

EXALT JESUS

More than anything or anyone else, we must exalt Jesus Christ!

KEY POINTS

- ❖ To exalt means “to raise on high; lift up; elevate. To raise in rank, character, honor. To glorify or praise; pay honor to” (Webster’s Dictionary).
- ❖ As human beings, we are quite willing and happy to exalt those who excel in their contributions to humanity.
- ❖ God, on the other hand has only ever exalted ONE in such a manner.
- ❖ This ONE described as “highly exalted,” lifted up and glorified, was *not* exalted because of His wealth, power, activism, ability or political status. He was exalted because of a cross! (See Philippians 2:5-11.)
- ❖ What a résumé. The Almighty God in human flesh, refusing to demand the honour and respect God deserves. The Almighty God in flesh, making Himself a slave to humanity. The Almighty God in flesh, the Lamb of God who takes on the sin of the world, hanging on a cross.
- ❖ It is often brought to our remembrance that the birth of Jesus Christ was an incredible event. But it would have meant nothing for us without His death, burial and resurrection. He did it all for us!
- ❖ So now, because of Calvary, *we* also join with the eternal Spirit of God in exalting, glorifying and elevating the work of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Let’s look at it another way by taking note of one of the crucial pillars in the foundation of Christian doctrine:
- ❖ Jesus Christ is none other than the eternal God in a human body—the visible, fleshly manifestation of the Almighty God. Emmanuel, God with us; “the fullness of the Godhead bodily” as Isaiah and Paul have taught us.
- ❖ Therefore, when we speak of God exalting Jesus, we are actually speaking of God exalting *Himself* and showing us what He really deems to be the most important facet of His character, purpose and work.
- ❖ Believe it or not, saving you and me is what exalts God *in His own mind* and fulfills Him in His position as the great God of the universe. In truth and in fact, God was in Christ, reconciling us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:14-15,17-19).
- ❖ This is why every person and spirit will bow to the name of Jesus. Everyone will bow in exaltation of the saving, reconciling work of Jesus Christ—Jehovah, the Messiah who Saves!
- ❖ Our salvation was not an easy, glamorous or desirable process on His part. His exaltation, glorification and ‘lifting up’ demanded a cross.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Philippians 2:5-11; John 3:14; John 12:27-33 (Numbers 21:4-8); 2 Corinthians 5:14-19; Revelation 4:2-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-12

- ❖ “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3:14; see also Numbers 21:4-9).
- ❖ John did not simply record the fact that Jesus would be lifted up to draw all people to Himself. He was also privileged to see into the future as the angels, elders, heavenly creatures and saints of God gather around His throne in heaven.
- ❖ He records in *Revelation* the words of exaltation, glorification and worship that will be spoken at this amazing gathering. And yes, we, the children of God on Earth, will be a part of that worship service!
 - We will exalt God as the only eternal One (4:8).
 - We will exalt Him as our creator (4:11)
 - We will exalt Him as our redeemer (5:9)
 - We will exalt His grace in elevating us to the position of kings and priests (5:10)
 - We will exalt His worthiness to receive our worship forever (5:12-13).
- ❖ Let us join with them today, raising our voices, our hearts, our hands, and our spirits to exalt Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Are there certain individuals that you highly revere (whether they are people you know personally or those of a historical context)? What are the attributes or accomplishments of these people that cause you to “exalt” them?
2. We exalt God as.... Fill in the blank. For what reason(s) do you exalt God? What attributes does He possess that make you exalt Him? What accomplishment(s) has He made possible in your life?
3. Exalt Jesus! Take time to “lift up, elevate, glorify and praise” the King of kings and Lord of lords. Lift Him up.

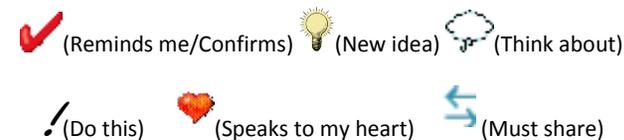
Prayer Time

“When I think of the goodness of Jesus and all He has done for me, my soul cries out ‘hallelujah,’ thank God for saving me!”

WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: November 22, 2018 set a new record for being the coldest historically. What methods do you use to combat/survive the cold?