

## God Exalts His Son

*Philippians 2:9-11*

### Sermon Notes

Friday Jesus went to the cross and died... Sunday ....He was resurrected...What happened Saturday?...IT SNOWED LIKE CRAZY!....Sunday the Son comes out...literally!... .. The resurrection of Jesus Christ.

that is our celebration this morning

We can view this vital, essential event from many angles and perspectives... This is my twentieth time preaching on Easter Sunday... this week I looked over many of those previous sermons and saw many of those perspectives...one...

The resurrection results in our being able to have eternal life... Because He lives I can live...we've spent a couple Easter Sundays looking at the hypothetical question "*what if Christ did not rise from the grave?*" ... as the apostle Paul addresses in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15

We spent an Easter Sunday looking at the impact of Jesus's death then resurrection through the eyes of the women and who were the first to the tomb finding it empty...A handful of Mary's, Joanna and Salome....and how that impacted their lives.

One Easter was the resurrection through the eyes of a prophet who lived nearly 500 years before the actual event... Isaiah in Isaiah 53..... and many, many more...but we've never looked at it through the eyes of the apostle Paul as presented in his letter to the Philippian church...so... You may wish to turn to the second chapter of the New Testament book of Philippians.

Philippians puts us right in the death and resurrection of Jesus.... And we are in the context...Paul shows us the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus as a motive... and encouragement to live lives of humility resulting in unity.

We've been going through this wonderful letter for the last several months now... we've made it to the middle of chapter three... but we need to go back and finish a couple of verses that we intentionally skipped over... saving them for this great day.... Chapter two verses 9-11... just three short but magnificent verses.

These three verses are a part of an ancient hymn that was most likely sung in these early churches... the hymn has been named the *Hymn of Christ*...or *Christ's Hymn*.. which is appropriate because the words are completely focused on the two greatest events of our Savior... His death and resurrection.

The hymn begins back in verse 6 and finishes with verse 11...the cross and the empty tomb...before we look at the hymn...

We need to add to these verses the verse that comes just before... verse 5... for this verse **connects us** to these magnificent events of Jesus'... Paul says **Have this way of thinking (this attitude) in yourselves which was also in Jesus Christ...**

This is not a suggestion to us from the apostle... this is not a "give this a try"... this is called a "present imperative" in the Greek...meaning this is a command... we are to have a certain "attitude"...always...now and forever while on earth... an attitude is a certain way of thinking... what is this attitude?

Remember the overarching theme in Philippians is "unity"... Jesus, through Paul wants His church to be unified... Paul describes what that is in 2:2

**Think the same way, maintaining the same love, being united in one spirit, thinking on one purpose...** that's how all who are in Christ are to exist together... in unity...Unity is the direct result of love... and love cannot exist without humility...one cannot love another while he is full of pride... What causes disunity are problems within relationships in the church.

And having relationship problems in the church is not acceptable !... using Jesus's metaphor of the church as a body... think of your body when a bone gets out of joint... not only does it hurt... but the body can't function properly as a body with a bone out of joint...

If there is a broken relationship... a stressed relationship within the church... the church is disjointed and cannot function the way it is meant to function.... All it takes is two people to be out of joint with each other to disjoint the entire body!

The apostle Paul knows this... and he addresses it head on... disjointed relationships are due to pride... it's one or both people raising themselves over the other... so Paul gives us his directive in how to exist in relationships in the church.... And this is good instruction for ALL **relationships...even outside of the church**

That verse that I'm trying to wear out... Philippians 2:3.

**Read 2:3** [I love the way one dictionary defines "vain glory"—*A vainglorious attitude is not very likable in a person and can be annoying to be around. Vainglorious people are vain, excessively self-centered and boastful, and have swelled pride. The base word, vainglory, dates all the way back to the 14th century and means "worthless glory."*

Problems always result when people merely look out for their own personal interests...listen to this... here is a fact... this is a principle... this is an absolute... it's as sure as gravity or right and wrong... understand this... from the mouth of Jesus... three times in the gospels He says:

**Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled... and whoever humbles himself will be exalted...** write those words on your hearts!... this tells me that **EVERYBODY WILL BE HUMBLLED**.... No exceptions.. you either humble yourselves and please God.... Or you can fill yourself with pride... elevate yourself and God will humble you....

In fact... what we will see this morning is... you really don't control your outcomes all that much... that God really is sovereign... *everybody WILL be humbled*... add to that... **EVERYBODY WILL WORSHIP Christ!**...everybody will bow to Christ on their knees and everybody... everybody **will** confess Jesus as Lord!...we'll get there this morning.

