



The Superiority of Jesus Christ Part 5 Therefore, God has highly exalted Him

The final part of the study in the Superiority of the Lord Jesus Christ as we follow the chronology of Philippians Chapter 2 and find that God has highly exalted our Lord Jesus and given Him a Name above every name, ready for His coming again.

Philippians chapter two verse 9, *“God has highly exalted him and given him a name above every name”*. Simply and clearly, that gives the Lord Jesus the superior name and as it was given to Him by Almighty God. That name can have no contradiction as it has and comes with all authority in heaven and earth. A name is that by which somebody is known, and Jesus’ name is above and greater than every other name. God the Father was able to give Jesus that name because, as we have seen in the previous part, the death that Jesus died. This is confirmed in Psalm 118 which declares the Lord Jesus ‘entering into’ the ‘gates of righteousness’ and in Psalm 24 where the question is asked who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? The answer. He that has clean hands and a pure heart so on, and we read *“Lift up your you’re your gates and be lifted up you everlasting doors and the King of Glory shall come in”*. The King of Glory entered in because of the life that He lived and because He glorified His Father in that life and in His death. Father was able to glorify Jesus in resurrection, He was raised up by the glory of the Father and is now glorified in heaven. Part of that glory is that Jesus has a name above every name and all His glory is contained within that name. That is the superiority of the Lord Jesus a name above every name, because He went through every step required to sit on the throne of heaven and so receive that name.

Philippians, chapter 2 verse 10. *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, give total honour to, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. And every tongue should confess, Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father”*. This is the culmination, the final ending, when Jesus Christ will return. It is His name which enables him to return. Jesus had all authority given to Him in heaven and in earth and therefore there was and is nothing to prevent His return. There is a time set by his Father when Jesus will return, and everyone will recognise and see that He is the Lord. And all the powers and principalities in heaven and earth, things under the earth, all of those things, all those thousands of dominions, will see and recognise Jesus as Lord and that is a very exciting thing. All who belong to Him, those who have received Him, will confess Him as Lord, not with gritted teeth, but with joy in our hearts because we know Him and will be recognised by Him. All His people will be caught up with Him and

forever be with the Lord. That will be our joy, to know Him as Lord and do so through all eternity. Things will be obvious, for those who already know Him, there will be a joy and delight because we have already believed him and received him. And there is a sense for all of us that know Him that we need to confess Him as He leads our lives now, He is our Lord and Saviour. We are under His leadership and His authority and follow Him in the way that He would take us.

In Acts chapter 3, we see what the name of Jesus meant and to those first disciples/apostles and what they understood at that time about the Name of Jesus which they had never understood before they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

It is important to remember that the Lord will not hold him guiltless who uses His name in vain. Exodus 20 verse 10. There are lots and lots and lots of people who not only blaspheme the name of Jesus but use that name wrongly and falsely. It is added on to many of the prayers in liturgy, but has absolutely no power whatsoever, because there is no faith and no believing, It is part of the doctrinal system owned by denominations, ministries whatever. They pray and it does not seem to work and therefore they take the name of the Lord Jesus in vain. They use the name wrongly and it does not work and therefore it brings the name of Jesus into disrepute. They, and we, become false witnesses if we pray in the name of Jesus and if what we pray for does not happen. Many Christians need to resolve the issues in their lives and discover what it is wrong when prayers are not answered. This so that we do not misuse the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and bring the name into disrepute. It is a wonderful name. As stated above, the Lord will not hold those guiltless who use Jesus' name wrongly and there are many who must carry around a lot of guilt, really a lot of sin, which affects their relationship with God and increasingly will hinder their prayer life. Not all prayers are answered instantly we are told to ask, seek and knock but Jesus says all who do so will receive an answer. Beware because Jesus name is above every name. And all in their prayers must honour that truth. And we must know the Lord Jesus in our lives and honour His name.

