

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for January 27, 2008**

**The Christmas Story from Paul's Perspective**  
**Philippians 2:8**  
**Dale Whitehead**

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 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 fourth step in Christ's descent from riches to rags was He became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8).

The word "to humble" (TAPEINOO) means to "make low."

Christ dying on the cross was the ultimate expression of humility because He could not make Himself any lower.

Christ dying on the cross was the most costly act of obedience in the history of the world; there has never been nor will there ever be an act of obedience so costly (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Crucifixion was developed by the Persians and perfected by the Romans and, from a physical standpoint, was the most cruel and painful death ever devised by man.

Christ's physical suffering on the cross pales in comparison to what He suffered on a spiritual level (Mark 15:33-34).

When Christ cried out to His Father, "Why hast thou forsaken me," He in His humanness had experienced spiritual death, or in other words, His human spirit had become separated from His Father.

May God give us the grace, no matter how costly it might be to us, to have the same attitude in ourselves as was in Christ Jesus.