

## The Exaltation of Christ Philippians 2:9-11

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Introduction

The self-exalted person is he "who thinks he stands" on his own merits. Self-exaltation is an excessively intensified sense of well-being, power, or importance. At its worst, it is self-tribute, self-praise, self-honoring, self-glorifying, and self-worshipping. It overtly breaks the first three commandments by placing oneself as more important than God, setting oneself up as an idol, and making the name of one's god, "I" or "me."

### Old Testament example of Self Exaltation

Isa 14:13

For you have said in your heart:  
'I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
 I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
 On the farthest sides of the north;  
 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
 I will be like the Most High.'  
 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,  
 To the lowest depths of the Pit.

### Synonyms For Self Exaltation

Arrogance, narcissism, pride, Self importance, self Love Self  
 Regard Smugness, Stuffiness, Swagger, Vainglory, Vanity, Self  
 Admiration, Self Conceit, Snottiness, Swelled Head,

### Traits of Self Exaltation

You are a self exalting, narcissistic person if you have at least 5  
 of these traits ( *note, I would say you need only one*)

- Lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others
- Has a grandiose sense of self-importance (e.g., exaggerates achievements and talents, expects to be recognized as superior without commensurate achievements)
- Has a sense of entitlement, i.e., unreasonable expectations of especially favorable treatment or automatic compliance with his or her expectations
- Is interpersonally exploitative, i.e., takes advantage of others to achieve his or her own ends
- Is often envious of others or believes others are envious of him or her
- Requires excessive admiration
- Shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes

- Believes that he or she is "special" and unique and can only be understood by, or should associate with, other special or high-status people (or institutions)
- Is preoccupied with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love

## LESSON and Review

Paul takes us from the humiliation of Christ to the exaltation of Christ. This is Paul's great declaration of how God responded to Christ's incarnation and humiliation

Hebrews 12:22 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him **endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

### **Luke 18:14 (NASB95)**

**14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

### **1 Peter 5:6 (NASB95)**

**6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,**

**Matthew 23:12 (NASB95)**

**12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."**

This is a truism. This is a principle. In the divine economy of things it is by giving that a person receives, it is by serving that a person is served. It is by losing one's life that one finds it. It is by dying to self that one lives. It is by humbling oneself that he is exalted. And one follows the other as surely as night follows day. Self-sacrifice and humility is rewarded by God.

## Outline

- I. The Source of His Exaltation=God
- II. The Title of His Exaltation=Lord
- III. The Response to His Exaltation=Worship
- IV. The Purpose of His Exaltation=Glory

### I. The Source of His Exaltation=God

**<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given**

The word "highly exalted," a wonderful word in the Greek, it means "super exalted...hyper- exalted." It uses the preposition huperas a prefix from which we get hyper, super exalted, hyper exalted. And it has the idea that in a moment of redemptive history God highly exalted Christ, lifted Him up.

**Acts 2:32**<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

<sup>34</sup> “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“*Sit at My right hand,*

<sup>35</sup> *Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.*”’

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

### **Heb 7:26**

<sup>26</sup> For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

### **How was Jesus who is God, EXALTED**

**John 17**, "Restore to Me the glory that I had with You before the world began."

1. AS the God Man He could experience the Lowest of Low
2. As the God Man He could be exalted to the highest of Highs that at no other time in eternity past had he experienced. If He if just remained God only He could never go so Low to be lifted So High.

***William Hendrickson writes***, "As King having by His death, resurrection and ascension achieved and displayed His triumphant over His enemies, He now holds in His hands the reigns of the universe and rules all things in the interest of the church. As prophet, He through His Spirit leads His own in all truth. As priest, He on the basis of His accomplished atonement not only intercedes but actually lives forever to make intercession for those who draw near to God through Him."

### **Romans 14:9 (NASB95)**

9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

### **1 Corinthians 15:24 (NASB95)**

24 then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

The word there in Philippians that we mentioned briefly that says "and He bestowed," I just call your attention to it. It's a very interesting word. It says that He also bestowed on Him the name and so forth. The word "bestowed" means graciously to give, or perhaps better in this connotation, whole heartedly. In other words, Christ so totally and utterly satisfied God's desire for the work of His incarnation, He so fully and completely accomplished redemption that God wholeheartedly and generously and graciously and beneficently poured out on Him gifts, the gifts of exaltation.

## **II. The Title of His Exaltation is Lord**

9Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

### **The Name**

You say, "Well now why is God going to give Him a name?" God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name. Well let me give you a little

bit of history. Do you remember a man in the Old Testament named Abram? Abram met with God, God covenanted with him, God entered into a very unique relationship with Abram and what did God do to his name? Changed it, called him what? Av-ra-hawm(?) in Hebrew, Abraham. Do you remember a man by the name of Jacob? God entered into a unique relationship with Jacob and He gave his name Israel. Do you remember in the New Testament a man named Simon? Jesus called him to follow Him and Jesus gave to that man a new name and his new name was Peter when he entered a unique relationship with Him. Do you remember that to the church at Pergamos and the church at Philadelphia in **Revelation 2:17** and **Revelation 3:12**, the Lord promised to those who overcome He would give them a new name?

***New Names are given to mark an new stage or time in life and a new Characteristic of that life***

***What is the name that was given to Jesus***

It would not be Jesus because that was given to him at the time of his Birth This is different  
Jesus is a very common name

**Philippians 2:10** name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the **name of Jesus** every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ ***is Lord***, to the glory of God the Father.

**Isa 45:22**

<sup>22</sup> “Look to Me, and be saved,  
All you ends of the earth!  
For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.

<sup>23</sup> I have sworn by Myself;

The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness,  
 And shall not return,  
 That to Me every knee shall bow,  
 Every tongue shall take an oath.

- <sup>24</sup> He shall say,  
 ‘Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength.  
 To Him *men* shall come,  
 And all shall be ashamed  
 Who are incensed against Him.
- <sup>25</sup> In the Lord all the descendants of Israel  
 Shall be justified, and shall glory.’ ”

Jesus is LORD and should be understood as so and accepted  
 as so.

In the words of John Flavel, a seventeenth century English Puritan, "The gospel offer of Christ includes all His offices and gospel faith just so receives Him. To submit to Him as well as to be redeemed by Him, to imitate Him in the holiness of His life as well as to reap the purchases and fruits of His death it must be an entire receiving of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Tozer said, "To urge men and women to believe in a divided Christ is bad teaching." People calling on you to receive Him as Savior and not as Lord. He says, "No one can receive half a Christ or a third of Christ or a quarter of the person of Christ. We're not saved by believing in an office or in a work. He is Lord and those who refuse Him as Lord cannot use Him as Savior." And everyone who receives Him surrenders to His authority. He's Lord.

### Romans 10:9

<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be



saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. <sup>13</sup> For “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”<sup>1</sup>  
 Corinthians 12:3 (NASB95)

I Cor 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

### 2 Corinthians 4:5 (NASB95)

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.

Revelation 17:14 (NASB95)

14 “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful.”

Acts 2:36 (NASB95)

36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

By the way, He's called Lord no less than 747 times in the New Testament. That seems to me significant...747 times?

Christian periodical, well-known, "It is imperative to trust Christ as personal Savior and be born again. But this is only the first decision. The decision to trust Christ as Savior and then make Him Lord are two separate distinct decisions. The two decisions may be close or distant in time." In other words, he's saying you can receive Christ as Savior over here and some time later make Him Lord. "But salvation must always precede lordship," he writes. "It is possible to be saved without ever making Christ Lord of your life."

I don't know what you're going to do with invitations to salvation if you eliminate lordship. Acts 2:21, "Every one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Acts 16:31, Philippian jailer, Paul says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you'll be saved."

The centrality of the lordship of Christ is very clear in the New Testament gospel. You can't separate Savior from Lord. Now some have said, "Well but, but...but the word Lord just means deity...it just means deity, doesn't mean sovereign master, doesn't mean ruler." Well it...that's completely someone's opinion, it just doesn't carry any weight. How can you say Lord means deity but the deity doesn't mean sovereignty? If you're God, you're in charge, that's pointless. That argument doesn't hold water. It's an impossible separation because inherent in being God is authority, dominion, rulership, the right to command, it's all there. If you say He's God, you've said it all. Even from a linguistic viewpoint, however, the word Lord is kurios and kurios overwhelmingly refers to the idea of rulership, rulership. In fact the word is used to refer to people who aren't even God because they are rulers. So its inherent meaning is not deity, its inherent meaning is rulership...rulership.

The word kurios, to give you a little bit of a background on it, began by meaning master or owner. And it was always a title of respect. It became the official title of the Roman emperors. The Roman emperor in the Greek was kurios. In the Latin he was dominos which means master and lord. It became a title of the heathen deities. It was the Greek word from which the Hebrew was translated, the Hebrew word Yahweh or Jehovah. So it did have the idea of deity in it but the key thought was rulership. When it says Jesus was kurios, sure Yahweh is implied there but that only means God and God means authority. But even the word itself, kurios, means master and owner. So whether you look at it from the standpoint of the term kurios which means one who rules, one who leads, one who is master, or from the concept that it means God, you've got the same problem...God is in charge. Now what are we saying? It is at the very center of the Christian confession that Jesus is Lord, is at the very center of a gospel message that Jesus is Lord. That's what you must affirm to be saved. And that's what Paul says every tongue will ultimately

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The source of that exaltation is God. The title of His exaltation is Lord. And Paul says everyone is going to acknowledge it sooner or later. It would be my prayer for you that you would acknowledge that He is Lord by choice and not by force.

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I think so often of the words of Henry Martin, the great missionary to India, who said, "I cannot endure existence if Jesus is to be continually dishonored." He could not endure existence if Jesus was to be continually dishonored.

I don't think any of us could who know Him and love Him. It grieves our hearts to see Jesus dishonored, to see Him often blasphemed, to see His name degraded and dragged down. And it has always been so, clear back to even the time before Christ in the Old Testament when David the psalmist said, "The reproaches that fall on You, O God, are fallen on me." In other words, when You're dishonored I feel the pain. None of us who really love the Lord Jesus Christ would wish that His humiliation was unending, of course. We long for the exaltation of Christ. We long even now for the fullness of that exaltation in the day in which He comes to reign in this world.

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### III. The Response to His Exaltation=Worship

#### John 4

Literally the Greek reads not "**at** the Name" but "**in** the Name of Jesus"

In a manner of speaking the tongue confesses that to which the knee bows.

**So that** (2443) (**hina**) expresses purpose, specifically the purpose of His having been given the exalted Name "Lord". For that reason (for that purpose) "**every knee will bow**". Ultimately, whether by choice or by force, every creature, human and angelic, will submit to Jesus Christ as the divine and exalted Lord.

As **MacDonald** phrases it...

Those who will not be reconciled in the day of His grace will be subjugated in the day of His judgment.  
(MacDonald, W., & Farstad, A. *Believer's Bible Commentary*: Thomas Nelson)

**Jesus** Himself foretold of this event some 700 years prior in the book of **Isaiah** (from which Paul quotes in part) declaring...

"I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. They will say of Me, 'Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, and

all who were angry at Him shall be put to shame. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel will be justified, and will glory." ([Isaiah 45:23](#), [24](#), [25](#))

**Paul** alludes to this event in **Romans** writing...

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." ([Ro 14:10](#), [11-note](#))

**Every** (3956) (**pas**) means all without exception.

Even those who mockingly bowed on earth will be forced to bow their knees. Matthew describes those who mocked him writing...

And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ([Mt 27:29](#))

The writer of **Hebrews** records....

And when He again brings the first-born into the world (referring to His Second Coming), He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." ([He 1:6-note](#))

**Comment:** the authority of the person of Jesus Christ extends to the limits of heaven and earth and under the earth so that all of the angelic hosts will bow to acknowledge the superiority and sovereignty and authority of His name

All creation will render such homage, whether animate or inanimate, whether in heaven, on earth, or under the earth. Those who do not willingly bow the knee to Him now will one day be compelled to do so. Those who will not be reconciled in the day of His grace will be subjugated in the day of His judgment.

**Bow** (2578) (**kampto**) means to bend, such as the knees, to which it is applied in the New Testament. Bowing the knee is an act of reverence, respect, and submission to the person in whose presence we drop to our knees.

As **Edwards** notes...

Again we see the vindication of servanthood. Christ was willing to make others more important than Himself and now God has made Christ eternally more important than anyone else ([Philippians](#))

### **Spurgeon's Exposition**

Now is he higher than the highest. Now every one must confess his divinity. With shame and terror, his adversaries shall bow before him; with delight and humble adoration, his friends shall own him Lord of all: "that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." See how the greatest glory of Christ is the glory of the Father. He never desired any other glory but that. The highest honor you can ever have, O child of God, is to bring honor to your Father who is in heaven. Do you not think so? I know you do.

Some foolish and superstitious persons make this passage a pretext for bowing their heads at the name of Jesus whenever it is mentioned. Nothing can be more senseless, because the passage means no such thing.

What we are taught here is the great truth that Jesus Christ, though once he stooped to the lowest shame, is now exalted to the very highest glory, and even the devils in hell are compelled to own the might of his power. We are also to learn from this passage that the way to ascend is to descend. He who would be chief must be willing to be the servant of all. The King of kings was the Servant of servants; and if you would be crowned with honor by-and-by, you must be willing to be despised and rejected of men now. The Lord give us this gracious humbleness of mind, for Jesus Christ's sake! Amen.

**OF THOSE WHO ARE IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH: epouranion kai epigeion kai katachthonion:** ([Mt 12:40](#); [Jn 5:28,29](#); [Eph 4:9](#); [Rev 20:13](#))

There are three groups described:

(1) **In heaven (2032)** (**epouranios** from **epí** = upon, in + **ouranos** = heaven) = all the good angels and redeemed believers of all ages.

(2) **On earth (1919)** (**epígeios** from **epí** = upon + **ge** = earth) = would include both unredeemed and redeemed, the latter group described by Paul who wrote...

when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed. ([2Th 1:10](#))

(3) **Under the earth** = the fallen angels and unredeemed dead who are awaiting final judgment and eternal punishment.

**Under the earth" (2709) (katachthonios** from **kata** = down + **chthon** = ground from a root word signifying that which is deep) describes the subterranean place for departed souls. It was a common in secular Greek describing the underworld where divine beings were thought to be localized.

**Wuest** adds that...

All creation will render such homage, whether animate or inanimate, whether in heaven, on earth, or under the earth. (Wuest, K. S. [Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament](#):

Rev. 5:3 and 13 indicate that this was a common phrase to refer to the entire universe and not three distinct categories

### **In Heaven**

Rev. 5:11-13

Rev 7:9-12

Rev 11:16-19

Rev. 15:2-4

Rev 19:1-5

### **ON EARTH**

2 Thess 1:7-10

### **Under Earth**

Mark 5:1-7

**pTURNING THE TABLES** - GOD has a way of turning the tables on evil. The French philosopher Voltaire predicted that Christianity would be swept from existence within one hundred years. Yet just fifty years after he died in 1779, the German Bible Society had



occupied Voltaire's house and was using his printing press to produce stacks of Bibles.

During World War II, Adolf Hitler erected a massive stone structure in Monte Carlo. It was to be a radio station from which to broadcast Nazi propaganda into North Africa. Today, from that very building, Trans World Radio beams the Gospel of Christ's redeeming love all across Europe and into Russia and Africa.

#### IV.The Purpose of His Exaltation= Glory

**AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS: kai pasa glossa exomologesetai (3SAMS):** ([Ps 18:49](#); [Mt 10:32](#); [Jn 9:22](#); [12:42](#); [Ro 10:9](#); [15:9](#); [1John 4:2,15](#); [2John 1:7](#); [Rev 3:5](#))

Paul presents the second phase of Jesus' dominion over all creation. Not only will all men realize Christ's Lordship but they also will vocalize it. Even the tongues which have vilified and blasphemed the wonderful Name of Jesus will one day bless Him, by faith or force and this will result in further glory unto God the Father. Amen.

**Every** (3956) (**pas**) means all without exception!

**Tongue** (1100) (**glossa**) is literally the tongue but as used in this context represents a spoken language. Paul's point is clear. No

matter what language a person speaks now, every language will declare Jesus' lordship.

**Confess** (1843) (**exomologeō** is from **ek** = out, out from + **homologeō** in turn derived from **legō** "to speak" + **homos** "the same" and so literally meaning to speak same thing that another speaks" or to agree with someone else) means to acknowledge, admit openly, agree fully, recognize or to express agreement with. **Exomologeō** means also to publicly declare. The sense here is that of frank, open confession.

Some day, the entire universe (including Satan) will publicly declare and openly acknowledge Jesus as Lord, agreeing with God the Father regarding the testimony which He has given concerning His Son.

It is important to note that this passage does not teach that ultimately all the lost will be saved, as taught by many cults. There is no passage in Scripture that teaches future reconciliation for the lost.

Although the entire creation will one day confess Jesus as "Lord", only those who do so during their life will be saved by that confession, Paul writing that...

that if you **confess** with your mouth Jesus as **Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ([Romans 10:9-10](#))

**THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER: hoti kurio Iesous Christos eis doxan Theou patros:** ([Ps 110:1](#); [Jer 23:6](#); [Lk 2:11](#); [Jn 13:13](#); [20:28](#); [Acts 2:36](#); [10:36](#); [Ro](#)

[10:9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#); [14:9,11](#); [1Co 8:6](#); [12:3](#); [15:47](#)) ([Jn 5:23](#); [13:31,32](#); [14:13,23](#); [16:14,15](#); [17:1](#); [1Pet 1:21](#))

The Lordship of Christ is the core of Christianity and the ultimate purpose of all creation acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord is that God the Father might be glorified.

**Lord** (2962) (**kurios**) describes one who has absolute ownership and uncontrolled power and is the translation of a word found in the Greek translation of the Old Testament to translate **Jehovah**. **Lord** is the title of majesty, authority, honor, and sovereignty. At His Second Coming Jesus Christ will manifest sovereign authority over all creation.