

Have a Blessed Memorial Day!

The Highest Honor

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Philippians 2: 1-11 NLT

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ²Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privilege; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, ⁸he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. **Humbly Set Aside Personal Rights**

Philippians 2:7 He made himself nothing by taking the nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Galatians 5:13 Don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature.

1 Corinthians 9:19 I have become a slave to all to bring many to Christ.

2. **Laid Their Life Down**

Hebrews 12:2 For the joy set before Him He endured the cross

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this-to lay down one's life...

Philippians 2:17 Even if I am poured out like a drink offering...I am glad

3. **Exalted, Honored, Followed**

Philippians 2:9 God elevated Him to the place of highest honor.

Revelation 4: 9-11 They bow down and lay their crowns before Him

Matthew 19:29 Anyone who has left behind... for My name's sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

Conclusion: Let us give thanks to our Lord first, and to the brave men and women who gave their all, so we can know the highest freedom. May we honor their sacrifice and live as one. May we model Christ's humility knowing in order to truly be free in Him, we too must lay our lives down.

LIFE GROUP LESSON

The Highest Honor

Week of May 29 – June 4, 2022

Ice Breaker: Was there a time you became aware of the freedom you have compared to someone else? How did that affect you?

Read Philippians 2: 1-11.

1. What is the message from Paul for us in Christ? (vs. 1-2)
2. How are we to carry ourselves? (v.3)
3. How are we to view others? (vs. 3-4)
4. Is life just about fulfilling our own interests and pleasures?
5. How does this compare to or support living the American dream?
6. What is "the land of the free" about?
7. What should our attitude be as a Christian? (v.5)
8. What was the attitude of Christ? How did He live? (vs. 6-8)
9. What rights did Jesus lay aside to fulfill God's purpose?
10. Why would Jesus do this?
11. What rights to our soldiers set aside to defend our freedom?
12. What can happen when we are willing to lay aside our personal rights to serve the greater good?
13. Read Galatians 5:13. How are we to use our freedom in Christ?
14. To do this, will it require us to set aside our own rights at times?
15. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19. What did Paul surrender? Why?
16. Read Philippians 2:17. What is Paul's attitude? Why?
17. Are you satisfied and filled with joy as you help others come to know Jesus or experience Him through your kindness?
18. How did God reward Jesus' obedience and sacrifice? (vs. 9-11)
19. Read Revelation 4: 9-11. What causes the 24 elders to bow in worship? What do they lay on the throne? Why?
20. What does this tell you about the importance of living to honor and worship God, with a thankful heart for the freedoms we have?
21. Read Matthew 19:29. What is the reward for those who make great sacrifices for the kingdom of God? Is it worth the sacrifice?

Point to ponder: The highest honor often comes with the greatest sacrifice. *"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."* Calvin Coolidge