

**Philippians 2:1-11 Jesus Christ is Lord****Philippians 2:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Introduction**

- We have been talking about the theme of "Who is Jesus?" in Bible for the past two months, and today is the final episode. Let's focus on the point that Bible repeatedly says, "Jesus is the Lord." That is, Jesus is who we trust, love, expect, and should obey.
- Then, "Who are you living for?" I think this question gives us a deeper thinking of what our life is like. The answer varies, it may be for ourselves, our family, our children, our friends, our lover, our company, or our country.
- If Jesus Christ is the Lord, as the Bible says, then for whom, for what, and how should we live? Let's start today's sermon with the scripture of a letter Paul wrote to the Church of Philippi.

**[ Philippians 2:1-11 ]**

- First, I'll take about what does it mean that Jesus Christ is Lord. Let's focus on that he is called the "lord" and reveal the identity of Jesus. Second, I would like to talk about the cross which is the center of Jesus' life, and the relationship between the cross and Jesus being the Lord. It is about the astonishing humility found on the cross of Lord Jesus.
- Finally, as the third point, let's think about what our life should be like if we obey the Lord Jesus. Particularly, we will focus on changes in our relationships and communities. ① The Lord Jesus Christ, ② The cross of Lord Jesus, ③ The life that obey Lord Jesus.

**1. The Lord Jesus Christ**

- Today's scripture (verses 6 to 11) contains beautiful sentences that should be called "Christian hymns." A poem praising who Jesus Christ is. This is also thought to be the confession of faith that was used in the church at that time.
- The first part (verses 6-7) emphasizes that Christ is God's equivalent. The second part (verses 7-8) focuses on the humility that Christ was humble and came as a servant. Especially, focus on obeying the cross. And in the last part (verses 9-11), it praises the glory and rule of Christ who was resurrected and ascended to heaven.
- Here let's pay attention to the fact that "Jesus Christ is the Lord." Of course, even nowadays, Christians describe Jesus as "the Lord." What does it mean? With what attitude do you call Jesus the Lord?

- "Lord" is a title used to call the master of slaves, teachers of students, leaders of people, kings and emperors. It is a respectful name. In verse 9 it is said to be "a name better than all names". It is because, since the Old Testament, the "Lord" is the name of God himself who created and rules heaven, earth and everything.
- Paul seems to write verses 10-11 referring to Isaiah chapter 45. Isaiah 45: 22-24a  
45:22 "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.  
23 By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' [d]  
24 "Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him.
- In book of Isaiah, it is said that worship, respect and praise should be dedicated to God only. Nevertheless, Paul declares that worship, respect and praise, which is dedicated to God, is given to Jesus. That is, God and Jesus, who create, rule, and guide everything, are equal.
- The proper name of God himself is "Yahweh" (lord). The name Yahweh (Lord) was first known to Moses. When Moses was sent to the Israelites, he asked God to tell him, because everyone in Israel would ask, "What is God's name?" Then, God said his name as "I am," that is, "Yahweh." Exodus 3:14.  
3:14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am." [a] And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"
- "I am" (Yahweh) is a bit strange name, but of course it has meaning. It exists forever and does not change and rules everything. It includes the meaning that the Almighty Eternal God is so close with us. Not only that, but it also means that he is the one who loves us, gives us promises, establishes and fulfills the covenant of salvation via Christ.
- In fact, Jesus repeatedly refers to himself as "I am he (ESV)".  
John8:28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.
- Jesus declared that He is the Lord (Yahweh), everlasting almighty Father and God, when people crucify him on cross (When you have lifted up the Son of Man).
- In addition, if we read Philippians 2: 6-11, we will notice that the whole plan (drama) of the eternal salvation that the Lord God has accomplished with Jesus is drawn in one stroke. In other words, (1) Christ is a God who is the same as the eternal God and has the exact same essence, but (2) humbly entered the midst of history and became a person. The Lord served like a servant and eventually obeyed the death on the cross.
- ③ Therefore, God raised Christ up to heaven and gave him the authority and glory of all rule. ④ And at the return of Jesus, all creatures and all people will worship and confess their faith as "Jesus Christ is the Lord" and praise the glory of God the Father.
- If you are in anxiety or fear that you cannot see the future (now is the time for such a crisis), look up to Jesus Christ, "I am." You can see existing problems and crisis against the Lord's plan of salvation. Things happening now are not everything. Examine your thoughts and plans against the ongoing story of salvation and love.

