

VIGIL



“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

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Appreciation for Christ**

APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST’S OBEDIENCE

Tim Hayes

“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:8-9).

The perfect example of obedience to God is manifested in the life and death of Jesus Christ. One’s realization of Christ’s sacrifices should arouse appreciation for Christ’s obedience to the Father. Christ’s obedience will be presented by noting His experience, His example and His exhortation, which lead to one’s appreciation.

The Experience – During the time of his sufferings Job contemplated the possibility for man to converse with God. *For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both (Job 9:32-33).* Job sought a mediator, one who readily understood God and man’s point of view. But in the time of Job there was no man who could fill this void.

There was no man who had been God or ever could be God. God presented this proposition to Job but Job soon realized he had misspoken and could not be God (Job 38:1-3; 42:1-5). Neither had God been man, therefore, Job had no mediator.

While Job had no mediator, this did not mean that God did not know and understand the need. Before the world was created God knew the need for a mediator, for a Savior (1 Peter 1:20). Notice the promise God made to Moses, *“I will raise up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him” (Deuteronomy 18:18-19).* This prophecy was fulfilled in Christ Jesus. God said that He would put His words into the mouth of this Prophet and Jesus stated that this was absolutely true in His life.

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which

sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak (John 12:49-50).

Jesus experienced obedience in word and in deed. At the early age of twelve Jesus understood the necessity of His obedience unto the Father. *“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business” (Luke 2:49)?* During the time of His ministry Jesus said, *“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).* Jesus was not only obedient to God as a child and early in His earthly ministry but even and especially when facing death. *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8).*

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Editorial

APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST'S SUFFERING

Ronnie Hayes

On the cross the Son of God cried, "...Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46.) In the garden his pain is evident. "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). Three times the Son pleaded with the Father in prayer, "...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44). But do we know, truly know what Christ did for us? Do we fully appreciate the suffering that Christ willingly endured for us? Let's see if we can come to a deeper appreciation for what Christ did.

Christ predicted his own suffering. To the dismay of His own disciples, Christ predicted His own suffering and death. "And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). "Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day" (Luke 9:22). "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up" (John 3:14). Peter even goes so far as to rebuke the

Savior for speaking of his coming sufferings. "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (Matthew 16:21-23).

Christ permitted his own suffering. To Peter, Christ said, "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:52,53). We sing, "He could have called 10,000 angels" and he could have, but Christ knew what his death meant and was willing to make that sacrifice for us! Isaiah wrote,

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us

all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:4-7).

The Lord did not open his mouth in His defense. He did not have a powerful lawyer at His side to defend Him. The Son was not demanding His will be accomplished but that His Father's will be done (cf. Matthew 26:39).

One might ask, "Why did the Savior predict and permit His own suffering and death?" There is one reason; "Christ provided salvation through his own suffering!" "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10). "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12). "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:21-24). Man cannot save himself. "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Therefore we needed a Savior. The price that was paid for our salvation included the Savior's suffering and death (cf. Hebrews 9:22-28; 10:1-4).

The Son was not demanding His will be accomplished but that His Father's will be done (cf. Matthew 26:39).

APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH

Chance Hicks

On the first Pentecost following the resurrection and ascension of Christ, the church, which Christ promised to build (Matthew 16:18), was established in the city of Jerusalem. Christ and His church are inseparable. God's plan to redeem man was through Christ and His church; both the sacrifice of Christ and the establishment of the church were the eternal plan of God (Revelation 13:8; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Ephesians 3:8-11).

There are many reasons why one should have a deep appreciation for the church of Christ. It is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). It is the place of all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3), including salvation (2 Timothy 2:10), redemption (Ephesians 1:7), an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11), and the promise of life (2 Timothy 1:1). It is the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15). It is the kingdom of prophecy (Isaiah 2; Joel 2; Daniel 2, Acts 2).

To develop the proper appreciation for Christ's church one should contemplate the work of Christ to bring about His kingdom, the church. Christ came into the world in the flesh to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and He would accomplish this through His death and His church. When one considers the work of Christ at it relates to His church, one should notice His days of proclamation, His death of purification, and His delight of presentation.

