

Philippians 2:5-11

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

2:6 Before the Incarnation, Jesus pre-existed as God. He is equal with God the Father in every way.

8 Steps down to Christmas:

Step 1...did not regard equality with God...(2:6)

Although fully existing as God, Jesus refused to hold on to His rights.

Step 2...emptied Himself...(2:7)

Jesus emptied Himself only of His privilege of deity, not of deity itself.

Emptied Himself in 5 ways:

- His heavenly glory
- Independent authority
- His attributes
- His eternal riches
- Intimate, face-to-face relationship

Step 3...taking the form of a bond-servant...(2:7)

He owned nothing, not even the clothes on his back.

Step 4...being made in the likeness of men...(2:7)

Jesus took on all the frailties, limitations, and problems of the Fall.

Step 5...being found in appearance as a man...(2:8)

He was recognized as a man by those who saw Him.

Step 6...He humbled Himself...(2:8)

Here we see a transition from form to personal attitude.

Step 7...obedient to the point of death...(2:8)

Jesus chose death because of His love for us and for the Father.

Step 8...even death on a cross (2:8)

He was destined not for just any kind of death, but for the cruelest, most excruciating and shameful execution ever conceived.

2:9-11 This Scripture demonstrates the monumental reality of Christmas...it reveals the depth of the descent and the height of the exaltation.

GREEK WORDS

Phroneo (fron-eh'-o)—be (mentally) disposed (in a certain direction)

Huparchō—the continuance of a previous state or existence

Morphē—(form) - outward manifestation of an inner reality; the essential form that never alters

Isos (ee'-sos)—equality - exact equivalence

Kenoo (ken-o'-o)—to make empty, to abase, neutralize :- make (of none effect) of no reputation, void

Homoioma—(likeness) that which is made to be like something else form; resemblance :- made like to, shape

Schema—(appearance) - outward shape or form

TODAY'S SONGS

"What Child Is This" words by William Chatterton Dix; music is Traditional English Folk Melody

"Greensleeves"

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"Go Tell it On the Mountain" words by John W. Work, Jr.; Traditional Spiritual

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"I Am Joseph (God is With Us)" words and music by Steven Curtis Chapman

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"Lord, I Need You" words and music by Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher, Christy Nockels, and Daniel Carson

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"All Things Possible" words and music by Seth Mosley, Tony Wood, and Mark Schultz

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