



Following the upward call through Philippians ...

## Christ's Reward

God recognizes the intensity of the spiritual battle. It was He, of course, who had to put up with the rebellious Satan's appearing before Him in the line with the rest of angels in the days of Job. It was He who had to watch the fall of Adam, and to be sorry that He made man on the earth in the days of the Flood. It was He who had to observe the decline of Israel into idolatry, and to steel Himself when the Babylonians came to destroy the temple in Jerusalem because of Judah's following after false gods. Ultimately He had to turn His back on His own

Son in order for the Son to pay the price for the sins of mankind. He is aware of the intensity of the spiritual battle, and He is more than willing to reward those who stand firm with Him against the forces of darkness.

- ◆ **Highly exalted** — Christ underwent the most abject of sufferings in order to do His part to win the war over the devil. He endured the ignominy of rejection and mocking; He persevered through the anguish of the cross' pain; but He ended up being crushed when His heart broke at His separation from the Father. This humility — this being willing to do whatever was honorably necessary to accomplish the Father's will — resulted in His being honored by the Father because of the power and importance of what He did to destroy Satan. "Therefore," says Paul, "also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name..." (Philippians 2:9). The result is that Jesus has the highest of all honor and the most elevated name possible.

- ◆ **Lordship** — Not only has Jesus been bestowed with the highest of names, but in conjunction has been granted lordship over all "that at the name of Jesus," the apostle informs his readership, "every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10,11). The Lord Jesus Christ, in subjugating Himself to being the lowest of the low in order to reach any and every man, was rewarded. The book of Revelation pictures the angels of God, the cherubim, and the elders surrounding the throne, saying, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing" (Revelation 5:12). He was bestowed the honor, but He was also worthy to receive it.

- ◆ **Bow down** — Jesus died for all; it is fitting therefore that all should bow down before Him. The picture the Bible paints is that most of earth's residents will refuse to yield themselves to the Lordship of Christ. Hence, when the day of judgment is in full swing, those multitudes who refused to bow before Him on earth will be forced to bow before Him on that day. But those precious ones, who came to understand the faith revealed in the scripture and who voluntarily bowed before Him during their earthly sojourns in full submission, will joyfully continue to do so before the judgment throne.

Just as Jesus has been highly exalted because of His sacrifice and earnest desire to please the Father, those who will imitate Christ in sacrificing themselves and desiring to please the Father will also be exalted. "He who overcomes," said the Lord Jesus Himself, "I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (Revelation 3:21). It is worth it, as the apostle Paul exhorts the Philippian brethren, to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

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