His Days of Proclamation

Following the temptation of Christ in the wilderness and His arrival in Capernaum, Jesus began preaching about the kingdom, the church. "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Jesus spent His earthly ministry proclaiming this great message! In summing up the work of

Christ in the region of Galilee, Matthew wrote, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matthew 4:23). Christ proclaimed many parables to teach about His kingdom, the church: the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3-9), the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-30), the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32), the parable of the leaven (Matthew 13:33), the parable of the hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44), the parable of the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:45-46), and the parable of the net (Matthew 13:47-50). Approximately thirty-one times Matthew records Jesus' use of the phrase "kingdom of heaven." Fifty-three times throughout the four accounts of the Gospel, Jesus uses the phrase "kingdom of God." We should appreciate the church of Christ because it was the subject of the preaching and teaching of the Son of God!

His Death of Purification

When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Christ came into the world to be the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He gave Himself once to accomplish this. The Hebrews writer penned, "But now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26). The death of Christ on the cross and the shedding of His blood on that occasion were for the purification of those who would obey His word. It is the blood of Christ, contacted through the waters of baptism (Romans 6:3, 4), that cleanses us from our sins (Revelation 1:5). Those who have been baptized into Christ are added by the Lord to the church (Acts 2:47).

Concerning the death of Christ and its relationship to the church, the apostle Paul said Christ's blood was that which purchased the church (Acts 20:28). We should appreciate Christ's church because the Son of God was willing to give His life to purchase it!

His Delight of Presentation

One day Christ will come again in the clouds, and this earth will be destroyed. On that great day, Christ will be delighted to present His kingdom to the Father. The apostle Paul wrote, "Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (1 Corinthians 15:24). The individuals who have been added to the kingdom of Heaven by the Lord will be ushered into their eternal abode with the Father in Heaven. In writing to the Thessalonians about that great final day, Paul said, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). If we are faithful members of the kingdom of Christ, then we will be brought into the presence of the Father by the Son of God. We should appreciate the church of Christ because it will be presented to the Father at the end of time!

Christ's church is the greatest kingdom that has ever existed and that will ever exist. May our appreciation for and dedication to the church of Christ be deepened because of the work of Christ in His proclamation, purification, and presentation of His kingdom.

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APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST'S PRAYER LIFE

Billy Hayes

Many times, in our local colloquial speech, we use the word "appreciate" to depict an attitude of thankfulness. The word "appreciate" most literally means to value correctly (Webster's Dictionary, copyright 1999). In order to fully appreciate anything it is required to have some assigned value to an individual. It must then be stated that any Christian who appreciates the prayer life of Christ will value correctly this life and that value will grow more deeply every day. With our next few moments, let's notice the prayer life of Jesus.

Jesus prayed. This seems like a very obvious truth that needs not to be stated. However, notice that simple sentence. Jesus prayed. Jesus, the only begotten of the Father (John 1:14), the Word who made all things (John 1:3), the only way, truth, and life (John 14:6), the sin sacrifice for all mankind (1 John 2:2), prayed unto the Almighty God. It is certainly a cry for help or a proof of arrogance when the child of God decides that he no longer needs to pray unto God. Jesus lived His life by the word of God stated in First Thessalonians 5:17 which states, "Pray without ceasing" (emph. BH). His life was a life of constant prayer. He knew the value of a proper relationship with God.

Jesus prayed before He ate (Matthew 14:19). This truth also may seem rather oblivious. However, it should be stated that Jesus was grateful for the "small blessings". We live in a nation of plenty. We also have so many things considered "small" we rarely see them as blessings. We see those things as commonplace. Jesus was thankful for bread. How is my attitude of gratitude? Is it alive and well or is it

dead? Christ fully understood that "all good gifts are from the Father of Lights"(James 1:17 emph. BH). Jesus life was a life full of prayer for gifts. He knew the Source of those gifts.

Jesus prayed as a part of worship (Luke 4:16). Jesus had a habit, which must be imitated. This habit was worship; the formal worship service unto God. As recorded by Luke, His reading of the Word was a custom, just as was every action of worship. This habit was seen by Christ as a necessary part of life. He needed consistent contact with the Father. If the lifestyle of faithfulness is as important to me as it was to Jesus, then my habit will be prayer. Jesus knew the importance of worship.

