

## **The Exaltation of Christ**

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

#### **Introduction:**

1. Nothing in history could match the scorn, ridicule, and humiliation that our Savior, Jesus Christ, experienced on the cross of Calvary. As a Lamb, He humbly gave His life for us and paid the penalty for our sin (read vs. 6-8).
2. If the story ended in verse 8, it would indeed be a sad and tragic story. But praise God for verses 9-11 (read). Notice, God has highly **exalted** Christ.
3. Christ's exaltation occurred in three stages:
  - His **resurrection** - He physically, bodily arose from the dead on the third day.
  - His **ascension** - this is when Christ ascended back to heaven in His resurrection body.
  - His **coronation** - this is when the Father imparted unto the risen and glorified Christ the position of honor and power at His own right hand.  
cf. **Hebrews 10:12**
4. This morning we are going to note something that happened **before** Christ's exaltation, **at** His exaltation, and **after** His exaltation. With each point, we will draw out practical application for our personal, everyday lives.

#### **Before His exaltation, Christ humbled Himself.**

1. In verse 9, the word "*wherefore*" connects the thought of the previous verse. It carries the idea of, "Because of this, God also hath highly exalted Him."
2. Because of what? Go back to verse 8. Because Christ humbled Himself, God highly exalted Him. His exaltation was preceded by humility.
3. This is a recurring principle that you will discover throughout the Scriptures.  
**Matthew 23:12; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6**
4. You can't miss it. It is very clear.
  - Exalt yourself and you will eventually be humbled.
  - Humble yourself and God will eventually exalt you.
5. Have you ever noticed how God's principles collide with the world's thoughts and wisdom? The world teaches people to exalt themselves, look out for number one, toot your own horn, and step on people if necessary to climb to the top.
6. But a prideful and egotistical attitude is not God's path to exaltation. Just as Christ humbled Himself and was exalted, there is a promise of reward for the person who humbles himself.
  - Many times in marriage, neither spouse will humble themselves because they are afraid if they do, they will be perceived as the loser.
  - Many times at work we can take on very prideful and arrogant attitudes. Christian, this is not becoming to a saint of God. We should exemplify our Savior. He humbled himself and waited for God to exalt Him in due time.

#### **At His exaltation, Christ was given all authority.**

1. Verse 9 declares that when Christ was exalted, He was given a name which is above every name. This, of course, indicates full authority and power.  
cf. **Ephesians 1:20-23**

2. What is the name that He was given that is above every name? Verse 11 reveals it - *"Lord."*
  - Lord is the title of majesty, authority, and honor. Christ holds all power and authority. **Matthew 28:18**
3. But what does this mean to us in practical terms? It means that if we belong to Christ and have been redeemed by His blood, we have a responsibility to obey Him in every matter of life.
4. He **is** Lord. You may be thinking, "I have to obey Christ in every area of my life? He can be Lord over **most** of my life, but I don't know about **all** of it."
5. Remember this, if He isn't Lord of all, then He isn't Lord at all. Christ desires for you to give Him the reins of your heart, fully and completely.  
**Colossians 1:10, 3:17, 23**
6. Do you think it would be good for you or bad for you to allow Christ to reign as Lord of your life? Let's read **Romans 12:1-2**. Notice the words, *"good," "acceptable,"* and *"perfect."*
7. When I refuse to yield certain areas of my life to Christ's Lordship, I make a mess out of them. When I allow Him to have full control, He performs that which is good, acceptable, and perfect.

**After Christ's exaltation, His authority will be universally recognized.**

1. Verse 10 declares that there will be an act of homage in which every knee will bow before the risen Lord.
2. Those who will submit to the supreme authority of Jesus Christ will comprise three groups:
  - Those in heaven - the angels and all the saved believers of all ages.
  - Those on earth - both redeemed and unredeemed.
  - Those under the earth - the fallen angels and those who are unredeemed and in hell awaiting their final judgment.
3. Notice in verse 11 it says that, *"every tongue (will) confess..."* Nobody is excluded. Even those who rejected Christ while on earth will be compelled to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord of the universe.
  - This confession by unbelievers, however, will not lead to salvation.
  - The matter of salvation will have already been decided while on earth.
4. Jesus currently holds all power at the right hand of the power, but He obviously has not chosen to exercise all of His power yet. The world is still in rebellion against God. One day He will, and everything will be brought into subjection to Him.
5. Until that Day of Judgment, Christ is graciously extending an offer of peace to every man and woman on the earth (**1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9**). He is calling people to acknowledge that He is Lord and has died for their sins and rose again.  
**Romans 10:9**
6. My friend, we can either confess who Christ is now and receive the gift of eternal life, or we can reject Him as our Savior and wait and confess that He is Lord on Judgment Day.
7. God gives each of us a free will to make that choice. Will you choose Christ?