

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for December 1-2, 2001

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The Christmas Story from Paul's Perspective

Philippians 2:5-11

The third element of conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ is having the attitude of Christ (Philippians 2:5-11).

Christ did not grasp His personal riches too tightly.

The word (MORPHE) refers to the essential character of something.

"Form" (MORPHE) is the essential character of something. "Likeness" (SCHEMA) is the outward form that it takes. MORPHE never changes but the SCHEMA can.

When Paul speaks of Christ as having existed in the form (MORPHE) of God he is in essence declaring Him to be God.

"Existed" (HUPARCHO) is a present participle which stands in contrast with all the aorist participles that follow it. Such a contrast would mean that Christ existed in the form of God in the past and is still existing in the form of God in the present.

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The Greek word translated "equal" (ISIS) means exactly equal.

Christ, though equal with God both in form (MORPHE) and in likeness (SCHEMA), was willing to give up everything that would externally identify Himself as God.

When God is seen in the splendor of His Deity it will invariably produce worship (Isaiah 6:1-6; Ezekiel 1:26-28).

Christ from eternity past was willing at an appointed time to abandon all those external trappings that declared Him unmistakably to be God and this willingness was a necessary first step to go from riches to rags.