

## **Lifting Up the Person of Jesus**

### **John 8:23-30**

23 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

25 Then they said to Him, "Who are You?"

And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. 26 I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

27 They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.

28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." 30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. NKJV

The Bible is filled with descriptions and names of who Jesus is. In our responsive reading Paul tells us just how much Jesus is responsible for in our Christian lives. I want to select just a few things that the word of God gives us in reference to Jesus for our message this morning.

Notice that in the text from John today Jesus sums up the importance of right belief about just who and what Jesus is.

If a person does not or will not believe that Jesus is He, or as the NLT & NIV put it, John 8:24 "That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I AM who I claim to be, you will die in your sins."

You can be wrong about heaven and hell and still go to heaven. You can be wrong about baptism and the Lord's Supper and still go to heaven. But you cannot be wrong about Jesus and still go to heaven. He said so.

Now the main focus of our message today is lift up Jesus, who He was, and who He said He was.

#### I. His Greatness Col 1:15-20

- A. He is the image of the invisible God
- B. The firstborn over all creation
- C. By Him all things were created
  - 1. That are in heaven
  - 2. And that are on earth
  - 3. Visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.
  - 4. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- D. He is before all things

- E. In Him all things consist.
- F. He is the head of the body, the church,
- G. Who is the beginning,
- H. The firstborn from the dead,
- I. That in all things He may have the preeminence.
- J. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell
- K. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Col 2:9
- L. He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
  - 1. Far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named,
  - 2. Not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
  - 3. And He put all things under His feet,
  - 4. And gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph 1:20-23 NKJV

II. His Humility Phil 2:5-9

- A. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
- B. Being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God
  - 1. Phil 2:6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.(from The Apologetics Study Bible)
  - 2. Phil 2:6 Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, AMP
  - 3. The simple idea is that though He was God, in order to become our Savior He must lay aside the privileges of being God, and this He did because He saw the goal and desired it more than the privileges of Godhood.
  - 4. Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NKJV
- C. But made Himself of no reputation,
  - 1. Phil 2:7 Instead He emptied Himself Apologetics Study Bible
  - 2. Phil 2:7 he gave up his divine privileges NLT

3. Philippians 2:7 2:7 Jesus' self-emptying (kenosis) cannot mean loss of deity or divine attributes; God cannot become less than God. Rather, He emptied Himself of divine privileges by becoming human. The Apologetics Study Bible
4. The essential idea is that of bringing to emptiness, vanity, or nothingness; and, hence, it is applied to a case where one lays aside his rank and dignity, and becomes in respect to that as nothing; that is, he assumes a more humble rank and station. Barnes' Notes

D. Taking the form of a bondservant,

E. And coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man,

F. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death,

G. Even the death of the cross.

III. His Love

IV. His Forgiveness