

It's All About God

Session #5 – A Declaration of Dependence

“In a real sense, the glory and vitality of the church, now, and in the days ahead, depend on how its members think of Christ and whether they think enough of him to try to live as he lived. It seems that to an increasing number of church members, Christ is little more than a name from the past. However, if we are to be “real” Christians, he must tell us what God has made him – the living center and substance of our minds, affections and goals in life! To *see* God’s greatest glory, we must *look* to Jesus. To *know* man’s highest glory, we must also *look* to Jesus. Jesus is man’s *God* and God’s *man*.

- E.H. Ljams, *For the Perfecting of the Saints*, Vol. 1, 1967.

Take a moment to think about what you would say to a close friend if you knew this would be the last time you would speak to that person. What would you want to communicate?

Exploring the Text

Read these verses in Philippians – 1:15, 2:14, 4:2. What were some of the problems in Philippi?

Read Philippians 2: 5-11. Notice the way in which Paul describes the ultimate submission and obedience of Christ. Why is that important for Christians to remember?

What are some conflicts and bad attitudes that focusing on this passage can help us avoid?

Think about the attributes of Christ mentioned in this passage. Who are some individuals in scripture who displayed those qualities? How did they do it? What about people in your life who lived that way? How was that evident to you?

Bringing It Home

Imagine if instead of writing to the church at Philippi, Paul were writing a letter to you. Are there some issues in your life that he might address? What steps can you take this week to become more like Christ in those areas?