In His incarnation, the Lord did not alter His divine nature, but only His outward expression of the form of God to that of a slave. This was not a change of essence; it was a change of state. The word 'becoming' indicates entering into a new state.

### **2.^Becoming in the Likeness of Men**

"According to verse 7, Christ became in the 'likeness of men.' The form of God implies the inward reality of Christ's deity; the likeness of men denotes the outward appearance of His humanity. He appeared outwardly to men as a man, but inwardly He had the reality of deity.

### **3.^Humbling Himself and Becoming Obedient unto the Death of the Cross**

"Verse 8 continues, 'And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.' When Christ became in the likeness of men, entering into the condition of humanity, He was found in fashion as a man by men. The word fashion implies the outward guise, the semblance. What Christ looked like in His humanity was found by men to be in fashion as a man.

"Being found in fashion as a man, Christ humbled Himself. First He emptied Himself by putting aside the form, the outward expression, of His deity and becoming in the likeness of men. Then He humbled Himself by becoming obedient even unto death. Christ was God with the expression of God. Although He was

equal with God, He put aside this equality and emptied Himself by taking the likeness of men. This indicates that He became a man through incarnation. Then, being found in the appearance of a man, He humbled Himself. This means that when He was a man, He did not insist on anything. Rather, He humbled Himself to the point of dying on the cross. This is Christ as our pattern.

“Humbling Himself was a further step in emptying Himself. Christ's self-humbling manifests His self-emptying. The death of the cross was the climax of Christ's humiliation. To the Jews this was a curse (Deut. 21:22-23). To the Gentiles it was a death sentence imposed upon malefactors and slaves (Matt. 27:16-17, 20-23). Hence, it was a shameful thing (Heb. 12:2).

“The Lord's humiliation involves seven steps: emptying Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men, humbling Himself, becoming obedient, being obedient even unto death, and being obedient unto the death of the cross.”

*(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 10, pp. 86-88)*

## Thursday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### Philippians 2:5b, 7-8

- 5** ...Christ Jesus,  
**7** ...emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;  
**8** And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

### John 13:13-17

- 13** You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you say rightly, for I am.  
**14** If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.  
**15** For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.  
**16** Truly, truly, I say to you, A slave is not greater than his master, nor one who is sent greater than the one who sends him.  
**17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **Experiencing Christ as Our Pattern**

#### 1.^Living a Crucified Life

“The pattern presented in these verses is now the life within us. This life is what we call a crucified life. The seven steps of Christ's humiliation are all aspects of the crucified life. Although Christ had the expression of deity, He laid aside this expression. However, He did not lay aside the reality of His deity. He laid aside the higher form, the form of God, and took on a much lower form, the form of a slave. In this, He emptied Himself. Surely this is a mark of a crucified life. Then, after becoming a man and being found in the appearance of a man, Christ humbled Himself even unto the death of the cross. This was the crucified life lived out in a full and absolute way.

“Christ is not only an outward pattern for us; He is also the life within us. As this

inner life, He would have us experience Him and thereby live a crucified life. In this crucified life there is no room for rivalry, vainglory, or self-exaltation. On the contrary, there is self-emptying and self-humbling. Whenever we experience Christ and live Christ, we automatically live such a crucified life. This means that when we live Christ, we live the One who is the pattern of a crucified life. Then we also shall empty ourselves and humble ourselves.

“If we did not have the crucified life within us, we could never live according to the pattern presented in Philippians 2. Only the crucified life can live such a pattern. If we still do things out of rivalry and vainglory or are still ambitious to be leaders or elders, we are not living a crucified life. We are not emptying ourselves or humbling ourselves. However, we have a life within us that truly is a self-emptying and self-humbling life. This life never grasps at something as a treasure. Instead, it is always willing to lay aside position and title.”

*(ibid., pp. 88-89)*

## Friday & Saturday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### Philippians 2:3-4

- 3** Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;  
**4** Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

### Galatians 5:24-26

- 24** But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.  
**25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.  
**26** Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another.

### Galatians 5:13b-14

- 13** ...through love serve one another.  
**14** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **Experiencing Christ as Our Pattern, cont'd.**

#### 2.^Living a Crucified Life that We May Enjoy the Power of Resurrection

“There is a correspondence between chapters two and three of Philippians. In chapter two we see that we should live a crucified life so that we may enjoy the power of resurrection. In chapter three we see Paul's aspiration to know the power of Christ's resurrection. We should take the crucified life in 2:5-8 as our pattern so that we can experience the power of resurrection which exalted Christ to the highest peak in the universe. The experience of Christ as the pattern of a crucified life and the experience of the resurrection power which exalts Him is endless. Day by day, we need to live a crucified life. This is to live Christ as our pattern. Instead of having a life of rivalry and vainglory, we should live a life of self-emptying and self-humbling. This is to live a crucified life. By means of this life we are ushered into the power of resurrection by which Christ is exalted. According to his word in