

“EXALT YE THE LORD OUR GOD”

INTRODUCTION

“Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy” wrote David in Psa. 99:5. The action and reason are obvious. The word “exalt” (or forms of it) is an interesting Bible word. It is used in the OT. The first time it is in the “song” that Moses and the Israelites sang to the Lord (Exo. 15 :1,2). David spoke much of exalting the Lord. Psa.34:3; 118:28. The word is also used in the NT. The word for “exalt” is translated “lifted up” in Jn.3:14; 12:32, and “pride” (versus humility) in Luke 14:11 and 1Pe.5:6. In this lesson we shall consider how **we** are to exalt Christ (Ac.2:36) today.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we exalt Christ by exalting His PERSON.

- A. He came as a “person” by means of His conception by the Holy Spirit to the virgin Mary to become the “only begotten Son of God” (Psa.2:7; Lk.1:30-35; Jn.1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1Jn.4:9; Heb.1:5,6).
 - 1. Reliable translations render it correctly. KJV, NKJ, NASB, ASV
 - 2. Free-thought translations and liberal scholars from our universities have tried to change the language of “only begotten” to “unique” or one of a kind” or “only son”.
 - a. The Greek word “*monogenes*” means “only begotten”, that Jesus is the **only** one ever or ever to be **begotten** for His birth in this manner, and not **just** a “unique” individual because He is “unique”, but because of His begetting and birth.
 - b. It is falsely claimed that Jerome changed *unicus* to *unigenitus*, but the fact is, that the the **Peshita Syriac** of 150 A.D. used the word *unigenitus* which is Latin for “only begotten.”
 - c. God had or has other “sons”, but in different senses.
 - 1) Adam was His “son” by creation. Lk.3:38
 - 2) Jesus was His “Son” by special begetting. Jn.3:16
 - 3) Christians are His “sons” by spiritual begetting. Heb.2:10
- B. He lived a perfect, sinless life as a “person”. Heb.4:15; 1Pe.2:22
- C. He became our “savior” in whom we **believe** and acknowledge prior to and after baptism, as we allow Him and His teachings to guide us. Rom.10:9,10; Acts 8:36,27; Gal.2:20

II. 2nd, we exalt Christ by exalting His WORD.

- A. **If** His words do not mean anything, neither does His “person”.
 - 1. Christ as a person cannot be separated from His words. Lk.6:46
 - 2. Most Protestant denominations today claim to exalt the “person” of Christ, but generally disagree with His doctrine.
 - a. They say we are saved by “faith only” or by “the sinner's prayer” when Christ said we must also be baptized. Mk.16:16
 - b. Some say when He comes again it will set up an earthly kingdom, while Christ says it is spiritual which we now have. Jn.18:36; Col.1:13; Heb.12:28; 1Cor.15:23,24
- B. Christ will have the final **word** in the day of judgment. Jn.12:48; Mt.7:21-23

III. 3rd, we exalt Christ by exalting His CHURCH.

- A. The **organization** of the church must be respected.
 - 1. We must recognize **only** Christ as its head. Mt.16:18; Col.1:18
 - 2. Local congregations are limited to the role of elders and deacons—when qualified men exist. 1 Ti.3:1-13

B. The **worship** of the church must be respected. Jn.4:14; 17:17; Ac.2:42,47

C. The **oneness** of the church must be respected. Mt.16:18; Jn.10:16; Eph.4:4

1. The word "church" ("churches") is used in the *plural* when a plurality of congregations are under consideration. Rom.16:16

2. "Churches" (pl.) implies that each singular congregation is "of Christ", or is a "church of Christ."

IV. 4th, we exalt Christ in OUR LIVES.

A. Christians are disciples who are **like** Christ, and are to imitate His character and likeness in their lives. Phil.2:5; 1Pet.2:21,22

B. We are to **live** in such a way as to honor him who died for us. Rom.6:1-4; Col. 3:1-10; Tit. 2:11,12; Gal. 2:20

C. We are to exalt Him by wearing His **name** in the name "Christian." 1Pe.4:16

CONCLUSION

I. To life without Christ is to die without Him and the hope He offers. Rev.14:13

A. We cannot "die" **in** Him till we get **into** Him. Gal.3:26f

B. We then continue to live **in** Him to enjoy all spiritual blessings. Eph.1:3

II. Won't you exalt Christ in your life?