

Philippians 1.27–2.30

Intro: Beholding the cross – John 12.27

5 different aspects of the atoning death of Jesus ('at-one-ment'):

1. Expiation – sins borne away: John 1.29; Hebrews 9.28; Psalm 103.12

2. Propitiation – the wrath of God satisfied: 1 John 4.10; Romans 3.25

3. Reconciliation – relationship restored: Colossians 1.21-22, 2 Cor 5.18

4. Redemption – freedom at a price: Colossians 1.13-14; Ephesians 1.7

5. Victory – the King conquers: Colossians 2.14-15

Giving thanks for the cross...

1. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel... (1.27–2.4)

i) When you meet opposition from outside the church, stand firm, 1.27-30

ii) When you meet tension within the church, be of one mind, 2.1-4

2. by imitating the humble mind of Christ (2.5-11)

Q. 46. What was the estate of Christ's humiliation?

A. The estate of Christ's humiliation was that low condition, wherein he for our sakes, emptying himself of his glory, took upon him the form of a servant, in his conception and birth, life, death, and after his death, until his resurrection.

Q. 47. How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

A. Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fulness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.

Q. 48. How did Christ humble himself in his life?

A. Christ humbled himself in his life, by subjecting himself to the law, which he perfectly fulfilled; and by conflicting with the indignities of the world, temptations of Satan, and infirmities in his flesh, whether common to the nature of man, or particularly accompanying that his low condition.

Q. 49. How did Christ humble himself in his death?

A. Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors, having also conflicted with the terrors of death, and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.

Q. 50. Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death?

A. Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, and under the power of death till the third day; which hath been otherwise expressed in these words, *He descended into hell.*

- the willing self-humiliation of Christ
- the eternal glorification & vindication of Christ

Conclusion: Therefore, work out your salvation with fear & trembling

Further application:

1. Spend some time talking about and thanking God for the willing self-humiliation & glorious vindication of Jesus.

2. Vv.'s 19-24 In what way did Timothy demonstrate 'the mind of Christ'?

What will imitating Timothy look like in your life?

2. Vv.'s 25-30 In what way did Epaphroditus demonstrate 'the mind of Christ'?

What will imitating Epaphroditus look like in your life?