



# **'Back to Basics for Believers Series'**

## **Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians**

### **Message 9 – The Exalted Christ Philippians 2:9-11**

We are able to dwell on the 'exaltation of Christ', and begin to contemplate the glorious wonder that the crucified Christ, is also the risen Christ, is also the ascended Christ, is also the exalted Christ, is also the sovereign Christ. God the Father was pleased to give His Son a tremendous name, that being 'Lord'. We are able to consider the following points relating to this:

**1. The Saviour bears a Sacred Name** - Jesus bears a sacred name because it is the one His Father has given to Him. The name He has been given reflects all that He is, all that He has achieved. Christ's new name which certainly describes further His essential nature and places Him above all comparison is 'Lord'. The Father's response is very clearly a direct response to Christ's obedience. He is restored to the glorious state that He had at the beginning but voluntarily relinquished for a time in order to become a human being. The Lord Jesus Christ has been given a name that is above every other, and it shows how He has been highly exalted.

**2. The Saviour bears a Superior Name** - When Paul states, 'at the name of Jesus' it is likely that He is referring to the fact that the very utterance of the name 'Jesus' is signal that 'every knee should bow' to offer Him worship and acclaim Him Lord. This superior name of Lord, gives Jesus equal status with the Father. It is not because He did not have it before, but because He now achieves it for the first time as the God-man, as the crucified and risen Redeemer. This name is such that Paul almost trembles at the utterance of it, so much so that He delays to use it until the climax of this 'hymn to Christ' in v11. We need to realise in this current church age, that this name, not only sacred, but superior. There is great reverence in the usage of this name by the Apostle. The understanding of the Saviour's name held great significance for them and it should for us too.

**3. The Saviour bears a Sovereign Name** - The title Lord primarily refers to the right to rule, and in the New Testament it denotes mastery over or ownership of people and property. As it applies to the Lord Jesus Christ, it naturally implies His deity, but it mainly refers to His sovereign authority. We must always realise that the work of salvation is much greater and grander than the salvation of lost souls even though that is truly incredible. Yet, at the very heart of the work of salvation is the overriding purpose of the glory of God. The Lord Jesus Christ's exaltation included His sovereign authority over all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth as we have seen. Friend, you need to know this night, that to bow before Him now, and call Him Lord is salvation, but to bow before Him at the judgement means condemnation.



## **Penzance Baptist Church**

**'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'**

**Pastor Jonathan Stobbs**