

THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Philippians 2:9-11

Nothing else in history could possibly match the *scorn* and *defamation* that man inflicted on the **Son of God** during His *incarnation*. Christ's obedience in [verse 6-8](#) is now followed by the Father's *exaltation* of Him to the *place of highest honor*. God *exalted* and *honored* the One that men *despised* and *rejected*. No passage of Scripture more beautifully portrays *the depth of condescension* and *the height of exaltation* experienced by Jesus Christ than does **Philippians 2:5-11**. The gospel message isn't complete apart from these immense truths. Now in the *three verses* that we are going to study today, **Paul** briefly describes the *magnificent* and *incomparable exaltation* that the Father *bestowed* on the Son.

The central truth of these verses...as well as the entire New Testament...is the *exalted sovereign lordship of Jesus Christ*. The *exaltation* of Christ is portrayed nowhere more beautifully than in **Revelation 5**, when in the last days, *only the exalted Son of God...Jesus Christ...* will be *worthy* to take the *scroll* from His Father's right hand and *open it*. This scroll, which can be called the *title deed to the universe*, describes Christ's *rightful dominion* over *all creation*...which He *made* and over which He will *rule* throughout all *eternity*.

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation... Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing’.”

~Revelation 5:9, 11-12

The *humble, incarnate* Savior has been *exalted* as the *almighty* and *sovereign Lord*. That is why He is to be *obeyed as Lord*...and is to be *honored* and *worshiped* throughout *all time* and *eternity*.

I. THE SOURCE OF CHRIST'S EXALTATION: ([vs. 9a](#)) It comes from God the Father.

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him ([vs. 9a](#))...

For this reason...The *purposed* and *predetermined plan* of God that Jesus would come and *die on a cross* for the sin of mankind. This is the reason that every believer has *assurance* that *their redemption is certain* and that *their place in heaven is secured* forever.

“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. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

~Hebrews 12:2-3

Highly exalted...Gk. *huperupsoo*, a *compound verb* that declares that God *lifted up* His beloved Son in the *most magnificent way possible*. Christ's *exaltation* refers to His *resurrection, ascension, and glorification* at the Father's *right hand*.

Resurrection...Jesus was resurrected from the dead. He was victorious over death ([Mark 16:6](#); [Acts 2:32](#); [5:30](#); [Romans 1:4](#); [Ephesians 1:20](#)).

Ascension...After Jesus had given His *last instructions* to the *eleven* on the Mount of Olives...*“He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”* ([Acts 1:9](#))...([John 14:2](#); [16:7](#); [20:17](#); [I Timothy 3:16](#); [Hebrews 4:14](#))

Glorification...Jesus' coronation. In multiple passages Jesus is described as being seated at the right hand of the Father (**I Peter 3:22**; **Acts 5:31**; **Hebrews 2:9**; **10:12**).

As **Stephen** was about to die...

“But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, ‘Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God’.”

~Acts 7:55-56

From *heaven*...the Lord Jesus Christ *forever reigns*. And as the *myriad of worshipers* gather around the *heavenly throne* one day, they will declare...

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing...To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

~Revelation 5:12b, 13b

To summarize Christ's *exaltation*...

“He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

~Hebrews 1:3

In some ways, Jesus seemed to *receive even more* in His *exaltation* than He *had surrendered* in His *incarnation*. Because of His *perfect redemptive work*, the Father *bestowed* on Him even *more rights, privileges, honors*, and *responsibilities* than He had before.

II. THE HONOR WITH CHRIST'S EXALTATION: (vs. 9b)

And bestowed on Him the name which is above every name (vs. 9b)...

Bestowed...Gk. *charizomai*, conveys the idea of *giving freely and generously*.

The name which is above every name...Christ's *exaltation* and His receiving a name which is above every name was the *answer* to His high-priestly *prayer*...

“Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

~John 17:5

His name isn't merely a *title*...it refers to His *divine essence*...and to His *position* of *dignity* and *honor*.

III. THE RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S EXALTAION: (vs. 10-11a)

So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (vs. 10-11a)...

So that...introduces a **purpose clause**. It basically states that Jesus was *given* the name which is above every name for the *purpose* of...or with the *result* that...every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Paul stressed the *same truth* in his letter to the **Romans**...

“For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God’.”

~Romans 14:11

Both instances reflect Isaiah's *prophecy*...

“There is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me. Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. 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 will be put to shame.”

~Isaiah 45:21b-24

In keeping with Christ's *exaltation* and *supreme name*... and to the extent that Christ's *sovereign authority* is delineated in the *three-fold phrase*...**in heaven and on earth and under the earth**...shows that no being in all God's universe will *escape*...whether *angels* and *saints in heaven*...*people* living on the earth...or *Satan, demons*, and the *unsaved in hell*. All will **bow**! *Every knee* will one day **bow** and *acknowledge* Him for *who He really is*. **Will confess**...Gk. *homologeō*, refers to *an open, public declaration*.

What all will **confess**...is that...

Jesus Christ is Lord...He is God...**Yahweh** of the Old Testament. He is...

“KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

~Revelation 19:16

One day *all* will *acknowledge* that Jesus Christ is all He claimed to be...*God incarnate*. Unfortunately, for many it will be *to late* for the *salvation of their souls*. The *exalted* place the Savior *now occupies*...and the *universal bowing in the future in acknowledgment of His lordship* is all to the **glory of God the Father**.

IV. THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S EXALTATION: (vs. 11b)

To the glory of God the Father (vs. 11b)...

To proclaim the *sovereign lordship* of His Son is the greatest **glory** that can be given to **God the Father**.

“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

~John 17:1-5

Throughout all eternity, the Father will continue to say of the exalted Lord Jesus Christ...

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

~Matthew 3:17

LESSON WE CAN LEARN:

- **Everyone will one day bow before Jesus. You will either bow before Him as SAVIOR or as JUDGE.**
- **Jesus is Savior so that He may be Lord...and He will not SAVE those for whom He cannot be LORD.**
- **Acknowledging Jesus as Lord must include SUBMISSION and OBEDIENCE.** The title of Lord assumes it.