

GOD ALSO HATH HIGHLY EXALTED HIM

***Phil 2:9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

***Phil 2:10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.*

The word exalt means “to think or speak very highly of someone”. There is no one in the universe that God thinks more highly or speaks more highly of than Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Surely, we should all be very interested in who God himself thinks and speaks most highly of. Let me remind you that God did countless mighty works. He created the universe, powerful angels, and yet this is not the work he thinks and speaks most highly of. He made humans in his image, and yet this is not the work that he thinks and speaks most highly of. God delivered Israel from Egypt with many incredible miracles, and yet this is not the work that he thinks and speaks most highly of. God has been assigned many names: Jehovah Elyon, Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Tsidkenu, Jehovah Nissi etc., and yet there is no other name he thinks and speaks of more highly than the name of Jesus. Why would God give more honor to this person and this name of Jesus? The answer is simple, and yet profound: this person is the one through whom God himself did his most exalted work ever. This person is God himself – and his name is Jesus.

***Isaiah 52:6** Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I.*

***Isaiah 52:7** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

God was speaking about a day when he would come and speak to his people with a mouth and feet – a day when he himself would preach his own salvation; when he himself would tell his people, “Thy God reigneth”. Do you see how much God longed for that day! He spoke highly of that day from the beginning. “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15). There was never a time in the history of womanhood when a woman, Eve, felt so defeated and hopeless. But, at the same moment, God converted her defeat into a promised victory by speaking highly of the day God would be manifested in flesh: the seed of the woman is Jesus Christ. No matter how low we may sink, at the name of Jesus, the defeat converted into victory because this is the name God himself has exalted. Have you come to

this conference in the doldrums of defeat? All you need to do is exalt the one, Jesus, of whom God thinks and speaks so highly of and you will rise from the bottom and touch the sky of victory. In 1960, The director of NASA's Space Flight Development, Abe Silverstein, proposed the name "Apollo" for the manned project to the Moon. The main reason was that the Greek god Apollo was the god of the Sun. In Greek mythology, he pulled the sun in its course across the sky each day in his horse-drawn golden chariot. For us Christians, the name of our project to heaven is called Jesus. This name will provide the power for lift off from this earth and cause us to land safely in heaven.

***Ephesians 2:5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

***Ephesians 2:6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

The apostle Paul states that "God also hath highly exalted him". Humans, sadly, degraded Jesus. We allowed him to be born in a manger; we rejected his first sermon; if fact, we were so offended by his first sermon, that we wanted it to be his last sermon – we dragged him to throw him off a cliff in Nazareth; mostly we followed him to exploit him for food and physical healing; we complained whenever he declared that he is God manifested in flesh so much so that we decided he must die the most humiliating death – crucifixion. Our record in dealing with Jesus was a terrible one when he walked on this earth: we called him Beelzebul, spat on him and have inevitably determined that Jesus and his apostles were not worthy to walk this earth: "And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live" (Acts 22:22). We dug a tomb for Jesus and expected him to remain there but "God also hath highly exalted him", so it was impossible for humans to keep humiliating Jesus. The death and burial of Jesus is the limit of human humiliation of Jesus. From that time on, God highly exalted him above every name. Like I said earlier, the more you take the name of Jesus down, the higher God will exalt this name. Whatever terrible thing one does to the name of Jesus, God will exalt his name higher. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19).

This is the great and blessed paradox of the name of Jesus. For those of you who are not saved through Jesus Christ, please hear me for a moment. The way to victory over this world, is to identify with the humiliation of Jesus – because when you repent and are baptized in Jesus name in the waters of salvation, you position yourself for the victory of resurrection through a new birth. Anyone who identifies with the name of Jesus, will suffer rejection and

humiliation in this world. However, this is precisely the way to achieve victory: through death with Jesus Christ, you will experience a new birth. This new birth is of God – Jesus will give birth to you. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4). The greatest conquerors of this world were not the Julius Caesars, Alexanders, Genghis Khans, Napoleons or a General Douglas MacArthur. I am looking in the faces and eyes of the greatest conquerors of this world: it is you who are born of Jesus Christ. Has anything or anyone defeated Jesus? Never – not even death; and you are his sons and daughters. Say with me: “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37).

Who is saying all these marvelous declarations? Remember Saul of Tarsus had firsthand experience with how God hath highly exalted the name of Jesus. Saul must have celebrated the death of Jesus. He thanked Jehovah very much for ridding the world of Jesus of Nazareth, or so he thought. He became mad when he realized that the name of Jesus refused to stay buried with the body of Jesus in the grave. So, until the body of Jesus would be found, he decided to make sure the name of Jesus would be brought back to the grave, so to speak. On the Road to Damascus, he saw Jesus high and lifted up – he realized that Jesus was not in the grave in Jerusalem: Jesus was exalted in Damascus too, and Saul fell on his knees and confessed Jesus is God. So, when Saul of Tarsus wrote that Jesus was exalted and that at his name every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, he was speaking about his own experience. Either through love or force, we will all highly exalt Jesus.

Let me conclude where I began. There is no other person or name that God has glorified more than Jesus. The reason is because the greatest work that God ever did, was when he manifested himself through Jesus. So, in order for a person to please God, one must acknowledge and exalt the work that God has done through Jesus. Jesus is not another member of the Trinity; he is Jehovah himself manifested in the flesh. “That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him” (John 5:23). Receive this revelation that Jesus is the One God, the Father himself today; repent of your sins and be baptized in this name today if you wish to please God and conquer this world; and receive his Holy Spirit that you may be empowered to live a holy life pleasing to him.

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