

PHILIPPIANS: A LETTER FROM LOCKDOWN WEEK 2

DAY 1: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

Paul is asking the believers in Philippi to examine themselves to see if, indeed, they recognize any of these traits of Christ in their lives. Take time to reflect on each of these things one-by-one and ask yourself if you recognize this quality in your behavior, speech and interior life. Do you? If so, we're directed by Paul to live and act together in the unity that comes from Christ. Do you find yourself living in loving unity with other Christ-followers? Why? Why not? What needs to change?

DAY 2: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 & 1:12-20

Selfish ambition and conceit are everywhere. They permeate what our society deems is appropriate or expected. Our flesh clings to these behaviors out of some maligned sense of self preservation, often without us noticing. When we allow these sinful instincts to drive us, we look less like Jesus and ignore the mission of Jesus and the people He's sent us to show the riches of His kindness, mercy and righteousness toward. Christ's humble service and rescue of us is our model. How can you better tangibly represent the humble love of Jesus to the world? Dwell on this this week with the Holy Spirit and seek to intentionally humble yourself like Christ beyond your current behavior. what.

DAY 3: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

Jesus, being part of our triune God, had every right to invoke His world-ending, ultimate power and authority to do whatever He wanted. But He did not. He came in humility to care for us, teach us, heal us and make it possible for us to have the fullness of life in Him. Even though we are a miserable, wicked people undeserving of anything but penalty. What does this communicate about the heart and desire of our God? Take time today to dwell on God's character and thank Him for His willingness to humble Himself to rescue us. He is worthy of praise!

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DAY 4: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

His humility, even to the point of death on a cross, is to be celebrated. Paul paints a beautiful picture here, displaying the true supremacy, authority and Godship of the crucified, risen Jesus. Everything in existence, on heaven, on earth and beyond will surrender at the name of Jesus and proclaim Him as Lord. Try to imagine what this looks and sounds like. Now choose to praise Him and proclaim Him as Lord. Celebrate Him with joy; affirm Him with scripture; share Him with others.

DAY 5: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

Nurture your relationship with God. The work of Jesus when you first professed His Lordship is huge, but His work in your life does not stop there. Through Jesus' blood, we've been shown mercy from the terrifying, seriousness of God's perfect justice. Let's not forget the significance of what Jesus has afforded us. Rather, let's follow Paul's call and continually submit ourselves to God in obedience, so that we might be effective instruments used by God for His greater glory and the rescue of others. Rejoice.

DAY 6: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

We shine as lights in the world by holding fast to the word of life (Jesus). When we act with the humility and love of Jesus and strive to do His will with the authority and gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will not look like the rest of the world. This can be discouraging, especially when we encounter spiritual and physical opposition or persecution. Let's rejoice with Paul and the other believers who hold fast to Jesus, recognizing our tribulations as the humble, whole sacrificial offering of our lives for the glory of God and rescue of the lost.

DAY 7: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:18-30

Paul's desire to send Timothy to see the Christ-followers of Philippi is because of Timothy exemplifies Christ's humility, service and sacrificial love for others. Timothy cares for the church and, unlike everyone around them, is concerned for the cause of Christ above his own interests. We can be instruments of God if we're willing to humble ourselves and concern ourselves with the cause of Christ. Look at what Paul says about Epaphroditus, a messenger and caretaker sent to him from Philippi. The believers in Philippi desired to send gifts to support Paul while he was in prison but were unable to until Epaphroditus took on the task. What gaps do you see in ministry vs. needs? How can you be like Epaphroditus and enable the work of the Gospel to move forward? Pray for eyes to see and courage to obey.