



Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

Philippians 2:9-11 Christ's Humiliation/Exaltation #1

- **Review Philippians 2:5-7 – Christ's Attitude**
 - How do we have the attitude that was that of Christ Jesus?
 - Jesus was totally God yet emptied and submitted Himself to coming down to earth as a human – the perfect Son of God and God-Man.
- ***Philippians 2:8 - 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.***
 - *And being found in appearance as a man – why in appearance?*
 - Of interest, the term *appearance* or *schēma* – tacitly, or in a means that is understood or implied, without being directly stated.
 - Wuest – ‘Our Lord's expression of His Deity was not assumed from the outside but came from His inmost nature. Likewise, His outward expression as a bonds slave came from His inmost nature. But His expression of His humanity came, not from His inmost nature as God, but was assumed in the incarnation.’



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- *He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death*
 - Why *humbled*; this is *aorist* tense and did Christ really consider Himself to be made less or low by His humility?
 - *becoming obedient* suggests something novel, never experienced and herein to death, and death on a cross – the ultimate of *humiliation*.
 - Constable – ‘The Phoenicians and Persians practiced crucifixion before the Greeks and Romans adopted it. It was a form of execution from which Roman citizens were exempt. Only the worst criminals among the slaves and foreigners underwent crucifixion. Hanging on a tree was a sign to the Jews that the person so disgraced was under the curse of God.’
 - » *Deut 21:23* - “his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; **for he who is hanged is accursed of God.**
 - » *Gal 3:13* - Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “**Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree**
 - » *Isaiah 53:12* –Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, **Because He poured out His soul unto death,** And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.
 - » *Heb 5:8* - though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**



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» *1 Peter 2:24 - who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

– Darby – **'The first Adam sought to make himself like God by robbery, when he was in the form of a man, and strove to exalt himself at God's expense; being at the same time disobedient unto death. Christ, on the contrary, when He was in the form of God, emptied Himself, through love, of all His outward glory, of the form of God, and took the form of a man; and, even when He was in the form of a man, still humbled Himself. It was a second thing which He did in humbling Himself. As God, He emptied Himself; as man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross. God has highly exalted Him; for he who exalts himself shall be humbled? but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.'**

• ***Philippians 2:9 – Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,***

– *Therefore, God has highly exalted* is aorist active and one Greek word *hyperypsoō*.



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- This is the only NT use of this verb and means that God has exalted the Lord Jesus to the highest rank and power and raised Him to supreme majesty.
 - *and given Him the name which is above every name,*
 - » *Rom 8:32 - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*
 - » *Eph 1:21 - far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*
- But wasn't all of this about Christ all true before Calvary?
- Remember, verse 7 also gave us a preview:
 - » *Phil 2:7- but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*
 - Yes, but as Robertson has said – ‘What did He take back to heaven that He did not bring? Clearly his humanity. He returned to heaven the Son of Man as well as the Son of God.’
 - Wuest – ‘That which was graciously bestowed was not "a name," but "the Name." The definite article appears in the Greek text and refers to a particular name. The title, THE NAME, is a very common Hebrew title, denoting office, rank, dignity. **The expression, "The Name of God" in the Old Testament, denotes the divine Presence, the divine Majesty, especially as**



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the object of adoration and praise. The context here dwells upon the honor and worship bestowed on Him upon whom this name was conferred. The conferring of this title "**The Name,**" was upon the Lord Jesus as the Son of Man. A Man, the Man Christ Jesus, who as Very God had voluntarily laid aside His expression of the glory of Deity during His incarnation, now has placed upon His shoulders all the majesty, dignity, and glory of Deity itself.'

» *Col 1:23 - And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*

- *Philippians 2:10 - 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, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

– How literally should we interpret *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess?*

- *should bow* is aorist active and subjunctive mood.
- Without referencing OT scripture, Paul only uses this phrase once more:



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» *Eph 3:14,15 - For this reason (mystery) I bow my knees to the Father from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

- Is not this the ultimate outcome?
 - Wuest – **‘But it is not at the name "Jesus" that every knee will bow. "Jesus" was the name given our Lord at His humiliation. It is at THE NAME that belongs to Jesus that every knee will bow. Every knee will bow in recognition of all that Jesus is in His exaltation.** The word "that" is in the Greek literally "in." It is *in* The Name that every knee will bow. The Name is the spiritual sphere, the holy element as it were, in which every prayer will be offered, and every knee will bow.’

» *Isaiah 45:23 (Rom 14:11) - 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.***

– *of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*

- Notice all who are included here and who are they that are *under the earth*?
 - » *1 Peter 3:22 - who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, **angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.***
 - » *Rev 5:13 - **And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:***



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*“Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”*

- *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
 - *Every tongue, just believers?*
 - *McCalley – ‘The words **every knee are all inclusive**—Madalyn O’Hare will bow the knee alongside Bertrand Russell. There will be universal agreement for all will say, *Jesus Christ is Lord*. Finally, there will be a universal accomplishment in that all will be *to the glory of God the Father*.’*
 - *Because the glory of *God the Father* is everything, will those dead in sin and separated from God have such an option?*
 - *Jesus Christ is Lord* was the first acclimation of the new church.
 - » *Acts 2:36 - Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**”*
 - *Yet, Christ will reconcile all things unto Himself.*
 - » *Col 1:19,20 - For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*