

The Epistle to the Philippians - No. 8

PHILIPPIANS 2: 9-16

The Present Exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ (Verses 9-11)

In the divine economy honour follows humility, and so also with Christ. "Highly exalted"=raised to supreme majesty (see Revelation 3: 20-21). "Given"=graced, with a Name which expresses this. The plan is that every person who ever lived should accord Him worship, which kneeling to Him displays outwardly. Everyone in every language will praise Him, as they declare the wonders of the marvellous eternal plan of God the Father (see Romans 14: 11; Ephesians 3: 14-19).

The Proper Response of the Christian (Verses 12-13)

Our Lord has worked marvellous grace in us, and we must show it outwardly. Paul's written exhortation carries the same force as his spoken word (see II Corinthians 10: 10-11). "Work out"=make the practical implications of salvation happen in the whole of life. The attitude of reverence for our Lord in which this is done is also outward, being shown in the appropriate response of the whole being.

Ways in Which This is Done (Verses 14-16)

- (a) Do what is appropriate without "murmurings" (secret debate) and "disputings" (argument about whether or not it should be done)
- (b) Be "blameless" (guiltless) and "harmless" (guileless), God's children who cannot rightly be censured, in contrast to "crooked" (bent) and "perverse" (corrupt) people, bringing light into a dark world
- (c) "Holding forth" i.e. as role models of Christ, lighting up the world, a proof that Paul's labours were not empty (c/f verse 7)