

## **CHRISTMAS IN THE EPISTLE OF PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

### **INTRO:**

- We find the Christmas story all through the bible.. From Genesis 3:15 to Revelation.
- Written by many bible authors, Moses, Isaiah, Peter, Paul, John, Luke, and Matthew.
- But the two we are most familiar with are of course in Matt. And Luke.
- We are going to spend our time considering and appreciating the Christmas story through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writing through the quill of Paul, written to the church of Philippi.
- Here in the Philippian epistle the Christmas story is not told from the perspective or viewpoint of observers, but the original instigating participants.
- The perspective is heavenly and not earthly, divine not human.
- None of the familiar participants or viewers is present. We do not see Mary or Joseph, shepherds or even angels. These are all absent.
- The point of view here is taken from the Father and the Son.
- The passage opens the gospel window into the mindset of the Father and the Son.
- We here see the inside story of the incarnation and the birth of Christmas.
- There are actually 3 different mindsets revealed here. Father, Son and the Spirit filled saint.

### **READ PHILIPPIANS 2:2-11**

### **THE MINDSET OF THE SON:**

- Notice the text begins with Christ in glory being in the form of God, and descends to the lowest point, His death on the cross.
  - It then reverses and moves upward to its height of Christ's exaltation, coronation and worldwide dominion. (see John 13 later)
- The next thing I want us to see is the word Form:
- The word "form" is used 3 times in the New Testament, first in Mark 16:12; Jesus showed Himself in another "form."
  - Then here twice, VS 6) who, being in the form of God,
  - VS 7) taking the form of a bondservant,
  - Form: morphe is properly the nature or essence, not in the abstract, but as actually subsisting in the individual, and retained as long as the individual itself exists.... Thus in the passage before us the Divine nature actually and inseparably existing in the Person of Christ.
  - The true meaning of Form in the expression, "form of God" is confirmed by its recurrence in the corresponding phrase, "form of a servant" it is universally admitted that the two phrases are directly opposing and the word "form" must therefore have the same sense in both.

- It has no reference to shape; it denotes the expression of being and with the distinctive nature and character of the being to whom it pertains. As regards toward God, He is the perfect expression of a perfect essence.
  - Heb. 1:3, And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,.....Col.1:15
- The Greek word refers to that outward expression which a person gives of his inner most nature. It is not put-On from the outside, but proceeds directly from within.
  - A close word to "form is seen in vs. 8 where it is translated appearance or fashion and in these versions
  - ESV: and being found in human form.
  - Weymouth: and being recognized as truly human.
  - Young: and in fashion, having been found as a man.
- Appearance, fashion, form, is translated, signifying that which comprises the manner of life, actions, etc. of humanity in general; here is used of the Lord in His being found "in fashion" as a man, and signifies what He was in the eyes of men, "the entire outwardly perceptible mode and shape of His existence.
- Men saw in Christ a human form, bearing, language, action, mode of life... in general the state and relations of a human being, so that in the entire mode of His appearance He made Himself known and was recognized as a man"
- The word "being" in VS 6 is not the simple verb of being, but a word that speaks of a pervious condition extended into the present and continuing to be.
- Also in VS. 6, the word Consider, thought, count, or regard, means to weigh the facts. Jesus weighed the facts, counted the cost, the cost to Himself and said "yes."
  - Heb. 12:2, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, (He considered)
- So the mindset of the Son is seen here, being in the form of God, that is co-equal with the Father and the Spirit, He does not clutch onto this equality with God, but He willingly empties Himself and becomes or takes on the form of a bondservant. (The Incarnation)
- and as a bondservant he comes in the form of a man, taking up humanity and then continues to humble Himself by being obedient unto death even the death on a cross.
- Jesus was not forced to become a man, to become our propitiation. The Father did not have to rip His hands from His throne, or strip Him of His Divine expression, He came willingly of His own volition.
- Jesus did not demand to have all His deserved dignities, praise, honor, He willingly let go of His rightful adorations and status.
- VS. 7, To "empty Himself", to lay aside ones expression of His nature for another expression, that of Divine to human.

