

## ADOPT JESUS' ATTITUDE, PT. 2; 2:7-8 (Ed O'Leary)

### INTRODUCTION.

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING AT PHIL. 2:5-11, ~ THE SECOND PART OF THE SECTION that deals with relationships between believers in our local church.

▶▶ Main; ~~ exhortation in vs. 5. ~~ Calls believers to adopt same attitude that Jesus had.

▶▶ Verses 6-11, ~ exhortation to explanation.

▶▶ Verse 6, ~ as know, ~ describes Jesus' attitude. ~~ "not consider His deity as something to be selfishly exploited for His own ends."

▷▷ Jesus had an attitude of selflessness, ~ humility, ~ others-centeredness, ~ servanthood, ~ self-sacrifice, ~ and giving with no thought of selfishly getting.

↪↪ And in relationships w/ one another, ~ are adopt same attitude toward each other.

IN VERSES 7-8, ~ WHICH WE'LL LOOK AT TODAY, ~ PAUL DESCRIBES TWO actions Jesus' attitude led him to take.

JESUS' ATTITUDE MANIFESTED ITSELF IN TANGIBLE AND TOTALLY ALTRUISTIC actions.

▶▶ He "emptied himself" and "he humbled himself." ~~ Beneficial to us. ~~ Beneficiaries.

▶▶ Since Jesus' attitude manifested itself in tangible, ~ altruistic actions, ~ and since Paul tells us to adopt Jesus' attitude, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ at the outset we can state what is perhaps Paul's primary lesson for us in these two verses.

▷▷ And i.e., ~ a genuine Christ-like attitude will manifest itself in tangible actions that are beneficial to our fellow believers.

↪↪ Or to state it differently, ~ a genuine Christ-like attitude will manifest itself in tangible, ~ Christ-like actions.

LET'S EXPLORE THESE ACTIONS OF JESUS THAT PAUL DESCRIBES.

VERSE 7 LISTS ONE OF THE TANGIBLE AND TOTALLY ALTRUISTIC ACTIONS Jesus' attitude manifested itself in. ¶¶ 1/6

INSTEAD OF CONSIDERING HIS DEITY AS SOMETHING TO BE SELFISHLY EXPLOITED  
for His own ends, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ Paul tells us that Jesus, ~ "emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." ~ Process by which he became a servant.

THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED AS "EMPTIED" (ESV, NASB) IS THE LITERAL BUT NOT the best translation here.

▶▶ The lit. meaning, ~ "to make empty."

▶▶ But we must not think of it as saying "Jesus emptied himself of something."

▷▷ It says nothing about Christ stripping himself of his divine attributes as has sometimes been suggested.

↪↪ And it does not mean that Jesus ceased to be God.

▶▶ The Greek word translated as "emptied" is intended metaphorically to signify a lowering of position.

▷▷ The NIV is quite helpful in bringing out the meaning, ~ because it takes interpretive rather than literal approach. ~ "rather, he made himself nothing."

▷▷ KJV also looks like interpretive approach. ~ "But made himself of no reputation."

▶▶ The context demonstrates this figurative meaning.

▷▷ He existed "in the form of God," ~ verse 6. ~ He took "the form of a servant," ~ verse 7. ~ Status is in view in these two expressions.

▷▷ So the phrase, ~ "he made himself nothing," ~ most likely also speaks of status, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ and is intended figuratively to indicate a lowering of rank by means of the incarnation.

▶▶ So, ~ what Paul is saying in verse 7 is this, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "Rather than using His deity as something to be selfishly exploited for His own ends, ~ Jesus' attitude led him to take a lower position."

▷▷ In fact, ~ it was the most extreme lowering of rank possible. ~ He went from the highest position to the lowest. ~ He became a servant. ¶¶ 2/6

▷▷ There is no position higher than being God. ~~ There is no position lower than being a servant.

↳↳ And God, ~ who is highest, ~ became a servant, ~ who is lowest.

→→ Jesus response to apostles' argument, ~ Lk. 22:24-27 . . . .

JESUS DEMONSTRATED HIS STEPPING DOWN INTO SERVANTHOOD VERY VIVIDLY when he washed the disciples' feet at the last supper, ~ recorded in Jn. 13.

▶▶ Ordinarily on such an occasion, ~ the host would have delegated a servant to the menial task of removing the sandals of the guests and washing their feet. ~~ But none present.

▶▶ None of the disciples was ready to volunteer for such a task, ~ for each would have considered it an admission of inferiority to all the others.

▶▶ Sometime during the meal Jesus rose, ~ removed his outer cloak, ~ tied a towel around his waist, ~ and began to perform the work of a servant. ~~ among them as the one who serves.

▶▶ It was a voluntary humiliation that rebuked the pride of the apostles; ~~ ¶¶

▷▷ because, ~ as we saw, ~ the apostles had been arguing about who among them would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

RATHER THAN USING HIS DEITY AS SOMETHING TO BE SELFISHLY EXPLOITED FOR His own ends, ~ Jesus' attitude led him to become a servant.

