

THE SERVANT KING
Philippians 2:5-11
Jelšava, 25 December 2020

Τοῦτο φρονεῖτε ἐν ὑμῖν ὃ καὶ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, ⁶ ὃς ἐν μορφῇ θεοῦ ὑπάρχων οὐχ ἀρπαγμὸν ἠγήσατο τὸ εἶναι ἴσα θεῷ, ⁷ ἀλλὰ ἑαυτὸν ἐκένωσεν μορφὴν δούλου λαβών, ἐν ὁμοιώματι ἀνθρώπων γενόμενος· καὶ σχήματι εὑρεθεὶς ὡς ἄνθρωπος ⁸ ἑταπείνωσεν ἑαυτὸν γενόμενος ὑπήκοος μέχρι θανάτου, θανάτου δὲ σταυροῦ. ⁹ διὸ καὶ ὁ θεὸς αὐτὸν ὑπερύψωσεν καὶ ἐχαρίσατο αὐτῷ τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ὑπὲρ πάντων ὀνομα, ¹⁰ ἵνα ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ πάντων γόνυ κάμψη ἐπουρανίων καὶ ἐπιγείων καὶ καταχθονίων ¹¹ καὶ πάντα γλῶσσα ἐξομολογήσεται ὅτι κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ πατρὸς.

Δεῖτε πρὸς με πάντες οἱ κοπιῶντες καὶ πεφορτισμένοι, ἐγὼ ἀναπαύσω ὑμᾶς. ²⁹ ἄρατε τὸν ζυγὸν μου ἐφ' ὑμᾶς καὶ μάθετε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι πραῦς εἰμι καὶ ταπεινὸς τῇ καρδίᾳ, καὶ εὐρήσετε ἀνάπασιν ταῖς ψυχαῖς ὑμῶν. ³⁰ ὁ γὰρ ζυγός μου χρηστὸς καὶ τὸ φορτίον μου ἐλαφρόν ἐστιν

Phil 2:5-11 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

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0. INTRODUCTION

- ad COVID:

- **2 Timothy 2:8-9** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

0.1 THE TEXT FORM

- [CousarCharlesB] Phil 2:6-11 → a stately, rhythmical pattern, marked by striking parallelisms that are sometimes complementary and sometimes contrasting.
- [FEE] the secondary literature on this passage, which has mushroomed incrementally over the past forty years, exceeds that on all the rest of the letter combined.

[CarrollBH] The doctrines involved in Phil. 2:5-11. — This is by far the greatest and most instructive passage in the letter, and the second most important in the whole Bible, especially if it be considered, as it must be, with the parallel passages — John 1:1-5, 9, 14; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:2-13 — because it expresses the LOVE of the SON for sinful man, and His honor toward the Father.

- **1 Timothy 3:16** Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory (καὶ ὁμολογουμένως μέγα ἐστὶν τὸ τῆς εὐσεβείας μυστήριον· ὃς ἐφανερώθη ἐν σαρκί, ἐδικαιώθη ἐν πνεύματι, ὤφθη ἀγγέλοις, ἐκηρύχθη ἐν ἔθνεσιν, ἐπιστεύθη ἐν κόσμῳ, ἀνελήμφθη ἐν δόξῃ)

0.2 EXHORTATION

- What we can learn from the Incarnation...
- THINKING motivated by deep and magnificent theology...
- φρονέω ('think, judge, set one's mind on') → paraenesis → theology → paraenesis... (paraenesis, παραίνεσις exhortation, recommendation)

[MOULE] One of the simplest and most primary elements of duty is being enforced, and it is enforced by appealing to the inmost secrets of the truth of the Person and Work of Christ. **The spiritual and eternal, in deep continuity, descends into the practical.**

- **Phil 2:3** *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind* (ταπεινοφροσύνη) let each esteem other better than themselves
- **1Cor 2:16** For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ (ἡμεῖς δὲ νοῦν Χριστοῦ ἔχομεν)

0.3 OUR MIND

- the garden of Eden → to be like God...
- **John 5:43** I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him (ἐγὼ ἐλήλυθα ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, καὶ οὐ λαμβάνετε με· ἐὰν ἄλλος ἔλθῃ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τῷ ἰδίῳ, ἐκείνῳ λήμψεσθε)
- **Mark 9:33-35** And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing (τί ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ διελογίζεσθε) on the way?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.
- **2Cor 11:18** Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. ¹⁹ For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! ²⁰ For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. (ἀνέχεσθε γὰρ εἴ τις ὑμᾶς καταδουλοῖ, εἴ τις κατεσθίει, εἴ τις λαμβάνει, εἴ τις ἐπαίρεται, εἴ τις εἰς πρόσωπον ὑμᾶς δέρει) [Znášate, keď vás niekto ztročuje, keď vás niekto vyjedá, keď sa vás niekto zmocňuje, keď sa niekto povyšuje, keď vás niekto bije po tvári.]