In Acts chapter 3, we see what the name of Jesus meant and to those first disciples/apostles and what they understood at that time about the Name of Jesus which had never been in their thinking before they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

The sixth verse of Acts chapter three says this, *"Then Peter said, 'Silver and Gold have I none but such as I have, I give to you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk'".* The early apostles knew the name of Jesus Christ, they knew the authority to go and preach the gospel, they knew Jesus had said to them *"All authority is given unto me in heaven and earth"*, and they expected the signs and wonders to follow them as they went forth preaching Jesus as Lord and Christ. These disciples therefore used the name of Jesus in faith, and the lame man was raised up. The power of God was manifest in the lame man, Peter took him by the right hand and pulled him up and Peter was so full of faith and the lame man seemed, on one way, to have little choice. Many miracles

are seen in these days people walk, see and hear, people healed of AIDS, children from sickle cell disease, things which are only possible with God, but there is a need to continue to see miracles at that level: the name of Jesus has not changed. We read in verse 16, *“And His name, through faith, in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. And the faith, which is by him has given him perfect soundness, this is the presence of you all”*. Jesus is a name above every name, because of His work on the cross, dealing with all principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places. All sin was laid on our Lord Jesus and by His stripes (wounds) we are healed. All other authorities are defeated; Jesus is Lord. Those words are to be found in Colossians chapter 2. Jesus doing the overcoming work in the open where all the powers could see and, in His weakness, being so physically weak on the cross, but strong in faith and faith in His Father, He overcame. The name of Jesus has authority in healing. Many are not healed when prayed for as there is no real exercise of authority, no real faith in Jesus’ name. No understanding of His authority. Those early disciples knew the authority and it is that authority which deals with the issues and the problems in people’s lives and removes the block to the power of God to bring the healing. It is not the name of a man, but the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, which enables God to work and to move.

It is all part of the superiority that Jesus Christ has now, so that that issues in people's lives can be resolved and dealt with. To Jesus is where we first must go. Not anywhere else, but to Jesus. He has the authority, there is authority in His name to forgive sins and therefore remove every spiritual ground which prevents healing.

And it will work. It must work, Jesus is that same

From personal testimony: if things does no not work there is a need to find out why. If I pray for somebody who does not get healed the problem is mine or perhaps theirs. There is no problem, no lack no failure, in Jesus’ name. There is the need to seek God and find out why, where is the unbelief where is the sin? what are people holding onto that prevents God working? What are the thoughts and intents of the heart. Where is the doublemindedness? And then when you know you can continue and see God work. We ask and He does the work. We then learn and grow and find an increase in our faith so that there is no taking of the Lord’s the name in vain.

Acts chapter 4 and this is the church, in the beginning in the early days and under persecution. This is the superiority of Jesus Christ and the practical outworking of His name in the life of the church. Verse 29 tells us they were threatened, *“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto your servants, that with all boldness they may speak your word, by stretching forth your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the **name** of your holy child/Son Jesus”*. That name, above every name, which brought healing to the man at the beautiful gate would bring healing to many in Jerusalem. That was the desire and expectation of these early Christians, not hiding

away but fully requesting and requiring God to move. In Chapter 5 we read of Peter's shadow passing and that was enough to make many people whole. In the same ways as said of the Lord Jesus when He was on the earth: *"He healed them all"*. Here is the ministry of the gospel, the commandment to go and preach and see the power, the authority of the name of Jesus, the superior name, working out in human lives. *"And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, 'All power (authority: Greek word exousia) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world'"*. If the name of Jesus is properly known and preached/declared and based on His life and the authority He obtained as Jesus died for the of the whole world, therefore 'whosoever will may come' and be forgiven and find eternal salvation.

