CAPITOL® COMMISSION
Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders

Knees & Tongue

February 13, 2024

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Weekly Bible Study Schedule
Tuesday, February 13, 7:00-7:45 AM
House Hearing Room 3
All Welcome!
Capitol Commission is NON-PARTISAN and NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Introduction

Paul's letter to the Philippian's centers around chapter two. It is a hallmark chapter that points to the gospel story. The poem in verses six-eleven tells the story about the Messiah's incarnation, life, death, resurrection and exaltation. Our story is to mirror Jesus's story. Our faith is expressed by following the Jesus way.

2:5 – You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

An attitude is a set position. It is a way of thinking. Humility is the way of Christ. As followers of Jesus we should share His perspective. To emulate Christ's attitude is to live life circumspectly of His thoughts and behavior. Such a goal cannot be accomplished without the work of Holy Spirit to help us do what we cannot do on our own.

2:6 – Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

Before the foundation of time Jesus existed in all glory and power as God, the Son.

> *Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!* John 17:24

In the beginning of humankind, Adam and Eve were formed in the image of God.

> *Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.* Gen. 1:26

Satan said to Eve in the Garden of Eden that they can be like God:

> *"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."* Gen. 3:5

Adam and Eve were formed in the image of God and desired to know what God knew.

So, what was Satan doing? He was exalting the created to be Divine.

Satan exalted himself

⇒ Satan exalted himself to be like God. What's interesting is that he already had the highest status among the angels. His coup against God ended in disaster. He was thrown out of heaven along with one-third of the rebellious angels, AKA, Demons.

Humankind exalted itself

⇒ Adam exalted himself to know like God. Pride and power lured him into thinking and acting like Satan. His eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ended in disaster. He was banished from Eden. The ground was cursed and he and his descendants live in hard work so the ground would produce food. Sin entered the world through Adam. And sin was conquered by Jesus through His sacrificial death on the cross.

> *For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.* Rom. 5:27

⇒ The Roman Emperor exalted himself to be worshipped. Nero wanted to be Divine. It ended in disaster.

⇒ The present-day society exalted itself to speak on behalf of God. They tell the social community what God is like and how He should lead the world. Their voice is built on emotions and approach world thinking like a human claiming it is God. They live in a house built on sand that when the waters crash into it the house will crumble. It will end in disaster.

2:7 – Instead, he gave up his divine privileges he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form…

The Divine volunteered to be lowly. He possessed the rightful position as God willing to relinquish all His glory seated on the throne at the right hand of God, the Father. Jesus yielded His prerogatives not His Divinity while on earth. He gave up what was reserved only for Him. He chose humanity giving up His glory.

Jesus modeled servant-selflessness we are to emulate servant-likeness.

2:8 – he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

> *I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.*
> Isaiah 53:12

The perfect lived among humankind without sin. In the Old Testament once a year the high priest would make atonement for the Hebrews. Jesus became our high priest to make final atonement for humankind.

> *Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people*.
> Heb. 2:17

Jesus took on the sins of the world for six hours. Crucifixion was reserved for criminals and persons of the lowest status, yet the King of heaven and earth humbled himself.

> *For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*
> Luke 14:11

The ultimate sacrifice, He took our place. The penalty for sin is death. God's judgment on sin was diverted to Jesus so that you and I can be saved from God's judgment. When we sin God sees the sacrifice of His son, Jesus, therefore our sins are forgiven. Jesus made a relationship with God possible. God is a God of love, and He judges sin. When one follows Jesus as Lord God's judgement for their sin is diverted. Jesus is vindicated by the cross; humankind are vindicated through the cross; and Satan and darkness are defeated because of the cross.

Jesus humbled Himself when He came to earth and He humbled Himself all the way to the cross. He was resurrected on the third day after His death when God initiated the elevation of Jesus.

2:9 – Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names…

God returned Jesus to the place of highest honor next to the right-side of His Father's throne. Jesus fulfilled God's plan from before the foundation of the world. Jesus's name became the one above all names. He could not be exalted any higher. (Romans 8:3-4)

> *Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor. Let all the earth tremble before him.* Psalm 96:9

This is why we pray "in the name of Jesus". He is all powerful. Followers of Christ believe His name to be above all other names. His name is above cancer, mental illness, fractured relationships, poverty, all forms of brokenness. His power breaks the chains that bind people: emotional, physical, spiritual, and social. Everything is smaller than His name.

2:10 – that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

All the angels of heaven. All the fallen angels. All nations. And all people, from past to present to future, until the end of time, will bow their knee to God in worship. We will exalt the Divine.

Greek mythology believed there is life in heaven, earth, sea, under the sea. Paul speaks God's revelation to Greek mythology that wherever life is found they will all bow to the one name above all other names.

2:11 - and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

All knees, all tongue, will surrender to the rule Christ. The rebellious, though they reject Jesus as Lord, will offer a final submission of knee and tongue.

Tongue is considered an unruly part of a person. It might be the most difficult to tame. One day all tongues will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Some onto salvation from sins, and some while separated from Christ because of their sins. The arrogant will be humbled and the humble will be exalted to live with Jesus in heaven throughout eternity.

Final Submission