VERSE 8 TELLS US A SECOND TANGIBLE AND TOTALLY ALTRUISTIC ACTION Jesus' attitude manifested itself in.

INSTEAD OF CONSIDERING HIS DEITY AS SOMETHING TO BE SELFISHLY EXPLOITED for His own ends, ~ Jesus' attitude led him to humble himself, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ "becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

▶▶ Scripture repeatedly contrasts pride and humility and how God responds to both.

▷▷ Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, ~ but those who humble themselves will be exalted. ~~ God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

▷▷ Jesus said that those who humble themselves like a child will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ¶¶ 3/6

▶▶(Verse 8) Jesus humbled himself, ~ becoming obedient to the point of death, ~ even death on a cross.

▷▷The phrase "humbled himself" embraces all that Christ did beginning with his incarnation leading up to his humiliating crucifixion, ~ ¶¶

↪↪and all that is in between, ~ from his birth to his death.

▶▶Jesus constantly expressed humility throughout his ministry, ~ telling his disciples that he came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many

▷▷In Mk. 10:45, ~ Jesus said, ~ "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

JESUS' HUMILITY WAS CONSTANTLY DISPLAYED IN ACTS OF OBEDIENCE TO THE will of his Father.

▶▶Over and over, ~ Jesus proclaimed that he was carrying out his Father's will in what he did and in what he said.

▷▷E.g., ~ Jn. 4:34 . . . . ~ Jn. 5:30 . . . . ~ Jn. 6:38 . . . .

AND THE GREATEST DISPLAY OF JESUS' HUMILITY WAS HIS TOTAL AND WILLING obedience to the Father's will even to the point of death.

▶▶Through Isaiah the Messiah says, ~ Is. 50:5-6, ~ "5 The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting."

▶▶The ultimate demonstration of Jesus' humility was his total and willing obedience to the Father's will even to the point of death, ~ ¶¶

▷▷despite the fact it was death on a cross, ~ the most cruel and humiliating death known at that time.

▶▶Christ's death was not a normal death, ~ but the cruel, ~ torturous, ~ shameful death on the cross.

▷▷Death on a cross was the form of capital punishment that Romans used for notorious criminals. ~ It was excruciatingly painful and humiliating.

▷▷Victim was fastened to the cross wearing few or no clothes, ~ with ropes and nails through the wrists and ankles (1 nail driven through both ankles into the cross). ¶¶ 4/6

▶▶ And Jesus' humiliating death on the cross was for us. ~ 1 Pet. 2:24a, ~ "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree." ~ Full wrath

RATHER THAN USING HIS DEITY AS SOMETHING TO BE SELFISHLY EXPLOITED FOR His own ends, ~ Jesus' attitude led him to humble himself, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ "becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

THE ALMIGHTY, ~ ALL POWERFUL, ~ ALL KNOWING, ~ OMNIPRESENT, ~ sovereign, ~ all glorious God, ~ the King of kings and Lord of lords ~ ¶¶

BECAME A SERVANT & HUMBLING HIMSELF TO THE extent of dying a most horrible death.

▶▶ This is how radical Jesus' love for us is.

▷▷ Rom. 5:6-8 . . . \*

\*▷▷ John tells us, ~ This is love: ~ not that we loved God, ~ but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

▶▶ The radical nature of Jesus' love for us.

▷▷ He was willing to go, ~ and indeed went, ~ to the lowest extreme possible to rescue us from the wrath of God. ~ We need to begin, ~ I say begin . . . ~ to really grasp . . . .

▷▷ Never end . . . .

▷▷ Nothing will ever separate us . . . ~ Rom. 8:35-39 . . . .

▶▶ And we need to begin to really grasp the radical nature of the incarnation, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the extent to which God went for us, ~ in order to make it possible for us to have eternal life.

BEFORE WE WRAP THIS UP, ~ NOTICE IN VERSES 7-8 THAT JESUS EMPTIED AND humbled himself. ~ Voluntarily . . . .

▶▶ Even in control of his death.

▷▷ Jn. 10:17-18, ~ "17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." ¶¶ 5/6

▷▷ In crucifixion death might not have come for several days, ~ and it usually came by suffocation, ~ when the weight of the weakened body made breathing more and more difficult.

↪↪ But this is what we read about Jesus. ~ Jn. 19:28-30 . . . .

### CONCLUSION.

JESUS HAD AN ATTITUDE OF SELFLESSNESS, ~ HUMILITY, ~ others-centeredness, ~ servanthood, ~ self-sacrifice, ~ and giving with no thought of selfishly getting.

▶▶ And that attitude led him to take tangible and totally altruistic actions.

▷▷ He lowered himself to the status of a servant. ~ And he humbled himself.

↪↪ And it was all for us, ~ so that we might have eternal life.

▶▶ The closing thought for us is this, ~ a genuine Christ-like attitude within us will manifest itself in tangible, ~ Christ-like actions ~ ¶¶

▷▷ i.e., ~ tangible actions that are beneficial to our fellow believers., ~ ¶¶

↪↪ such as servanthood and displaying humility in our relationships with them.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 6/6