

**Series: The Glory of God in the Person of Christ #1240**

**Title: Christ's Humiliation and Exaltation**

**Revelation 1.7**

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. My desire for you is that you'll know Jesus Christ and love Him sincerely and deeply all the days of your life. And yesterday when we left off we heard the words of Jesus in the parable He told in the staggering story in Luke 19, verses 11-27. Through the use of a parable, used regularly by Jesus to teach deep spiritual truth, He made the claim that when He comes again He comes in judgment against sin and sinner. Our sin never escapes the watching eye and all-knowing power of God. He sees all. Even the sin we consider hidden (that we think only we know about): God knows it. God knows everything.

And so He sent His one and only Son Jesus in the world that first time on a mission of grace to take away the sins of those of us who accept His sacrifice for them. But Christ is coming again. We call this His Second Coming. And when He does, at a time never disclosed to us, He comes on a mission of judgment to condemn *unrepentant sinners* (the Christ rejectors). I know such people. You do too. And isn't it heart breaking to us that loved one of ours are separate from Christ by their sin, and thus far, have refused His offer of divine grace? I get heartbroken over this.

This is why I want to start today with prayer. "O Lord our God, we come before you today because of the loving grace of Jesus, and we ask for your mercy to continue towards people we love who are not yet living in a secure relationship with You. We pray they all might hear the Good News of your coming and that this time when they hear the gospel, they will believe it. Give them the gift of faith, O God.

You are coming again. Thank you for giving us hope in the future. We, Your people, look forward with great anticipation to the day of Your return to the earth when You will establish Your millennial rule. But until that day put us again on mission for you to the lost souls who roam around in our homes, offices, schools, towns and cities, and yes, even sadly in our churches. We pray for them. Thank You for hearing our prayer. And we trust that You *will* answer. In the Name of Jesus the Savior, Amen."

When we speak biblically about the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can speak generally of this in two ways: first, the humiliation of Christ, and second, the exaltation of Christ. Humiliation and exaltation.

Again speaking generally, when we look back at the first coming of Jesus we read extensively about His humiliation. He was humbled. Yet, when we read about the future Second Coming of Jesus we read extensively about His exaltation. He will be exalted. It is impossible for us to think that the last this world will see of Jesus is Him dying upon the wooden cross. No! His resurrection and ascension gives us a sweet foretaste of what?...Of His return. This will be a triumphant, glorious, magnificent, and celebrated return. He is coming again! The Bible says it, and I for one believe it. I know many of you do too.

When I pause to think about Christ's humiliation and then of His exaltation I am of course drawn to the Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. Paul loved the believers there very much and they just adored him. Philippians is a New Testament Book that is well worth your extensive study and even memorization. It's chock full of many of the verses most Christians cherish. There's a down-to-earth, practical, life-in-the-real-world style to this letter of Saint Paul's. I commend it to you. Please do read it.

And in the second chapter he is writing to the Christians at Philippi about humility. And in verse 5 he points the believers to Jesus Christ as the premier example of what it means to live a humble life. Listen now to Philippians chapter 2. I will read verses 5 through 8.

**"<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."** This speaks plainly of the humiliation of Christ.

But then as we continue to read, beginning in verse 9 and going down through verse 11 Paul then writes of the exaltation of Christ. I continue the reading in Philippians 2 at verse 9 now, **“<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted [Jesus], and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

So that in just seven verses Paul the Apostle lays out for us in very readable fashion the truth that Christ was humiliated in His first coming, but will be exalted in His Second Coming.

But the purpose of our time together this week is to look at the Second Coming of Christ, and so I want you to see the differences between who Christ is when He's first on earth and who Christ is when He returns to this earth. For example, in Philippians 2 and verse 7 Paul writes that Jesus **“emptied Himself.”** That's humility. Here before us is God. Jesus is God. God is Father, Son (that's Jesus) and Spirit. But when Christ is born of the virgin Mary He becomes man. He empties Himself of some element of His divine glory in order to live as we live (while never, ever sinning – I always want to be clear – Jesus never sinned; He's the one perfect person). But then when we read ahead down to verse 9 of Philippians 2 we read, **“God highly exalted [Jesus]...”** and in verse 11, **“...Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

Ah ha! So there is a sweet movement from humility to acclaim, from disdain to worship!

In verse 8 the Apostle says, **“<sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, [Jesus] humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”** Imagine that! Close your eyes if you aren't driving, and ponder this. It's mind-blowing! Here's God the Son, and He intentionally and by joyful choice leaves heaven and comes to earth. He humbles Himself and what happens to Him? Instead of being worshipped for who He is, He's murdered. His fellow human beings kill Him – He's crucified on the cross. Can you get a sense for how degrading this was to Him?

I often do not think we get it, truly get it! Believers do not spend anywhere near enough time in the Scriptures reading about and contemplating the shame of the suffering Savior. Have you considered deeply the abasement Christ endured for you? Or do you take lightly His sacrifice for your sins? This is something that I personally wrestle with. I can too easily gloss over the shame of Christ in favor of my own freedom from judgment on my sin because of what He has done for me. I am thinking selfishly about the benefits of His death for *me*, without thinking about what this cost *Him*. For example, on Easter weekend most of us cannot wait for Sunday morning. We endure the Good Friday service so we can get to the Resurrection Day service.

But, to pause and be sober minded about Christ's humiliation is an exercise well worth doing.

With one final look (for today anyway) at Philippians 2, and the exaltation of Christ, we read this in verses 10 and 11. **“...at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** Ah yes! God has exalted Christ. And this is the Jesus who returns to the earth and rules in judgment on sin and in power over people alive during His millennium. Note the word **“every.”** We did that just a little while ago when I used Philippians 2. I say again: “every” means “every.” Every knee bows in humility, every tongue confesses Christ in humility. Then, we are *all*, everyone is humbled, while He is exalted! Hallelujah! How resplendent are the plans of God!

This weekend, let us give pause and consider the humiliation and the exaltation of Christ. Go over Philippians chapter 2. Read it in preparation for your worship with other Christians this Lord's Day (Sunday). Remember: all of this teaching comes out of Revelation chapter 1, verse 7.

That's our campground as it were and we've done a few little day hikes out from there, but we always come back to our tent at night. And so as we return there, we find that Jesus is coming, and He is coming with the clouds. Clouds. What can we learn about those? Actually, it's quite a bit. And we will do that beginning on Monday, Lord willing.

Before I go just one final reminder that I have this simple document on the differences between the rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Christ. If you would like it, just write to me and ask for “differences.” And then be sure and join us again on Monday, in Revelation 1, because God Is. ---END---