

JESUS PEOPLE, LESSON FIVE AND SIX

Imitating the Crucified Lord – PHILIPPIANS on the Crucified Life

“it has been granted to you...to believe...and also to suffer” Philippians 1:29 (motive 1:28)

2:1-3 Christians crucify _____. **Motive =**

2:4-13 The Cross calls believers to have _____ Jesus, who lived and died for the sake of others. **Motive =**

2:14-18 Christians crucify the right to _____. **Motive =**

2:19-24 Christians crucify _____ for the sake of Jesus.

2:25-30 Paul and his companions crucify the right to _____.
Motive =

3:3-5 Paul and his churches crucify _____ (cf. Acts 10, Galatians 2:11-14, Eph 2:11-21). **Motive = 3:11, 14**

3:7-9 Paul crucifies _____ apart from Jesus. **Motive =**

3:10-16 Paul crucifies _____. **Motive = 3:11, 14**

3:17-21 Paul crucifies the quest for _____ in Christian mission and leadership. **Motive =**

In Philippians 3:18, the enemies of the Cross are not unbelievers but professing believers, even leaders, who reject the paradigm of Jesus and the typos of the apostle in imitating him, so that “their god is their stomach...their mind set on earthly things.” It’s hard to miss the contrast with Jesus and his followers in chapter 2 and Paul himself in chapter 4: “I can be hungry, and I can be full” [= my god is not my stomach, my comfort, my desires].

“The place of suffering in service and of passion in mission is hardly ever taught today. But the greatest single secret of evangelistic or missionary effectiveness is the willingness to suffer and die. It may be a death to popularity (by faithfully preaching the unpopular biblical gospel), or to pride (by the use of modest methods in reliance on the Holy Spirit), or to racial or national prejudice (by identification with another culture), or to material comfort (by adopting a simple lifestyle). But the servant must suffer if he is to bring light to the nations, and the seed must die if it is to multiply.” John Stott, *The Cross of Christ* (20th Anniversary Ed.; IVP, 2006), 313

WORK IN GROUPS: FILL IN BLANKS FOR CHAPTER FOUR.

4:2 Christians crucify the right to _____, holding to strife, investing in bitterness.

4:3 Christians crucify the right to “_____”.

4:4-7 Christians crucify the right to _____ self-pity and self-concern.

Motive=

4:8-9 Christians crucify _____ for success and acceptance. Paul offers his Cross-shaped life as a substitute, a reversal of the culture’s privileged values of sophistication and excellence. **Motive=**

4:10-13 Paul can crucify _____ and _____ in the strength of Jesus.

“The greatest glory Jesus brought to God was not when he walked on the water or prayed for long hours, but when he cried in agony in the garden of Gethsemane and still continued to follow God’s will, even though it meant isolation, darkness, and the silence of God. Thus, we know that when everything around us fails, when we are destroyed and abandoned, our tears, blood, and dead corpses are the greatest worship songs we have ever sung.” Ziya Meral, “Bearing the Silence of God,” *Christianity Today* (March 2008).

C. S. Lewis’s *Screwtape Letters*: “Be not deceived, Wormwood [a demon, getting advice in this letter from a more senior demon], our cause is never more in jeopardy than when a human, no longer desiring but still intending to do our Enemy’s will, looks round upon a universe in which every trace of him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.” **Motive=**

4:14-19 Christians crucify (= “sacrifice”) their right to _____, imitating the sacrifice of Jesus by providing for the material and spiritual needs of others (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-37, 1 John 3:16-19, 2 Corinthians 8:8-9). **Motive=**

“To see just how widespread the denial of sacrifice is I built a little experiment into the national survey I conducted. I mentioned in chapter 3 that 42 percent of the public said ‘I want to give myself for the benefit of others’ was a major reason for them to be kind and caring people. In a subset of the survey, I changed the wording of this question to ‘I want to sacrifice myself for the benefit of others.’ With this minor modification in wording, the number who said it was a major reason to be kind and caring dropped from 42 percent to 15 percent! Sacrifice seems to be an unpalatable concept in our society” (Princeton University sociologist Robert Wuthnow, *Acts of Compassion*, 105).