

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for December 8-9, 2001

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The Christmas Story from Paul's Perspective

Philippians 2:5-11

The first step in Christ's descent from riches to rags was that He did not grasp His personal riches too tightly (Philippians 2:6).

The second step in Christ's descent from riches to rags was that He emptied Himself.

The word "emptied" (KENOO) in secular Greek can either mean "to empty, make empty" in its literal sense or "to make of no effect" when it is used in a metaphorical sense.

It is best to understand "emptied himself" in verse seven in a metaphorical sense because it is totally consistent with the way the word is used in the New Testament (Romans 4:14; 1 Corinthians 1:17, 9:15; 2 Corinthians 9:3).

By using "emptied Himself" in a metaphorical sense Paul is simply saying that Christ emptied Himself of Himself. He chose to give up His rights.

As a result of Christ emptying Himself He chose to veil His glory or, in other words, He chose to veil His intrinsic worth as God (John 17:4-5).

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In what specific ways was Christ's glory veiled?

Christ's glory was veiled by a changed appearance (Ezekiel 1:26-28; Matthew 17:2).

Christ's glory was veiled by a changed entourage (Luke 2:8-11).

Christ's glory was veiled by a change in the way His relative attributes operated.

When Christ veiled His glory He gave up the independent use of His attributes.

We must not only be willing to give up our rights but our willingness must be turned into action when the Lord speaks to our hearts through His word. We must be willing to actually empty ourselves.