**Every Knee Shall Bow**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

**Wednesday Evening**

**May 9, 2021**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 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.

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.

**5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,**

Saints, many people feel that they can’t control their moods or attitudes. But Paul doesn’t accept the fact that Spirit-filled Christians are slaves to their attitudes. Christ Jesus had a particular attitude; so must we. One of the great myths of popular psychology that has drifted into the church today deals with impulsive behavior based on emotions.

Those who accept Jesus Christ as Savior enter a community of believers, the church. Believers are to obey their Savior because of who he is and what he has done on their behalf. Paul eloquently describes this in the following verses.

**1 John 2:3-6**

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

**6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,**

Saints, this verse describes the status of Christ as he existed before the creation of the world—that is, his preincarnate state. Jesus Christ was and is God. Everything God is, Christ is; the equality is in essential characteristics and divine attributes.

But Jesus did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but set them aside for a time in order to become human. When Christ was born, God became a man. Jesus was not part man and part God; he was completely human and completely divine. Christ is the perfect expression of God in human form.

**Isaiah 9:6**

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”

Saints, as a man, Jesus was subject to place, time, and other human limitations. What made Jesus’ humanity unique was his freedom from sin. He did not give up his eternal power when he became human, but he did set aside his glory and his rights. In his full humanity, we can see everything about God’s character that can be conveyed in human terms.

**7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**

Saints, Christ voluntarily gave of himself, making himself nothing. The Incarnation was the act of the preexistent Son of God voluntarily assuming a human body and human nature. He did not give up his deity to become human.

Yet upon his birth as a human being, he took the humble position of a slave. What appeared on earth was not a prince in a palace, or a royal king, or a wealthy and scholarly teacher; instead, Jesus’ entire life was devoted to serving others Jesus’ glory and divinity were veiled by his humanity and mortality.

**Isaiah 53:2**

“For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him”

**Mark 10:45**

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**1 John 3:16**

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”

**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.**

Saints, when Jesus took on a human form, he then humbled himself to accomplish that task for which he had come—to die for sinful humanity in order that they might have eternal life. He died a brutal death for you and me.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”

**But why did Jesus have to become human and have to die?**

A holy God cannot overlook sin. The sinfulness of humanity had to be punished. In the Old Testament, God required his people to sacrifice animals (“perfect” animals, healthy and whole) to atone for their sins.

**Why blood?**

There is no greater symbol of life than blood; blood keeps us alive. Instead of sending all humanity to eternal punishment, God took the punishment himself. Jesus shed his blood—gave his life—for our sins so that we wouldn’t have to experience spiritual death and eternal separation from God.

**Romans 8:3**

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh”

The costly sacrifice of an animal’s life impressed upon the sinner the seriousness of his or her sin before God. When animals’ blood was shed, God regarded the people’s faith and obedience, cleansed them, and made them ceremonially clean.

**9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,**

Saints, because Christ willingly set aside his glory to totally obey the Father’s will, God raised him up to the heights of heaven. God did not leave Christ in the grave but raised him from the dead, brought him back up to heaven, and glorified him (see Acts 2:33; Ephesians 1:20-22; Hebrews 1:3).

**Acts 2:33**

“Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear”

**Ephesians 1:20-23**

“20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”

**Hebrews 1:3-4**

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, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

God gave Jesus all authority (Matthew 28:18; John 5:27) and made him the Lord of both the dead and the living (Romans 14:9).

**John 5:27**

“and has given Him authorityto execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man”

**Matthew 28:18**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

**Romans 14:9**

“For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living”

Saints, that Jesus’ name is above every other name refers not to Jesus’ title, but instead to his name that signifies his person. In the Bible, names often reveal a person’s character. Jesus’ dignity and honor are above all others.

Because Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but willingly obeyed God in order to carry out the plan of salvation, God honored that obedience by giving Jesus this name above all names.

**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,**

Saints, in keeping with Jesus’ exaltation and power, one day every knee will bow before him. In heaven refers to the angels; on earth means all humanity; under the earth refers to the underworld—possibly to unsaved people who have died or to demons.

Those who love Jesus will bow in adoration and worship; those who refused to acknowledge him will bow in submission and fear (see also Ephesians 4:9-10; Revelation 5:13).

**Ephesians 4:9-10**

9(Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

**Revelation 5:13**

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

This will take place at Jesus’ second coming when the forces of evil will be completely defeated and God will form a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 19:20-21; 21:1).

**Revelation 19:20-21**

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

**Revelation 20:1-3**

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Paul purposely quoted Isaiah 45:23 here and in Romans 14:11. In so doing, he applied those powerful words to Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 45:23**

I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath

**Romans 14:11**

For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."

Isaiah, proclaiming the unique greatness of God, had said that the same God who would not share his glory with another would receive the homage of every living being. Paul equated that position of God with Jesus’ preeminent lordship.

**John 5:21-23**

21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Again Jesus’ true deity and oneness with the Father are revealed.

**11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Saints, every tongue will confess the basic truth of Christianity: Jesus Christ is Lord. This does not mean that eventually everyone will be saved.

Every tongue in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will recognize Jesus as Lord, either because of belief or because of mere acknowledgment of the undisputable fact. No tongue will be silent; no knee will remain unbowed.

All of creation will recognize Jesus Christ as Lord.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**PowerPoint > 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**PowerPoint > 1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

**Short Movie Slide>**

**PowerPoint > Acts 2:38-39**

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**