

The Psalms of Ascents

Week 5 – Wednesday

Phil. 2:5-8 – Footnotes 5¹, 5²

So Paul said that because of the danger of becoming proud, he rejoiced in his afflictions and persecutions. What an experience! God wants us to become humble people in His presence. What is it to be humble? To be humble is to be put into a lowly place. None of us wants to be in a lowly place. Everyone in society is trying to climb higher; people don't like to be outdone by others. Rather, they want to step on top of others. We ourselves like to be noticed by others in the church life. Sometimes the young people are not happy that the leading brothers pick hymns instead of them, so they would quit exercising. Even if you would not utter things like this from your mouth, your heart is not at peace. There is always something simmering inside: so and so was chosen by the leading brothers; so and so was uplifted. It is so easy for us to be filled with these kinds of feelings. This is to exalt yourself, but the Bible tells us that we need to be humble.

The natural life of man causes everyone to be proud. No one is willing to stay in a low position. Why do people get angry? It is because of pride. When a person's pride is hurt, the result is anger. True humility comes from the Lord, because the Lord Jesus is humility. The second chapter of Philippians reveals Christ Jesus to us, "who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God." What is "humility?" Humility is to empty oneself. Christ Jesus was the glorious God, all sufficient, but He was willing to completely empty Himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. This can be called "humility".

A truly humble man does not need to endeavour to be humble, nor does he need to have any feeling or awareness of humility. Because he is full of Christ, he does not have his own feelings. A person who is without self is a truly humble person. Paul said that we need to have the same mind as Christ. When our heart is filled with Christ, then we are humble.

Humility is gained through the scars we suffer and the breaking of the self. It is something constituted in us. When our outer man is broken, the Spirit of Christ is constituted in us. We will then be able to understand humility. A person who receives grace in the presence of God learns a lesson of humility while being stricken by God. This process produces a heart of humility in him. Such a heart of humility is the heart of Christ Jesus.