

THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Philippians 2:9-11

God promotes Jesus His Son and our Savior

I. THE PRELUDE (9a)

A. A BESTOWER WHO EXALTS: God Himself

- "The Father's 'amen' to the Son's 'It is finished.'"

[R. P. Martin, "The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians," p. 104]

B. THE BASIS FOR EXALTATION: "For this reason"

1. Christ's humiliation and crucifixion (8)

2. Because of Christ's ...

a. Complete obedience - Doing the Father's will, even to the point of death

b. Total victory - Conquering Satan's temptations and territory (death)

c. Perfect redemption - The magnification is a memorial to Christ's sacrifice on our behalf

- See Galatians 1:4

II. THE POSITION (9b)

A. SUPERIOR HONOR GRANTED

1. The Action

a. God Himself highly exalted Christ

b. God raised Jesus to the highest rank in recognition of His supreme majesty and power

2. The Activity

a. Christ would once again enjoy the dignity He had willingly laid aside (6-7)

b. God's Son would resume his pre-incarnate glory (see John 17:5) but also something more

c. Jesus would be crowned with additional glory and honor (Note Hebrews 2:9) as the eternal God-man on the throne of God (see also Heb. 1:3b & 12:2)

B. A SUPERIOR NAME GIVEN

1. The Nature of God's Gift

a. God Himself bestowed on Him a name

b. A free and gracious grant of favor - See Eph. 1:20-21

2. The Name Given

a. A name: "That which expresses the person's character, reputation, dignity, work, power, or particular position." Not just one's identity. [William Hendriksen, "Philippians," p. 117]

b. The name "Jesus" - The Deliverer who lived in humanity but now reigns in Heaven

c. The name "Lord" - "Yahweh" > The sovereign and authoritative ruler

III. **THE PURPOSE** (10-11a)

A. EVERY MAN'S WORSHIP (10)

1. Every knee bowing
 - a. Some in humble devotion and joyful recognition of Christ's preeminence
 - b. Others reluctantly in fearful recognition of Christ's presence
2. Every knee, everywhere!
 - In Heaven, earth and under the earth

B. ALL MEN'S WORDS (11a)

1. The Confessing: Every tongue will confess
 - Publically declaring and acknowledging Christ in every language
2. The Confession: Jesus Christ is Lord
 - Note that Jesus already has the sovereignty and authority indicated by Lordship, however it is not now universally acknowledged, whereas at some future point it will be.

IV. **THE PRIORITY** (11b)

- To the glory of God the Father

A. THE FATHER'S RADIANCE

- "When the Son is honored, the Father is glorified" [F. F. Bruce, "Philippians," p. 75]

B. THE SON'S REALITY

- "Christ's universal acknowledgment as Lord does not make the Father zealous"
[John MacArthur, "Philippians," p. 149]

V. **SOME PRESCRIPTIONS** (Further applications)

A. PREPARE - See Psalm 2:11-12

- Yield to Christ before it's too late

B. PONDER - Romans 14:10-12

- This exalted Christ will examine us!

C. PROTECT - James 5:2

- We dare not profane Christ's superior name

D. PRAISE - Hebrews 13:15

- Offering up a continual thanksgiving sacrifice

CONCLUSION: If God promotes His Son, shouldn't God's people do the same?