

1. Jesus is Super-Exalted!

- a. Therefore (strong, somewhat self-evident)
- b. The One who humbled Himself from the masterhood of Deity to the baseness of criminality and the curse of sin
 - i. Remember how low Jesus went: death on a cross
 - ii. This indicates the greater promise that He became a curse for us (**Gal 3:13**) and was made sin on our behalf (**2 Cor 5:21**) that we might become the righteousness of God in Him
- c. God raised Him to the highest position
 - i. "hyper-raised" only used here in the NT
 - ii. Super-exalted!!
 - iii. JC's exaltation is far above our glorification or any other kind of exaltation
 1. The King sits on the throne over all that exists
 2. **Eph 1:21; 4:10**
 - iv. This is an historical truth! The resurrection to life is the first evidence of His Kingship, His super-exaltation to reign is the second
- d. He is now worshiped for the depth of His great love enacted within the bounds of history: the Heavens to the Cross, the Grave to the Throne
 - i. In an experiential sense, not an ontological one, Christ has grown in exaltation and glory for His redemptive work
 1. As has the Father (v11)
 - ii. "His is greatly to be praised!" takes on a deeper and richer meaning now

2. Jesus is Given a Name Above Every Name

- a. God gifted this exaltation to Jesus
 - i. just as He had given up His mastery, so the Father gave it back to Him freely
 - ii. note the "other-centeredness" of mutual worship between the Father and the Son, both giving glory to each other (**John 17**)
- b. the name which is above every name is the LORD
 - i. Direct quote from **Isaiah 45:23** referring to YHWH, the LORD, the God of Israel
 - ii. Paul is pointing out that Jesus' exaltation showed that He is the One True God
 1. There is no higher name than this: YHWH
 2. This title is higher than all of His other names (Messiah/Christ, Son of Man, Teacher, Son of God, Master, Servant, etc.)
- c. The "height" of Christ means that we don't have to fear in this world: our Savior is the King!!
 - i. We can empty ourselves of our personal rights because Jesus reigns over us
 - ii. In fact, His exaltation is the foundation of the deep truth that Jesus taught: "The humble will be exalted"
 - iii. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up."
 1. Let us fix our eyes upon Him, our joy and our rest and our glory
 2. Let us humbly follow Him with all of our souls

3. This Name is the LORD

- a. Jesus was humbled and super-exalted to be worshiped
 - i. "so that" is a purpose statement
 - ii. The Father glorifies the Son in such a way so that He is worshipped, which also brings glory to the Father
 - iii. This is strong biblical teaching that Jesus is fully God

1. God does not share worship
2. The Father gives it to the Son who returns it to the Father (v11)
- b. every heavenly and earthly and sub-earthly knee might bow
 - i. in the name of Jesus
 - ii. Submission and honor given to Jesus as the reigning and sovereign King
 - iii. not specific or particular categories of intelligent beings, but rather indicating the totality of all of creation both intelligent and non-intelligent
- c. every tongue might acknowledge
 - i. that Jesus Christ is the Lord
 1. “acknowledge” means to admit in agreement with truth
 2. One day all beings will admit to the truth that Jesus is the Christ and the Lord
 - a. Right now we don’t see all things in subjection to Him (**Heb 2:8**)
 - b. One day we will see all things made right under His powerful rule
 - ii. this is indicative of the intelligent beings and the praise that is due to the Lord by both angelic and human beings
- d. The emphasis in this passage is on the powerful holy rule of Jesus Christ *after* His great humility
 - i. Sometimes we bring Jesus down to our level, rightly impressed by His humility in becoming one of us...but then we leave him down here.
 - ii. Jesus is uniquely the God-Man, not merely human
 1. To treat Jesus merely as a friend and not as the Holy King over all that is seen and unseen is to mistreat Him and dishonor Him
 2. He is rightly to be worshipped and obeyed as the wise and sovereign Almighty God who has graciously stooped to humble Himself for our salvation
 - iii. Look at His names in **Isaiah 9:6-7**
 1. Wonderful Counselor
 2. Mighty God
 3. Father of Eternity
 4. Prince of Peace
 5. Everlasting King

4. All of This is For the Glory of God

- a. “to the glory of God the Father”
 - i. His exaltation is for the purpose of the glory of the Father
 - ii. The rule of Jesus honors the Father: they rule together in perfect unity
- b. the mutual glorification of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is uniquely God’s and is to be imitated in the unity of His people
 - i. **John 16:14** - the HS glorifies the Son
 - ii. **John 17:1** - the Father glorifies the Son that the Son might glorify the Father
- c. Does the Exaltation of Jesus lead us to glorify God?
 - i. What are we depending on for help, to save us from our present and future ills?
 1. World’s systems of government?
 2. Psychiatry?
 3. Science and technology?
 4. Community?
 - ii. The only way to honor God is to honor Christ as the Savior and the LORD
 1. **John 5:22-23** - “The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.”

2. **1 John 2:23** No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

Conclusion: There is an overtone of Jesus' teaching that those who humble themselves will be exalted in this deep truth of the Lord's self-humility and exaltation to the throne of worship. While we are not deity, nor ever will be, there is the heavenly truth that even God humbles Himself and is exalted for it, so too are we to humble ourselves with full understanding that our exaltation to worship Christ at His throne awaits us. But the greater truth and the security for the heart of the believer lies in the fact that Jesus is fully God who humbled Himself to death, and lives today to rule and reign over our lives with justice. Not only that He reigns over all, so we need not fear following Him, but also that this powerful risen King is present with His people. Will you worship the King today?

BAPTISM: Mathew 28:19-20

Let's briefly look at one of Jesus' final commands before He ascended to the Father. Matthew 28:19-20 shows us that Jesus has all the authority. Without this authority, what right would we have to make disciples, telling others how they should think, believe, and live? In essence, Jesus tells us to make disciples because He reigns. To be a disciple means to die and to live in Christ. All disciples of Jesus must die, to "pick up their cross and follow Him." We die to sin, to self-rule, and to trusting in anything other than Jesus. Repentance and faith is the foundation of this citizenship and discipleship. This repentance and faith is proclaimed through baptism. Disciples are to be baptized as a sign of their death with Jesus and their life in Jesus. Jesus said to baptize these disciples who repent and believe, who have died to their old way of life and live in the newness of God's Spirit. This baptism comes in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. The believer comes into a new relationship with the entire Godhead: The Father becomes *our* Father, the Son our glorified and sacrificial brother-King, and the Spirit our counselor and seal of God's ownership of us. This change of life, of coming under the King as His willful and joyful disciple through the blood of Jesus and His powerful risen life. And finally, this disciple-making also means teaching them to obey all that Jesus, the One with all authority, has commanded. Let us devote ourselves to the teaching of the Word and passing this deep and treasured truth on to all His disciples throughout all the earth.

We all receive the joy today of hearing and seeing Christ be glorified as the Savior and Lord of a number of our younger sisters. Our "official" youth pastor, Eric, will be coming up with a number of our young ladies and I'm going to invite my daughter Grace to come up, too, so that they can all acknowledge to the Lord and to you that they consider Jesus Christ to be their only Savior and the reigning Lord of their lives through the God-ordained rite of baptism.

Baptism is the outward sign that one has been united to Christ by faith and has died with Him, been raised to new life in Him, and wants to follow Him as their Lord. This is why we immerse here at EBF. Not because it's the only acceptable means, but because it pictures this unity in Christ's death (being under the water), resurrection (coming out of the water), and cleansed new life in Him. The resurrection of Jesus tells that Jesus lives, and that forever. The exaltation of Christ shows us that Jesus reigns, and that forever. These young ladies believe that Jesus died on their behalf, to atone for their sins with His death, and that they live because He lives. They make this proclamation today: they desire to follow Him for the rest of their lives as His disciples. Baptism, in itself, does not save anyone, but rather it is the appeal to God for the cleansing which comes through the blood of Jesus and a declaration that one unites himself to Christ and is now willfully and joyfully under the Kingship of Jesus. These kids love Christ and want to follow Him as the Lord over all.