

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 20, 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.

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 or in other words He died to Himself.

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

When Paul says that Christ took on the form of a bond-servant he is saying that Christ so completely stripped Himself of His rights that He took on the essential character of a slave (Mark 10:45).

The third step that Christ took in order to descend from riches to rags was He was made full in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:7).

The word "likeness" (HOMOIOMA) denotes that which is like something, a "resemblance."

When Paul said that Christ was made in the "likeness of men" he was not saying that Christ was not a man rather he was saying that though Christ was 100% man, He was also 100% God (Romans 5:12-15).

Though Christ was both 100% man and 100% God, it was His humanity that was on display during His incarnation and not His deity (Philippians 2:8).

Because Christ was both 100% God and 100% man He was able through His death to make us right with God both now and forever (Hebrews 10:11-14).

Because Christ is both 100% God and 100% man, He is presently able as our great high priest not only able to sympathize with our weakness but to supply for our needs (Hebrews 4:14-16).

May God give us the grace to understand that Christ as 100% God and 100% man is not only able but also willing to help us in the time of our need if we would simply come to Him.

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