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And being found in appearance as a man,
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Philippians 2:7-8

Broken Bread and Poured-Out Wine

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And we'll only look at the month of February.

February 2nd

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The Compelling Force of the Call

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For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of,
for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if (what)
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1 Corinthians 9:16

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Beware of refusing to hear the call of God.

Everyone who is saved is called to testify to the fact of his salvation. That, however, is not the same as the call to preach, but is merely an illustration which can be used in preaching.

In this verse, Paul was referring to the stinging pains produced in him by the compelling force of the call to preach the gospel. Never try to apply what Paul said regarding the call to preach to those souls who are being called to God for salvation.

February 2nd

There is nothing easier than getting saved, because it is solely God's sovereign work—
“Look to Me, and be saved...” (Isaiah 45:22).
Our Lord never requires the same conditions for discipleship that he requires for salvation.

We are condemned to salvation through the Cross of Christ. But discipleship has an option with it— “If anyone...” (Luke 14:26).

February 2nd

Paul's words have to do with our being made servants of Jesus Christ, and our permission is never asked as to what we will do or where we will go.

God makes us as broken bread and poured-out wine to please Himself.

To be “separated to the gospel” means being able to hear the call of God (Romans 1:1).

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February 2nd

Once someone begins to hear that call, a suffering worthy of the name of Christ is produced.

Suddenly, every ambition, every desire of life, and every outlook is completely blotted out and extinguished. Only one thing remains—

“...separated to the gospel...”

Woe be to the soul who tries to head in any other direction once that call has come to him.

February 9th

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Are You Exhausted Spiritually?

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Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the
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Exhaustion means that our vital energies are completely worn out and spent.

Spiritual exhaustion is never the result of sin, but of service.

Whether or not you experience exhaustion will depend on where you get your supplies.

Jesus said to Peter, “Feed My sheep,” but He gave him nothing with which to feed them (John 21:17).

February 9th

The process of being made broken bread and poured-out wine means that you have to be the nourishment for other people's souls until they learn to feed on God. They must drain you completely—to the very last drop.

But be careful to replenish your supply, or you will quickly be utterly exhausted. Until others learn to draw on the life of the Lord Jesus directly, they will have to draw on His life through you.

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February 9th

You must literally be their source of supply,
until they learn to take their nourishment from God.
We owe it to God to be our best for His lambs and
sheep, as well as for Him.

February 9th

Have you delivered yourself over to exhaustion because of the way you have been serving God?

If so, then renew and rekindle your desires and affections. Examine your reasons for service.

Is your source based on your own understanding or is it grounded on the redemption of Jesus Christ?

February 9th

Continually look back to the foundation of your love and affection and remember where your Source of power lies.

You have no right to complain,
“O Lord, I am so exhausted.”

He saved and sanctified you to exhaust you. Be exhausted for God, but remember that He is your supply. “All my springs are in you” (Psalm 87:7).

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February 25th

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Natural human love expects something in return. But Paul is saying, “It doesn’t really matter to me whether you love me or not.

I am willing to be completely destitute anyway; willing to be poverty-stricken, not just for your sakes, but also that I may be able to get you to God.”
“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor...” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

February 25th

And Paul's idea of service was the same as our Lord's. He did not care how high the cost was to himself—he would gladly pay it. It was a joyful thing to Paul.

The institutional church's idea of a servant of God is not at all like Jesus Christ's idea. His idea is that we serve Him by being the servants of others.

Jesus Christ actually “out-socialized” the socialists. He said that in His kingdom the greatest one would be the servant of all (see Matthew 23:11).

February 25th

The real test of a saint is not one's willingness to preach the gospel, but one's willingness to do something like washing the disciples' feet—that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything to God.

It was Paul's delight to spend his life for God's interests in other people, and he did not care what it cost.

February 25th

But before we will serve, we stop to ponder our personal and financial concerns—

“What if God wants me to go over there?

And what about my salary?

What is the climate like there?

Who will take care of me?

A person must consider all these things.”

All that is an indication that we have reservations about serving God.

February 25th

But the apostle Paul had no conditions or reservations. Paul focused his life on Jesus Christ's idea of a New Testament saint; that is, not one who merely proclaims the gospel, but one who becomes broken bread and poured-out wine in the hands of Jesus Christ for the sake of others.

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February 5th

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Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering
on the sacrifice and service of your faith,
I am glad and rejoice with you all.

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Are you willing to sacrifice yourself for the work of another believer— to pour out your life sacrificially for the ministry and faith of others?

Or do you say, “I am not willing to be poured out right now, and I don’t want God to tell me how to serve Him. I want to choose the place of my own sacrifice. And I want to have certain people watching me and saying, ‘Well done.’ ”

February 5th

It is one thing to follow God's way of service if you are regarded as a hero, but quite another thing if the road marked out for you by God requires becoming a "doormat" under other people's feet.

God's purpose may be to teach you to say, "I know how to be abased..." (Philippians 4:12).

February 5th

Are you ready to be sacrificed like that?

Are you ready to be less than a mere drop in the bucket— to be so totally insignificant that no one remembers you even if they think of those you served?

Are you willing to give and be poured out until you are used up and exhausted— not seeking to be ministered to, but to minister?

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It is the total surrender of who you are into the hands of the One who made you.

It is letting go and letting God... be God in your life.

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First, the foundation.

Philippians 2:5-11

Philippians 2:5-7

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.

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Note, this was something Christ voluntarily did.

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Note, this was something Christ voluntarily did.
It was not something forced upon Him.

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Or, Jesus did not consider the act of being equal to God as an act of robbery, or of taking something that was not already His by nature.

He was then, and is now, totally God in the flesh.

Colossians 2:9-10

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For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

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Jesus took on the form of a bondservant to whom?

Note the order, first Jesus became a bondservant, and then He came in the likeness of men.

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Jesus took on the form of a bondservant to whom?

Note the order, first Jesus became a bondservant, and then He came in the likeness of men.

What does this order imply?

Philippians 2:8

Philippians 2:8

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 2:8

And being found (or recognized) in appearance
(*schéma* – form, external appearance, mode)
as a man, He (Christ's actions) humbled Himself
(*tapeinóō* – to bring low, to abase, to render oneself
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He then, according to the Father's desire, humbled Himself and took on the form of man.

He was then obedient to His Father to the point of death, even such a horrific death as on the cross.

All of this points to the surrender of Christ to the will of His Father.

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And the blessing of obedient surrender,
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Keep reading.

Philippians 2:9-11

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And all this was given because of Jesus' surrender and obedience to the will of His Father.

Jesus' Final Surrender to His Father

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Matthew 26:36-46

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Matthew 26:36-46

Mark 14:32-42

Jesus' Final Surrender to His Father

Matthew 26:36-46

Mark 14:32-42

Luke 22:40-46

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Matthew 26:36-46

Mark 14:32-42

Luke 22:40-46

John 18:1b

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(MT) Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and (JN) there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

(MK) And He said to His disciples, (MT) “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee—(MK) James and John— (MT) and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

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(MT) He went a little farther (LK) [being] withdrawn
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Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow.

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(MK) And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

(MT) So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples (MK) the third time (MT) and said to them,

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(MT) **So He left them,** went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples (MK) the third time (MT) and said to them,

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(MT) "Are you still sleeping and resting?"

(MK) It is enough! (MT) Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

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I will send you some emails this week to help you
prepare for our time with Him.

