

**Sunday Evening Gospel
13th December 2015**

“The Magnificence of Christ”

Philippians chapter 2 verse 9

“God has highly lifted up Christ. He has given Him a name which is better than all others”

There are lots of sad stories and embarrassing stories. Some people make very big mistakes.

I (Pastor) remember in 1998 about a spaceship sent to Mars by NASA. It was trying to look at the weather on Mars. IT went too close to the planet and was destroyed.

What happened?

The computer software was set wrong. There were 2 parts and both did not measure things right. It was a communication problem. It cost ££££ billions!

Also, in war time, there are big mistakes that cost lives.

There are aeroplane crashes.

In 1970's an aeroplane flew from Paris to London. It crashed near Paris. Why? A person did not close the door for the luggage properly.

More than 300 people died.

Sometimes, a small thing can make a big mistake.

But, maybe I know about Christ. Maybe I know something about the Bible. If I think “Christ is not very important” _ THAT is the biggest mistake in my life.

I did not understand His importance to my soul. It costs my eternal life.

WE read in Matthew "IF any man does God's will, that man will know what I say is true"

Means this - "You will not be ruled by Christ. You do not understand His words"

If I don't understand His importance, it is because I do not WANT Him.

I (Pastor) pray that you will all see this is a big mistake.

Why do I not understand Christ is important?

I am proud. I ignore what I know.

How can I change?
God must change my heart.

Philippians chapter 2 verse 9
"God has highly lifted Christ up and given Him a name which is better than any other name"

Why does God the Father lift up Christ?

Why Does God make Christ so high?

I cannot understand God - there is One God, One part of Him, One "stuff", BUT there are 3 Persons.

Each Person is equal - All divine, All know everything, all have power.

Christ is the 2nd Person in the Trinity. IS He less than the Father or the Spirit? No.

Christ was always holy, always perfect, always existed. He is God 100%.

WE are limited. Maybe I think only 1 thing at a time, but God knows EVERYTHING, all the time!

God can talk to each person on earth at the same time.

God is perfect. He never changes. If God changed, that means He is not perfect!

God is always faithful. I can always trust Him. He is always the same.

Christ is the same. He is God.

He is a personal God - He can be know by me.

So, why does the Bible say "God has also highly exalted Him"

"exalted" means "Lifted up" or "Made Him great".

But, Christ was always exalted?

Christ always KNEW what human life was like. But He had not been a man. He did not live in weakness. He did not experience body pain. He was never tempted to sin.

It was only when Christ came as a man that He experienced these things.

God knows everything. But He had not "tasted" these things.

why did God become a man?

It is because humans had rebelled against Him. Humans had sin, humans were sinful in mind and word and actions.

Sin in the heart also - lusting after wrong things. Having unclean thoughts.

Mankind was sinful in his "will" - He WANTED to do evil things.

Did God like this? Did God enjoy humans being sinful?

No. God was going to punish all the sin
"No one is righteous. No, not one"

God the Father, Son and Spirit decided to save people.

It was like (not really, just a picture), God the Trinity decided to do something. Christ the Son said "I will go to earth. I will live a perfect life. I will die for these people. I will pay the price for their sins."

This happened. This is what we remember at Christmas - God became a man.

Christ came to earth so He could be our Saviour and take away our sin.

He was born. He lived a perfect life. He only did good things. He preached about repentance. He did 1000's of miracles. He was 100% perfect.

He went to the cross at Calvary. He suffered and died. He took away sin from all His people.

He was wiped. He was nailed to a wooden cross.

But, He suffered more. It was not the pain in his body that was the worst. No.

God the Father also punished Him!

The Son said "Punish ME! Do not punish My people!"

How many people did he die for? We do not know - billions.

An old hymn says ...

"They pierced His hands and feet. He gave His body. It hurt His body. But His mind hurt more. God's anger that would fill up Hell was poured on Him.

Justice was put on Him. He suffered and died because He loved his people"

This is why He died.