Jesus prayed while in distress (Luke 22:44). Many times throughout the life of Christ, He was distressed, frustrated, or otherwise irritated due to the influence of others. The distress of the life of Christ, often times, found Him in a secluded place, such as a high mountain (Matthew 14:23), laying His burden onto the all-loving shoulder of God. Jesus understood the fact that God is the God of all comfort and relief. At times today, we look for that shoulder of rest and compassion. Am I as fervent in my prayers of concern as was Jesus? Jesus understood the spiritual concept of leaning on the Everlasting Arm.

Jesus prayed for those who were opposed to Him (Luke 23:34). Throughout His ministry, He had several groups that were enemies of His holy mission. Those Pharisees, Sadducees, and that staunch Jewish nation were against Jesus because of the truths He taught. Even many today hold closely to that spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3). As Jesus was condemned to die, as He was fixed to

that cruel cross with nails, He prayed for the Father to **forgive them due to their ignorance** (Luke 23:34 emph. BH). Through His life and death, Jesus understood the purpose of His mission to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

Jesus prayed for those closest to Him (Luke 22:31). As Peter had every good intention to follow Christ

through His shameful trial and death, Jesus knew otherwise. It would seem to be a grand shot in the spiritual arm to have Jesus, the sinless Son of God, praying for Peter. However, Peter seemingly took this as a slight against him. It seems as if Peter needed to "show Jesus just what he was made of." Unfortunately he did just that. As it was prophetically stated by Jesus, Peter did finally convert and did provide a great source of strength for his brothers in Christ. Jesus understood the need to exhort others as they live the life of a child of God.

As the name "Christian" implies, we will follow Christ as closely as possible (1 Corinthians 11:1). This imitation is the ultimate meaning of appreciation. We should value the example of Jesus the Christ; most directly the example of a full and productive prayer life. When we, as the bride of the Lord, realize the power of a fully functional prayer life we then will understand the life and death of the Son of God. Let's do all we can to fully appreciate the prayer life of Jesus.

**Am I as
fervent in
my prayers
of concern
as was
Jesus?**

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APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

Tom Larkin

Before returning to heaven Jesus commissioned his apostles with the task of taking the gospel to the world. Matthew's account indicates that the commission is founded upon the fact that the Father has given to Christ all authority (power - KJV) "in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18-19). It is significant that Jesus used His authority to send the apostles on a mission that would benefit others. The manner in which one uses authority reveals something about that person. Jesus not only taught the proper use of authority (Matthew 20:25-28), but He also demonstrated it.

Jesus never used authority selfishly. After fasting for forty days and nights, Jesus faced Satan's temptation to turn stones into bread. Instead of using His power to satisfy His hunger, Jesus demonstrated man's need for more than physical food. Quoting from Deuteronomy, Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). As He considered His impending death, He stated, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name" (John 12:27-28).

In the garden of Gethsemane on the night of Jesus' betrayal, Peter drew his sword to protect his Lord from the mob that came to arrest Him. As He instructed Peter to put away his sword, Jesus said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" (Matthew 26:53-54). Though He could have avoided death simply by appealing to His authority as the Son of God, Jesus willingly surrendered to the mob and died on

the cross for our benefit. In view of our Lord's mindset concerning this, the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews penned the following – "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Throughout His life, Jesus used His authority to serve others. He declared "the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Perhaps the most familiar example of this principle is seen on the night of His betrayal when Jesus washed His apostles' feet. Notice carefully John's record – "Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded" (John 13:3-5).

Though He knew that "the Father had given all things into His hands," Jesus was willing to lay aside His authority and be a servant to His disciples. Explaining His actions, He said, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). In His humble act of service to them, Jesus personified the very lesson He had taught His apostles throughout His personal ministry. He had said, "Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:25-27). Jesus

not only taught it, but daily He lived it before them.

As both His life and teaching indicates, the Lord intends for authority to be used to serve others. Paul reminded the Corinthians of this when he wrote, "For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed" (2 Corinthians 10:8). Paul did not exercise authority over the Corinthians for his own benefit, but he did what he did for their "edification." In the second epistle he wrote, "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand" (2 Corinthians 1:24).

Whenever God delegates authority, He intends for it to be used for the benefit of others. Thus, elders oversee the flock like caring shepherds (Acts 20:28). A husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church and cares for her as he does his own body (Ephesians 5:25-29). Children are commanded to "obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1) because God expects parents to use their parental authority to lead the child to be obedient to God (Ephesians 6:4). Of course, when God commands that we submit to his authority, He lets us know that it is "for our good always" (Deuteronomy 6:24).

