



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 4, 2018

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Sunday
Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:30 pm

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WHAT DID JESUS GIVE UP FOR US?

By Edd Sterchi

We often talk about what all Jesus gave on our behalf, i.e. He gave His blood (**Matthew 26:28; Acts 20:28**). And it is right and good to focus on what Jesus gave. But I would like to focus for a few moments on the things Jesus gave up for us. The text in **Philippians 2:5-8** gives us four of them to contemplate: *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross”* (**Philippians 2:5-8**).

Jesus gave up heaven's glory. The Bible gives us glimpses of heaven only in words that we can understand (**see Revelation 21:9-22:5**). But in reality, it is a place that we cannot even begin to comprehend. It is filled with the glory of God (**Acts 7:55**). It is a place of great reward (**Matthew 5:12**). It is a place of blessedness and eternal peace and rest (**Revelation 14:13**). It is a place with no tears, sorrows, pain, or death (**Revelation 21:4**). And just think that Jesus gave up on all that (for a while) for us!

Jesus gave up earthly riches. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he offered Him the wealth of the world (**Matthew 4:8**). Jesus resisted this temptation. Think about it; Jesus could have ruled the physical earth, but He knew that would not have been right (**See Matthew 16:26**), for it would not have been a part of the Father's will. He gave up on worldly pleasures and possessions for us!

Jesus gave up His human will. Jesus was made like us, and as such, had free will, wishes, and desires (**Hebrews 2:17; 4:15**). In fact, on that mournful night of His betrayal, He expressed His feelings and wishes to the Father. But He still yielded to the Father's will (**Matthew 26:37-39**). Jesus was able to give up on His earthly desires to do the Father's will on our behalf!

Jesus gave up His life. Jesus willingly bore our sins and laid down His life for us (**John 10:17-18; 19:30; I Peter 2:24**). He gave up His life so that we could take the gospel and put it in our hearts. He was punished with our punishment. He died our death with us on His mind. He died so that we could live forevermore. He gave up His life for us!

Jesus has given up so much for us! And this should give us great cause to think – what have we given up for Him?

DOING IT RIGHT

From the book of Exodus comes a great example of doing things right. In chapters 25-29, God gives Moses instructions concerning how the tabernacle is to be built. Many specific directions are given, and God emphasized the importance of following them exactly: “*According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.*” (**Exodus 25:9**; see also **v. 40**).

Moses and the Israelites had their orders from God. How did they do? Upon completion of the tabernacle, **Exodus 39:32** states, “*Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did.*” They did it exactly as God desired, and they were commended for it (**Exodus 39:42**). They did it right.

There is a lesson in this for us. The inspired writer of the book of **Hebrews** references this incident in discussing the new covenant of Christ (**Hebrews 8:1-13**). The argument he is making is this: If God required Moses to proceed exactly according to the pattern God showed him, it is also required of the church today to do all things according to the pattern God has revealed in the New Testament.

Concerning the activities of the church, we should be concerned about doing it all according to the pattern shown to us in the New Testament. We should be concerned about doing it right according to God’s desire. It is then that we will be blessed. Doing it right is doing it God’s way.

Men have added so many alterations and innovations to God’s perfect plan of the way of salvation, the simplicity and beauty of worship, and the way the church goes about its mission. Let’s just stick to the pattern and do all that is shown to us in the Scriptures. Let’s obediently serve with fervor, sincerity, and the joy knowing that if we follow the pattern, God will be honored and we will never be wrong.

“*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him*” (**Colossians 3:17**).

By Edd Sterchi