If you are sitting out there with a broken relationship with somebody... especially somebody within the body of Christ.... And you're ok with that?.... "*I'm not going to have anything to do with that person...that person annoys me...*". let me just say it...if that doesn't bother you... you're in sin!...you are going in the face of what Jesus desires....AND commands.

So Paul illustrates for us the greatest model of humility to ever walk on earth.... And shows us just how high God exalts the truly humble....that's why Paul says... **Have this way of thinking in yourselves... which was also in Christ Jesus....** How did that look in Jesus?...the hymn begins:

### Read verses 6-8

The greatest illustration of humility ever!... Jesus didn't stay up in heaven as king of kings looking down at the wretched human race saying *I'm not going down there... those people bother me... I don't like them... they hurt my feelings... they don't deserve Me...they are so unappreciative... I'm going to have nothing to do with them....*

The One who was the highest.... Came down to the lowest... to live with the lowest... to love the undeserving... the bothersome...the wretched.... To serve them.... Then... TO DIE ON A CROSS FOR THEM... BUT..

**Whoever humbles himself will be exalted...** and boy was Jesus exalted by the Father.... That is what we will now look at...this is to be our motivation to live humble lives... for if we humble OURSELVES... God will exalt us to the heights were Jesus is right now!

If we follow the humility model of Jesus Christ, God will exalt us as well... perhaps not in this life but certainly in the life to come... we may become each martyrs in this life... we may have lives of great difficulty.... But we will be exalted if we humble ourselves as Christ humbled Himself.

### Read verses 9-11

The Structure:

1. (9) **The position**—The positionl.... The “where” God exalted Christ...God exalted Christ above everything else... He “bestowed” on Him means to place one in honor... to put His high name to use... to activate it... .
2. (10-11a) **The purpose**—God exalted Jesus “**So that** (then)”... a “purpose clause in English”... God the Father exalted Jesus Christ for a purpose... **so that... at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth.... Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...** Basically that is WORSHIP...that is the purpose.

3. (11) **The praise**—... The “why”... “**to the glory of god the Father**... Sola Dei Gloria = all for the glory of the Father... even the Son is to and did glorify His Father... the dynamic is truly amazing within the Trinity... the Trinity has no jealousy in it... each has a role... and not one of them is disappointed in their role...

When the Son through His obedience to the Father glorifies the Father.... The Father finds great pleasure in elevating and magnifying His Son... The Son elevates the Father... the Father elevates His Son... the Father glories when His Son is viewed by us as Lord.... His Son is exalted... God then is glorified... and when we glorify the Father through our humility, we too are exalted...

**THIS IS HOW PERFECT HUMILITY WORKS!**

Let's go through these... I want us to leave this morning with a sense of just how high Jesus was exalted.... And how high we then may be exalted through humility.

## **1. The position**

(9) **Therefore...** points back to verses 6-8... Jesus so humbled Himself... He emptied Himself... He came to earth as God... lowering Himself low... so very low... taking the form of a man... the lowest of men.... a slave.

He served man when He lowered Himself to earth... **obedient to God** in that God instructed His Son to go and be nailed to a cross to pay the price of all of our sins... and He did it... that's low!

**Therefore...** having done that... humbled Himself... **God highly exalted Him...** Highly exalted.. two words in English but only one word in the original Greek language... In the Greek you can attach a prefix to a verb ... all in one word...

The prefix here is “*hyper*” which in our language means “hyper”... the verb is “to lift up”... put the two together and it means much more than to just lift up.... It means to **hyper-lift up**..... this is the idea that Jesus Christ isn't just above all else.... Everyone and everything else.... **HE IS WAY ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE!... HYPER ABOVE.**

Out of this world... higher than all things.... Way beyond... nobody comes close to His category... a class by Himself... **HIGHLY EXALTED OVER ALL THINGS....** There is “high”... there is “higher”... there is “highest”.... He is higher than highest!... the entire universe is a speck beneath Him!

Hyper-exalted... incomparable.... Not able to be compared to...

If you put all of scripture together... if we were to boil down all that we know about the exaltation of Jesus Christ according to God's word.... We can see that there are four steps to “up” for Christ... a process of four events that went into the exaltation of Jesus Christ:

**Let me pause... the resurrection of Jesus is vital... truly the great event of all time.... but if that was all that happened ... Jesus... His body resurrected... and that was it... it wouldn't be enough... it wouldn't be complete.... HE HAD TO BE EXALTED...**

**1. The resurrection**—what we are so celebrating this morning... the resurrection of Jesus... **He humbled Himself to death... even death on the cross...** His very first step upward was His resurrection.

