

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for January 19-20, 2002**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"The Christmas Story from Paul's Perspective"**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

The first area of truth concerning Christ's exaltation was that His exaltation involved four different steps.

The first step in Christ's exaltation was His resurrection (Acts 1:3).

The second step in Christ's exaltation was His ascension (Acts 1:9-11).

The third step in Christ's exaltation was His unveiling when He once again was crowned with glory and honor (Hebrews 2:9).

The fourth step involved in Christ's exaltation is His high priestly ministry of intercession (Hebrews 4:14).

The second area of truth concerning Christ's exaltation was that He received a very special name.

When God bestowed names upon certain individuals in the Scriptures it was to communicate to that individual and others a prophetic certainty (Genesis 17:1-8; 32:22- 28 compare 35:9-12; Matthew 16:13-19).

The name that was bestowed on Christ at His exaltation was "Lord" (Philippians 2:11).

The word "Lord" (KURIOS) signified having power or authority.

The name "Lord" that was bestowed on Christ at His exaltation was a title for God.

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Why is this the only way to understand this name?

First of all, because of the link between Philippians 2:10 and Isaiah 40:20-25.

Secondly because of how the term "Lord" is used when referring to Christ in the epistles.

The only time anyone in the gospels consistently used the word "Lord" to identify Jesus as God was when Jesus used the word "Lord" to refer to Himself (Matthew 7:21-22; 22:41-45; Mark 5:19; John 13:13).

The resurrection of Christ marked a turning point in how Christ's disciples viewed Him. He was no longer simply Jesus who happened to be the Christ but He was now seen as the "Lord Jesus Christ," or in other words He was seen as God.

The proper response to the name which was bestowed is worship and worship is only permitted toward God.

The only way to understand the significance of the bestowal of the name "Lord" at Christ's exaltation was that it initiated a process by which equality with God, that Jesus always possessed, would be acknowledged by all creation.

Be assured of this that every knee will bow before Christ the Lord.