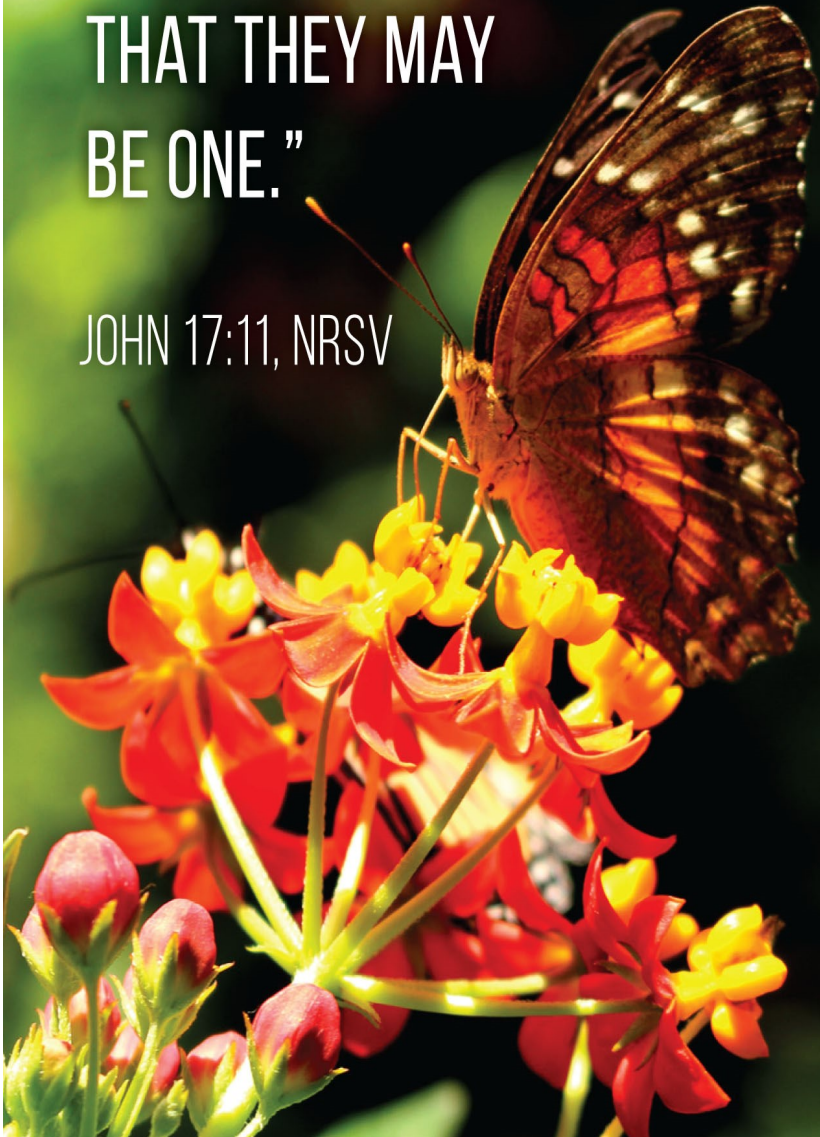


“PROTECT THEM
IN YOUR NAME ...
THAT THEY MAY
BE ONE.”

JOHN 17:11, NRSV





Spend Time
WITH
GOD

Valley Forge Baptist Church
1701 Valley Forge Road • Valley Forge • PA • 19481
Pastor.billfarrow@comcast.net • 484-431-8463 • www.vfbaptist.org

Sunday Worship
April 9, 2017

Prelude

Invocation

Call to Worship - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Hymn #

Scripture Reading - Matthew 21:1-11

Hymn #

Hymn #

Hymn #

Elder Prayer

Offering & Offertory

Hymn #

Sermon: Why Did Jesus Come To Die? (Pt. 4)

Hymn #

Benediction

Postlude

prayer requests

up & coming

-
-
-
-
-
-

* If you have any particular prayer requests that you want remembered at Prayer Meeting - please see to it that you fill out the prayer card (cards on the desk in the back) and get it in the offering plate so that we can update the cards for the coming meeting this week.

•

The Brants will be here with us this coming Friday to tell us about how God is using them in the Sudan - Dinner and then they'll fill us in!!

SIM
Serving In Mission



**Rebuilding
Southern Sudan:
Church & Nation**

Today:

9:15 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Morning Worship -

Tuesday:

All Day - Jabez Deger's Brthday

Thursday:

All Day - "Maudy" Thursday
7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting

Friday:

5:00 PM - Supper w/ Howard Brant
7:00 PM - Good Friday Service - Howard Brant with us.

Next Sunday:

Easter Sunday!!

