

Philippians 2:1-13
(Isaiah 45:22-25; John 15:4-5)
“The Mind of Christ”

Introduction

This week we will gather with family and friends to enjoy a feast of rich food and richer conversation, and to give thanks to God for his great goodness to us as a nation. Rob Bell has stated what should be obvious: whenever anyone prays, “God bless the United States of America,” the Christian response should be, “He already has! What are we doing with all he has entrusted to us?”

This morning I would encourage you to think of God’s greatest gift: a gift given not just to us, but to all the people of the world, namely the gift of his Son. And he gave his Son not merely as a sacrifice for our sin, but so that we might have an entirely new life than the one we lived before we knew him. He exchanges our old, broken life for his perfect life, and calls us to live out of his strength, out of his grace and love.

Christ is still with us through his Spirit. His Spirit is given to those who are his, and his Spirit unites us to Christ. Christ is still in the world through the lives of his people who are “the body of Christ.” So, the Scriptures describe us as being “in Christ” and Christ as being “in us by his Spirit.” And here, Paul encourages us to have “the mind of Christ” (see also 1 Corinthians 2:16, “But we have the mind of Christ”).

My question this morning is simply this: What difference does it make – or perhaps I should ask, what difference *should* it make – that we have been united to Christ and now have the mind of Christ? We long to experience the truth of the promises of Scripture. We are tired of being told, “Simply believe,” when the Scriptures promise us the dawning of a new *experience* of reality once we have been born again. So, what might that new life begin to look like for those who experience the reality of God’s greatest gift? What difference should our having the mind of Christ begin to make in our lives?

Body

- 1. Christ’s self-sacrificial love for us should be the model of our love for one another. (2:1-8).**
- 2. God’s response to Christ’s obedience should be an incentive to our obedience (2:9).**
- 3. The world’s future response to the Lordship of Christ should be an incentive to our mission (2:10-11).**

Conclusion

Paul will call us in the next few verses to “work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in [us], both to will and to do for his good pleasure” (2:12-13). This is what it is to look like: people with the mind of Christ, seeking to live as Christ lived and love as Christ loved, in the sure and certain hope that the day is coming when the Father will raise us up and seat us together with Christ, a day when the gospel will be vindicated among all the people of the world, when every knee bows and every tongue confesses “that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (2:11).

Thus should we celebrate on this coming Thanksgiving Day, not only for the blessings God has so abundantly poured out upon our country, but for the blessings of his Kingdom, those tasted and enjoyed now, as well as those yet to come.

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