

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

November 24, 2024

How to Walk in the Reign

The Choices Before Us

Philippians 2:5-11

KEY VERSES

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

As we move into Thanksgiving week, this final Sunday in our Philippians series is also Christ the King Sunday. Established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, Christ the King Sunday was created in response to growing secularism, to remind Christians of their allegiance to Christ as their ruler.

Reflecting on the last twelve weeks, what are some key lessons you have learned about these choices we've seen Paul make?

- * Choosing gratitude
- * Choosing a bigger story
- * Choosing joy
- * Choosing the mind of Christ
- * Choosing to shine in a dark world
- * Choosing grace over endless striving
- * Choosing habits that sustain life in Christ
- * Choosing examples to imitate
- * Choosing peace through prayer
- * Choosing habits of thought
- * Choosing to practice both giving AND receiving

Looking back over the course of this study, the reason we pay attention to all these calls to choose is because Jesus invented them. Jesus - over all creation, alongside God as He created the heavens and the earth, and with the authority to stay and rule from above. But Jesus chooses to give up all of that and join us where He can be one of us, for our sakes. And not only did He choose to experience the fullness of humanity, but to die the worst possible death - death on a cross. Paul, who also started with everything, finishes his life following the examples of Jesus, putting away his own prerogatives. Though we can hardly put ourselves in the same category as Paul, we should know that God is also with us in our pursuits. **How has this series increased your faith that the God who calls you will also supply you with what you need?**

Because of our free will, our choices do not always lead us in the direction of following God. Even if we say no, however, God will find someone else to help carry out His plans. Thanks be to God that humanity is not solely dependent upon our actions. But how much better to step out in faith, trusting the One who has brought us this far, to participate alongside God bringing His kingdom to earth. **This Thanksgiving week, reflect on all that you have to be grateful for, and for the new choices God might be calling you to make.**