Let us truly appreciate our Lord and His use of His authority to serve others. Let us emulate His example and use any authority that we have to benefit those around us and in this glorify our God.

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APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST'S LOVE

Dale Hubbert

Appreciation is a choice. It is not required nor demanded by any civil government. It is the mental decision to develop and express gratitude and thanksgiving for something done upon our behalf. Many live and die without learning the value of appreciation. The child of God is one who has a healthy and ever growing appreciation for the love of Christ. Paul expressed appreciation when he stated, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). That God's holy and righteous Son would love sinful humanity is a thought almost beyond comprehension. That is no justice and equality in the love of Jesus; only mercy and grace flowing as freely as our Lord's blood upon the cross. It is difficult to imagine anything more worthy of appreciation than the love of Christ. It is no wonder that the second letter to the Corinthians contains the revelation that the love of Christ constrains us (2 Corinthians 5:14.)

Self denial is possibly the most challenging characteristic of our appreciation for the love of Christ. Jesus commanded it (Matthew 16:24), and we in penitence convey our desire to lay aside our own wishes in order to respond to the life giving love Christ has showered upon us. Jesus in the garden denied Himself (Matthew 26:39) by placing the will of the Father above all else.

Our appreciation is manifest when we trade our will for the will of that same Father. We express our appreciation in song. The words penned by Will L Thompson reveal our sentiment, "Jesus is all the world to me, My life, my joy my all; He is my strength from day to day – Without Him I would fall, When I am sad to Him I go; no other one can cheer me so; When I am sad he makes me glad; He's my Friend". The "fruit of our lips" (Hebrews 13:15) pour out adoration when we sing the words written by W.R. Featherston; "My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine, For Thee all the follies of sin I resign; My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus, 'tis now".

Our lives filled with service will present to Christ a level of our appreciation. The love of Jesus was clearly evident in His numerous examples of service. Feeding the hungry, healing the sick, comforting the hurting, and washing feet only begins to make known the heart of the servant that Jesus was. Jesus best service was reflected in His willingness to supply the bread of life (John 6:27) and living water (John 4:14). Appreciation for Christ's love is seen in service.

The sanctification of the Christian is a daily reflection of appreciation of our love for the Christ. To be sanctified is to be set apart. It is to answer the call to the highest level of spiritual living. Jesus was faced with every form of temptation (Heb 4:15) and yet was without sin. He set himself apart spiritually from the evil that

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and genuine
sacrifice.**

surrounded Him. We too are to become a "vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21).

Thanksgiving to our Lord is manifest in a life of true and genuine sacrifice. Nothing, nor any person epitomizes true sacrifice like Jesus. The words of The Old Rugged Cross bring to an apex the meaning of sacrifice. Holy God and sinful humanity wrestled for six hours one Friday. The earth quaked and grew dark (Matthew 26:45, 51). Graves were opened and dead men walked (Matthew 26:52-53). The God of righteous had to forsake the Son of man as the price and punishment for sin was paid with blood and tears. It was not the blood of bulls and goats but the blood of a lamb without blemish (1 Peter 1:19) that made it possible for man to call God - Father.

When viewing Calvary it is easier to comprehend Paul's words, "I am crucified with Christ". It becomes easier to dedicate ourselves to become a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). It is easier to refuse to conform to the ways of the world and to use our inner might to be transformed by the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:2).

Our sacrifice or lack thereof is a strong indicator of our appreciation or lack of appreciation for the love which Christ so richly bestows upon us. Jesus love is not limited to the past. Jesus love is not limited to the present. The love of Jesus is promised forever to those who seek the will of the heavenly Father.

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APPRECIATION FOR CHRIST'S HUMILITY

Patrick Morrison

If one were to list all of the outstanding characteristics of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, no doubt that list would look rather impressive. We would have to include His compassion, His mercy, His longsuffering, His forgiving spirit, His courage, His faithfulness, and on and on the list would go. I imagine at or near the top of every list would be the humility of Jesus. An examination of the life of Jesus Christ will reveal a life of humble submission to the will of God, from His incarnation to His crucifixion.

