

This Man Jesus

Philippians 2: 5-11

I have read a passage that is very familiar and dear to the hearts of all believers that have ever read these blessed words. By the estimation of many scholars it is considered the greatest passage in all of Scripture concerning the very essence of Christ our Lord. It is known as the “*kenosis*” or the “*emptying*.”

It is impossible for our finite minds to fully grasp all that this passage reveals. The Word declares that Jesus Christ is God and yet He became man. He, who dwelt in the splendor and glories of eternity past, humbled Himself and entered a world full of sin, greed, and death. Consider the enormous step that our Savior took as He left the splendor of heaven, condescending to the form of a man. He who knew no sin became sin so that we might be forgiven!

This passage reveals the central theme of humanity. Men have lived and died. Nations have risen and fell. Economies have soared and hit rock bottom, and yet all of these combined cannot remotely compare to the impact that this single life had upon the whole of humanity. It has been over 2,000 years since our Lord lived upon this earth and He remains the One that all must reckon with and accept or reject.

I want to take a few moments to consider the eternal [principles](#) revealed in the text as we think on: [This Man Jesus!](#)

I. His Deity (6) – [Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:](#) This speaks of two distinct attributes of His deity.

A. The Essence of His Deity – Christ existed in the [form of God](#). The word [being](#) speaks of “*existence, the very essence of what one is; the continuance of a previous state or existence.*”

- Jesus possessed the [form](#) of God. That too speaks of the very essence of one’s being. It literally means “*the form by which a person strikes the vision; the external appearance, an outward manifestation of an inner reality.*” Clearly Jesus was and is the very essence of God!
- Contrary to the teachings of many false doctrines, Jesus did not somehow achieve deity as He progressed in righteousness. He is not like or similar to God; He is God. This was not achieved as He hung upon the cross and rose from the dead. His deity enabled Him to accomplish those things! [Jn.1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. \[14\] And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, \(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,\) full of grace and truth.](#)

B. The Equality of His Deity – Jesus thought it not robbery to be equal with God. The Jews condemned Him and accused Him of blasphemy for making such a claim that He was equal with God, but it was true nonetheless. The word **equal** has the idea of being “*equal to in quality and quantity.*” Jesus possesses the same deity that God the Father possesses and He possesses an equal amount as well. It is hard for us to comprehend that Jesus stands as a unique entity of God, but He is God. He took on a robe of flesh, concealing His deity, but He never ceased to be equal with God.

➤ **Jn.10:30 – I and my Father are one. Jn.14:9 – Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**

I. His Deity (6)

II. His Humanity (7-8) – Jesus is God. He possesses all of the deity of God, but we cannot consider Christ without considering the God-man. He was fully God and He was fully man.

Consider:

A. The Incarnation (7) – **But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:** Isn't that amazing? Jesus made Himself of no reputation and took on the form of a servant. God who dwelt in the glories of heaven chose to come to this sinful earth in the form of a man. He wasn't forced to do that. He wasn't coaxed into it; He chose that for us.

➤ The phrase “**made Himself of no reputation**” is the kenosis, the emptying. It literally means to empty. Jesus willingly laid aside some of his divine prerogatives to come to this earth. He didn't lose them; He chose to lay them aside.

➤ As He dwelt upon this earth He was no longer omnipresent; He was limited to one place at a time. As He came as a humble babe, the Creator was dependent upon the creature for His sustenance. His glory was veiled in a robe of flesh. Jesus literally emptied Himself to come to earth.

➤ We cannot consider the miracle of Calvary and the empty tomb until we first consider the miracle that He came at all.

B. His Substitution (7) – Why was it necessary for God to become Man? Why did Christ lay aside the glory He possessed in heaven in exchange for a robe of flesh?

➤ It is simple; we are the reason. He came because sin had entered the hearts of all humanity. All were lost in sin and needed to be reconciled to God. There had to be a sacrifice for the sins that had been committed. The blood of bulls and goats could not fully atone; they did not appease the righteous demands of a holy God!

➤ In and of ourselves we had no hope of redemption. We stood condemned in our sin, eternally separated from God. We could never achieve the holiness that we needed or secure the debt that we owed. There had to be One who was worthy. Jesus was that One. He came to become sin for us. He came to take our place. He came as the substitutionary atonement for sin. 2 Cor.5:21 – *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

C. The Crucifixion (8) – And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. The very Son of God, God in the flesh, humbled Himself and submitted to death for all mankind. He was not forced to bear the cross. He was not forced to die for our sin. He was not crucified because of the hatred of the Jews or the sentence of Pilate. He willingly gave His life for us. Jn.10:17-18 – *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. [18] No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

➤ We are reminded that this was no ordinary death; it wasn't an ordinary execution of one who was condemned. Jesus died the death of the cross. Not other means of execution compares to the suffering and misery of the cross. It is the cruelest means of execution ever devised and Jesus bore that for us. He suffered in pain and misery so that we wouldn't have to!

I. His Deity (6)

II. His Humanity (7-8)

III. His Sovereignty (9-11) – The remaining verses do not portray one who is destitute and defeated. They reveal One who has conquered His enemies, vanquished His foes, and risen to His place of sovereignty! Notice:

A. His Exaltation (9a) – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: The word exalted means to “*exalt to the highest rank and power; to raise to supreme majesty.*” There are none that compare to Jesus. He was crucified upon the cross. He was placed in a borrowed tomb, but on the third day He rose victorious over death, hell, and the grave. He ascended back to God the Father, where He is seated on His

right hand. Jesus possesses the place of highest rank, the place of supreme majesty. He is the One that all of heaven will praise! (Rev.5:1-6)

B. His Identification (9b) – There is a name that is above every other name, the name of Jesus. *“It is the name I love to hear; I love to sing its worth; It sounds like music in my ear; The sweetest name on earth.”* No other name resounds like the name of Jesus. There are none that can compare.

➤ It is the name that brings hope to the captive and alone. It is the name that declares salvation full and free. It is the name that opens the blinded eyes and touches the heart of stone. It is the name that strikes fear in the heart of the demons of hell. It is the name that proclaims victory for all who believe on Him!

C. His Presentation (10) – That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; There is coming a day that Jesus will be presented as King of kings and Lord of lords. At that moment every knee will bow in humble recognition of His power and authority.

➤ Throughout the ages of time there have been those who have bowed before the Lord in humble submission. Others have rejected Him, scoffed and mocked His holy name. Clearly there is coming a day when all will bow in submission to the king. All who have ever lived will bow the knee to the King of glory. From the richest and most powerful to the poorest and weak, all will bow before Him. Satan himself and the demons of hell will also bow before the Lord.

D. His Recognition (11) – And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Make no mistake about it, when the day comes for every knee to bow, every tongue will also confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. Many have refused His gracious gift of salvation. He is cursed and despised by many in the world today. He is considered a myth and by many an outright fake. However, one day everyone who refused to submit to Him as Lord in this life will proclaim Him Lord before God the Father.

These verses are dear to my heart. They reveal the passion and commitment that Jesus possessed for those who stood in need of salvation. They remind us of the price that was paid so that we might be forgiven and reconciled to God.

Jesus alone has the power to save. Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. He has a name that is above every name. One day all will confess Him as Lord of all.

The question is whether you have bowed before Him, confessing Him in salvation or will you be required to do so in condemnation. I am glad that I have already bowed in His presence and accepted Him as Lord of all. If you haven't, you will. Why not do it now in salvation rather than later, being cast out of His presence for eternity?