In Acts chapter two Peter is asked, *"What do we do?"* The reply is in verse 38, and *"Peter said unto the repent, be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of God. Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call"*. Again, It is Jesus', name the name above every name, God working through that name to forgive sins, sins are forgiven in Jesus name. It is good to recall the account in the gospels of Jesus causing the lame man let down on a sheet in front of Him through the roof to walk. Jesus said, *"Your sins are forgiven you"*. When this was queried, Jesus said, *"That you may know that the son of man has power on earth to forgive sins", He said to the lame man. "Take up your bed and walk"*. Jesus with the power on earth to forgive sins. How much more now He has returned to heaven as the Lamb having been slain, seated on the throne of heaven? Baptised in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of sins, the fulfilment of *"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"*

Peter says, *"And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*. The Holy Ghost is receivable in Jesus' name because Jesus has returned to heaven and received the promise of the Father. John the Baptist as well as telling us that Jesus is the Lamb of God also says. *"He will baptise you with the Holy Ghost and fire"*. The second fulfilment of the words of the prophet John. It shows the great grace and mercy of God in the name of Jesus to forgive sins and change lives and give them eternal life.

These words are spoken to the people to whom Peter had said *"You crucified Him"*, but who with true repentance, a true turning with all the heart from their wicked ways unto God, they can be forgiven and then receive the Holy Spirit. That is exceedingly wonderful. That is the gospel we should and must be declaring. 'You can have your sins forgiven, you can be filled with the Holy Ghost, and you can receive life everlasting'.

Jesus the Supreme One, the Superior One. this is the superiority of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To look at the deliverance of the woman who had the 'spirit of divination'. Called python, pythons are snakes which are big and strong and crush the life out their prey. Divination and all occult practices in whatever form crush, take the life out of all who engage in them. Remember the one who seeks to steal, kill and destroy and did so for this young woman, a total slave but would have bought the same slavery for all who engaged with her and also for those who used her for financial gain. We 'reap what we sow'. Perhaps this shows how the kingdom of darkness was manifest in many of the ancient cities to which Paul went and preached the gospel. It may also explain why Paul and others suffered so much and why many do in these days. The name of Jesus is much hated in this world. *"If the world hated me, it will hate you also"*

Acts chapter 16, verse 16, *"And it came to pass as we went to prayer, A certain damsel (that's an old English word for a young woman) possessed with a 'spirit of divination' and brought her a masters much gain by soothsaying (divination) the same followed Paul and us and cried out "These men are the servants of the most high god, which showed us the way of salvation". And this she did many days. Paul being grieved, turned to the Spirit, (notice not to the woman, the command was to the spirit, here is the authority in deliverance. It is not to the person being dealt with but to the demonic spirit itself.) / command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her, and he (that is that spirit) came out the same hour".* The superiority of Jesus and therefore His name to bring deliverance.

There is famous story about Smith's Wigglesworth who went to pray for somebody who had demonic problems. Wigglesworth commanded the thing to come out. He put his hat on and left and went away after the commanding the spirit to come out in the name of Jesus. And so, the woman was delivered. There was such an awareness of the power of Jesus Christ, it was just immense. This is what the church of Jesus Christ needs. We must follow the Holy Ghost, we need to be taught of the Holy Ghost, the values, and the fullness and the quality and the authority of the name of Jesus Christ. That is what Paul knew and operated in and Wigglesworth and many down the centuries. The name of Jesus is still the same and there are so very many people these days who need deliverance and it is available in Jesus Name. Praise the name of the Lord.

We have looked at some instances recorded in their book of Acts of the Apostles of the name of Jesus working in the early days of the gospel and the church. The name of Jesus is operational, it is very practical, it brings life, grace, freedom and eternity.

We read in Colossians chapter 1, *"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: and he is before all*

things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence". That is superiority. He was before all things; He made all things and by Him everything consists. It makes Him far above all, Hallelujah, in all of these things He has the superiority. Even so Jesus' position becomes even more wonderful, "*He is the head of the body, the church. Who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things He might have the preeminence*". The dictionary definition of eminence is 'a state of high distinction, superiority, or fame, referring to being well known and respected in a particular profession or field'. Jesus is well known and respected, even the devil's belief and tremble, in the field of eternal authority. He is king of kings and Lord of Lords reigning on high being Lord and the Saviour respected in that field. There is the wonderful hymn with the lines "God has exalted Him far above all"; that is the truth, Even on the earth Jesus' fame spread because of all the works He did. His high distinction was seen, and people came to Him to have their needs met. His fame went out into all the earth and those who came submitted to His preeminence.

