

Sermon Outline

August 31 – “I am Fourth”
Philippians 2:1-5

- ✝ The problem: When things go sideways in churches

- ✝ The solution: The foundation for healthy life in community

- ✝ The invitation: the mind of Christ

✝ Points to Ponder to Prepare

September 7 – “No Shortcuts to Glory”
Philippians 2:1-11

Take some time to read the about the temptation of Jesus. See Luke 4:1-13.

In each case the tempter offers Jesus a shortcut to get around suffering, especially the suffering of the cross. But Jesus instead chooses humble obedience to the Father.

Paul reflects on the humble obedience of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11 as he traces the trajectory from height to depth, to even greater height. It is a trajectory that leads through suffering.

This is a theme throughout the letter to the Philippians. The path to glory leads through humble obedience, even and especially when it requires sacrifice and comes with a cost. There is joy along this path and there are no shortcuts.

See this theme in verses such as:

- ✝ Philippians 1:29-30
- ✝ Philippians 2:17-18
- ✝ Philippians 3:10-11

Scripture readings for the week

Sunday August 31	I Corinthians 16:1-24
Monday September 1	II Corinthians 1:1-11
Tuesday September 2	II Corinthian 1:12 – 2:11
Wed September 3	II Corinthians 2:12-17
Thursday September 4	II Corinthians 3:1-18
Friday September 5	II Corinthians 4:1-12
Saturday September 6	II Corinthian 4:13 – 5:10
Sunday September 7	II Corinthians 5:11-21

Prayer Focus

Our prayer focus this week is on the children in our community as they are returning to school, along with the families who send them and the schools that welcome them.

- ✝ Prayer for students, knowing they are safe and celebrated, to be ready to learn.
- ✝ Pray for teachers, full of passion and compassion, excited to invest in young lives
- ✝ Pray for administrators, staff, food services, bus drivers, and all who make our school systems function well.
- ✝ Pray for the connection between teachers and parents and for healthy, supportive partnership.
- ✝ Pray for parents who are teachers and all our home school families.