

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for January 6, 2008**

**The Christmas Story from Paul's Perspective**  
**Philippians 2:6-7**  
**Dale Whitehead**

What steps did Christ have to take in order to descend from riches to rags?

The first step in Christ's descent from riches to rags was His willingness to give up His rights (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 its metaphorical sense since it is consistent with the way the word is used each time it appears in the New Testament (Romans 4:14; 1 Corinthians 1:17; 9:15; 2 Corinthians 9:3).

When Paul said that Christ "emptied Himself" he meant that Christ emptied Himself of Himself by not insisting upon His right to exact equality with God thus rendering Himself of no effect.

Christ's emptying of Himself initially led Christ to leave the glory of heaven in order to take up residence on earth (Philippians 2:7).

Christ's change of address from the throne room of heaven to the manger in Bethlehem required Him to veil His majesty.

His majesty was veiled in respect to His appearance (Isaiah 53:1-2).

His majesty was veiled in respect to His changed entourage (Luke 2:8-11).

Christ's majesty was veiled in respect to how His relative attributes would be displayed.

The change that occurred when Christ's majesty was veiled was that His attributes would no longer be fully put on display.

May God give us the grace to empty ourselves of ourselves so that we, in our quest to serve others, might follow in the footsteps of Christ.