Acts 2:23 says **this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed Him to a cross...by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death...**

By the way... a penetrating quote from William Perkins... Puritan preacher back in the late 1500's said this *Every man must be settled without doubt that he was the man that crucified Christ.... YOU NAILED HIM TO THE CROSS.....*

But Luke finishes.... **But God raised Him up again... putting an end to the agony of death, since it was IMPOSSIBLE for Him to be held in its power...** Jesus had to be resurrected because it was impossible to keep Him dead!... the resurrection ends the agony of death... but there's more....

**2. His ascension**— He is resurrected... when Jesus was resurrected.. He went somewhere... His Father received Him back to where He began... received Him back to glory... Acts chapter 1 tells us that God dispatched two of His angels to meet Him in the clouds and usher Jesus back to heaven....

These angels were given the task to usher back the King of Kings back into glory... from resurrection to ascension to:

**3. Enthronement**—Jesus didn't just go back up into heaven and assume just any place... *just glad to be home...boy was that an experience down there!...Glad to be back up here!...* He assumed the place of highest honor and authority.. **He was seated at the right hand of God...**

Peter was preaching on that day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2...right after His ascension... He said this... verse 32... **This Jesus God raised up again to which we were all witnesses. (33) Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God...**

**(36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.**

God the Father enthroned His Son at His right hand....Psalm 110:1 **Lord says to my Lord: Sit at My right hand...until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your The feet.** This is pretty high folks!... this is pretty exalted wouldn't you say?

Resurrection... ascension...enthronement... finally:

**4. Coronation**—Once Jesus gets on the throne.... God the Father gives Him *some* authority?... a *lot* of authority?...He gives Jesus His Son ALL AUTHORITY..... Matthew 28:18... Jesus's own words... He's now the risen Christ... and right before He gives His disciples His Great Commission... He says **All authority has been given to Me in heaven AND on earth...**

That encompasses EVERYWHERE!...Jesus wasn't given a lot of authority...80% Jesus 10% government, 10% Satan... He was given ALL authority... **THERE IS NO AUTHORITY**

**HIGHER OR GREATER THAN JESUS'S AUTHORITY**... That's what we mean by Jesus is sovereign.... And we cannot comprehend all that that entails.

There is no authority outside the authority of Jesus Christ.... I listen to a daily podcast by **Al Mohler** (The Briefing), president of Southern seminary... His Good Friday podcast couldn't be more timely... He talked about the "*Politics of the Empty Tomb*"... at first I thought... *Oh no! Can't we just have Easter...* a couple days without any politics!... But what he said was intriguing and true... the politics of the tomb... actually the politics of Easter...

*What's political about that? Are you talking about today's headline politics? No, I'm talking about politics at its essence. I am talking about **the ordering of the entire cosmos and the rightful rule**. That's why we talk about the politics of the empty tomb.*

Then he said this... I COULD NOT BELIEVE IT!

*There is no statement that is more essentially political than what we find in Philippians 2:9–10. [I'm always blown away that whatever passage I'm going to preach on any given week pops up all over the place all week long!]*

*Speaking of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ and Christ's obedience to the father even unto death, the apostle Paul writes in 9–10, "**Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. So that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.**"*

*You say what's political about that? **Everything about that is political.** It is the most essential politics. It has to do with who, in the end, who bows the knee to whom.*

*And what you have here is the apostle Paul declaring that Jesus Christ is Lord and that that means that, eventually, every single knee shall bow and every single tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The ultimate politics is in answering the question who at the end bows to whom?*

**Jesus Christ has all authority**.... **all**.... some think "*Satan has a few votes...*" no he doesn't!... Satan can't do anything outside the authority of Jesus Christ.... **HE HAS ALL AUTHORITY**.... Even our authorities here on earth... governors... presidents... only have "delegated" authority.... They wouldn't be in authority had not Jesus given them that authority!

The universe is not ruled by a democracy... it is ruled by a theocracy and there is only one vote... Jesus Christ's!

Ephesians 1:20... Paul talking about the God's power and strength.... **which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, come up with a name.... any name... Christ is highly exalted above it... for how long and how wide?... not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and made Him head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

***We are NOT waiting for the second coming for this to happen***....THIS IS NOW!....THIS HAS ALREADY HAPPENED!... this is not “*boy, things are so out of control in this world, can’t wait until Jesus comes and is in authority and THEN He can turn things around*”.....back to Philippians 2.