7:00 AM - Easter Sunrise Service
8:15 AM - Easter Breakfast Together
9:15 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Morning Worship

Why Are We Not Told Plainly?

Mark 9:9

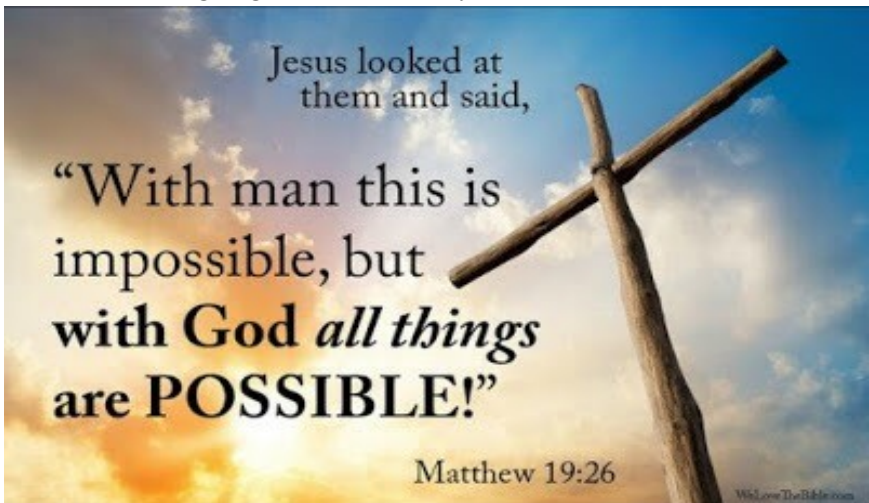
Pastor Bill Farrow

*He charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man had risen from the dead.
(Mark 9:9).*

Say nothing until the Son of man is risen in you—until the life of the risen Christ so dominates you that you understand what the historic Christ taught. When you get to the right state on the inside, the word which Jesus has spoken is so plain that you are amazed you did not see it before. You could not understand it before, you were not in the place in disposition where it could be borne.

Our Lord does not hide these things; they are unbearable until we get into a fit condition of spiritual life. “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” There must be communion with His risen life before a particular word can be borne by us. Do we know anything about the impartation of the risen life of Jesus? The evidence that we do is that His word is becoming interpretable to us. God cannot reveal anything to us if we have not His Spirit. An obstinate outlook will effectually hinder God from revealing anything to us. If we have made up our minds about a doctrine, the light of God will come no more to us on that line, we cannot get it. This obtuse stage will end immediately His resurrection life has its way with us.

“Tell no man ...” - so many do tell what they saw on the mount of transfiguration. They have had the vision and they testify to it, but the life does not tally with it, the Son of man is not yet risen in them. I wonder when He is going to be formed in you and in me?



Persevering When Times Are Tough: 6 Scriptures To Help You Keep Going

The world feels very fragile at the moment. From the headline-grabbing issues of terrorism and famine, to the much more prosaic issues of paying the bills, rarely a week will go by without you or someone you know struggling a bit.

There's no magic formula, no silver bullet, not even a guaranteed prayer you can pray to get through unscathed.

Yet there are promises and pieces of scripture we can rely upon at such times. Here are some of the top passages in the Bible which speak about keeping going, especially when times are tough.

I. Daniel 12: 12-13

Happy are those who persevere and attain the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. But you, go your way, and rest; you shall rise for your reward at the end of the days.

II. Romans 12: 11-13

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

III. Ephesians 6: 18-19

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.

IV. Hebrews 10: 19-23

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

V. Hebrews 12: 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

VI. James 1:25

Those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.



The Summation Of Humility

Romans 13:8

“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”

If believers fulfill their constant debt of love, they will have a continual attitude of sacrificial humility.

Origen, the early church father, wisely said, “The debt of love remains with us permanently and never leaves us. This is a debt which we pay every day and forever owe.” The primary reason you and I can pay that debt is that “the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Rom. 5:5). God’s own love to us and every other believer is the bottomless well from which we can draw and then share with others.



If we have this wonderful, supernatural resource of love through the Holy Spirit, it only follows that we must submit to the Spirit. When we do so, all the enemies and impediments to humility—pride, unjustified power-grabbing, selfish ambition, partisanship, hatred—will melt away. What an overwhelming thought to consider that such humility can be ours because God Himself, through His Spirit, is teaching us to love as we yield to Him (1 Thess. 4:9).

At every turn we see humility going hand in hand with godly love. Genuine love never turns its “freedom into an opportunity for the flesh” (Gal. 5:13). It will not do anything to cause another Christian to fall into sin or even be offended in his conscience (Rom. 14:21). Love that is from God will “be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven [us]” (Eph. 4:32).