However, Colossians tells us He was made head of the church and being the firstborn from the dead is the final step in preeminence. Why is being the head of the body, the church so important in Jesus having the preeminence? The head controls the body. We hope it does for us. The control, the instructions and also the mind to bring about all our actions comes from the head. God has made it that way and perhaps seeing that Jesus would be head of the church, designed human beings in such a way that the head would be at the top and provide the control and clearly be in the place of preeminence. Those who do not 'hold the head' are rebellious, they are out of the will of God. They are not subject to the head. But for us, the church, the members, everything comes from the head and "*from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increases with the increase of God*". (Colossians chapter 2 verse 19) So all that every member needs for life and godliness and for growth comes from the Head, from the Lord Jesus, God supplies all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. The head, our Lord Jesus being in glory provides all for the church., it comes from Him in glory and is glorious. Jesus can therefore be glorified in His church and have the preeminence as He is supplying everything and therefore His fame and respect is throughout His church. He is known as Lord of all and highly esteemed and we trust loved by all His people. This is what gives Jesus the preeminence, eternally, spiritually, with all fame and respect. The church are the redeemed. They are the 'special ones', that is what 'a peculiar people' in 1 Peter chapter 2 means. They are the people of God, they 'have God', they are the ones Jesus died to save.

The church is the 'habitation of God through the Spirit'. Revelation chapter 21. We have the church; John sees the church. "*Come and let me show you the Lamb's wife*", says the angel. "*Behold the tabernacle (dwelling place) of God is with men (human beings)*" John was 'carried away in the Spirit'. All of the trinity are here involved in demonstrating

the glory of God and the preeminence of the Lord Jesus in being the head of the church. This is the importance of redemption, a people who being redeemed will reign in life by 'one Christ Jesus' and demonstrate His preeminence on the earth. *"Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the earth"*.

Church is not about buildings. It is not about money. It is not even about meetings, although of course the church, the people of God, in an area should and must meet together. The purpose is to build one another up and demonstrate to the world the life of Jesus in them. It is not about titles; names positions, the reputation of human beings or whatever. It is all about the Lord Jesus and His preeminence. It is the body of Christ which functions over which Jesus is the head. It is where every member receives from Him and when they do, Jesus has the preeminence in their lives. They look to Jesus the author and finisher of their faith. He has the preeminence in the realm of the spirit because the church is that which speaks of and shows the salvation of Jesus Christ and that He has returned to heaven and has taken, and is taking, unto Himself a people out of every tribe, language, people and nation. They are to be with Him for ever and He gives them eternal life having the preeminence over sin, death and hell, everything in this world and that which is to come. His name is above every name and that is very wonderful. In a way it is better than casting out devils; It is better than healing the sick. Those things are wonderful, perhaps that is part of it all, but this is the great glory of God, a church, a glorious church having the glory of God of which Jesus Christ is the supreme head.

We understand why the enemy tries to destroy the church and why it and the true people of God come under such attack. That is why there are attempts to make divisions and schisms and plant 'weeds', all sorts of lies and errors and get people prioritising other things rather than holding the head. Self-seeking rather than seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness where everything coming from Jesus. You can read of many of the things, 'doctrines of devils', Paul calls them in his letters to Timothy. He also says, *"The Lord knows those who are His and let everyone who names the names of Christ depart from, leave, iniquity"*.

The apostle Paul understood the whole position of the church universal and local and why the 'the care of the churches was laid on him'. Local churches are the local representations of the body of Christ in the area in which they operate. They are to radiate the glory of God and as to hold and show forth the head, the Lord Jesus that He is the preeminent one. We will reign with Him. "2 Timothy chapter 2 says, *"If we suffer with him, we will reign with him"*. Romans chapter 5, *"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one Christ Jesus"*.

