

## ***THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading For September 30:***

### *Isaiah 60:1-62:5:*

In today's Old Testament reading Isaiah sets forth the glorious future God's people will have after the exile. The LORD will use them to bring the nations to Him to worship Him, will clothe them with His righteousness, and will bring glory to Himself through them. This happens primarily and ultimately through the New Testament Church which was born out of the remnant of God and through whom God shines forth with the light of His gospel to the nations.

These chapters tell the history of the New Testament Church before the fact and remind us just how glorious our purpose and commission are. Christian, take heart that through you God is doing the greatest and most important work in the world of bringing people to glorify Him for His glorious grace (2 Corinthians 9:13; Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; 3:10)!

### *Philippians 1:27-2:18:*

In this section of the letter Paul calls the Philippians to walk in a way that measures up to the work of the gospel in them. One of the ways they do this is to practice unity. This will happen when they follow the example of Jesus Christ, as outlined in 2:5-11. Just like with Jesus Christ, humbling ourselves must precede our exaltation.

This treatment of the humility and exaltation of Jesus Christ is also a very helpful source for our understanding of the Son of God. Being in the form of God and equality with God are phrases which communicate that Jesus is God. The clause "made himself nothing" speaks of his humbling of Himself, which includes His taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of a man". He did not set aside any of His divine attributes, but became man. Additionally the God-man obeyed the Father in all things, including going to the cross. As a result, He was exalted and some day all will acknowledge that He is Lord to the glory of the Father.

Additionally, in 2:12-18, the Philippian Christians are exhorted by Paul to pursue Christ-exalting unity among each other by working out their God-authored salvation; doing all without grumbling or complaining—something which honors God; holding fast to the word of life; and rejoicing in Christ.

Today's reading in Philippians provides a good snapshot of the kind of life Christ produces in us. Is this what you see in yourself? Take some time to examine where you are at with Christ and to what degree you are reflecting His character.

### *Psalms 72:1-20:*

It is good we learned from Deuteronomy and Samuel that kingship can be a good thing, for this last psalm of Book 2 of the Psalter prays for God to bless the king and to bring things to a point that all peoples give allegiance to him. There is a sense in which the people of God knew that for the king to be blessed also meant they would as well. This psalm, of course, looks forward to the time when it will be ultimately fulfilled in Jesus

Christ who will reign over all; and peoples from every tribe, language, people, and nation will worship Him (Revelation 5:9-10)!

Proverbs 24:11-12:

Here saying #25 of the collection of thirty reminds us that the life skillful in godliness (i.e. that is wise) practices justice and compassion. When such people see people who are hurting or being mistreated they seek to reach out to them and help them. It is not pleasing to God when we merely ignore their plight. God will be merciful only to those who, by their own mercy toward others, demonstrate they know His salvation.