

↑
**United
Prayer
Ministry**

**PO Box 120886
St. Paul, Minnesota 55112**



Fall 2007

*Evelyn at UPM's August 2007
annual Retreat Day.*



JESUS A BONDSERVANT? **By Evelyn Christenson**

One of the most profound yet perhaps least obeyed commandments in the Bible is about the mind of a Christian. The mind is that part of us that controls everything we are, think and do. And yet in the Bible we are commanded to exchange it with someone else's mind which is to be in us.

"Let this mind be IN yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5.

Some newer versions have changed the word "mind" to "attitude," and we often might say "mindset" which is even closer. But it is not just an attitude, or simply a collection of cells, blood vessels and electronic impulses sitting at the top of our bodies. Literally "mind" means that part of our being which controls our moment by moment lives.

Who does the command in Philippians 2:5 say had the right to expect all of His followers to have His sinless mind instead of their own human one? IT WAS JESUS.

SO, WHAT MADE JESUS ELIGIBLE, YES WORTHY, TO ASK SUCH A THING OF US? He was not requiring just to be our example, but for His "mind" to be IN us. Here are just three of the reasons:

1. JESUS WAS A UNIQUE PART OF THE CREATING TRINITY. Colossians 1:16 clearly states: "For by Him (Jesus) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him."

Hebrews 1:2 explains it this way: "God...in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." Then the Apostle John, opening his Gospel about the Word Jesus, identifies Him by: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." John 1:1-3.

The whole material universe came into being through Jesus. Recently, the Hubble Space Telescope took a time exposure of

what had been thought to be just dark space in the sky. There it found thousands of stars up to sixty-thousand-billion-billion miles away. But on closer inspection, they were not stars, but galaxies, each with 100 million stars. In this seemingly-empty spot God had created a trillion stars—all made by, through and for Jesus. All this was conceived in the Godhead's mind and then put into being by Jesus before there was anything material in the universe—or even a universe itself.

2. TODAY EVERYTHING STILL CONSISTS IN JESUS. Colossians 1 continues with verse 17's astounding information: "And He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him all things consist" (hold together). What is that? Jesus enforces the laws that He also invented and ordained. He ordained that all matter would be made up of atoms that, holding on to each other, would produce all of the universe's material objects. But what is that still-undiscovered something that holds each individual atom together? Jesus! And so then who actually holds the whole universe of atoms together, always operating in perfect harmony and timing? Jesus!

3. ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HIM. After dying and rising again and just before going back to heaven, Jesus introduced His Great Commission in Matthew 28 to His followers with the surprising word "therefore." That means we must look to see why and what that Great Commission is "there for." The reason for Jesus' right to send His followers to make disciples of all nations was because: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:18-20.

SINCE HIS AUTHORITY IS AUTHENTIC, HOW DID JESUS GET THE "MIND" HE IS PASSING ON TO US IN PHILIPPIANS 2:5? Amazingly, the Bible goes on to tell us exactly how in the next three verses after Philippians 2:5. In spite of His existing in the form of God, Jesus "did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped" (held on to). But instead He "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant...And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:6-8. Emptying ourselves to become something lower is not a normal human activity. Is

(Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

that Jesus' first requirement for us—humbly letting go of all of our prideful aspirations of “being at the top,” of not being served but serving, and by becoming less important than others in our own eyes? Have most of us missed that first step already?

HOW DID A MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL GODHEAD HUMBLE HIMSELF JUST BY COMING TO PLANET EARTH? Jesus, before and after creating the universe, was transcendent meaning “existing apart from, and not subject to, the limitations of the material universe.” But on earth He also developed as a human for nine months in the body of one of the creatures He created, the Virgin Mary. He emerged through the unpleasant human birth canal experience into a world full of repulsive sin, sickness, filth and wars. Why? It seems such a waste of a member of our Godhead—even temporarily.

Was it worth it for Jesus? Yes, He humbled Himself as the only being worthy to pay the price for all of Planet Earth's sin! And He had to come to Earth to shed His newly-acquired blood for those sins in order to do it.

But by becoming a bondservant? Going from being God to a bondservant is one of the most astonishing revelations in the Bible about a member of the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, transcendent TRINITY. A bondservant is not somebody who works for somebody else part or full time, or just on Sundays; but is one who turns his or her will over to the one being served. A bondservant is one who was a slave, is freed, and then chooses to serve his or her master—the ultimate in servanthood!

SO WHAT DID JESUS GAIN BY HUMBLING HIMSELF AND BECOMING A BONDSERVANT? The word “therefore” which starts the very next verses after Philippians 2:8's humbling reveals the incredible results of Jesus' humbling Himself and becoming a bondservant in 2:9-11:

“Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”

This is why Jesus has the right to ask us to exchange our selfish, often lusting, frequently looking at others as inferior, deceitful minds—for His.

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS GAIN WHEN WE MAKE THIS SEEMINGLY-IMPOSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF OUR MINDS FOR HIS? If today for you is AFTER accepting Jesus as Savior, you have Jesus IN you already; but you still may need to make Him the Reigning One. This is a conscious act of your will, letting His mind be the one that determines and controls all you feel, do, say or think. This involves, not a physical process, but a spiritual deliberate changing of your mindset.