## 2. The cross of Lord Jesus

- Still, you may not be able to get rid of your fears and anxieties. Certainly, religion will provide comfort and hope. However, you may be skeptical that it is just a temporary comfort or subjective feeling. How do you

feel? What is the meaning of the confession of faith "Jesus is the Lord" in the anxiety and fear of COVID19?

- What kind of help and meaning did Christianity have for those who were in disappointment after losing their loved ones, homes and jobs after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Kumamoto Earthquake? What really important is that, not to give any teaching or message, but to visit the people who were injured, to be closer to their suffering and tribulations, to humbly respond to what they needed and to respond with love. Being in the midst of pain.
- Isn't that what the Lord Jesus Christ did? In other words, Christ, who is God himself, has come into our world, which is full of pain, hate, hostility and strife, and is injured.  
2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,[b] 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,[c] being born in the likeness of men.
- How deeply God the Lord Christ loves us! Consider the difference between God and men. God is the creator of all. We are nothing more than creatures created by God. People are called God's image and are like God, but God is infinite and people are finite.
- And if you think about God's omnipotence, eternity, immutability, and ubiquity, it is obvious how God is different from us. There is an insurmountable high wall between God and us. It is blocked by a deep valley that can never be jumped over.
- We will know a little about how much God's humbleness and love for us if we think about "the incarnation" in which God himself became a person. Therefore, the Bible says that Christ "has made himself vacant, has the appearance of a servant, and has become like a human being." Let's read the Bible further.  
2:7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,[c] 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.
- Christ is called the Lord. As we saw earlier what that means, it is authority, success and power of everything. The cross, on the other hand, is a synonym for defeat, death, and shame, abhorred as a tool for the execution of criminals. Is that okay? No match is found between the Lord and the Cross. Jesus, the God and the Lord, emptied himself and obeyed the cross to love us.
- For Jesus, the Lord and God, is the cross a painless thing? It's not true. Was it easy to obey because it was God's plan and it was an eternal decision? No. Far from being easy to obey, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before the cross.  
Matthew26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."
- Pray for your heart to be able to feel the love of Jesus, who has crucified himself for the sake of your sins and salvation. There are various gods in the whole world. But there is no other God than Christ who has shown love by sacrificing himself to the cross.

### 3. Life that obey Lord Jesus

- Then, if we confess that "Jesus Christ is the Lord", how should we do from now on? Let's see the first part of Chapter 2. New relationships and community unity are taught here. The motivation and base for this were written in verse 5-11.
- Because when we change our minds with remembering who the Lord Jesus Christ is and what he did by the Gospel, our lives will be affected. So that before you decide what to do right away, think about whether you have the gratitude and joy of the cross in your heart. I wish you are willing to recognize Jesus' sovereignty. In other words, we need genuine love and trust in Jesus Christ, which is beautifully depicted here.  
It's said, 2:1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the

Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

- Therefore, brothers and sisters, be sure to try the following two things in your devotion (when reading the Bible and praying) or in community group this week. First, while thinking about the cross of Christ, think about whether you have any sins to confess and repent to. The cross is a grace that gives you forgiveness and love. Therefore, believe in forgiveness and repent of your sins.
- Second, think about the rule and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, while figuring out what you are anxious and fearing about, and if you have anger or frustration, where they came from. And let's pray for that God's salvation plan, which controls all things, will handle your anxiety and fear.
- If you do so, your thoughts and attitudes towards others will change. If your heart is changed and you confess in heart that "Jesus Christ is the Lord," the gospel will affect those around you. The Bible says: Verse 3-4.  
2:3 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.
- This is standard for a world that governed by the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Freedom from selfishness and vanity. Humility and humbleness. Think of each other as better than oneself. Reflect on others. How much will the world change if we can do that? Why do people around you do that? You may ask.
  - For quite a while, the teaching of "Think of each other as better than one" in verse 3 did not come to my mind. How can we admit that others are better than ourselves all the time? I was wondering. Even a poorly-made person should have some good points that are better than others. The Bible says that there is a unique "gift." I thought it was a bit unlikely that I couldn't admit that.
- However, the meaning of this text is to "prioritize" other people over oneself, regardless of who they are. It has nothing to do with what is good, what is inferior, what the gift is. It means that pray for anyone who is in need, give treating, helping, and supporting in prioritize to one's own.
- If we build relationships and communities by prioritizing others over ourselves, we may be able to live much more joyful life. Rather, we can anticipate the splendor of the coming Kingdom of God. When such a world of love comes, everyone kneels and confesses that "Jesus Christ is the Lord," praising the glory of God the Father.