

**“THE ROAD CHRIST TOOK TO PROVIDE REDEMPTION”**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:5-12**

**INTRO:** The work of Christ that took Him from the GLORIES OF HEAVEN, to THE EARTH, to DEATH, to THE CROSS, and back to HEAVEN is an amazing chain of events to follow. It is a chain of events we SHOULD NEVER ALLOW OUR MIND TO FORGET! It is a chain of events that shows LOVE, GRACE, MERCY, HUMILITY, AND EXALTATION that paints a true picture of WHO CHRIST IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US. In this message let's consider **THE SPIRITUAL ROAD CHRIST TOOK TO THE CROSS.**

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The history of the church reveals that these verses were very likely a hymn or poem that Paul borrowed as an illustration. While the message of the cross is recorded in the Gospels and explained in the Epistles, ONLY THIS TEXT views the CRUCIFIXION through the eyes of the Lord Himself.

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**I. THE ROAD BEGINS WITH THE DIETY OF CHRIST – VS. 6**

(Through the individual words used in this passage Paul affirms that Jesus is the Eternal God)

A. “Being in the Form of God”

1. The word “Being”

a. Stresses the actual essence of Christ's nature.

b. Paul was saying that Jesus was in the CONTINUOUS STATE OF BEING GOD IN HIS EXISTENCE IN ETERNITY PAST!

2. The word “Form”

a. Stresses the essential UNCHANGING character of Christ.

b. Paul was saying that Jesus was in and of Himself TRULY GOD!

NOTE: **THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINE OF CHRIST'S DEITY IS A THEME OF SCRIPTURE:**

**John 1:1-4,14; 8:58; Colossians 1:15-17.**

B. “Thought it not Robbery to be Equal with God”

1. The word “Robbery”

a. Originally the word “robbery” meant that which is clutched, embraced, prized or grasped.

b. Paul was saying that though Christ had ALL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND HONOR OF DEITY, **WHICH HE WAS WORTHY OF**, HIS ATTITUDE WAS NOT TO “CLING” TO THOSE THINGS BUT RATHER TO GIVE THEM UP FOR A SEASON. AND HE DID!

2. The word “Equal”

a. Defines the things that are EXACTLY THE SAME!

b. Paul was saying that IN EVERY WAY Jesus is EQUAL TO GOD. Christ constantly claimed this in His ministry. John 5:18; 10:33-38; 14:9

NOTE: **ALL THAT GOD IS FOUND IN CHRIST AND HE NEVER CEASED TO BE GOD. COLOSSIANS 1:19; 2:9**

ILLUSTRATION:

**II. THE ROAD CONTINUES WITH THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST**

**VS. 7**

A. “Made Himself of no Reputation”

1. This Phrase means to “empty or renounce”

2. Paul is saying that Christ SELF-RENOUNCED, OR SET ASIDE HIS PRIVILEGES OF DIETY IN CERTAIN AREAS.

a. His Heavenly Glory – On earth Christ showed a degree of glory (John 1:14) but the DIVINE OUTWARD DISPLAY OF GLORY was renounced (John 15:5)

b. His Independent Authority – On earth Christ completely submitted Himself to the Will of the Father. John 5:30

c. His Eternal Riches – On earth Christ was poor. 2 Corinthians 8:9

d. His Favorable Relationship with God the Father – On the cross Christ felt the Father's total wrath for human sin. Matthew 27:46; 2 Cor. 5:21

B. “Took Upon Himself the Form of a Servant”

-As a TRUE SERVANT Christ **SUBMISSIVELY DID THE WILL OF THE FATHER!**

C. “Made in the Likeness of Men”

1. Christ was not just **GOD IN A HUMAN BODY**, but He took on ALL the essential attributes of humanity – Luke 2:52

2. Christ even identified with the basic human needs and weaknesses – Hebrews 4:15

NOTE: **JESUS CHRIST WAS A HUMAN AS WE ARE!**

ILLUSTRATION:

### **III. THE ROAD LEADS TO THE DEATH OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS – VS. 8**

A. “Found in Fashion of a Man”

1. This is not just a repetition of verse 7 but rather a shift from the heavenly focus to the earthly focus.

2. Paul was saying that Christ is the APPEARANCE OF MAN, but in REALTY is MUCH MORE. **HE IS GOD!**

B. “Humbled Himself and became Obedient unto Death, even the Death of the Cross.” NOTE FOUR STAGES OF CHRIST’S HUMILITY.

1. The first stage was to become a man.

2. The second stage was to lower Himself to the persecution and suffering at the hands of unbelievers.

3. The third stage was to DIE as a criminal.

4. The fourth stage was His death on the Cross which was the cruelest, most degrading form of death ever devised.

ILLUSTRATION:

### **IV. THE ROAD ENDS WITH THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST**

**VSS. 9-11**

A. After ascending back to Heaven, Christ was given a Name above all Names. **This is a name that describes His greatness and places Him above and beyond all comparison.**

B. After ascending back to Heaven, Christ was given a Name to which all others shall bow.

1. The Angels of Heaven – Revelation 4:2-9

2. The Spirits of the Redeemed – Revelation 4:10,11

3. The Obedient Believers on Earth – Romans 10:9

4. The Disobedient Rebels on Earth – 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

5. The Demons and Lost Humanity in Hell – 1 Peter 3:18-22

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSONS:

1) We must genuinely THANK Christ for what He has done for us.

2) We must truly WORSHIP Christ for Who He Is.

3) We must LIVE for Christ because of the example He set.

**WE MUST NEVER, EVER TAKE THE WORK OF CHRIST FOR US, ON HIS ROAD TO PROVIDING REDEMPTION, FOR GRANTED!**