The greatest test of love and humility is the willingness to sacrifice for the good of others. As we have already seen in our study of humility, Jesus was the ultimate example of this (Phil. 2:5–8). Our supreme demonstration of humility is when we imitate Him: “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).

Suggestions for Prayer:

Pray for an occasion today to show some facet of biblical love to another person. ✧ If nothing develops today, keep praying that the Lord would make you alert for future opportunities.

For Further Study:

First John 4 is a wonderful chapter on God’s love and its meaning for believers. According to the apostle, how can we know truth from error? ✧ What benefits derive from God’s love?

The Humility of Jesus' Self-Emptying

Philippians 2:7

Pastor Bill Farrow

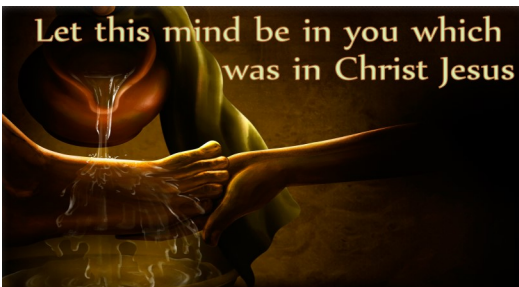
"But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men."

As part of His humble descent from Heaven to earth, Jesus set aside the exercise of His divine privileges.

The next step in Jesus' pattern of humility as He came to earth and lived among mankind was His emptying of Himself. But Scripture is clear that while on earth our Lord claimed to be God: "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). At no time did He stop being God.

The Greek word for "emptied" gives us the theological term *kenosis*, the doctrine of Christ's self-emptying. The *kenosis* basically reminds us of what we saw in yesterday's lesson: Jesus' humble refusal to cling to His advantages and privileges in Heaven. The Son of God, who has a right to everything and is fully satisfied within Himself, voluntarily emptied Himself.

We have already noted that Jesus did not empty Himself of His deity, but He did lay aside certain prerogatives. For one thing, He gave up His heavenly glory. That's why, in anticipation of His return to the Father, Christ prayed,



Let this mind be in you which
was in Christ Jesus

"Glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I ever had with Thee before the world was" (John 17:5).

Jesus also relinquished His independent authority and completely submitted Himself to the Father's will: "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39).

During His time on earth, Christ also voluntarily limited the use and display of His divine attributes. One good illustration of this concerned His omniscience, His knowledge of all things. In teaching about the end-times and His second coming, Jesus said, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone" (Matt. 24:36).

Jesus' self-emptying demonstrates a wonderful aspect of the gospel. Unlike man-centered, works-oriented religions, the biblical gospel has God's Son willingly yielding His privileges to sacrifice Himself for sinners like us.

Suggestions for Prayer:

Pray that you would become more appreciative of the sacrificial humility Jesus Christ exercised on your behalf.

For Further Study:

Scripture does not record a lot about Jesus' boyhood. But the account we do have verifies His emptying. Read Luke 2:39-52. What does verse 47 imply about Jesus' nature? ♡ How do verses 51-52 exemplify His emptying?

Jesus' Humble Identification with Sinners

Philippians 2:7–8

Pastor Bill Farrow

"... Emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Except for sin, Jesus experienced the everyday things of a normal man; but He was often not appreciated as the God-man.

Jesus could understand what people around Him were dealing with because He lived under the same conditions. He can also identify with us today. It is true that He never married, never went to college, and never used a computer or a VCR. But He still has perfect knowledge about such things, and more. The point is, Christ knows firsthand about our basic physical and emotional needs because He actually lived and worked in a world affected by the Fall.

But there was one element of our world Jesus did not partake in: sin. The conclusion of Hebrews 4:15 says He was "tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." Even though Jesus never sinned, He knows the struggles and temptations we face daily. Otherwise, He could not be the sympathetic High Priest that the first part of verse 15 mentions.

Although Jesus was a man who identified profoundly with those He came to serve, people around Him did not naturally see the most important thing about Him. Philippians 2:8 views Jesus from the perspective of those people. It says His human appearance was so authentic that most of them didn't know that He was also God. Many of them simply could not accept that a man like Jesus could also be higher than them: "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" (John 6:42).

Christ's close identification with mankind elicited a tragic response for people such as those in John 6. But for us, His humility is a great model and a heart-felt reassurance that He was perfectly man and perfectly God.

Suggestions for Prayer:

- Thank God that you can freely approach Him in prayer through Jesus, who can identify so closely with all our struggles as human beings.

For Further Study:

- Read John 11:1–45, which describes the death and resurrection of Lazarus. How did Jesus demonstrate His humanity and deity to the disciples and other eyewitnesses?

