

Monday, July 6, 2020

Dear Members, Friends, and Guests of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

Today is a holiday. Some in our country took off July 3 and many took off July 6. I thought for today I would return to Philippians. The last section was in Chapter 2:5-8: **5** Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, **7** but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, **8** he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Paul wants all Christians to have the same mind as Christ. To think like King Jesus. And for Paul, Jesus thinks as a humble servant for others, holding back nothing for us even though he could have exploited the power of God.

Let's finish this poem. Philippians 2:9-11: **9** Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Paul the poet borrowed a passage from Isaiah 45:23 that describes God and how every knee should bend. Paul is saying that now Jesus helps us understand God. The name that is above every name is Lord. The Old Testament word for God is Yahweh, but in the Greek Bible it is translated Lord, so Jesus has the fullness and glory of God. When we live in Christ, taking his mind and actions as ours, we too will give glory to God.

So what does this mean for today? In all we do, we try to imitate King Jesus who emptied himself for us and was exalted for us. Treat others well and if you are by yourself this day, then give thanks to God and confess Jesus as Lord.

Blessings,