

# Philippians: The Worthy Life

The systematic ongoing study of the bible is so important to life as a Christian that we are taking the Summer to study the book of Philippians. There are two purposes for this study:

1. As your Pastor, I want you to receive from God as He teaches the Word to you.
2. I want you to use this study to learn how to study the bible on your own.

## Studying the Bible:

- 1) Find out the history (Acts 16)
- 2) Find the paragraphs:
  - a) Sometimes the paragraphs can run across chapter divisions.
  - b) Several modern bibles show you the paragraphs.
- 3) Analyze and Apply the scriptures to your life.

Ask yourself these 5 key Questions

- i) Is there a Truth to learn?
- ii) Is there an Example to follow?
- iii) Is there a Promise to claim?
- iv) Is there a Sin to avoid?
- v) Is there a Command to obey?

## Living a Worthy Life

**Foundational Verse:** 1:27 “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”

**Chapter One** – Recognize the Ongoing Work of God Inside of Us.

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...” 1:6

## **Chapter Two – Recognize the Example Jesus Has Set Before Us.**

**Key Verse:** 2:5 KJV Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

Introduction: Chapter 2 contains one of the most significant doctrinal revelations in all of the bible. It is a foundational doctrine that is necessary for us to understand, because without it, the sacrificial atonement for our sins falls apart.

Understanding doctrine is critical because doctrine establishes belief and belief leads us into action.

Truth beckons a response of faith and faith leads us into a belief system that is necessary to produce transformation. Transformation produces godliness inside of us which in turn manifests through us in real time actions. (godliness = **the worthy life**)

Formal knowledge (comes from doctrine or teaching) leads to practical living.

**2:1-7** 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. **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.

**The Doctrine is:**

**The Dual Nature of Christ:** Jesus is Fully Man and Fully God.

Jesus lived his life in a sin-free humanity, not in his heavenly deity in order to leave us an example of God's original kingdom plan was for Adam and his offspring. He never ceased to be God, but he chose to live in his humanity for our sake.

## The Humanity of Jesus

### Scripture Continued:

**7** he “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...”)

#### 1) The Virgin Birth

Scripture clearly proclaims that Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother Mary by a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit and without a human father.

**Mt. 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Shortly after that an angel of the Lord said to Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 1:20)

The doctrinal importance of the virgin birth is seen in at least three areas.

##### a) It shows that salvation ultimately must come from the Jesus.

The virgin birth fulfills God’s promise found in Ge. 3:15 that the “seed” of the woman would ultimately destroy the serpent and his work to separate God and Man.

**Gal. 4:4–5** says that “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons”

##### b) The virgin birth made it possible for deity and humanity to unite in one person.

This was God’s predetermined strategy, Gal. 4:4 “But when the fullness of time had come God sent forth his Son...” He would be born of a woman but conceived by the supernatural act of the Holy Spirit.

##### c) The virgin birth also makes possible Christ’s true humanity without inherited sin.

##### i) All human beings have inherited legal guilt and a corrupt moral nature from their first father, Adam.

**Romans 5:18,19 RSV** Then as one man’s (Adam’s) trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man’s (Jesus’) act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men.

<sup>19</sup> For as by one man's (Adam's) disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's (Jesus) obedience many will be made righteous.

Some people think that the notion of "inherit sin" is unfair. If it is unfair for us to be represented by Adam and his sin, then we should also think it is unfair for us to be represented by Christ and to have his righteousness imputed to us by God.

- ii) The fact that Jesus did not have a human father means that the line of descent from Adam is partially interrupted.

This idea is clearly seen in the statement of the angel Gabriel to Mary, where he says to her, Luke 1:35 "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born **will be called holy**—the Son of God.

So that through this miraculous conception and birth, Jesus was fully human yet did not share inherited sin from Adam.

## 2) The weaknesses and limitations of a human body.

**v.7,8** "... being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross..."

### a) Jesus had a human body

- i) He was born just as all human babies are born
- ii) He grew through childhood to adulthood just as other children grow. Luke 2:40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
- iii) He was tired, thirsty, hungry, and sometimes physically weak.
- iv) Jesus had a human soul and human emotions. Mt. 16:38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." He wept, he was tempted...

Jesus truly identified with our humanity!

- b) His human weakness reached its culmination when he died on the cross. Luke 23:46 "... he breathed his last breath."
- c) Jesus also rose from the dead in a physical, human body. And In this same human body (though a resurrection body that was made perfect), Jesus also ascended into heaven.

Why did Jesus become Fully Human?

1) To Be a Substitute Sacrifice: he had to be one of us!

**Heb 2:16,17** For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. **17** Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Christ Jesus was fully man, made like us, because he could not have died to pay the penalty for man's sins if he was not. He could not have been a substitute sacrifice for us.

2) To Be the One Mediator Between God and Men

We needed a mediator who could represent us to God and who could represent God to us.

There is only one person who has ever fulfilled that requirement: "There is one God, and *there is one mediator* between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).

3) To Fulfill God's Original Kingdom Purpose for Man to Rule Over Creation

a) Jesus came to redeem for us what the first human lost.

b) Jesus was our representative and obeyed for us, where Adam had failed and disobeyed.

This is why the scripture calls Christ "the last Adam". (1 Cor. 15:45).

4) To Be Our Example and Pattern in Life

Jesus lived the victorious life in his humanity.

**1 John 2:6** whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

**Phil 2:5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

## Following The Example of Jesus

**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.

1) Lay aside your rights and privileges for the good of others.

He emptied himself... He didn't use his identity for his own advantage.

**Phil 2:3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves

- 2) Take on the form of a servant.

**Phil 2:4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- 3) Become obedient to Jesus even if it kills you.

“he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”

As a spiritual father Paul says, v. 12 – 13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- 4) Seek the interest of Jesus.

**2:19-21** I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. **20** For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. **21** For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.