

12-11-16

How God Proved His Love

By Emptying Himself of Heavenly Privileges (Phil 2:6,7)

- Prior to becoming human, Jesus existed in the f_____ of God
 1. This word does not mean that He merely resembled God (Jn 1:1) but that was his very “n_____.” (see also the same word used in the next verse – form of a servant)
 2. He had to e_____ Himself of certain attributes in order to take on the nature of a servant.
- The heavenly privileges Jesus gave up
 1. K_____ (Jesus had to gain knowledge just like any human being)
 2. W_____ (Lk 2:40) - He had to learn o_____ (Heb 5:8) and did so without sinning (Heb 4:15).
 3. A_____
 - a. He had to submit Himself to the F_____ (Jn 5:19)
 - b. He had to submit Himself to His p_____ (Lk 2:51)
 4. But He did not empty Himself of being G_____ or being godly.
- Imagine if you had to give these up to prove your love?

By Stripping Himself of Earthly Pleasures (2 Cor 8:9)

- Where would the Jews expect to find their Messiah? Certainly not in the way He came!
 1. He was born of a v_____ (Matt 1:18,25)
 - a. Jesus was viewed as being born by f_____ (Jn 8:41)
 - b. Jesus was viewed as a S_____ (Jn 8:48)
 2. He was born in a m_____ (Lk 2:7), which was a feeding trough for animals.
 3. He grew up in Nazareth, which was a village with a high G_____ population among Jews.
 - a. Jewish residents were looked down upon by other Jews (Jn 1:46)
 - b. The term “Nazarene” was a derogatory term (Matt 2:23) and was equivalent in our culture of a black person being called a “n_____.”
 4. When He began His public ministry, He gave up:
 - a. His f_____
 - b. His c_____ business
 - c. His h_____ (He became homeless)
- This removed all m_____ for self gain

By Subjecting Himself to Suffer Our Penalty (Matt 20:28; 27:46)

- Jesus whole purpose in becoming human
 1. To serve by giving His life as a r_____
 - a. Our s_____ held us ransom
 - b. God’s S_____ paid the ransom by suffering
 2. To suffer our penalty
 - a. P_____ death (2 Cor 5:21)
 - b. S_____ death (Matt 27:46); He was abandoned by the One who loved Him throughout life.
- Prior to becoming human Jesus purposed to do all this because it would prove His love (Jn 15:13; Rom 5:8).

Conclusion:

● The Christmas celebration is one that celebrates EXTREMES

1. From heaven to e_____
2. From riches to p_____
3. From master to s_____
4. Born to d_____ so we would l_____

● This Christmas, celebrate Christ’s love!