

“This Child is our Lord”

Philippians 2: 5 – 11

We read in the gospel of Luke chapter 14, verse 11 words of Jesus. “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Jesus lived out these words as he humbled himself as no other can **do** and is now exalted as no other can **be**. There are many lessons worthy of consideration concerning the Lordship of Jesus Christ, some of which are found in the scripture lesson from Philippians.

The humbling of Christ as seen in (vs. 8), “he humbled himself” which was different than the issues of Job whose misfortunes were unsought. Christ chose to deny himself and as we read in (vs. 5), our mind should be the same as his. This humbling was great in its extent as explained in (vss. 7 – 8), humans measure falls from where they started and if they fall a great distance they may die. In becoming man, Christ humbled himself further than ever man did before or after, all the way from heaven to earth to submit to shame and death. His humbling was perfect in quality as he abdicated his lawful rights first of all in (vs. 6), his equality with God the Father. He also surrendered his natural powers as seen in (vs. 7a), until he was reduced to the capacity of a baby having laid aside his superiority. This then led to submission of servitude. Not only did he become a servant, but he was obedient to shame and death on a cross. He humbled himself completely, but the account does not end at Calvary.

There is the exaltation of Christ which is God’s act for Christ never sought his own glory as we see in (vs. 9), “God exalted him to the highest place.” Never in any situation does highest glory come to those who seek it for themselves. The exaltation is a consequence of the humbling of Christ as noted in (vs. 9a), “Therefore” Christ was not simply reinstated to former dignity, but evidently received new honors in direct recognition for self-sacrifice. Higher glory, not just compensation but rewarded for giving up all. This exaltation is perfect as the time will come when every knee will bow before him, (vs. 10). Also, every tongue will confess him to be Lord as stated in (vs. 11). This will then lead to universal supremacy as (vs. 10) tells us in heaven and on earth and under the earth as everyone will confess Christ’s authority. What a victory as we see that nothing short of voluntary submission will suffice.

The example of these great lessons is not just for admiration or gratitude, but to arouse us to imitation. We are commanded to bring forth fruit, but we must understand that can only be done because of Christ's humbling of himself, God's exaltation of him and our willingness to follow his example through self-forgetful service. Though he came to Bethlehem as a baby and lived a little while in humility, "This Child is our Lord." before whom every knee will bow and every tongue will confess he is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

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