



Being Poured Out for Christ

March 14th, 2010

Philippians 2 ~ Rev. David Thiele

In Philippians 1, it is “Christ first” and in Philippians 2 it is “others next.” Paul, the *soul winner* of chapter 1 becomes the *servant* in chapter 2. For example, thinking of “others” in the abstract sense only is insufficient; we must get down to the nitty-gritty of true service. Imagine if a famous philosopher or professor wrote glowing words about educating children, but abandoned his own? We could say he loved children in the abstract, but when it came down to practice, that was something else. *Jesus thought of others and became a servant!*

Paul traces the steps of humiliation of Christ: (1) He emptied Himself, setting aside the independent use of His own attributes as God; (2) He permanently became a human, in a sinless physical body; (3) He used that body to be a servant; (4) He took that body to the cross and willingly died.

What grace! From heaven to earth, from glory to shame, from Master to servant, from life to death, “even death on a cross!” In the Old Testament Age, Christ had visited earth on occasion for some special ministry (Genesis 18, for example), but these visits were temporary. When Christ was born at Bethlehem, He entered into a permanent union with humanity from which there could be no escape. He willingly humbled Himself that He might lift us up! Note that Paul uses the word “form” again in Philippians 2:7, “the outward expression of the inward nature.” Jesus did not pretend to be a servant; He was not an actor playing a role. He actually was a servant! This was a true expression of His innermost nature. He was the God-Man, Deity and humanity united in one, and He came as a servant for you and for me.

For Prayer

Ask God to open your heart and mind to someone you can serve this week. If you need help yourself, ask Him to send a servant to aid you in your time of need. Don't be shy—He came to serve!