Date: 13th March 2022  Passage: Philippians 2:1-11  Preacher: Andy Bruins

Sermon Summary

As we continue into the second chapter of this letter, Paul continues the theme of living lives worthy of the Gospel. We have seen the crucial role that unity in the faith of the gospel plays in the life of the believer and now we turn to another essential virtue – humility.

Personal Application

Q What do you think the world around us thinks of humility – is it a good thing? Do you think we see humility being promoted in popular culture (TV, movies, social media)? Why do you think this is?

Q Read v1-2. In v1 Paul is directing his readers to consider what they have received in the gospel. What does this verse tell us about ourselves.

Q Read v3-4. How does what Paul has said in v1-2 connect with the challenging instructions in these verses?

Q What do you think it means to “consider others better than yourselves” (NIV)? What is the context of this command and what might it look like in practise?

Q Read v5-11. This is a beautiful hymn about Christ. Why does Paul quote it? (see v5)

Q Why do you think we find it hard to be truly humble? How is humility different from being a “doormat”? How could looking at the example of Christ help you and I to grow in humility?
This passage contains one of the simplest and clearest declarations about Christian holiness in the Bible. The great goal of the Christian life is to become more and more like Christ, and this is something that is accomplished both as a work of God and a work that we also do “with fear and trembling”.

Q What comes to your mind when you think about the word “holiness”?

Q Read v12-13. What is Paul referring to when he starts v12 with the word “therefore”? What is he telling the Philippians to do in response to this? (How do these two sections (v5-11 and v12-13) relate to each other?)

Q What does Paul mean by the word “salvation”, and how can it be something we do?

Q Who are the two parties involved in working out our salvation? How would you explain this command to “work out your salvation”? What does it look like?

Q Read v14-18. What will result from us striving to live holy lives?

Q How would you help someone who says, “I have tried to live a holy life but I just can’t seem to overcome certain sins that I struggle with. I have asked God to help me, but I still feel like I’m making no progress”?
In this last section of chapter 2 Paul tells us all about Timothy and Epaphroditus. These two men are outstanding examples of what it looks like to have the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus (2:5). There is a strong emphasis in this letter, on following the example of those who follow the example of Christ! (see 3:17)

Q Why is it really hard to do a completely selfless act?

Q Read v19-14. What do we know about Timothy? What is it that Paul says is exceptional about him?

Q Read Paul’s parting words to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:32-35. How is Timothy just like Paul? Why is it “more blessed to give than to receive”? And if this is true, why do we find it so hard!

Q Read v25-30. What do the lives of Timothy and Epaphroditus have in common with the example of Christ in v5-8?

Q When is it right to take risks (see v30)? How might this impact the decisions we make in life?

Q What kind of people should we be honouring in our church? How can we do this?