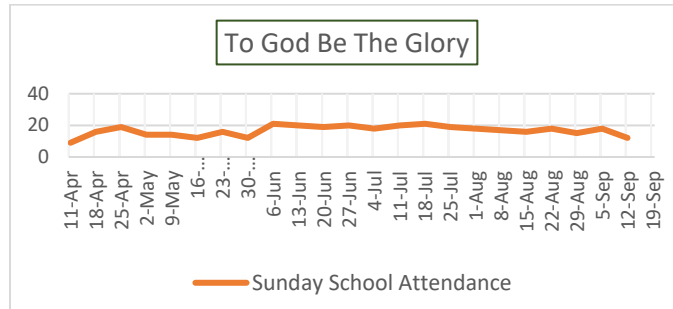


Last week's Sunday School attendance = 12



Introduction

This week we continue our study in the New Testament book of Philippians with the lesson titled “Joy Through Humility.” You may not normally associate joy with humility; after all humility is putting oneself down or feeling inferior, isn’t it? Not quite. The Bible often teaches about humility and associates it with love, for God and neighbor, and the fear of the God, which we discussed during our recent Ecclesiastes study. In general humility is a matter of serving God and putting the needs of others above our own. Jesus provided the greatest example of love motivated humility in temporarily putting aside the riches of heaven to become a man and suffer death on a cruel cross, all for our salvation. This is the essence of our focal scripture for this week from Philippians 2:1-15.

*²⁷And whosoever will be chief (first) among you, let him be your servant: ²⁸Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister (serve), and to give his life a ransom for many. **Matthew 20:27-28***

The Example of Children

*¹At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ²And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, ³And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted (changed), and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 18:1-4***

In this familiar passage Jesus uses a little child to help his disciples understand the important truth that we must lay aside worldly ambition and be clothed with a spirit of humility. We are to have childlike faith, with humble, loving, trusting, and sincere hearts.

What the Lord Requires

*⁸He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? **Micah 6:8***

This verse is from a passage where God tells his people that he desires changed lives more than sacrifices and religious ritual. He wants us to be fair, just, merciful, and humble. We can live humbly by only comparing ourselves to Jesus and thereby realizing our own utter sinfulness, and by recognizing God as the source of our strengths, gifts, and achievements and using them to bring glory to the God we serve.

Conclusion

*¹I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech (urge) you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ²With all lowliness (humility) and meekness, with longsuffering (patience), forbearing one another in love; **Ephesians 4:1-2***

As Christians, we are the Lord's representatives in this world; therefore, Paul challenges us to live worthy of our title, with humility first on his list of essential character traits.

*⁴For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify (crown) the meek (humble) with salvation. **Psalms 149:4***

*⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷Casting all your care (worry, anxiety) upon him; for he careth for you. **1 Peter 5:6-7***

God's recognition far outweighs any earthly praise, and He will bless the humble in due time. May we humbly trust God's loving hand and take our cares to Him in prayer for "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9). In Christ we find joy through humility.

Please join us in-person for 10:00 am Sunday School this week as we study God's word together from Philippians 2:1–15.