

Life Group Notes 9/24/2023 Yom Kippur  
Pastor Mark Warren Philippians 2 Week 3

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[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

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Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 9/24. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On Jesus being in the form of God.](#)
2. [On humbling yourself before God.](#)

\*\*\***Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. \*\*\*

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Mark asks what is the purpose of life? Then he speaks of Solomon who, in the book of Ecclesiastes, testifies of his own unbridled, unrestrained quest to test all that life offers to find that purpose, and concludes on these terms in Chapter 12: [13](#)*When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: Fear God and keep His commandments, because this is the whole duty of man.* [14](#)*For God will bring every deed into judgment, along with every hidden thing, whether good or evil.*

1. Respond.
2. What is the wisdom in this? Is there anything more important?
3. Can you do this and still enjoy life? Why?
4. Was man created to keep the Law, or does keeping the Law protect man's ability to enjoy? Explain. (Did God create man because without man there would be no one to obey the Law against murder?)
5. Look up Micah 6:8. *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what the LORD requires of you that you do justly, and you love mercy, and you walk humbly with your God.* How does this fit?
6. What is the fruit of such a walk?

Mark asks, "Could it be that life is the pre-season to the actual game? ...that life is the dress rehearsal before moving to the main stage? ...life is the timed trial for the actual race."

1. Respond.
2. Which is the most apt illustration of the three?
3. Mark says, "There is something for us ahead for which this life is preparing us." Discuss this idea.
4. He continues, "Maybe the point is not to just get through life, but there is some intentionality in the circumstances that arise, that prepare us specifically for a greater purpose later on." Comment. Do you have a testimony?

5. Where does worship, as Pastor Richie mentioned, come into that purpose?

Turn to Philippians 2: [1](#)*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,*[2](#)*complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.* [3](#)*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.* [4](#)*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1. What do you see?
2. Why is it important to "have the same love, be in full accord and of one mind?"
3. What happens if this is weak or lacking?
4. Have you ever seen a fellowship behave in this way?
5. What happens to a family where each concedes greater value to the sibling, so that this concession becomes a competition?
6. Remember the apostles. What was their constant argument, even immediately after Jesus announced his imminent death on the cross?
7. Which of the apostles became the "greatest" in the end? Explain.
8. Explain this principle of the Kingdom: "The last shall be first, and the greatest shall be the servant of all." (See [footnote 2](#) below.)
9. Look at verse 4. Are you allowed to tend to your own interests? What should you include, as you tend to your own?
10. How do you find the balance? Do you have a testimony?

[5](#)*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 emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.* [8](#)*And being found in human form, 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.*

1. Look at [footnote 1](#) and understand the pivotal nature of this passage to the entire New Testament.
2. Explain what Jesus did and why.
3. How equal to God is Jesus?

4. When He “emptied Himself,” how empty did He become? If a superhero has “powers,” what were Jesus “powers” before He emptied Himself?
5. What “powers” did Jesus have after emptying Himself and becoming as one of us that you do not have today? Are you able to be a servant as He was?
6. Is being a servant a step up or a step down? For you?
7. Look up Matthew 20: [26](#) “It shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, [27](#) and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave— [28](#) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” How does this fit here in the Paul’s context?
8. Where did Paul get this doctrine from, if he was not even at the table with the apostles when Jesus said this? (Why can we have such reasonable confidence in the Holy Spirit as a Teacher?)
9. Why is it a handicap when life is “all about me” and me first?
10. Mark says, “The world needs it to be about you, because they have a bunch of stuff to sell you. And if they cannot sell it to you, they’re in a bunch of trouble.” Explain.
11. What does it take to consider another as more important than you? What are the steps?
12. What did Jesus do in John 13? Why? Did it work? How often do you remember the story of the basin and the towel of John 13?
13. Look at verse 19 above. What is the fruit of obedience?
14. Explain this verse: 1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourself under God’s mighty hand and he will exalt you in due time.* Where did Peter get this teaching?
15. If I consider you greater than I, and you do the same, who wins in the end? Who else wins?
16. For Jesus to be “obedient even unto death,” what did He have to obey? What did He have to hear clearly? How important is it that we hear what the Spirit is saying?
17. What is He asking of you today?

Look up 2 Timothy 4: [1](#) *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: [2](#) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. [3](#) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, [4](#) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. [5](#) As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

[6](#) *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. [7](#) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8](#) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

1. How does Paul describe servanthood? What is Timothy's purpose?
2. Does he promise health, wealth and happiness to Timothy for his obedience?
3. What are the real obstacles to obedience?
4. Explain the concept of being poured out as a drink offering.
5. At the time Paul wrote this letter, was he in the humbling himself stage? Or the getting exalted stage? (What was he facing next?)
6. How exalted is Paul today? What kind of example has he set for us all?
7. Mark asks, "What if our lives' purpose was to be always being poured out like a drink offering, pleasing to God?" What would that look like? Where would we find rest?

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### **The Follow-up Application**

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Read Ecclesiastes this week.
3. Ask the Spirit what He is asking of you today. Write down what you hear, and look at this note tomorrow. Are you hearing?
4. Examine your priorities today. How do you resemble a little teapot?

### **Take the time to pray.**

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#### **Scribe's Notes:**

1. **On Jesus being in the form of God**—Verses 5 and 6 become pivotal to understanding the nature of Christ, and reveal the intentional nature of Jesus, clothed in immortality from the very beginning, putting on mortality to become in very nature a man. Paul's vocabulary here is key. Here are these verses as expressed in the Amplified version. Notice the important nuances. *5Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to Him as your example in selfless humility], 6who, although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God [as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes--the entire nature of deity], did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted [as if He did not already possess it, or was afraid of losing it]; 7but emptied Himself [without renouncing or diminishing His deity, but only temporarily giving up the outward expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity] by assuming the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men [He became completely human but was without sin, being fully God and fully man]. 8After He was found in [terms of His] outward appearance as a man [for a divinely appointed time], He humbled Himself [still further] by becoming obedient [to the Father] to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus **bi**EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW [in submission], of those who are in heaven and on*

earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue will confess and openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord (sovereign God), to the glory of God the Father. This passage stands apart as an expression of the reality of the Divine Trinity, in perfect unity and purpose, an expression of that love that so loved that it gave. The Word Who was with God from the beginning, by Whom all things were made, and without whom was not anything made that was made, humbled Himself and became flesh to fellowship, dwelling among His own, Whom He had made for the purpose of fellowship.

2. **On humbling yourself before God**—Few principles are so often repeated as this, that the promise of humility is that God lifts the humble to their rightful place. Here are a number of verses with that theme:
- a. **1 Peter 5:6** <sup>6</sup>[Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, so that in due time He may exalt you.](#)
  - b. **Matthew 23:12** For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
  - c. **Luke 14:11** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
  - d. **Luke 18:14** I tell you, this man, rather than the Pharisee, went home justified. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
  - e. **James 4:10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Try to explain, given these references, how important this theme is in Christianity. How well do we obey this principle as a body? What are the results of disobedience? Have you seen where the principle is well applied? What was the fruit?

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**For further study:**

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Philippians 2:3-4  
Tuesday: Philippians 2:5-8  
Wednesday: Matthew 20:26-28  
Thursday: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14  
Friday: Micah 6:8  
Saturday: John 13:12-17  
Sunday: 2 Timothy 4:2-5

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.