

Well are you ready to move on to a new section? We have memorized verses about Jesus' Announcement, Birth, and Commission, and now we are ready to move on to verses about His "**Devotion**". God had a plan in sending Jesus, a mission for Him to fulfill. The passages we have memorized have been very clear about that. Key phrases come to mind such as:

***"To us a child is born"***

***"The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this"***

***"You are to give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins"***

***"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet, 'the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call Him Immanuel which means God with us'"***

***"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon Me because the Lord has anointed me to..."***

***"He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted..."***

The verses we have memorized so far have been about what Jesus would come to do. Now we will begin to look at what He actually came and did. These verses about His devotion that we find in Philippians were written by Paul, 1 years after Jesus lived and died and resurrected on the earth. When Paul wrote this, Jesus was already seated again at the right hand of His Father on high, His mission completed. Understanding that, let's take a look at Paul's perspective of Jesus' devotion to His mission.

### **Philippians 2:5-6**

We find these verses in the middle of a letter that Paul is writing to the Philippians. He is challenging the believers at Philippi to live with Christ as their example. As Paul does this he begins to describe the attitude of Jesus, to describe His devotion to the mission. He begins by saying, ***"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus"***. It is just like Paul to go right to the heart. It is one thing to challenge behavior, it is a whole deeper level to challenge attitude. Paul lays open the attitude of Christ and allows us to clearly see His motives were totally free of selfishness.

So how do we know that Jesus' motives were free from selfishness? In verse 6 Paul tells us that Christ is God. In other words He is the highest of the high, the strongest of the strong, the most powerful of the powerful. He is God! I like how Hebrews 1:3 describes the nature of Christ. It says, ***"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being."*** I think that states it very clearly. We can't miss the fact that Christ is God.

The rest of our verse for this week then states, ***"did not consider equality with God something to be grasped."*** This is key for our understanding of Christ's devotion. It is all in the word "consider". Jesus knew who He was and yet He did not even consider that. There was a mission to be completed and He set His eyes on the goal. In fact in Isaiah 50:7, it prophesies of Jesus as one who ***"set His face like flint"*** on His goal.

We were His goal. He considered us above Himself. He wanted to rescue us from our state of sin, to comfort us when we grieve, ***"to bestow on us a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."*** He was devoted to the mission.

In the coming weeks we will see the lengths that He went to in order to complete His mission on our behalf. His devotion began with a love that would not consider Himself. Don't miss this special nugget of Truth. You are so important to God. Important enough that He was willing to set His place as God to the side to come and rescue you. You were His mission and He was totally devoted.

So glad He was,  
Sharon Thomas