

The Name above Every Name (Part 1)

The Estate of Exultation

Philippians 2:6-11 (A Christ-Hymn): Many consider this very section of verses is to be a hymn of the early church. It would have been a song to teach of the majesty of our Savior who has always been, who humbly came and gave of himself for our salvation through the cross, who resurrected, and who is now in glory with all authority in Heaven and on Earth.

♫ Gladsome Light, ♫ Grace 101

John 1: 8
 Φῶς ἵκανὸν ἀγίας δόξης
 Author unknown, c. 290
 Tr., Robert Bridges, 1895

Nunc dimittis
 "Genevan Psalter," 1548

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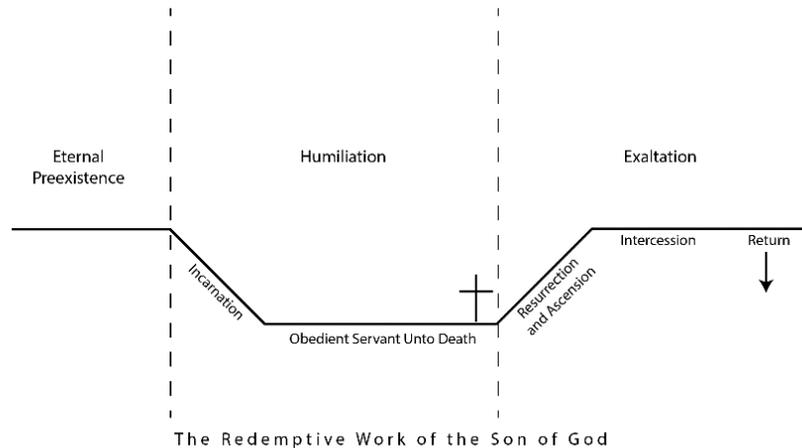
1 O glad-some Light, O Grace Of God the Fa-ther's Face,
 2 Now, ere day fad - eth quite, We see the eve-ning light,
 3 To Thee of right be - longs All praise of ho - ly songs,

Th' e - ter - nal splen-dor wear - ing: Ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,
 Our wont - ed hymn out - pour - ing, Fa - ther of might un - known,
 O Son of God, Life - giv - er; Thee, there-fore, O Most High,

Our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, Joy - ful in Thine ap - pear - ing!
 Thee, His in - car - nate Son, And Ho - ly Ghost a - dor - ing.
 The world doth glo - ri - fy And shall ex - alt for - ev - er. A - men.

Philippians 2:6-11

... ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name



(6)	(7-8)	(9-11)
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that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Up From the Dead

- “It is finished,” (Jn 19:30) What Christ finished was not just a life of perfection and pain-enduring unto death. All of this was also for you. It is finished *for you*. “Everything is finished. There is nothing left for us to do. We can with our whole soul and for all time rest in the perfect work of redemption which Christ has achieved. We may accept in faith the fact that God has laid aside his wrath and that in Christ he is a reconciled God and Father for guilty and unholy sinners.”¹
- “It is finished” was in reference to his humiliation, the accomplishment of our salvation. This completed ministry gave way to his heavenly ministry (exaltation). We must now distinguish the achievement of that salvation from the application or distribution of it.
- Exaltation is also a work that Christ must accomplish.

Why was He Exalted?

Philippians 2:9 tells us that Christ was “highly exalted” for two reasons.

1. By way of merit, he was raised from the dead. Geerhardus Vos said, “Christ by his perfect obedience was just before God, and on the ground of his being just received eternal life.”²

Acts 2:24, “God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

Acts 2:33, “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured forth this which you both see and hear.”

It was impossible for the Incarnate Son to die and not be raised. His work of humiliation *must* lead to his exaltation.

2. By way of the grace of God, Jesus was raised from the dead.
 - a. God is not in debt to Adam but rather it is a duty of God based on the just pact within the persons of God since before Creation.
 - b. Francis Turretin, “There was no debt by which man could derive a right, but only a debt of fidelity, arising out of the promise by which God demonstrated his infallible constancy and truth.”³
 - c. In the eternal covenant of Redemption, the plan was that Christ willingly would take up his role as Mediator to die. Christ therefore had to rise from the dead because he graciously and willingly *made himself nothing* for you (v7).
 - d. It is the meritorious work of Christ as the last Adam, who fully satisfied the claims of divine law and justice *and* the graciousness of God’s act. Therefore, he had to rise from the dead.

¹ Herman Bavinck, *The Wonderful Works of God* (Glenside: Westminster Seminary Press, 2019) 340.

² Vos, *The Pauline Eschatology* (Philipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1979) 274.

³ Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Eclectic Theology. Vol 1.* (Philipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1997) 578.

What did He gain?

1. The name above every name.
 - a. God *bestowed* “a gracious and just gift.” Christ was exalted with a *name that is above every name* (v9).
 - b. In his incarnate life, Christ honored and dignified the whole human race and became one with all men and women *according to the flesh*. Precisely because he was so deeply humiliated, he now has the name above any other human, any other created thing both in heaven and on earth.
 - c. On account of this alone, all will:
 - i. Bend the knee
 - ii. Confess that he is their Lord.

So we begin here. Christ’s name is above all others with respect to his Incarnate exaltation. Yet this work of exaltation needs to be thought of as a work. “Just as the work of humiliation was assigned to him, so was that of exaltation. He must do it: it is his work; no one else can do it.”⁴

The Implications for our Lives

1. Romans 8:17 “and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”
2. Phil 3:20-21 “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of his glory, by the exertion of the power that he has even to subject all things to himself.
3. 1 Peter 4:16-17 “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

“Man of Sorrows,” What a Name

1. “Man of sor-rows!” what a name For the Son of
2. Bear-ing shame and scoff-ing rude, In my place con-
3. Guilt-y, vile, and help-less we, Spot-less Lamb of
4. Lift-ed up was He to die, “It is fin-ished,”
5. When He comes, our glo-rious King, All His ran-somed

God who came Ru-ined sin-ners to re-claim!
demned He stood, Seal’d my par-don with His blood;
God was He; Full a-tone-ment! can it be?
was His cry; Now in heav’n ex-alt-ed high,
home to bring, Then a-new this song we’ll sing,

Hal-le-lu-jah, what a Sav-ior!
Hal-le-lu-jah, what a Sav-ior!
Hal-le-lu-jah, what a Sav-ior!
Hal-le-lu-jah, what a Sav-ior!
Hal-le-lu-jah, what a Sav-ior!

⁴ Bavinck, *Wonderful Works*, 345.

- We like Christ must pass from humiliation to exaltation
- If Christ's life was patterned by humiliation to exaltation, so too your life must follow from humiliation to exaltation.
- We are not atoning for our sins. Christ atoned for us so that we can be united to him.
- In this view, Christ is the perfect example for the Christian.