

## THE PERFECT HUMILITY OF CHRISTMAS

--PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8--

### INTRODUCTION:

What will this Christmas mean to you? Is there a word that characterizes what Christmas should mean for us? There is, and the word is “incarnation” which simply means “God in flesh.” This morning I want to look at the incarnation in a passage which truly gives us an understanding of what it meant for God to become flesh. What was required of God to become flesh and why did He become flesh?

#### I. THE FORM OF GOD (Philippians 2:6)

- a. The apostle Paul writes that Jesus Christ existed in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (John 1:1; Colossians 2:9)
- b. Jesus Christ was and is and will always be God, yet Paul goes on to say that Jesus Christ did not regard His \_\_\_\_\_ with God a thing to be grasped. (Hebrews 2:9)

#### II. THE FORM OF A SERVANT (Philippians 2:7)

- a. In verse 7 Paul begins with that little word “\_\_\_\_\_” and this is where the incarnation comes in, this is where we see Christmas in the book of Philippians.
- b. Paul writes that Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Himself, what does that mean? (John 17:5; 5:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
  1. He set aside His heavenly \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. He set aside His self-interest and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father.
  3. He set aside His divine \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. He set aside His eternal \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. He set aside His favorable \_\_\_\_\_ with God as He felt God’s wrath for human sin on the cross.
- c. And this word “\_\_\_\_\_” used here is the identical word used in verse 6 in the phrase “form of God.”

- d. God, the Creator of the universe, the Sustainer of all things, the self-existent, all-powerful, eternal One was \_\_\_\_\_ in the town of Bethlehem.
- e. But why was the Sovereign of the universe found clothed in human flesh? (Philippians 2:8; John 12:27)

#### III. THE PERFECT HUMILITY (Philippians 2:8)

- a. Once we understand this \_\_\_\_\_, once we have wrapped our minds around the fact that Jesus Christ was born to die.
- b. Why did the eternal God become a \_\_\_\_\_, a slave and die a criminal’s death?
- c. The sovereign, eternal God of the universe was born to die because He thought more \_\_\_\_\_ of you and me than He thought of Himself. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 8:9)

### CONCLUSION:

Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man was born to die because He esteemed unlovely sinners more highly than Himself. He died for you and me because He thought we were worth saving. Anything that detracts, negates, or misdirects our worship from this central reason for the incarnation is a distortion of the Christmas message. Let us always remember this truth and always make it apart of the Good News of the Christmas message that Jesus Christ, God in flesh, was born to die so that we might live.

I promised that I would go back to verse 5. Paul’s theme in this chapter is considering others more highly than yourself and he uses the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the perfect example of humility. He begins by stating, “*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,*” (Philippians 2:5, NASB95) We are to have this same attitude of humility in ourselves that we see displayed in Jesus Christ in His incarnation and substitutionary death. Jesus Christ in humility esteemed unworthy sinners more highly than Himself. What better way to celebrate the Christmas season than becoming a servant to others, looking at people more highly than yourself. Jesus came in the flesh that He might give His life for us, what are you willing to sacrifice this Christmas so that others might see Jesus.