The Bible's New Testament is full of mind-boggling gains for those who really make Jesus their **Lord**. It is to Christians the book of Romans is written, promising that: **“God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God.”** Romans 8:28-29. Reading on to the end of Romans 8 you will find incredible promises from the Lord, ending with: **“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Add to this His never leaving us nor forsaking us—and

at the end of the age complete victory and reigning with Jesus forever. What more could you possibly ask?

But how can we humans possibly make this exchange? Romans 12:2, written to Christians, says what we ourselves, not the Lord, must do: **“Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you might prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”** This is not a once for all action like giving our bodies in Romans 12:1, but is an on-going process—as we become more and more conformed to the image of His dear Son, Jesus—as His bondservants.

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET ACCEPTED JESUS, WHAT GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU DO?

*You will have an abundant, fulfilled, hopeful life in Jesus' promise—in spite of earthly troubles. Jesus said: *“I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly.”* John 10:10b.

*You will have this divine Jesus *“living IN you.”* Colossians 1:27.

*After you die, you will live forever with Jesus' promise: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* John 3:16.

*Jesus, after He had gone back to heaven, appearing to Saul/Paul on the Damascus Road said to him: *“For this purpose I have appeared to you...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”* Acts 26:16, 18. Also see Colossians 1:13-14.

So, you will receive being transferred from the domain of Satan's darkness, you will receive the forgiveness of all the sins you ever have committed, and have an imperishable inheritance awaiting for you in heaven when you die!

HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS RIGHT NOW? It is very simple. Jesus started His ministry preaching just two requirements: (1) repent of your sins and (2) believe in Jesus as your Savior (Mark 1:14-15). If you are **not** absolutely sure you have invited Jesus to come and live IN you, sincerely pray those two things to God.

Then you will be eligible for that close-knit, one-on-one bond-servant relationship with, and highly-valued by, the divine Creator and Sustainer of the universe—the Lord Jesus—now and for the endless eternity.



Evelyn expresses deep gratitude with both words and flowers to outgoing UPM treasurer Carri Fadden.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Evelyn Teaches in New York

Evelyn and UPM Vice Chair Margie Christenson will participate in the 150th anniversary of the New York City Fulton Street noon prayer meeting revival of 1857. By the time you read this, the September 21-23, 2007 event will be underway. But please pray that the revival that started in New York City in 1857 with Jeremiah Lanphier and spread worldwide will be repeated by God through this prayer conference. Evelyn will be teaching revival praying to the women on Friday afternoon, September 21, on "Do it Again, Lord!" Saturday night believers from the greater New York region and from across our country are gathering to pray on-site of the original revival's location. Pray that the conference attendees will return to their homes and churches so full of the revival's Holy Spirit that our current hoped-for revival will spread wherever they go.

Grace Adegoke, new UPM board member, is associate pastor of the Nigerian church in North St. Paul. She is getting our *Study Guide for Evangelism Praying* translated into two languages used in Nigeria plus English. These will go on our UPM website to be downloaded and printed for their teaching now, and will be in time for the planned UPM teachers from here to download and use there soon.



UPM board member Avril Vavrosky will be moving to Los Angeles where her husband will become missions director of the only Chinese seminary in the U.S. Avril, also a seminary graduate, has been working with the Taiwanese in the Twin Cities, and her husband has pastored a Minnesota Chinese church where he has used our *Study Guide* and distributed it to other Chinese pastors. After UPM broadcasting, *Study Guide* use, and some book distribution in China, please pray for this new open door in Chinese.



Fran Howard, Evelyn's AD2000 northwest U.S.A. chair and conference coordinator, has just returned from teaching our *Study Guide for Evangelism Praying* in a prison in Kenya. She has the *Study Guide* in that language in Kenya, and will be getting it on our website. Fran has taught the *Study Guide* in many prisons in America for over 10 years and then has used those who accept Jesus to teach others in their prison. When her *Study Guide* teachers are released from prison, she takes them to teach in other prisons including this one in Kenya.



Judy Mbugua, pictured with UPM's Africa director Marilyn Wallberg, has just completed a conference in Benin, Africa, where Judy taught the national leaders of nine of her 36-country Pan Africa Christian Women's Association the *Study Guide for Evangelism Praying*. All languages needed for it are on our website. Judy downloaded and printed copies in Africa for each of the leaders and they will now teach and put into practice the winning of other women to Jesus using Triplet praying. Please pray for our expanding ministry and training in that continent.

