

## **Our Exalted Savior Philippians 2:9-11**

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We must be careful to not get this section out of context. It is a part of an ancient Christian hymn. And like many of our hymns, if you just sing the first, and the last stanza you will lose part of the importance of the passage.

Jesus is spoken of as being exalted in these verses but He had humbled Himself in the previous section that we covered last week.

That shows us a standing principle in God's economy. Humble yourself and God will exalt you. But if you choose to exalt yourself then God will humble you.

1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV) 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Jesus gives a good example in Luke 18

Luke 18:10-14 (NKJV) 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for **everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

Jesus uses similar language over and over again in the Gospels.

Matthew 18:4 (NKJV) 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:12 (NKJV) 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 14:11 (NKJV) 11 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

As we have said the last two weeks, humility in the church is what makes the church be what it

was meant to be. Pride has no place in the church or even in the Christian life.

But there is a much greater teaching here. Notice how Jesus promises those who will humble themselves will be exalted, i.e. by God Himself. And Jesus followed this principle in his own life. He humbled Himself even to dying on the cross. But now God has highly exalted Him and will continue to exalt Him. Let us look at this marvelous passage.

I. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him

A. Therefore, on the basis of His humiliation.

1. Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) 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.

B. Has Highly

1. Hebrews 1:2-3 (NKJV) 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 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,
2. Hebrews 1:6 (NKJV) 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."
3. Hebrews 1:8 (NKJV) 8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

C. Exalted Him

1. Revelation 5:1-7 (NKJV) 1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

2. Revelation 11:15 (NKJV) 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
3. Romans 11:36 (NKJV) 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.
4. Matthew 28:18 (NKJV) 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

II. And given Him the name which is above every name

- A. Hebrews 1:4 (NKJV) 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
- B. Revelation 19:16 (NKJV) 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- C. He is Lord of all.
  1. Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV) 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

III. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

- A. Every knee should bow
  1. The idea is of worship, to do homage.
  2. To humble ones self to one greater than himself.
- B. Of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
  1. The idea is that there will be none excepted.
  2. All who ever lived.
  3. Every angel and every spiritual being will acknowledge that He is above all.

IV. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

- A. Saved people do this in this life.
- B. But all will confess that He is Lord eventually, but only in judgment, not in salvation.

V. To the glory of God the Father.

A. God the Father is not jealous of the Son, they are a tri-unity, trinity.

Everyone will humble themselves before the Son of God. In this life it means salvation. After this life it only means that you acknowledge that God's righteous judgment of you is true.

“But for those who follow the Lord's example of humility, who "have this attitude in [themselves] which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5), there is promise of great reward. Like their Master, they will be exalted by their heavenly Father. As Jesus promised: "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Matt. 23:12; cf. Luke 14:11; 18:14). Echoing that principle, James said, "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you" (James 4:10); and Peter wrote: "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time" (1 Peter 5:6). Philippians 2:5-11 is not simply a picture of the humiliation and exaltation of the Son of God. It is also a profound illustration of a divine principle that brings immeasurable blessing to God's obedient and humble servants. By God's matchless grace, just as they are humbled with Christ, they also will be glorified with Him.”

MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Philippians.