The Shape of Joy: The V-Shaped Life of Suffering Servants

I will rejoice... For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:18b, 21)

Christ's V-Shaped Life (Philippians 2:5-11)

5 Have this mindset among yourselves which also in Christ Jesus:

What Jesus Christ Did

What God the Father Did

Before Coming/Eternity Past

6 Being in the form of God, he did not count it a thing to be grasped to be equal with God,

1st Coming: Incarnation/Crucifixion

7 **but** made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, becoming in the likeness of men.

8And in appearance being found as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death,

Humbled: God Treated As Man 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and granted unto him the name that is above every name,

2nd Coming: Eternity Future

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

even death on a cross.

ven death on a cross.

Exalted: Man Treated As God

Paul's V-Shaped Life (Philippians 3:7-14)

(Compare this passage with the Christ Hymn above.)

7But whatever gain I had, I **counted [2:3, 6]** as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I **count** everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and **count** them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings,

Becoming like the <u>form</u> [2:7]

of him in his death [2:8]

11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. [2:9]

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call [2:9]** of God in Christ Jesus.

<u>Devotional study suggestion</u>: Read the whole book of Philippians. See how many places you can see this same theme at work—the theme of the V-shaped life of suffering servants who imitate Jesus, rejoice in him, and wait for God to exalt them.