It is important to 'get' the church in your heart, and mind, really. To receive the revelation of God, to see where God is going with the church of Jesus Christ. It is not about

buildings, it is not about whatever systems and all the hierarchies and mechanisms and all those things, it is about Jesus Christ and His body and His people. He is head over the church and every member is blessed because they all have a relationship with the Jesus who died and rose again for them. They can live a life that is pleasing to God and glorifies HIM. In Verse 19 of Ephesians chapter 1, we read, and this what we must understand by the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Him, *“What is the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe according to the working of his mighty power, which he worked (wrought) in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set him on his own right hand in the heavenly places”*. That is the answer of Jesus’ prayer of which we can read in John chapter 17. That is His preeminence, that is His superiority. It is forever. It will never, ever be changed. In Ephesians chapter two verse six and we read, of the grace by which we are saved, and which has raised us up together and made us sit together in heaven in Christ Jesus. The Father raised Jesus up and He has raised us up in Him also. That is the power of Jesus’ resurrection, that shows how superior He is and how superior is His resurrection.

The reason: Ephesians chapter 2 verse 7, *“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus”*. He will be showing His kindness and mercy. It is wonderful that it is in every age to come. God’s kindness and mercy and therefore no need for His people to fear. Ephesians chapter 1, verse 21, *“Far above all, principalities, and powers and might and dominion and every name that is named not only in this world but also in that which is to come”*. Here is the name above every name, it is stated in Philippians chapter 2 as we have seen and here is the superior name. Paul confirms, there is no other greater name, in this world or in that which is to come. No need to get worried about what is going to happen in the world to come. *“And has put all things under his feet and gave him to be the head over all things to the church”*. Jesus head over all things to the church, that is the position of the church, the spiritual position and that is how God sees it. *“The fullness of Him fills all in all”*. The pre-eminence ultimately, the superiority, is in and for His people, the church, those who are the redeemed. Those who are saved from the earth will, as New Jerusalem, descend out of heaven into the new heaven and the new earth.

Then to read in Revelation chapter 22. This is where we are now, it is the time of the gospel. *“He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God, and of the Lamb, in the midst of the street of it, and on each side of it was the tree of life, which bear twelve manner of fruits and yielded its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations”*. This is this river of life, which is still available, it is still the time of salvation Maybe the time is coming to end, but the Holy Ghost is available, still poured out, still working, still in the hands of the Lamb upon the throne. *“And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it”*. That is in the river. It brings the authority of God into lives. It brings the supremacy of the Lamb and God together, the Father and the Lamb, the Son of God,

together into that life. *“And His servants shall serve Him”*. This is the place where, because there is God’s authority, it makes us, His people, His servants and then we are actually free to serve Him: praise God. *“And they shall see his face and the name of Jesus, the supreme name, shall be in their foreheads”*. They belong to the one who is the supreme Lord of all, the one who has a name superior to every other name.

And it says this and there shall be no night there, no need of candles, neither light of the sun. For the Lord God gives the light and they, the servants, shall reign forever and ever. Here is the superiority of Jesus Christ, having a people, having a church, to be His bride for ever and ever. Jesus loved the church.

Jesus, initially, having been in the form of God and done all those things which we have examined looking at the superiority of Jesus Christ now has a people with Him. We have seen how He emptied Himself, became a servant, and then a man and then humbled Himself obedient to the death on the cross. It was totally worthwhile. His people are His servants, they are part of His body, His church, and they shall reign with Him forever and forever. That is the superiority, Jesus’ preeminence, His glory is declared, and it will be through all eternity. That is the wonder of Jesus Christ and the privilege of the church. It is for eternity. We see the eternal God who provides an eternal salvation for us through His Son, so we should not perish but have everlasting life. That is superiority of Jesus, Christ, not only in this world, but that which is to come.