We see the humility of Jesus in that though He was the Creator, He became as the creature. Though God was the Grand Architect in designing the Universe, Jesus was the builder of all things: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16). It was through the Word that God made the worlds (John 1:3; Ephesians 3:6; Hebrews 1:2). The great Creator of all things humbled Himself and became as one of His own creatures! The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14), and was made in the likeness of men (Philemon 2:7). The omnipotent God took upon Him all the weaknesses and frailties of human flesh. He could have chosen to bypass infancy, adolescence, and youth, and He could have been born into luxury and opulence, but instead He came into this world as a helpless babe in a feed trough! His very entrance into this world is a testament to the humility of Jesus.

We see the humility of Jesus in that though He is a Prince, He lived as a pauper. Isaiah declared Him to be "the Prince of peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Luke records, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the

Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:32). In the Revelation, John describes Jesus as the "prince of the kings of the earth" (Revelation 1:5). In spite of His royal lineage, He lived as a refugee. He who created the world and all things therein had no place to lay his head (Matthew 8:20). Even in death, the owner of all things had to be buried in a borrowed tomb (Matthew 27:57-60). Paul wrote, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). The life that our Savior lived is further proof of His humility.

We see the humility of Jesus in that though He is the Redeemer, He was rejected. Through His shed blood, Jesus has redeemed those out of every kindred, tongue, people, and nation (Revelation 5:9). He gave himself for us, to redeem us from iniquity (Titus 2:14). No price but the blood of Jesus was sufficient to pay the price for our sins (1 Peter 1:18-19). The precious lamb of God, holy and without blemish, was offered for the sins of the world (John 1:29). We would expect more gratitude for and toward Him who gave His life for our sins, but the Redeemer became the Rejected. He is the cornerstone of our salvation, but was rejected of the builders (Matthew 21:42). Surely, He should have been held in honor and reverence, but alas, He found no honor among His own people (Mark 6:4). Isaiah wrote, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3). In giving His life a ransom for our sins, we see the depths of the humility of our Lord.

We see the humility of Jesus in that though He is the Savior, He became the Suffering Servant. His mission in coming to this world was to save man from his sins (Luke 19:10). The Scriptures testify to the fact that God sent His Son to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14). There is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). The humility of our Lord led Him to humble Himself, and come in the form of a servant. He came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28; Luke 22:27). He got on his knees, girded Himself with a towel, and washed the feet of His own followers so that we might have an example of humble service to one another (John 13:14-15). There is no greater example of the humility of Jesus than what He exhibited in His death. In all of the proceedings surrounding His death—the mocking, the scourging, being spat upon, being slapped in the face, being compelled to bear His own instrument of death up Calvary's hill, and the horrible shame and pain of the crucifixion itself—He opened not his mouth. Isaiah prophesied "as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). He endured the horrible proceedings of Calvary so that we might have the forgiveness of our sins, and live in hope of eternal life (Hebrews 12:2). In His suffering and death, we see the magnitude of the humility of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope that in some small way these thoughts have caused us to gain a greater appreciation for the humility of Jesus. May our lives reflect this same humility toward God and our fellow man, so that God might be glorified, and we might be exalted!

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Appreciation for Christ's Obedience -- by Tim Hayes -----Continued from page 17

The Example – There is no greater example of obedience to God than that which is presented in the life of Christ. Jesus willingly left heaven, took on the form of a servant and died a horrific death because this was the price required by the Father to redeem man's soul (Philippians 2:5-11). Peter wrote: *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"* (I Peter 2:21). Jesus set the example that one can and must be obedient unto God in every aspect of life. The Hebrews writer recorded that Jesus *"was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* (Hebrews 4:15). How was Christ able to withstand these temptations? He had the word of God upon His tongue but also He had God's word in His heart and mind. When temptation came Jesus answered it

and defeated it with the inspired scripture (Matthew 4:1-10). Therefore, man can face the temptations of Satan the same way that Jesus faced them because God has provided His perfect and complete word. *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue* (II Peter 1:3).

The Exhortation – Luke recorded these words spoken by the apostle Paul, *"Because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men in that he hath raised him from the dead"* (Acts 17:31). Mankind has assurance from God because the Father raised the obedient Son from the grave.

Before His death Jesus prayed these words unto the Father,
And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was (John 17:3-5).

Jesus exhorts all mankind, through the great example of His obedience, to obey the Father and enjoy the great reward of Heaven.

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