- Jesus set aside His outward expression of His deity when expressing Himself as a bond slave.
- He did not set aside or empty Himself of his Deity, but only the expression of it outwardly.
- When someone empties themselves, in work or sport, they do not cease to be what they are,
- If someone pours themselves out for you, they did not cease to be who they were, but in fact the pouring out reveals in the deepest way and reality who they really are.
- In order to express Himself as a bond slave He by necessity must set aside His natural reality and prerogatives of His expression of His Deity.
- Jesus did not give up being God for 33 years when He emptied or poured Himself out.

#### **REGARDING THE CROSS: Vs. 8**

- And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.
- Paul here by divine inspiration high lights for us of the particular kind of death Jesus died, that of a criminal and the worst of criminal deaths, a death by crucifixion.
- To anyone living in the Roman first century this short phrase was looked upon with horror and disgust.
- Paul was a Roman citizen and the word cross or its family of words, crucifixion, to crucify, was regarded as an obscenity.
- The cross was regarded as such an obscenity that the manner of the execution was never mentioned if it were to be crucifixion.
- Paul being a Jew and a Roman citizen, this death would have been an absolute anathema to him and he would have been more than familiar with the scripture in Dt. 21:23; "the one who hangs on a tree is cursed by God. (also Gal. 3:13)
- This is one reason the message of the cross was a stumbling stone to the Jews, (1 Cor. 1:23) because this mode of execution was so horrific it was an obscenity and passed on to only the cursed of God.
- Jesus came from heavens highest glory and honor to the Roman empires deepest obscenity and the bibles greatest shame and disgrace.
- Now all of this was our Masters Mind set.

#### **THE MINDSET OF THE FATHER. Vs. 9-11**

- Notice VS. 9, "therefore." It suggests a logical connection between what has just been said prior to this.
- **Now in verses 5-8, Jesus is seen humbling Himself in 3 stages.**
- 1) He did not count equality with God something He needed to clutch to. (VS6)
  - 2) Having emptied Himself of His privilege of expressing Himself as Deity, He took on the form of a bond servant. (Vs 7)

3) being found in human form as a bondservant, He humbled Himself to death even the death on a cross. (Vs. 8)

➤ Now in verses 9-11 the Father exalted Him in 3 stages.

1) Therefore God highly exalted Him. (VS 9)

a) In His resurrection. (Acts 2:24,) Whom God has raised up..

b) In His ascension into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11, 2:32, 33) God raised Him up to His right hand.

2) The Father has given Him the Name that is above every name. Vs. 9

a) The name that Jesus bore in His earthly humiliation He shall continue to bare in His exaltation. (Acts 1:11, Acts 2:36, Acts 7:55,

3) That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow.. VS. 10

- Already this has begun and for almost 2000 years untold numbers of millions of Christians willing bowed the knee to their Savior and Lord. From every tribe, tongue and nation, from every corner of the globe.
- And one day even His enemies will bow the knee and confess with their tongues that He, Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father.
- This is the mind of the Father.
- The Son humbled Himself even to the point of the humiliation and obscenity of the cross, "therefor."
- The Father ended His humiliation and exalted Him.

#### THE MINDSET OF THE SAINT: Vs. 5

- Jesus in emptying Himself of the expression of His Divinity to become a man, emptied Himself of self. This is His mind, His heart which is to be in the mind and heart of His church.
  - John's gospel gives the same message and movement. Jn. 13:3-5, 12, 13 Notice movement down, then upward.
- The mindset of the Father is seen in His exalting Him and giving Him a name that is above all other names, and will cause every knee to bow and tongues confess Him as Lord.
- This third mind set is the mindset we are to have, the mindset of Christ and is to be the mindset of the saint and the Church.
- See VS 5 Paul begins this with, "have this mindset, let this mind be in you"...
- This is part of the "renewing of our minds" spoken of in Rom. 12:2, "be transformed by the renewing of your mind. One of the outcomes of this renewing of the mind is here in Phil. 1-4.

#### CONCLUSION:

- We cannot receive the exalted Lord Jesus without embracing the crucified Jesus.
- To understand these things about the mindset of Christ truly, is to begin to understand the true meaning of Christmas.