



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Actions of Christ: Humility

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The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians (60-62 A.D.), Paul is imprisoned (one of four Prison Letters, the others being Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon) in Rome addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Philippi, the first founded by Paul in Europe. In this letter, Paul, having a fondness for the people of the church of Philippi, because of their faithfulness and generous nature, wanted to thank them for their gifts, letting them know why he was returning Epaphroditus to them, sharing his situation in prison, urging unity in church, and warning them against false teachers. While false doctrine had started to plague many of the churches, he wanted to provide encouragement for practical living and support for sound doctrine. While much of the letter deals with spiritual growth, the tone throughout is that there is joy in Christ and Paul rejoices in Christ being proclaimed regardless of his circumstance and that they also must conduct their lives, strive and suffer in and for Christ. (Php 2:5-11 NASB)

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (2:5-8)

Actions of Christ: Humility. Paul, having shared in the preceding verses the importance of believers humbly placing the interest of others in front of their own, provides the supreme example of the importance of others and the ultimate sacrifice for others that Jesus humbly provided to the world. Followers of Christ Jesus will exhibit an attitude of selfless sacrifice and a personal interest for others as a reflection of their love in and for Christ.

Paul boldly makes the statement that while Jesus existed in the form of God, the reality of that existence would be a mystery to man. Jesus willingly placed aside His glory and put on the form of a slave or bond-servant and the likeness of man. He did not cease to be God but was fully God and fully man, again something that man would not totally grasp. Jesus humbled Himself to become flesh and made the ultimate sacrifice by willingly taking the wages of man’s sins and dying on a cross, the cruelest, most painful and degrading form of death known to man. Why?

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (2:9-11)

Humility brings exaltation. Scripture consistently supports the action of humility brings exaltation; as exemplified by, *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,” 1 Peter 5:6.* Paul shares the supreme and ultimate exaltation of Christ Jesus humbling Himself and God the Father highly exalting Him. God the Father so highly exalted Him that at the mention of His name, all in heaven, earth, and under the earth would bow and acknowledge or confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Amen!

For Your Consideration:

- Do you place the interest of others before your own?
- Do you daily humbly take up your cross and follow Jesus?
- Have you confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart that Jesus is Lord?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44