So verse 9 is about His position after exaltation... Jesus was hyper-exalted above everything and everybody.... God did it... God exalted His Son.... And it says that God **bestowed upon Him the name above every name**....

What is that name that is above every name?...Hebrews 1:4 says referring to Jesus... that **He inherited a more excellent name**...which takes us into the purpose of His exaltation:

## **2. The purpose**

(10) “**so that**”...in English that is called a “purpose clause”... it answers the reason “WHY” God highly exalted Jesus Christ...**So that at the name of Jesus**... He still hasn’t revealed to us that name that is above every name... “Jesus” is not that name... the name of Jesus is His name in His humiliation... Jesus is the name when Jesus was born a man...Christmas... the incarnation.

The name Jesus means “*Jehovah saves*”...read the gospels... follow Jesus around and He’s called simply “Jesus”... Jesus represents verses 6-8... those three verses are about *Jesus*...Jesus was His name in humiliation... but after that... through His exaltation...He is given a name above all names.... A name to match the heights of His exaltation...

This name causes **every knee to bow and every tongue confess**... what is that name?...Jesus has been called many names... Immanuel... Son of God... Son of Man... Messiah...Christ (the anointed one)...as high, lofty and magnificent those names are..... they are not the highest name.

The highest name is the Greek word Kurios... it means “*absolute ruler*”... “*one who has absolute power over all*”... we translate it as “LORD”... ***Jesus is Lord***... V.11

John writes in his final book of the Bible... Revelation...Jesus is **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**... What does Lord mean?...two things:

### **Lord means deity**

In the Old Testament Hebrew it is *Adonai* meaning Lord as God... in the first century... the Romans deified Caesar... they called him *kurios*...Lord as god... and they would bow to Caesar... they would profess that Caesar was “Lord”...this meant to unify the Romans.

Christians would be brought in front of Caesar and were told to bow to him...they were to confess that Caesar was lord.... They would confess that ***Jesus is Lord***.... And they would be put to death.

Lord is synonymous with deity... with ***being God***... when Thomas became convinced that Jesus was indeed God he professed ***Jesus my Lord and my God!***

### **Lord means “sovereignty”**

To be Lord is to be ruler...master... have complete authority over a kingdom...whatever the sovereign Lord requires it is the law of the land...sovereignty means having the supreme authority.

If you want to become a Christian... you do not confess Jesus.... You **confess Jesus Christ as Lord...and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead!** (Romans 10:9) It was His resurrection... His exaltation that ratified Jesus as Lord!

***What must I do to be saved?***...The jailer asks in Acts 16:30 **Believe in the LORD Jesus and you will be saved....**

So...Paul in verse 10 is looking into the future to reveal the purpose of Jesus's exaltation...

### **Read verse 10**

That obviously hasn't taken place yet... for sure we know that not every knee is bowing to Jesus... there was no traffic jam to get into our parking lot this morning... but this will happen at the end of the age... Paul is looking into the future...

***Every knee WILL bow***... that is.... **Everyone**...everyone will lower themselves and put themselves into a position of subjection to Jesus... to bow the knee was to exalt someone greater than you to be in position OVER you...

There will be no one standing on the last day...there will only be Jesus standing... EVERYONE will be on their knees exalting Jesus....Every knee includes everyone... humans and angels... the saved the unsaved... NO ONE WILL BE STANDING.

Those who have so brazenly opposed Jesus... those who have blasphemed His name... those who have respected their pet dog better than Jesus.... They will take a knee.... All those who have denied Jesus... have made themselves to be their God.... Will take a knee to Jesus on that day.

No one **who are in heaven or on earth or under the earth...** meaning EVERYONE...those ***in heaven*** are the myriad of angels in heaven... the saved who have died... ***on the earth*** are all who are presently alive on earth...the saved and unsaved...

***under the earth***...refers to the fallen angels who are now confined in hell until Revelation 9 takes place when the doors of hell will be opened for a short time and they are released...the Great Tribulation.... Under the earth also includes all those unbelievers who have died and are already in hell...

all those who spit at the name of Jesus and have died... they will take to their knees under Jesus!...they won't be bowing the knee in saving faith... or in glad submission...they will bow the knee with hardened rebellious hearts...but they will bow to their knees because they cannot deny His sovereignty any longer...it will be the torment of their soul...

And not only will they be in the prone position... this is truly amazing... **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...** there are people you know right now that you just can't image them confessing Jesus Christ as Lord... but they will...