0.4 THE MIND OF THE SON OF GOD

- **Ps 40:8(9)** I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart (יְשַׁעְתֵּנִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי דָבָר וְלֹא מַעֲשֵׂה לִבִּי)
- **Rom 15:3** Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." (ὁ οὐκ ἐπεισεν ἑαυτὸν ἀλλὰ ὡς γέγραπται ὅτι τὰ ἐπιτιμια τῶν ἐπιτιμούντων σε ἐπέπεσαν ἐπ' ἐμε) [יְהוָה לֹא רָצָה בְּעַלְצָמוֹתַי]

[BeetJosephAgar] The 'form of God' is the appropriate self-manifestation of the Son's essence, of His equality with God.'

- [LACOSTE] The hymn of Philippians 2:6–11 thus describes the journey of abasement (kenosis) and glorification of the one who at the outset “was in the form of God.”
- [LACOSTE] (In John’s gospel) ...the path he follows begins in heaven (1:1f.) and leads him to earth (1:11f.) and eventually to the cross (19:17f.);

0.4.1 THE DESCENT OF THE SON OF GOD

- **2Cor 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
- In Phil 2 Paul describes first (1) the not yet incarnate Son, then (2) His descent into humanity, then depicts (3) His condition as a man among men, and His further descent, until He reaches its (4) lowest point and hangs dead upon the cross.

0.4.2 THE ASCENT OF THE SON OF GOD

- (1) the name above every name, (2) every knee shall bow and every tongue confess “Jesus Christ is Lord” (ὅτι κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστός)
- His Exaltation consisted:
 1. In His resurrection, thereby demonstrating all His high claims asserted in His lifetime, and demanding that angels who had worshiped Him in His original glory and in His incarnation should now worship His glorified humanity, Heb. 1 : 6.
 2. His ascension and reception into heaven.
 3. His enthronement there as King of kings and Lord of lords, and His anointing with the oil of gladness above His fellows.
 4. His session there until all His enemies are made His footstool, Psalms 110:1, and until He comes as final judge at the last and great and general judgment.
 5. At which time every knee bends to Him, and every tongue confesses that He is Lord.

1. DECIDING TO GO

(1) timing, (2) placing in space-time history

- If you could choose the time and the place to be born, where would you decide to be?
- HOW DO WE VIEW THE WORLD? → pessimists ↔ optimists? Jesus was a DIVINE REALIST...

1.1 THE ETERNAL DECREE OF GOD

- **Revelation 13:8** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world...
- **Eph 1:4** ...as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world...

1.2 CHOOSING THE CIRCUMSTANCES

- **John 1:11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him (εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθεν, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον)
- Israel’s apostasy → worshiping not IDOLS, but LAW as a dead letter
- → servanthood vs. self-realisation

2. KENOSIS

[FORSYTH] We cannot form any scientific conception of the precise process by which a complete and eternal being could enter on a process of becoming, how Godhead could accept growth, how a divine consciousness could reduce its own consciousness by volition.

- [LACOSTE] The act of loving, of which the Son’s kenosis offers the only full realization
- [LACOSTE] The event of the Crucifixion can already be discerned in the event of the Incarnation...
- [LACOSTE] (G. Thomasius, 1802–75). The Word abandons the attributes related to divinity, which concern the Trinity* considered in its relations with the world* (omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence*) but not the absolute attributes of the immanent Trinity (truth*, sanctity [holiness*], love*), which, far from being emptied out, are revealed in the Incarnation.

2.1 OMNIPRESENCE

- → the manger in Bethlehem;

2.2 OMNIPOTENCE

- → the newborn child's absolute dependency...

2.3 OMNISCIENCE

- → getting to know the world through the senses; learning from

3. WHOM WE WORSHIP IN THE CHILD

- **Heb 1:6** ...when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." (ὅταν δὲ πάλιν εἰσαγάγῃ τὸν πρωτότοκον εἰς τὴν οἰκουμένην, λέγει· καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ.)
- [LACOSTE] the glory of the Father is manifested through the *kenosis* of the Son in his incarnation and, above all, on the cross.

3.1 WE WORSHIP GOD

3.1.1 THE ANGELS

- **Luke 2:13-14** ³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκίας)

3.1.2 THE SHEPHERDS

- **Luke 2:20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them (καὶ ὑπέστρεψαν οἱ ποιμένες δοξάζοντες καὶ αἰνοῦντες τὸν θεὸν ἐπὶ πᾶσιν οἷς ἤκουσαν καὶ εἶδον καθὼς ἐλαλήθη πρὸς αὐτούς)

3.1.3 THE MAGI

- **Matthew 2:11** And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh (καὶ ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν εἶδον τὸ παιδίον μετὰ Μαρίας τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πεσόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ καὶ ἀνοίξαντες τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν)

3.2 WE WORSHIP THE SAVIOUR

- **Luke 2:11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

3.3 WE WORSHI THE JUDGE

- **Luke 2:34-35** And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.
- **John 5:26-27** For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the **Son** also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is **the Son of Man**.

4. TO REMEMBER

- In the history and life of Christ we should be deeply interested in his ATTITUDE (mind, motivation)
- The lesson of the Incarnation of the Son of God is a HUMBLE and trusting servanthood to God and men.
- Let us learn not to ask WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME? but HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE?