

## *Christ Exalted*

Philippians 2:9-11

Series: Joy and Gratitude in Christ

### 1. Introduction

- a. Today by the grace of God we will see that all of Christ's humility brought him to the point that the Father highly exalted Him.
- b. This, then, becomes a point for us to consider. As far as we maintain and insure unity within the church, we are walking in the example of Christ. As far as we walk in humility, God the father will one day exalt us as well.
- c. In our day of overweening pride, self-love, and self-promotion, even among many professing Christians, it is important to understand that:
  - i. **Mat 23:12** Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
  - ii. **1 Peter 5:5-6** Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
- d. By God's grace, just as you serve one another in same humbleness provided in the example of Christ, you will one day be exalted with him.
- e. In our passage today, Paul presents four aspects of the Father's exaltation of the Son.

### 2. Verses 9(a) – The Source of Christ's Exaltation – Therefore God has highly exalted Him

- a. This refers back to what was said previously in verses 5-8.
- b. Because Christ was humiliated in order to provide a salvific atonement, we read:
  - i. **Hebrews 12:2-3** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
- c. The way to exaltation is always through humiliation.
- d. This exaltation was four steps upward:

- i. Resurrection
    - ii. Ascension
    - iii. Coronation
    - iv. Intercession
  - e. The exaltation of Christ was more than merely a reversal of the incarnation. It was the Father's giving the Son honor and tribute He could receive only after His redemptive sacrifice, which He made in obedience to the Father's will
3. Verse 9(b) – The Title of the Exalted Christ – bestowed upon him the name that is above every other name...(10) that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- a. God has bestowed generously and freely the name that emphasizes the Son's rank above all other beings.
  - b. That name is Lord
    - i. This title is a title of majesty, authority, honor, and sovereignty.
    - ii. He who is Lord is above everyone else.
4. Verses 1-11(a) – The Response to Christ's Exaltation
- a. Every knee and every tongue
  - b. The name of Christ is given for the purpose of all of creation to bow and confess His Lordship
  - c. Every Knee –
    - i. **Isaiah 45:22-23** "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (23) By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'
    - ii. This is the first act of homage
    - iii. Three Groups
      - 1. Those in heaven – redeemed
      - 2. On Earth – both redeemed and unredeemed
      - 3. Those under the earth – fallen angels and lost unredeemed man.
  - d. Confession –
    - i. Some will confess Him openly, freely, and joyfully
    - ii. Others will confess His Lordship without the possibility of salvation
      - 1. **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) On

that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' (23) And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

iii. Others will confess His Lordship while kicking and screaming.

5. Verse 11(b) – The Purpose of the Exaltation of Christ – to the glory of God the Father

- a. To proclaim the sovereign Lordship of Christ is the greatest glory that can be given to God the Father.
- b. This is the supreme objective and fulfillment of the Father's divine will as he demonstrates His perfect love for the Son.
  - i. **John 5:22-23** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, (23) that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him

6. Benediction –

- a. **Isaiah 6:1-3** In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. (2) Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"