To confess means to openly and publically acknowledge something... everyone who has ever lived.... Who is living now... and who will be living WILL one day...openly and publically acknowledge Jesus Christ as LORD!

**This will be a universal confession of Jesus Christ as Lord....** Great passage in **Isaiah 45:22**... this is by the way the text that led Charles Spurgeon the great Baptist preacher to be converted... Spurgeon was fifteen years old...he was on his way to the church he had been attending...

A snowstorm suddenly occurred making it impossible for him to keep going on the road to his church... he was forced to go into a small primitive Methodist church to get out of the elements... I'm just going to read it... these are Spurgeon's actual words:

*I sometimes think I might have been in darkness and despair now, had it not been for the goodness of God in sending a snowstorm one Sunday morning, when I was going to a place of worship.*

*When I could go no further, I turned down a court and came to a little Primitive Methodist Chapel. In that chapel there might be a dozen or fifteen people. The minister did not come that morning: snowed up, I suppose. A poor man, a shoemaker, a tailor, or something of that sort, went up into the pulpit to preach. He was obliged to stick to his text, for the simple reason that he had nothing else to say. The text was, 'Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth' [Isa 45:22].*

*He did not even pronounce the words rightly, but that did not matter. There was, I thought, a glimpse of hope for me in the text. He began thus: 'My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says, "Look." Now that does not take a deal of effort. It ain't lifting your foot or your finger; it is just "look." Well, a man need not go to college to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man need not be worth a thousand a year to look. Anyone can look; a child can look. But this is what the text says.*

*Then it says, "Look unto Me." 'Ay,' said he, in broad Essex, 'many of ye are looking to yourselves. No use looking there. You'll never find comfort in yourselves.' Then the good man followed up his text in this way:*

*'Look unto Me: I am sweating great drops of blood.*

*Look unto Me; I am hanging on the Cross.*

*Look: I am dead and buried.*

*Look unto Me; I rise again.*

*Look unto Me; I ascend; I am sitting at the Father's right hand.*

*O, look to Me! Look to Me!*

*When he had got about that length, and managed to spin out ten minutes, he was at the length of his tether. Then he looked at me under the gallery, and I daresay, with so few present, he knew me to be a stranger. He then said, 'Young man, you look very miserable.'*

*Well, I did; but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made on my personal appearance from the pulpit before. However, it was a good blow struck. He continued: 'And you will always be miserable—miserable in life and miserable in death—if you do not obey my text. But if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved.' Then he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist can, 'Young man, look to Jesus Christ.'*

*There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that moment and sung with the most enthusiastic of them of the Precious Blood of Christ."*

None of that was my point!... it is the next verse... verse 23... **I have sworn by myself** now...this is God speaking...He doesn't need a Bible to swear on.. He is swearing on Himself!...amazing! **the word has gone forth from my mouth in righteousness and will not turn back** what I'm swearing to is irrevocable... **that to Me every knee will bow, and every tongue will swear allegiance...**

We look at the world and sigh... but God has the last word!... **there will be no atheist on the last day!**... they will realize the insanity of their blindness... they will see the Lord Jesus Christ and call him Lord... and then they will spend eternity in hell.

Have you bowed your knees to Jesus Christ?... think of it this way.... **You WILL be bowing your knees to Jesus Christ**...you can accept Him as your Lord and Savior and bow to Him now... or you WILL do so later.

**Have you confessed Jesus as Lord with your mouth?...** You will... but if you do it now, you will be saved....Have you submitted to His authority over your life... made Him sovereign over your life?... made Him king of kings, Lord of Lords of your life?

Have you lowered yourself...humbled yourself to Him IN THIS LIFETIME... YOU WILL ON THAT LAST DAY BUT NOW IS THE TIME!

*Finally....*

### **3. The praise**

#### **Read verse 11**

We've seen the position of His exaltation... we've seen the purpose of His exaltation... now we see WHY...his praise in the exaltation.

**To the glory of God the Father...**

The greatest glory one can give the Father is to give one's life to His Son.... to bow the knee and confess Jesus as Lord before that last day.... The greatest glory we can give God is to elevate Jesus Christ our Lord to the highest status in our lives!

God is exalted by what His Son has accomplished....

God is honored when His Son is worshipped...

**The lesson:** In the midst of this amazing passage of Jesus Christ...

1. If you haven't surrender your life to Jesus right now. Bow the knee and confess. Turn your life over by repenting of your sins and making a commitment to Him.

2. Make Him your Lord!

3. For you believers.... "have this attitude in yourselves.... ***humble yourselves and let God exalt you.***