

#2 Knowing and Experiencing Christ as the Pattern

(The Memorial Conference) 2019/7/8-15

I. If we would know Christ as the pattern, we should let the mind which was in Christ Jesus be in us:

A. We need to take Christ's mind as our mind, opening ourselves to "let this mind" be in us. [Phil. 2:3](#) Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourself; 4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

1. This in verse 5 refers to the *considering* in verse 3 and the *regarding* in verse 4. **2.** Lowliness of mind is in contrast to both selfish ambition and vainglory; this must not be our natural lowliness but the lowliness of Christ. **3.** This kind of mind, this kind of thinking, was in Christ when He emptied Himself and humbled Himself.

B. To have "this mind" requires us to be one with Christ in His inward parts, in His tender, inward feeling and in His thinking.

C. For the mind of Christ to be in us means that this mind is something living; actually, the mind of Christ is Christ Himself, for the person of Christ is manifested in His mind. **Mon**

II. In order to experience Christ, we need to know Him as the pattern:

A. In Philippians 2:5-9 Paul presents Christ as the pattern; we need to have this pattern infused into us. [Phil. 2:6](#) Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped.

B. The pattern of the Christian life is the God-man Savior, who emptied Himself and humbled Himself and who has been exalted and glorified by God:

1. Although the Lord was equal with God, He did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped and retained; rather, He emptied Himself, laying aside what He possessed: **a.** In His incarnation the Lord did not alter His divine nature. **b.** He changed only the outward expression, from the form of God to the form of a slave.

2. The Lord became "in the likeness of men": **a.** *The form of God* implies the inward reality of Christ's deity; *the likeness of men* denotes the outward appearance of His humanity. **b.** He appeared to men as a man outwardly, but as God, He had the reality of deity inwardly. **c.** Christ entered into the condition of humanity, and He was found in fashion as a man.

3. Christ humbled Himself by becoming obedient even unto death of a cross: **a.** Humbling Himself was a further step in emptying Himself. **b.** Christ's self-humbling manifested His self-emptying. **c.** The death of a cross was the climax of Christ's humiliation. **Tue**

4. The Son willingly emptied Himself to become a created man as the representation of submission to authority: [Phil. 2:8](#) And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

a. The Lord Jesus set His heart to subject Himself to

the way of submission, even unto death. **b.** "Even though He was a Son," the Lord "learned obedience from the things which He suffered": [Heb. 5:8](#) Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered. : (1) God ordained that Christ should die, and Christ obeyed. (2) He learned this obedience through the suffering of death. c. The Lord, who was submissive throughout His life, has given us His life of submission; a believer's obedience is a consequence of taking Christ as a pattern of obedience.

5. The Lord humbled Himself to the uttermost, but God exalted Him to the highest peak and bestowed on Him "the name which is above every name". **Wed**

III. There is an urgent need among us in the Lord's recovery today to experience Christ as our pattern:

A. Christ as our pattern is not only objective but also subjective and experiential; the One who set up the pattern and who Himself is the pattern is now operating within us as the indwelling God.

B. The principle of Christ as the inward pattern for our living is that even if we have the highest standard or the highest position, we should not grasp it.

C. We need to live Christ in His human living, especially in His emptying Himself and humbling Himself and in His not grasping equality with God as a treasure: [Phil. 1:20](#) According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

1. We have a life in us that is self-emptying and self-humbling. **2.** This life never grasps at something as a treasure but is always willing to lay aside position and title. **Thu**

D. We have Christ crucified as our pattern, and this pattern is the crucified life within us: [Gal. 2:20](#) I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. 1.

The steps of Christ's humiliation in Philippians 2:5-8 are aspects of the crucified life lived out in a full way.

2. Christ's being obedient unto the death of the cross was the crucified life lived out in a full and absolute way. **3.** When we live Christ, we live the One who is the pattern of a crucified life.

[1 Cor. 2:2](#) For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified. **Fr**

4. By living a crucified life, we can experience the power of resurrection. **5.** The highest life on earth is a crucified life; whenever we live a crucified life, God will bring us into resurrection. [Phil. 3:10](#) To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

6. Christ is exalted in our daily life as we, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, take Him as the crucified life to be the pattern of our daily life. [Phil. 2:9](#) Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **Sat**

Crucial Point ①: To let the mind of Christ be our mind, read and pray-read the Word with partner every morning

OL1: We need to take Christ's mind as our mind, opening ourselves to "let this mind" be in us. **OL2:** For the mind of Christ to be in us means that this mind is something living; actually, the mind of Christ is Christ Himself, for the person of Christ is manifested in His mind. **Phil. 2:3** Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourself; 4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

The subject of the book of Philippians is the experience of Christ. This book first tells us in chapter 1 that we need the all-inclusive, bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. ...The means for us to live Christ is the bountiful supply of the Spirit. Following this, chapter 2 gives us another point concerning our experience of Christ. The second means for us to experience Christ is to let the living mind that was in Christ Jesus be in us. There is in the universe a living mind, a mind that Paul calls "this mind." This living mind is waiting for you to open yourself up and let Him in. It is not simply that you take Christ as a pattern to imitate Him. The point here is that the Christ whom we experience is very practical and available. His mind especially is so living and active.

In Paul's writings he sometimes refers to Christ's meekness and Christ's gentleness. However, meekness and gentleness are not personified. But here His mind is likened to a person. You cannot say that the meekness or the gentleness of Christ dwell in you. Paul does not use this expression. Rather, he says to let this mind which is in Christ Jesus be in you. This means, practically speaking, the person of Christ is manifested in His mind. We must take the practical Christ. He is living, and His mind is living and waiting for us to open to Him. We must open ourselves to let such a mind be in us.

Once we let the living mind of Christ be in us, this mind will transform us. **Ephesians 4:23** says that **we need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind**, and **Romans 12:2** says, **"Be transformed by the renewing of the mind."** The renewed mind, the mind with the spirit, is the mind indwelt by the mind of Christ. This mind which was in Christ is a transforming mind, a renewing mind. To have the mind of Christ in us is for our transformation. We do not merely follow Christ's steps outwardly, but we let Christ's living mind be in us inwardly to transform us.

Application to young people/ college students

As the mind of Christ is Christ, your mind is you yourself. So what you think in your mind is very important. You need to protect your mind. For example, if you are watching licentious movies, your mind will be filled with the licentious, dirty mind. If you are watching violent movies, your mind will be filled with violent mind. If you are reading comic books which describe selfish and egoistic people, your mind will be filled with selfish idea. And in your relationship with friends, you need to avoid the relationship with those who do not fear God, whose moral sense is low and who love the degradation. Otherwise your mind will get contaminated through your

friendship. But if you read the Bible and pray-read the Word, your mind is sanctified, renewed and transformed. Even without getting in touch with those degraded movies and comic books, your mind can not be renewed if you do not read the Word of the Bible.

It is very important for your spirit to be revived and your mind to be renewed through pray-reading the Word every morning. You may not feel that you got so revived by the morning revival. But by faith, please continue "Morning Revival", spending 10-20 minutes every morning. If you continue, you will feel its wonderful effect. If you haven't started this, please find the partner and begin your "Morning Revival Everyday".

Without God's Word, it is easy for us to receive Satan's word and our mind will be filled with the degraded negative ideas. Do not fight against Satan by yourself. You don't have power to fight against Satan. Only Christ and the Church, the Word and brothers and sisters in the church life can overcome Satan. Please receive the mind of Jesus by reading the Bible and go on with the humble mind, God will surely exalt you.

I John 2:14 I have written to you, ... young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I will train myself to let the mind of Christ be the mind in me. Save me from contaminating movies, comic books and friendship. By opening up to the Word of God and pray-read every morning with partner, revive my spirit and renew my mind. I open my mind to You. May the mind of Christ spread in my mind! Amen!"

Crucial Point ②: Christ learned submission through sufferings. This Christ is the pattern for Christian life.

OL1: The pattern of the Christian life is the God-man Savior, who emptied Himself and humbled Himself and who has been exalted and glorified by God. **Phil. 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped. 7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men; 8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.

We are human. Submission for us is simple. We can submit as long as we humble ourselves. But the Lord's submission is not a simple matter. The Lord's submission is more difficult than His creation of the heavens and the earth. In order to submit He had to empty Himself of all the glory, power, position, and image in His deity. He also had to take on the form of a slave. Only then could He receive the qualification of submission. Hence, submission is something created by the Son of God.

Formerly, the Father and the Son shared the same glory. When the Lord came down to earth, He dropped authority on the one hand and picked up submission on the other hand. He set His heart to become a slave, to be restricted in time and space as a man. But this is not all. The Lord humbled Himself, becoming obedient. The obedience in the Godhead is the most wonderful thing in

the whole universe. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, a painful and shameful death. In the end, God exalted Him to the highest. He that humbles himself will be exalted. This is God's principle.

Hebrews 5:8 tells us that the Lord's obedience was learned through suffering. Suffering brought obedience to Him. True submission is found when there is still obedience in spite of suffering. A man's usefulness is not in whether he has suffered, but in whether he has learned obedience in suffering. Only those who are obedient to God are useful. If the heart is not softened, the suffering will not go away. Our way is the way of manifold sufferings. A man who yearns after ease and enjoyment is of no use. We must all learn to be obedient in sufferings. When the Lord came to the earth, He did not bring obedience with Him; rather, He learned it through sufferings.

Salvation not only brings joy; it also brings submission. If a man is only for joy, his experiences will not be abundant. Only submissive ones will experience the fullness of salvation.

Application to young working saints/ graduate students (1)

1 Peter 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. 6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

When Christ became a man and lived on earth, He submitted to Father completely. He was obedient even unto death on the cross. This submission was created by Christ and submission is Christ. On the other hand, Satan, due to his pride, was degraded to be God's enemy from being an archangel. "God resists the proud" means that the pride comes from God's enemy Satan and the pride is Satan. Satan is dwelling in the flesh due to the degradation, if man puts his mind on the flesh, it makes him proud. But when he puts his mind on his spirit, he becomes one with Christ and can be humble and submit.

Men easily become proud. For example, when you face the difficulty at your work, you may pray to the Lord and ask the brothers and the sisters to pray for you. And because of the Lord and the church, you could break through that difficult problem which was difficult to get over. But later, man forgets the grace and becomes proud and assumed that it was done all by self. In fact, such an idea is devilish and comes from Satan. In such time, you need to testify before men immediately that "I could break through this difficult problem due to Christ and the brothers and sisters". Because man's nature is degraded, if we do not declare sooner, Satan comes to whisper and leads you to proud. So by declaring Lord's grace as soon as possible, you need to cut off the Satan's temptation.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, save me from devilish thought and every kind of pride. When I put my mind on the flesh, Satan comes to whisper and I end up receiving his word and become proud. When I succeeded by the grace of the Lord, let me put my mind on my spirit and become one with Christ and humble myself and submit to the Lord. And let me testify and declare Lord's grace immediately to cut off Satan's temptation which causes me to proud. I make Christ my pattern and let me learn submission through sufferings."

Crucial Point ③: An urgent need among us in the Lord's recovery: live a crucified life to experience the power of resurrection

OL1: By living a crucified life, we can experience the power of resurrection. Eph.1:20 Which He caused to operate Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, 21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to com; 22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church. **OL2:** The highest life on earth is a crucified life; whenever we live a crucified life, God will bring us into resurrection. Phil.3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead. **OL3:** Christ is exalted in our daily life as we, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, take Him as the crucified life to be the pattern of our daily life.

There is an urgent need among us in the Lord's recovery today to experience Christ as our pattern. We desperately need to experience Him as our crucified life. Such a life stands altogether in contrast to a life of rivalry and vainglory. In the church life we either take the crucified life as our pattern or automatically live a life of rivalry and vainglory. There is no third way.... The issue here is extremely serious. We need to be honest with ourselves and consider the kind of life we have been living in the church. If you review the time you have been in the church life, you will see that whenever you did not take the crucified life as your pattern, you were living a life of rivalry for vainglory.

This life is Christ Himself as the One who emptied Himself and humbled Himself. Taking this crucified life as our pattern opens the gate of resurrection and brings us into the power of resurrection. The exaltation which is of God will never come by way of rivalry or vainglory. The more we seek vainglory, the more shameful our situation will be. To pursue vainglory is not a glory at all; it is a shame. Likewise, when we are in rivalry with others, the result is never exaltation. Inevitably the result is that we are brought low. The highest life on earth is the crucified life.

Often the saints complain of weaknesses. We are weak whenever we do not take the crucified life as our pattern. If you are weak in your family, daily life, or church life, it is an indication that you are not taking the crucified life and therefore are not in the power of resurrection....The gate through which we enter into the power of resurrection is the crucified life. Paul's expectation concerning the saints in Philippi was that they would live this crucified life and then experience the power of resurrection.

During the years I have been in the church life, I have known many cases of those who were in rivalry for vainglory. Without exception, all those who engaged in such rivalry went downhill. It is utterly foolish to have rivalry in the church life. We should fear this more than we fear a serpent.

Phil.2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

[Application to young working saints/ graduate students \(2\)](#)
[Isaiah14:13](#) But you, you said in your heart: /I will ascend to heaven; / Above the stars of God / I will exalt my throne. / And I will sit upon the mount of assembly / In the uttermost parts of the north. [14](#) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; / I will make myself like the Most High. [15](#) But you will be brought down to Sheol, / To the uttermost parts of the pit.

Satan's intention in his rebellion was to exalt himself to be equal with God. After man's fall, Satan began dwelling in the human flesh. So, Satan is acting not only outwardly but also acting in the human flesh. Man's ambition, rivalry and vainglory do not come from Satan outside of man but come from Satan dwelling in his flesh. Satan tried to compete with God. While you are living according to your ambition, rivalry, and vainglory, you are setting your mind on the flesh and become one with Satan. You should be more aware of Satan in your flesh than Satan acting outside of you. Because Satan is in you, he is very close to you and is working on you all the time so that you would not live along with God's economy. [Romans8:6](#) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. [7](#) Because the mind set on the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither can it be.

For example, certain project or boss or colleagues were arranged by God for you with the positive intention. But your natural person does not like that project or people. In this situation, Satan dwelling in your flesh whispers you to hate them and enkindle rivalry against them. Once you have rivalry, such heart competing with others, it is very difficult to remove it. If you go in rivalry, you may become resenting God unjustly and fall into chaos and death (Actually, you can see a lot of this kind of situation.) You should know that rivalry comes from Satan dwelling in your flesh. Then by declaring "Go away, Satan!", crucify the flesh and go forward in resurrection.

[Prayer](#) : "Go away, Satan! You are working not only at outside of me but also inwardly in my flesh to enkindle my heart to compete and hate my colleagues and boss. Oh Lord Jesus. I now set the mind on spirit and with the bountiful supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ, I set forth Christ the crucified life as the example of my living in the business life. By the Spirit, I crucify the flesh to experience the power of resurrection. Amen"

[The High Gospel Topic 13: Jesus Is The Sinner's Friend](#)
[Matt.11 : 19](#) The Son of Man came eating and drinking; and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Yet wisdom is justified by her works.

[SALVATION AS A PERSONAL AND A SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE \(2\)](#)

Salvation is not even a question of understanding or of will. It is, as we have seen, a question of meeting God—of men coming into firsthand contact with Christ the Savior. So what, you ask me, is the minimum requirement in a man to make that contact possible?

For my reply I would turn you to the parable of the sower. It seems to me that here we are plainly told the one

thing that God does demand. "That in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15). What God demands of man is "an honest and good heart." It does not matter if a man wants or does not want to be saved, it does not matter if he understands or does not understand; provided that he is prepared to be honest with God about it, God is prepared to meet him.

The basic condition of a sinner's salvation is not belief or repentance, but just the honesty of heart towards God. God requires nothing of him but that he comes in that attitude. Into that spot of straightforwardness that lies in the midst of much deceitfulness, the good seed falls and brings forth fruit. Of the two thoroughly dishonest thieves crucified with the Lord, there was in the one a little bit of honest desire. The publican who prayed in the temple was a crooked man, but in him too there was that honesty to acknowledge his sinfulness and cry to God for mercy.

As several of the incidents recounted earlier have indicated, we should encourage every sinner to kneel down with an honest heart and pray, telling the Lord frankly where he stands. As Christians we are told that we must pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, by which, of course, we understand not a mere formula of words but an act of faith in Him. But with sinners it is different, for there are prayers which God will hear that are not uttered in the name of Jesus. In Acts 10:4 the angel says to Cornelius: "thy prayers and thine alms are gone up for a memorial before God." If there is a sincere cry from the heart, God hears. A sinner's heart can touch God.

[THE LORD NEAR AT HAND](#)

In the words of Joel, quoted by Peter: "[Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.](#)" How is this possible? Because God has fulfilled the other promise (quoted by Peter from the same prophecy) that: "[I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all flesh](#)" (Acts 2:17, 21). Because the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon all mankind, a cry is enough.

I always believe that the Holy Spirit is upon a man when I preach to him. I do not mean to say that the Spirit is within the hearts of unbelievers, but that He is outside. What is He doing? He is waiting, waiting to bring Christ into their hearts. The Holy Spirit is waiting to enter the heart of the hearer of the gospel. He is like the light. Open the window-shutters even a little and it will flood in and illumine the interior. Let there be but a cry from the heart to God, and at that moment the Spirit will enter and begin His transforming work of conviction and repentance and faith—the miracle of new birth.

Oh, it is wonderful what our God can do! He is a living God, ready to act in mercy. Even if men could be a little better than they are it would not help matters, and if they were much worse it would not hinder. All He looks for is "an honest and good heart." And never forget that the Holy Spirit is present in power to move men's hearts to God. [Hymnal:1038\(JP719\) Gospel — Persuasion](#)