

December 27, 2020

Pastor Steve Hardy

“An Attitude of Humble Worship”

Philippians 2:9-11

Series: “Philippians”

Shepherds and later Magi came, beckoned by angelic announcement and miraculous star, to wonder and bow before the child Jesus. Even so, it would be years before men would begin to understand the message the angels brought: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” It would be recognized by some when his earthly mission was completed, but one day all will know.

I. The **FULFILLMENT** of the exaltation of Jesus, Philippians 2:9.

A. The humiliation of the **CROSS** led to the **GLORY** of Jesus’ exaltation.

B. Jesus’ exalted **IDENTITY** is reflected in his given **NAME**.

II. The **ACKNOWLEDGMENT** of the exaltation of Jesus, Philippians 2:10-11.

A. Acknowledgment will include a **PHYSICAL** response.

B. Acknowledgment will include **INTELLECTUAL ASCENT** to the truth.

C. Acknowledgment then will not necessarily imply **SAVING FAITH**.

III. The **RESULT** of the exaltation of Jesus, Philippians 2:11 .

John 12:

Worship of the exalted **SON** will be to the glory of God the **FATHER**.

The exaltation of Jesus is as unique as his identity as God the Son, who bears the name above every name, who is worthy to be worshiped by absolutely all. But a point of application does draw us back to the call this passage makes on the life of every disciple, the call to humility. Without it one is unable to worship. Even more to the point made here, pride in us is the most certain evidence we are unlike Jesus. In considering others above our selfish interests, in taking the place of a servant, in obedience to God, may we become more like the Master, even as we worship him.

Family Time:

Christmas should be about Christ, and among all people believers should be obvious for their choice of “holiday” activities. What parts of your family Christmas traditions center around Christ? Which really have little to do with Jesus? What can you do to infuse your traditions with the recognition and adoration of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. “Therefore” at the beginning of Philippians 2:9 has the idea of a “self-evident inference”. It is the obvious sequel to Jesus’ obedience in going to the cross. Why might it be inaccurate to say Jesus was exalted because he went to the cross? How would you better describe the connection between the cross and Jesus’ exaltation?
2. Revisit the passages that give the various names of Jesus (mentioned were Isaiah 9 and Revelation 19). Discuss the significance of the names of Jesus, and how each contributes to the appropriate response of worship. What other names of Jesus can you list?
3. What do you learn about the nature of the triune God by the satisfaction the Son had in glorifying the Father, and the desire of the Father to glorify the Son? What makes possible the pure selflessness of each in their mutual relationship, and/or why is it so hard, in human relationships, to experience such mutuality?
4. Was worship the main point of your Christmas, in recognition of the identity of the child born in Bethlehem? Why or why not? What “note to self” would you put on your calendar for November 30, 2021, to remind yourself how you would like to manage Christmas next year?

NEXT WEEK: Philippians 2:12-18, An Attitude of Godly Fear

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