

Week 2: The Work Christ Finished

Overview: Students will see that Jesus' humility, obedience, and sacrifice accomplished everything needed for salvation. We don't earn justification – Jesus finished the work completely.

Key Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

CONTENT

Chapter 2 Overview: Philippians continues to show us how the gospel shapes humility, obedience, unity, and purpose. Paul urges believers to live in a way that reflects Jesus, especially in how they treat each other. In this passage of Philippians, Paul describes:

- Jesus' humility: He didn't cling to His divine rights
- Jesus' incarnation: He became human
- Jesus' obedience: He went all the way to death on a cross
- Jesus' exaltation: God raised Him and gave Him the highest name

In this passage, we see the finished work of Christ – everything Jesus did to save us.

Key Takeaway: Jesus finished the work, so we don't have to try to save ourselves.

Key Points

- Justification: God declaring us “right with Him” because of Jesus' finished work. We are forgiven, accepted, and made clean.
 - It's like a judge banging a gavel and declaring you innocent because Jesus took your place and punishment.
- Jesus humbly gave up his rights for our salvation (vv6-7)
 - Jesus “emptied himself” – this means he laid aside his privileges, not his divine nature.
 - His obedience was active and passive:
 - Active: living perfectly for
 - Passive: dying sacrificially for us
 - Jesus is God, yet He chose surrender: He didn't cling to His position, but instead came down to rescue us
 - He chose humility over status, and service over comfort.
 - The gospel is not God asking us to climb up to Him – it's God coming down to rescue us.
 - Where are you gripping tightly to your “rights” – reputation, being right, etc. Where do you feel pressure to project perfection – Jesus' humility frees us from perfection.
- Jesus' death and resurrection finished the work and made us right with God (v8)

- On the cross, Jesus paid for sin fully, finally, and forever. His resurrection sealed the victory. We often feel like we need to “clean up” to be right with God. Justification means Jesus makes us right – not our behavior.
 - There’s no list of things we “have to do” for God to love us.
 - Spend time in confession – confess our sin and THANK Jesus for finishing the work and taking on our sin at the cross.
- Jesus is the exalted King (vv9-11)
 - Every knee will bow – Jesus is Lord now and forever. We need a big view of Jesus – he’s not just our helper or friend (though he’s the greatest helper and the best friend), but he’s a King who rules with love and authority.
 - Our response should be worship, obedience, and trust.

Gospel Application: Because Jesus humbled Himself, suffered, died, and rose again, we are justified – made right with God. We don’t earn this – we just trust the finished work. Jesus finished the work of salvation on the cross so we can stand fully forgiven.

Key Question: What would your life look like if you lived as though Jesus truly finished the work for you?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- In small group, read through verses from Philippians chapter 2 together, encouraging students to open up physical Bibles. If they don’t have a copy, make sure to give them one!
- Take 10 minutes to go through Lectio Divina individually or together using chapter 2
 - Lectio (reading)
 - Meditatio (meditation)
 - Oratio (prayer)

Community Group Questions

1. Why do you love Jesus?
2. What is justification, in your words?
3. Why does it matter that Jesus made us “right with him,” regardless of our work?