"THE HIGHEST EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY"

PHIL. 2:5-11

INTRO:

*** YOU NEED TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF HUMBLE-MINDEDNESS**

(humble attitude)

How? By making two features of Christ's humility part of your life.

I. ALTHOUGH HE WAS GOD, **HE WAS WILLING TO SURRENDER HIMSELF**

(v. 6 - 7)

A. CHRIST SURRENDERED IN FULL AWARENESS OF HIS ATTRIBUTES (deity) (v. 6 - 7a)

B. CHRIST SURRENDERED THE INDEPENDENT DISPLAY OF HIS ATTRIBUTES (deity) (v. 7b-c)

1. By becoming a Servant (v. 7b)

2. By becoming a Man (v. 7c)

II. BECAUSE HE BECAME MAN, **HE WAS WILLING TO SUBMIT HIMSELF** (V. 8-11)

A. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO SACRIFICE (V. 8A)

B. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO HUMILIATION (V.8b)

C. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO EXALTATION (V. 9-11).
1. Christ's Reward (v. 9): "A name above all names"
2. Christ's Recognition (v. 10-11)

GIVE HONOR TO THE HONORABLE

PHIL. 2: 19 - 30

INTRO:

*** "GIVE HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE"** (ROM. 13:7)

Who is worthy of such honor?
Men like Timothy and Epaphroditus who both served with:
1) selfless motives & 2) sterling character

I. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH **SELFLESS MOTIVES** (His Virtue) (v. 19-24)

A. HE TAKES GENUINE INTEREST IN OTHERS (v. 19-20)

B. HE SEEKS CHRIST'S INTERESTS EVEN WHEN ALL OTHERS DO NOT (v. 21)

II. TIMOTHY FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH **STERLING CHARACTER** (His Value) (v.22-24)

III. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH **STERLING CHARACTER** (His Value) (v. 25)

A. HE IS VALUABLE AS A BROTHER

B. HE IS VALUABLE AS A FELLOW WORKER

C. HE IS VALUABLE AS A FELLOW SOLDIER

D. HE IS VALUABLE AS A MESSENGER

E. HE IS VALUABLE AS A MINISTER

IV. EPAPHRODITUS FAITHFULLY SERVED WITH **SELFLESS MOTIVES** (His Virtue) (v. 26 - 30)

A. HE CARES ABOUT THE CONCERNS OF OTHERS (v. 26)

B. HE RISKS HIS LIFE FOR OTHERS (v. 27-30)

REJOICE IN THE LORD, NOT ANYWHERE ELSE!

PART 1

PHIL. 3:1-7

* REJOICE IN THE LORD, NOT ANYWHERE ELSE!

INTERROG: How can I maintain a joyful attitude that is centered in Christ?

TRANS SENT: BY HEEDING TWO SAFEGUARDS IN V. 2-7
(two negative admonitions)

I. DON'T LISTEN TO FALSE TEACHERS (V. 2)

A. AVOID THOSE WHO SEEK TO GET FROM YOU (hungry prowlers)

B. AVOID THOSE WHO SEEK TO STUMBLE YOU (evil workers)

C. AVOID THOSE WHO SEEK TO IMPRESS YOU (flesh cutters)

II. DON'T LEAN ON THE FLESH (V. 3-7)

(trust the true source of power)

A. OUR WORSHIP IS SPIRITUAL

B. OUR PRAISE GOES TO CHRIST

C. OUR CONFIDENCE IS NOT IN THE FLESH

1. It's not in racial (family) heritage (v. 5a)
2. It's not in personal discipline (v. 5b)
3. It's not in religious zeal (v. 6a)
4. It's not in legalistic morality (v. 6b)

REJOICE IN THE LORD, NOT ANYWHERE ELSE

PART 2

PHIL. 3:7-16

*** REJOICE IN THE LORD, NOT ANYWHERE ELSE.**

WHY? 4 Reasons in v. 7-14

I. BECAUSE THERE IS NO GREATER TREASURE THAN GAINING CHRIST (V. 7-8)

A. NOTHING COMPARES WITH HIM (V. 8a)

B. NOTHING IS TOO GREAT TO LOSE (GIVE UP) FOR HIM (V. 8b)

II. BECAUSE THERE IS NO GREATER SECURITY THAN BEING UNITED TO CHRIST (V. 9)

A. WHEN GOD SEES YOU, HE SEES YOU IN CHRIST (V. 9a)

B WHEN GOD SAVES YOU, HE SAVES YOU IN CHRIST (V. 9b)
(in His righteousness)

III. BECAUSE THERE IS NO GREATER EXPERIENCE THAN KNOWING CHRIST (V. 10-11)

A. PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

B. POWERFUL KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

C. PAINFUL KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST'S SUFFERING

IV. BECAUSE THERE IS NO GREATER PURPOSE IN LIFE THAN PURSUING AFTER CHRIST (v. 12-14)

A. PURSUING TO GRAB HOLD OF HIS WILL (V. 12)

B. PURSUING TO GRAB HOLD OF HIS PRIZE (V. 13-14)
1. Involves running without looking back
2. Involves running with your eyes fixed on the goal

THINK RIGHT - DO RIGHT

(PEACEFUL FELLOWSHIP)
PHIL. 4:8, 9

*** YOU CAN ENJOY CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE GOD OF PEACE!**

HOW? BY OBEYING 2 COMMANDS

I. YOU MUST THINK RIGHT (V. 8)

Before you think it -- ask yourself:

A. IS IT TRUE? (could I really trust it?)

B. IS IT HONORABLE? (is it worthy of my respect?)

C. IS IT JUST? (would God want me to practice it?)

D. IS IT PURE? (will it keep me clean?)

E. IS IT LOVELY? (is it worthy of my affection?)

F. IS IT REPORTABLE? (can I repeat it to others?)

G. IS IT MORALLY EXCELLENT?

H. IS IT PRAISEWORTHY?

II. YOU MUST DO RIGHT (V. 9)

A. DO WHAT YOU ARE TOLD (precept)

B. DO WHAT YOU ARE SHOWN (example)

THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT

PHIL. 4:11-13, 17

*** WE NEED TO LEARN THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT!**

How can I have contentment?

By being: 1) satisfied 2) strengthened 3) selfless

Contentment is:

I. BEING SATISFIED WITH YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES (V. 11-12)

A. LEARN TO ACCEPT VARYING CIRCUMSTANCES (V. 11)

B. LEARN TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES (V. 12)

1. Position may change
2. Provision may change
3. Prosperity may change

Contentment is:

II. BEING STRENGTHENED BY CHRIST (V. 13)

A. YOU WON'T BE LIMITED IN PERFORMANCE (V. 13A)
(Your efficiency) *"I can do all things"*

B. YOU WON'T BE LIMITED IN POWER (V. 13B)
(Your energy) *"Through Christ which strengtheneth me"*

Contentment is:

III. BEING SELFLESS FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS (V. 17)

A. DON'T SEEK GIFTS FOR YOURSELF (V. 17A)

B. DO SEEK FRUIT FOR OTHERS (V. 17B)