

Series – Joy in Christ, a study of Philippians

Joy in Exalting Christ / Humbling myself **Philippians 2:1-11**

The secret of joy is exalting Christ and humbling myself

Not a shallow exalting of Christ without understanding

Exalting Him for who He really is

Exalting Him for what He has really done

Not false humility – that seeks affirmation and praise

Humility that fully understand who we are

Humility that acknowledges who He is

Review – Philippians the letter of Paul to illuminate real joy

Philippians 1:1-11 Joy in Thanksgiving

Philippians 1:12-18 Joy in the Gospel

Philippians 1:19-30 Joy in Suffering

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain”

I. The Basis of Exalting Christ **1-2**

Method to open eyes - not real questions if=since

Therefore, refers to the persecution they faced

A. Encouragement in Christ

Realizing that you are intensely loved by God

See yourself as the prodigal son – The Father running

B. Comfort from His love

2 Corinthians 1:5 For the more we suffer for Christ the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

See yourself as Peter confronted and commissions by Christ

C. Fellowship together in the Spirit

We are adopted into the family of God

We are members of His Body the Church

Romans 8:16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children See yourself, an orphan in the family of God

See yourself, the children, widows, lame He touched to bless

D. Tender Compassion toward one another

We are to have tender compassion like Christ

See yourself, the children, widows, lame He touched to bless

E. Like-minded in Christ

Unity, one love, one spirit, one mind, one purpose

This is Christ's prayer and Paul's delight

II. The Hindrance to Exalting Christ **3-4**

A. Selfish Ambition

Self-seeking pursuit – I am “god” of my life

Same temptation as in the garden of Eden

Answer true Humility – esteeming others better

B. Vain Conceit (vain glory)

Thinking too highly of one's self

Could be called “empty glory”

Answer – look out for one another

Example Timothy – See **2:20-21**

III. The Reality for Exalting Christ **5-8**

This section contains the greatest hymn of Christology written

But in reality it is an example of true Humility

A. Christ is truly God

Not something to hang on to or steal

Not something to be gained – His very nature

B. Took the path of total humility

1. Emptied Himself of His rights

2. Took the place of a servant

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

3. Born as a human being

A helpless child in His mother's arms

4. Appeared in the form of a man (fully God/Man)

C. Chose the path of sacrifice

In obedience to the Father's will – “not my will be done”

The most shameful and painful death imaginable

IV. The Ultimate in Exalting Christ

Therefore – not because He was rewarded for obedience but rather because He is truly God – God settled the question for eternity – resurrection

A. Exalted to the Highest Honor

Ascended into Heaven

Seated (completed task) at the right hand of the Father

Read **Acts 5:20-32**

B. Given the Name above all names

Jesus means "Yahweh, God saves" - our expression

And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 God gave Him the name

You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it! John 14:13-14 Jesus gave us His Name for answer to prayer

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." Romans 10:13

Salvation is only in His Name

Lord – equivalent to God himself. To call Jesus "Lord" is to declare Him divine and due all the worship as God

C. Given dominion over all men

All will bow the knee, and all will confess in eternity

Only those who surrender on earth will enjoy eternity with Christ

Steps to Joy in Exalting Christ

Humble yourself before Him (as Christ taught)

"Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:4

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

Take the lowest place when you are a guest at a banquet: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

Bow your knee in submission to Him

Confess your sins, place Him on the throne of your life

Proclaim Him as the Lord of your life.

Daily call upon His name

Questions

Is the basis present in your life?

Are the hindrances overshadowing them?

Behold the Glory of humility in Christ's example

And the Exaltation at the Hand of the Father

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