

SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Philippians

Philippians 2:5-11 – “The Mind of Christ (Pt. 2)”

Philippians 2:5-11, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

We are looking together at one of the greatest passages in all the Word of God on the person of Jesus Christ.

No scripture more beautifully portrays the depth of Christ’s humiliation (vs. 6-8)

Review:

Last week we saw:

The Sovereign (vs. 6) – *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:”*

The Servant (vs. 7) – *“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:”*

The Sacrifice (vs. 8) – *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

The Sovereign became the servant who gave His life as a sacrifice for our sin on the cross.

Seven steps down from Heaven’s splendor:

Step 1 – *“But made himself of no reputation...”* (vs. 7)

Step 2 – *“...and took upon him the form of a servant,...”* (vs. 7)

Step 3 – *“...and was made in the likeness of men:”* (vs. 7)

Step 4 – *“And being found in fashion as a man,...”* (vs. 8)

Step 5 – *“...he humbled himself,...”* (vs. 8)

Step 6 – *“...and became obedient unto death...”* (vs. 8)

Step 7 – *“...even the death of the cross.”* (vs. 8)

Now, in verses 9-11, Paul takes us to the height of Christ's exaltation.

James Boice – “In these few verses we see the great sweep of Christ's life from eternity past to eternity future.”

Outline:

1. The Mind of God the Son (vs. 5-8) – Humiliation

2. The Mind of God the Father (vs. 9-11) – Exaltation

Keep in mind the context of this passage in Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Humility is the key to unity.

Jesus is our example! (vs. 5)

We learn from Christ's experience that exaltation always follows humiliation.

1 Peter 5:6, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”

As we break down this text, I want you to notice four truths about Christ's Exaltation:

I. The Source of Christ's Exaltation (vs. 9a)

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him...”

A Principle: Whenever we find the word “Wherefore”, we need to ask what it is there for.

“Wherefore” – Because of this (vs. 6-8)

What?

The source of Christ's Exaltation – God

It's the Father (Trinity) (vs. 11)

This passage is Trinitarian, in that; we have God the Father exalting God the Son.

There's also an interesting inner play within the Trinity where there's no competition, or rivalry; only harmony and unity, which is to be reflected in our society [marriages, churches, culture and world].

It's the Father's response or reward to the Son's humble submission.

What was the Father's reward for the Son?

Exaltation – the verb “exalted” is used only here in the New Testament, and only of Christ.

It means literally, *to lift above*, or *to lift beyond*.

The word “highly” Greek: *hoopo* (super)

God has super-exalted Him

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)

What exactly is the Exaltation?

It involved three steps upward:

1. His Resurrection

Ephesians 1:19-20, “*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,*”

Romans 1:4, “*...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*”

After His death no sinful hands touched Him (only loving hands). Men had done their worst to the Saviour but God exalted Him.

2. His Ascension

After His resurrection Jesus said to Mary, “*...Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father...*” (Acts 20:17)

Acts 1:9, “*...he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*”

3. His Coronation

Hebrews 1:3, "*...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*"

Illustration: The stoning of Stephen (Acts 7)

Acts 7:56, "*And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.*"

Acts 7:59, "*And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*"

Romans 14:9, "*For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.*"

Psalms 110:1, "*The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*"

Jesus is now the exalted God-man in Heaven.

In the incarnation He fused humanity with deity for all eternity.

Jesus received even more in His exaltation than He had surrendered in His incarnation.

Not more divine but more honor – highly exalted.

He is super-exalted:

1. Over all creation

Ephesians 1:21, "*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:*"

2. Over the Church

Our great high priest

Ephesians 1:22-23, "*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 fulness of him that filleth all in all.*"

3. As Sovereign

He has all power

Our salvation is sure

He sent the Holy Spirit

He's preparing a place for us and will come again (John 14)

John 14:2-3, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

II. The Name of Christ's Exaltation (vs. 9b)

"...and given him a name which is above every name:"

What is the name above all names?

The word "above" is the same Greek word translated 'highly', it's a name that denotes exalted supremacy.

Is it Jesus? (God is salvation)

No, I think a better view is that Paul does not reveal the name until verse 11 – "Lord" – which in the Old Testament would be Jehovah or better, "Yahweh".

Philippians 2:11, "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Why?

1. No name other than Yahweh has a right to be called "the name above every name".
2. The movement of verses 9-11 does not stop at the phrase "*given him a name...*" but flows straight on to the universal confession that Jesus Christ is Lord.
3. Verse 10 is a quotation of Isaiah 45:23

Isaiah 45:21-23, "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."

III. The Response to Christ's Exaltation (vs. 10-11a)

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."

Notice the two-fold response:

1. *every knee should bow* (vs. 10)

This implies – reverence, respect, and submission

It's universal in scope

- a. in Heaven (vs. 10) - all the holy angels and redeemed men who have died.

Revelation 4:9-11, " 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 honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

- b) In Earth (vs. 10) – saved and unsaved

- c) Under the Earth (vs. 10) – fallen angels and un-saved men,

In Hell there is no rebellion

2. *... every tongue should confess...*

Notice Paul doesn't say when (the great white throne judgment) but we do know the content of the confession:

"...that Jesus Christ is Lord..."

This does not imply universal salvation.

No one in Hell will ever be saved

It's subjugation not reconciliation

Even here, now on earth, Jesus said, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* (Matthew 7:21)

But you can confess Him now and be saved.

Romans 10:9-10, *"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."*

IV. The Purpose of Christ's Exaltation (vs. 11b)

"...to the glory of God the Father."

The work of Salvation has as its ultimate purpose, the glory of God.

What begins in grace ends in glory!

Ephesians 1:6, *"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*

Ephesians 1:12, *"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."*

Ephesians 1:14, *"Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."*

We will share in His glory!

Remember Paul is not teaching the doctrine of Christ, He is giving us an illustration of humility (vs. 5)

Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"*

Selfless-mind

Sacrificial-mind

Serving-mind

There is a divine principle here that brings immeasurable blessing to God's people.

1 Peter 5:5-6, *"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to 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:"*

Copyright © Calvary Chapel San Bernardino