ORDER FORM

BOOKS

- A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying ... \$6.50 _____
(English only) Ask about other languages.
- Praying God's Way *(narrative of Study Guide)* \$10.99 _____
- What Happens When Women Pray \$10.99 _____
- Lord, Change Me! \$10.99 _____
- Gaining Through Losing \$10.99 _____
- What GOD Does When Women Pray ... \$11.99 _____
- What Happens When God Answers Prayer..... ^{SPECIAL SALE} \$6.00 ~~-\$9.99~~ _____
- What Happens When We Pray For Our Families \$10.99 _____
- CHILDREN'S GIFT BOOKS** *(Hardback)*
- What Happens When Children Pray..... \$14.99 _____
Back in Print! *(illustrated, for boys & girls ages 3-8)*
- My First Journal of Prayer \$5.00 _____
(for girls – includes locket)
- DEVOTIONAL GIFT BOOKS** *(Hardback)*
- A Journey Into Prayer..... \$14.99 _____

- A Journey Into Spiritual Growth \$14.99 _____
- Prayers and Answers *(journal)*..... \$10.99 _____

CASSETTE TAPES *(Complete 5-Hour Seminars)*

- What Happens When We Pray \$26.00 _____
- Lord, Change Me! \$26.00 _____
- Gaining Through Losing \$26.00 _____
- What Happens When God Answers Prayer ... \$26.00 _____
- Battling the Prince of Darkness \$26.00 _____
- A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying .. \$28.00 _____
(6 one-hour cassette tapes)

VIDEOTAPES

- What Happens When People Pray ^{REDUCED PRICE} \$75.00 ~~\$95.00~~ _____
(5-hour teaching seminar on 3 VHS tapes w/leader's manual)
- Study Guide for Evangelism Praying \$35.00 _____
(6 one-hour VHS tapes)

DVDs

- A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying ... \$45.00 _____
(6 DVD set)

Subtotal

- MN Residents (6.5% Tax) _____
- U.S. Shipping & Handling:
- 1 Book \$2.75 _____
- 2-3 Books \$4.75 _____
- 1 Set DVDs... \$6.75 _____
- 1 Set Videos .. \$6.75 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

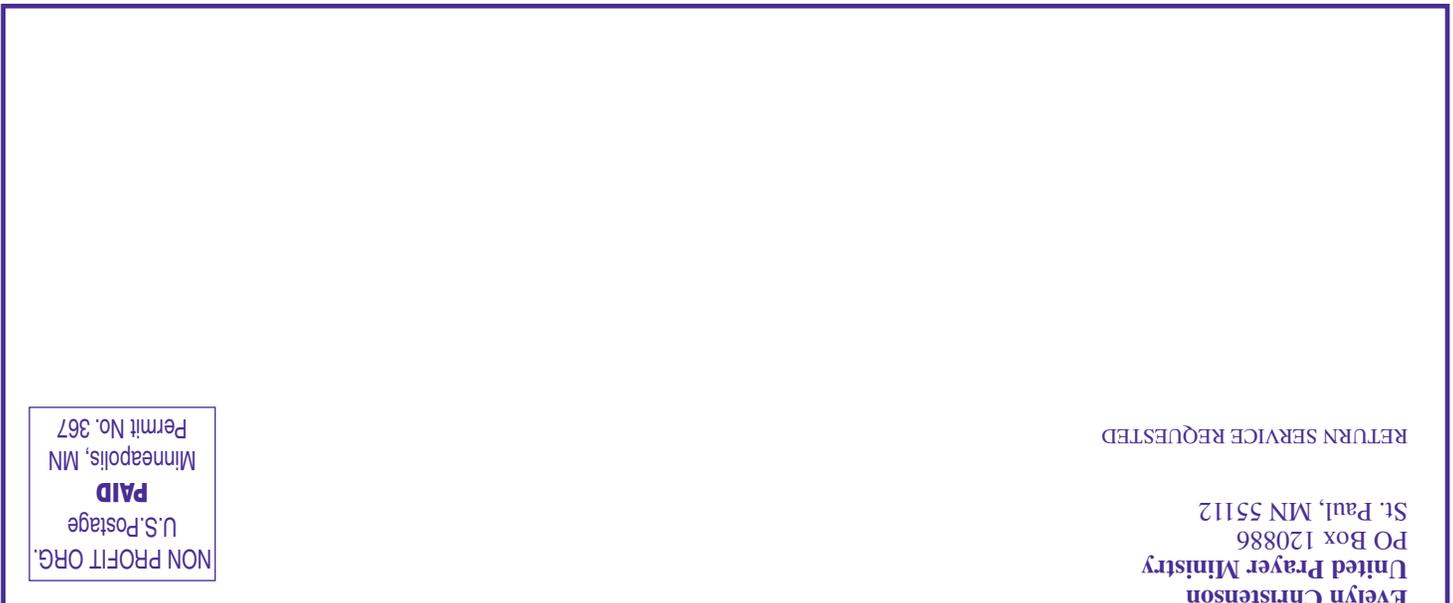
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Make checks payable to: Evelyn Christenson Ministries
 Mail to: United Prayer Ministry, P.O. Box 120886, St. Paul, MN 55112 • (763-566-5390)
www.unitedprayerministry.org



NON PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Minneapolis, MN
 Permit No. 367

Evelyn Christenson
 United Prayer Ministry
 PO Box 120886
 St. Paul, MN 55112
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED