

## 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

**9 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 Flavil, 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.