**Week of January 27, 2019**

**Philippians 2:1-11**

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded\*, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s scripture the Apostle Paul challenged the Philippians to live a life that is unselfish and knit together in unity. In the city of Philippi people from a variety of backgrounds live their which sometime caused division due to the different backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and practices. This bled over into church life and caused many conflicts. Paul’s goal was to address the matter now to avoid future conflicts. Paul encouraged the church to operate in one spirit and of one mind. He asked them to be likeminded and have joy among themselves by putting away strife and vainglory but to lift each other up and to esteem each other rather than focusing on themselves. Paul showed them the best example being Jesus Christ who took the form of man even though he was the form of God, became a servant and humbled himself unto death through his obedience even when he was nailed to the cross. Because of Jesus faithfulness, God has exalted him and given him a name that is above all names throughout eternity and that in the end all those who did not acknowledge, worship and believe will have to confess and every shall bow that Jesus Christ is lord. Paul wanted the Philippian people to acknowledge Jesus in all that they do.

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