

A HYMN TO HIM

Phil. 2:5-11
December 25, 2011

INTRODUCTION: The text before us serves as a great reminder to the Philippians of the greatest example of servanthood, namely the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in this text that we see that the only person worthy of exaltation chose humiliation.

Paul reveals the Lord Jesus Christ as abandoning His golden throne room in favor of a dirty sheep pen. We see majesty in the midst of the madness. We see the routine of life explode with the joy of our Redeemer. It is a perfect portrait of divinity entering the world on the floor of a stall.

With this in mind, Paul reminded the believers in Philippi that the Christian life is not to be a life of self-centeredness. It is to be a life of self-surrender to the will of God, to the needs of our fellowman, and to the example of Christ.

This passage speaks of the self-emptying of our Lord in His incarnation (God becoming man in the flesh). This is the N.T.'s classic Christological passage, meaning that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one of God, the Savior of mankind, the prophesied Messiah.

I. THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST. 5

According to **verse 3** **“others”** is the key truth in this chapter. The believer's eyes are turned away from himself and focused on the needs of others. Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of selfless humility.

John 13:12-17, “So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. “Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

The **“mind of Christ”** is the submissive mind.

I Cor. 2:16, “We have the mind of Christ.”

The mind of Christ means the attitude Christ exhibited

N.I.V. “Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.”

v.5 Leaves one with a major question, *“What was Christ's attitude like?”* This is answered in **v.6-8**

II. THE ACTIONS OF CHRIST. 6-8

A. PROVES WHO HE IS. 6

“Who being in the form of God” – Jesus eternally has been God

“being” – stresses the essence of a person’s nature; his continuous state or condition.

“form” – denotes the essential; unchanging character of something; what it is in and of itself.

II Cor. 4:4, “Who is the image of God”

John 1:18, “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

“declared” – theologians derived the term “exegesis” or “to interpret” from this word. John meant that all that Jesus is and does interprets and explains who God is and what He does.

John 14:8-10, “Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”

To know Jesus is to know God

Col 1:15, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

“image” – we derive our English word “icon.” It means copy or likeness. Jesus Christ is the perfect image, the exact likeness of God and is in the very form of God and has been so from all eternity. By describing Jesus in this manner, Paul emphasizes that He is both the representation and manifestation of God. He is fully God in every way.

Heb 1:3, “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Jesus Christ is the exact representation of God Himself.

“the brightness of His glory” – it expresses the concept of sending forth light or shining. The Son of God is not just reflecting God’s glory, He is God and radiates His own essential glory.

John 8:12, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

“express image of His person” – it was employed for an engraving on wood, an etching in metal, a brand on an animal hide, an impression in clay, and a stamped image on coins.

“person” – is a word expressing nature, being, or essence. The Son is the perfect imprint, the exact representation of the nature and essence of God in time and space.

That is why Jesus could say what he did in **John 8:58**,

John 8:58, “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

“not robbery” - Something clutched, embraced, or prized; grasped or held onto. Though Christ had all the rights, privileges, and honor of deity, which He was worthy of and could never be disqualified from, His attitude was not to cling to those things or His position, but to be willing to give them up for a season.

He counted the cost for our salvation (redemption) and He was willing to lay privileges aside for the benefit of others.

He did not consider this a treasure too great to be surrendered.

Jesus did not think of Himself; He thought of others. This is the **“mind of Christ.”**

“equal” – defines things that are exactly the same in size, quantity, quality, character, and number. In every sense Jesus is equal to God and constantly claimed to be so during his earthly ministry.

B. PRESENTS WHAT HE DID. 7

“made Himself of no reputation” – emptied Himself of His privileges. Speaks of Christ’s self-emptying in His incarnation. This was a self-renunciation, not an emptying Himself of deity nor an exchange of deity for humanity. However, Jesus renounced and set aside His privileges in several areas.

He laid aside the expression of His divine essence but not the possession of them.

He never ceased being God. God may change form, but He cannot cease to be God.

God emptied Himself, not of His divine nature or His attributes, but the outward and visible manifestation of the Godhead.

What did He do for us in His coming?

1. HEAVENLY GLORY – SURRENDER

While on earth He gave up the glory of a face to face relationship with God and the continuous outward display and personal enjoyment of that glory

John 17:5, “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

**2. INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY –
SUBMISSIVE**

During His incarnation, Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of His Father.

Matt 26:39, “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

There was no conflict between the divine will and His desires.

John 5:30, “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will the Father who sent Me.”

John 5:19-20, “Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

3. ETERNAL RICHES – SACRIFICIAL

While on earth Christ was poor and owned very little.

2 Cor 8:9, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

**4. A FAVORABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD - SUBSTITUTION**

He felt the Father’s wrath for human sin while on the cross.

In Matthew 27:46, Jesus said, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me.”

Christ, at that moment, was experiencing the abandonment and despair that resulted from the outpouring of divine wrath on Him, a sin-bearer.

2 Cor 5:21, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Deals with imputation and substitution.

III. FATHER’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF CHRIST. 9-11

A. EXALTATION. 9

How do you exalt God? How do you lift up the highest?

The exaltation did not concern Christ's nature or eternal places within the Trinity, but His new identity as the God-man. In addition to receiving back His glory (**John 17:5**), Christ's new status as the God-man meant God gave Him privileges He did not have prior to the incarnation.

If He had not lived among man, He could not have identified with them as the interceding High Priest.

Heb 4:15-16, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Had He not died on the cross, He could not have been elevated from the lowest degree back to heaven as the substitute for sins. He conquered hell, death (grave), and sin!

B. CONFESSION. 10-11

The entire intelligent universe is called to worship Jesus Christ as Lord. The angels in Heaven (**Rev. 4**), the spirits of the redeemed (**Rev. 4:10, 11**), obedient believers on earth (**Romans 10:9**), the disobedient rebels on earth (**II Thess. 1:7-9**), demons and lost humanity in hell (**I Peter 3:18-22**).

"confess" – acknowledge, affirm, agree. Some willingly and blessedly, or unwillingly and painfully.

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.**

**Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.**