When He rose from the dead it was proof. It proved that He had taken away sin.

That is why God "Has exalted Him above every name"

Now Christ is also King of the New Heaven and the New Earth. In the Future, He will be our king and Lord.

"God also highly exalted him and gave Him a name above every name"

verse 7

Made Himself (Jesus) not known by people (no reputation).

Some Bibles say Jesus emptied Himself.

Not of His perfection. He was still divine. He emptied Himself and gave up the use of His powers.

No reputation - as nothing.

Jesus stopped using His power so that He could be a real man. He put away His limitless strength. He only used it when He needed it.

Jesus put away His glory and power. He became a man of pain and suffering,

Jesus put aside the worship of the host in heaven - angels and saints.

Jesus made Himself as a nobody. People didn't think anything of Him.

Only people who believed He was God saw His true power.

Most people thought He was nothing.

Jesus lived as a suffering man. Jesus ignored every temptation

- He was perfect.

Such love for me. Jesus became a nobody to save me.

People show love to help each other but why did Jesus show love for me?

Why did Jesus come to die for a sinner like me? I have only hated Him and pushed Him away.

I have only turned away from Him. All I wanted was the world and its sin. I wanted money and an easy life. BUT Christ came for ME?

There is no love like this. True love.

It is magnificent, unique and special.

I am a fool if I turn away from Christ. Christ will be my judge and send me to hell.

I would be so proud to ignore Christ.

No King or Queen or boss or president would give themselves to help me.

v9 "God has lifted Christ's name very high. A name above all other names."

It would be a great study to look at the names of God and of Christ.

Some of our hymns use the different names.

Example given...

John Newton's hymn (number 202)

Our prophet - He wrote the Bible and told me about my sin. Christ told me how to be saved and how to live for Him.

Our Priest - no animal sacrifices. Jesus gave Himself to save

me.

Our King - not on earth but heavenly. Perfect and wise.

Prince of Life - gave life to us through His rising from death. He has saved us and given us life. Eternal life.

Good shepherd - Jesus knows me and guides me.

Friend of sinners
Brother - very close and caring

Nobody was like Christ - He is God

The way, the Truth and the Life
The light of the World
GOD's unspeakable Gift - no words can describe Christ enough.
Free and precious.

The great physician - changes me for the better. Gives me life.
My Spiritual doctor.

Prince of Peace - unites me to God. Takes me to God.

Christ is better than all people who make this world better.
They can only help some people. Christ saves souls and changes lives.

Christ is the best doctor - saves souls.

The best author is Christ. Nobody can write like Him. Far better.

The Bible calls Christ "The Word"

Christ is above armies. On earth they only last for a while.
Jesus wins us with peace. No force. Christ saves us in peace in my heart. Christ calmly calls me to Him.

Billions of souls saved.

Christ is the best creator - made the world in 6 days.

All made by His word. No inventor is like Him.

No entertainer like Him. Some are good (not many). Christ can make us happy and joyful - this will be the same until heaven.

Nobody can be like Christ in any way.

I (Pastor) cannot say how great Christ is enough.

v12 - You have obeyed with me and without me here but work your salvation in fear.

It is important to seek Christ and have Him in my life.

I need to feel my sin. I need to want Christ. I must repent of my sin and to ask of a new heart, nature and life.

I must give Him my life.

Then I will feel His love and care. I will be able to pray to Him. Christ will guide me in life. I will know Christ. I will have life eternal.

Young people - don't trust this world.

Michael Faraday was a wonderful scientist. He grew up in this area.

He was asked by a famous professor to be his helper. Michael Faraday worked for the professor.

Faraday was a Christian. But he felt very proud when he worked with the famous professor. The Professor was Faraday's Hero!

But the professor went to Europe and Faraday followed him. Faraday saw the professor was only a man - he was selfish and got angry easily.

Faraday went back to Christ. He knew "Only Christ is worth

living for”

I shouldn't put my love or value on men in this world - I must look to Christ. I need Him.

Amen