

“The Christ of Christmas”

Philippians 2:5-11

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I. Introduction

- A. We are looking together at one of the greatest passages in all the Word of God on the person of Jesus Christ.
1. No Scripture more beautifully portrays the depth of Christ’s humiliation from:
 - a) The sovereign (v. 6) His deity
 - b) The servant (v. 7) His humanity
 - c) The sacrifice (v. 8) His crucifixion
 2. But now, in verses 9-11, Paul takes us to the height of Christ’s exaltation
 - a) *“In these few verses, we see the great sweep of Christ’s life from eternity past to eternity future.”* – James Boice
 3. We have:
 - a) The mind of God the Son (vv. 5-8) (humiliation)
 - b) The mind of God the Father (vv. 9-11) (exaltation)
 - c) Keep in mind the context of this passage in Paul’s letter to the Philippians (its purpose)
 - 1) Humility is the key to unity
 - 2) Jesus is our example (v. 5)
 - 3) We learn from Christ’s experience that exaltation always follows humiliation (1 Peter 5:6)
 4. As we break down this text, I want you to note four truths about Christ’s exaltation:

II. The Source of Christ’s Exaltation (Philippians 2:9a)

- A. “Wherefore God also has highly exalted him”
1. “Wherefore” is “because of this” (vv. 6-8)
 - a) (1 Peter 5:6)
 - b) The source of Christ’s exaltation is God
 - 1) It’s “the Father” (v. 11)
 - 2) Trinity
 - c) It’s the Father’s response to the Son’s humble submission
 2. What was the Father’s response to the Son?
 - a) “Exaltation” (v. 9)
 - 1) “Exalted” is used only here in the New Testament and only of Christ
 - 2) It means “to lift above” or “to lift”
 - 3) The word “highly” Greek- “hyper”

- b) God has super-exalted Him
 - 1) This act of God fulfilled the prophecy of the suffering servant; “Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled and be very high” (Isaiah 52:13).
- 3. What exactly is the exaltation?
 - a) It involved three steps upward
 - 1) His resurrection
 - a. “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:19-20).
 - b. “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).
 - c. After His death, no sinful hands touched him. Men had done their worst to the Savior, but God exalted Him.
 - 2) His ascension
 - a. (Luke 24:51-53)
 - b. (Mark 16:19-20)
 - c. (Acts 1:8-9)
 - d. After His resurrection, Jesus said to Mary, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father” (John 20).
 - e. “He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).
 - 3) His coronation
 - a. After he had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the majesty in heaven (Hebrews 1:3)
 - i. Illustration- Stephen (Acts 7)
 - b. “For to this end Christ both died and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living” (Romans 14:9).
 - c. “The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool” (Psalm 110:1).
- 4. Jesus is now the exalted God-man in heaven (His vindication)
 - a) Jesus received even more in His exaltation than He had surrendered in His incarnation (not more divine, but more honor)
 - 1) Overall creation
 - a. “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Ephesians 1:21).
 - 2) Over the church

- a. “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:22).
 - b. Our great High Priest
- 3) As sovereign
- a. Our salvation is sure
 - b. Sent the Holy Spirit
 - c. Preparing us a place and will come again (John 14)

III. The Name of Christ’s Exaltation (Philippians 2:9b)

A. What is the name above all names?

1. The word “above” is the same Greek word translated “highly,” so it’s a name that denotes exalted supremacy

B. Is it Jesus? God saves?

1. I think a better view is that Paul does not reveal the name until “Lord” (v.11), which in the Old Testament would be “Jehovah” or “Yahweh.” Why?
 - a) No name other than “Yahweh” has a right to be called “the name above every name”
 - b) The movement of verses 9-11 does not stop at the phrase “gave him the name” but flows straight on to the universal confession that Jesus Christ is Lord (v.11)
 - c) Verse 10 is a quotation of Isaiah 45:22-23)
 - 1) “Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? Who hath told it from that time? Have not I the Lord? And there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear” (Isaiah 45:21-23).

IV. The Response to Christ’s Exaltation (Philippians 2:10-11)

A. Every knee will bow (v. 10)

1. This implies reverence, respect, and submission
2. Its universal scope
 - a) In heaven
 - 1) All the holy angels and redeemed men who have died (v. 10)
 - 2) “And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever. The four and

twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:9-11).

b) In earth (v.10)

1) Saved and unsaved

c) Under the earth (v.10)

1) Fallen angels and unsaved men

2) In Hell, no rebellion

B. Every tongue will confess (v.11)

1. Paul doesn't say when

a) We do know the content of the confession

1) “The Jesus Christ is Lord”

2) “Kurios Jesus Christos” or “Lord Jesus Christ”

b) This does not imply universal salvation

1) No one in Hell will ever be saved

a. It's subjugation, not reconciliation

2) Even here now on earth, Jesus said, “not everyone who says Lord, Lord...”

3) But, you can confess Him now and be saved

b. “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

V. The Purpose of Christ's Exaltation (Philippians 2:11b)

A. “To the glory of God the Father” (v. 11b)

1. The work of salvation has its ultimate purpose—the glory of God (the Father)

a) To the praise of His glorious grace (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14)

b) (Romans 8)

VI. Conclusion

- A. Remember, Paul is not teaching the doctrine of Christ, he is giving us an illustration of humility (v. 5)
 - 1. Selfless mind
 - 2. Sacrificed mind
 - 3. Serving mind
- B. There is a divine principle here that brings immeasurable blessing to God's people
 - 1. "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject to one another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:5-6).