

THE DIVINE INTERVENTION – PART I
“Downward Mobility”
Philippians 2:1-11



The Philippians were behaving badly, mistreating one another, and were motivated by selfish desires. These sinful attitudes were causing serious issues in their church. To get people back on track spiritually, Paul directed them to the attitudes that Jesus employed when he left the realm of glory and came to earth becoming one of us. His mission was a divine intervention for humanity, to die on the cross paying the penalty for our sins. We need to take note of the deeply spiritual attitudes that Jesus employed and emulate them.



#1. HAVING BAD ATTITUDES IN RELATIONSHIPS CAN CAUSE A _____ ENVIRONMENT, vv. 1-4

- A. They were rivals rather than teammates
- B. They were conceited rather than humble
- C. They were selfish rather than considerate of others
- D. They were focused on their agendas disregarding others
- E. They were destroying their fellowship with these attitudes
- F. Their fellowship was toxic

#2. HAVING THE ATTITUDES OF _____ IS THE CURE FOR TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS, vv. 5-8

A. Jesus is God, but didn't _____ his equality with God the Father.

B. Jesus willingly emptied (*kenoo*) himself of divine _____

- C. Jesus willingly took the form of a _____
- D. Jesus willingly added _____ to his deity
- E. Jesus willingly _____ himself
- F. Jesus willingly was _____ to death on the cross
- G. Jesus willingly suffered the most _____ in Roman culture

#3. HAVING HUMBLING HIMSELF GOD _____ JESUS TO THE HIGHEST PLACE, vv. 9-11

- A. God conferred his name on Jesus – *YHWH*
- B. The entire created order will acknowledge the Lordship of Christ.
- C. Jesus' mission was to the glory of God the Father

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Philippians 2:1-11

- #1. Should the benefits available to Christians mentioned in v. 1 be shared with one another in church? Why or why not?
- #2. How can rivalry, conceit, and looking to our own interests work against achieving unity?
- #3. What is the definition of humility? Why is this virtue important for Christian living?
- #4. What did Jesus empty himself of? (v. 7)
- #5. Jesus gave new meaning to humility by making it a virtue, whereas the Philippians saw it as a vice. Discuss the difficulty the Philippians would have in viewing humility as a virtue.
- #6. The cross was shameful in Roman culture, but Jesus elevated the cross to a picture of the greatest act of humility, sacrificial love, and obedience ever. Discuss the difficulty the Philippians would have in altering their view of the cross as something honorable and noble.
- #7. A Philippian in the upper echelon of society would not welcome fellowship with a lowly slave? But in Christ they would be challenged to consider slaves above themselves. Discuss how difficult this would be for them.
- #8. Discuss the significance of God conferring on Jesus the *name* above every name.

Welcome

to

Hillcrest Church

*Love, Acceptance,
Forgiveness!*

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to
death—even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:8

December 3, 2023

Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Pastor Bruce will begin his Christmas series titled "The Divine Intervention."

This is the first Sunday of Advent so the candle symbolizing hope will be light.

The children's ministry is performing a Christmas drama during the service this morning. Afterwards there will be snacks and refreshments served.

OPEN HOUSE AT BRUCE & CAROL'S – SATURDAY, DEC 16

Everyone is invited for snacks and refreshments from 4-7pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

There will not be a morning service December 24th. Our candlelight service will be at 7pm.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CIRBY SCHOOL KIDS

Make sure you have your Christmas gifts for the kids at Cirby school here next Sunday, December 10th, gift wrapped and with their names on the presents. These gifts will be a blessing to children who wouldn't have much of a Christmas.

UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Would you fill out the form at the back of the sanctuary so you can be included in the directory. If your contact information needs to be updated please do so.

ONLINE GATHERINGS CANCELED FOR DECEMBER

The Prayer Meeting on Tuesday nights is cancelled for the month of December as is the Wednesday Bible Study. Both will begin in January of 2024

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com). Consider giving to the building fund so we can continue to upgrade our facility.

In order to replace the roof and do our electrical upgrades we had to borrow some money. Our debt is around \$19K, which we would like to eliminate ASAP. Would you prayerfully consider giving a little extra to pay off the loan so we can be debt free and avoid paying interest.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a member of Hillcrest Church please indicate your interest by signing up in the back of the sanctuary and we will set a date for the class.

ANNUAL MEETING – VISION 2024

Will be January 14th during the service. Pastor Bruce will be talking about the vision for 2024, there will be a slide show about 2023 in review, presentation of the budget, followed by a potluck celebration.

