



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 1 – 12 Sermon Series
Supports Session 12: Including
Sermon Title: “Christ For All” (Philippians 2:5-11)

Connection to Session 12

Peter and Paul were co-laborers in sharing the gospel of Jesus. Peter was initially called to share the gospel with the Jews and Paul was called to share with the Gentiles. In time, Peter shared the gospel with the Gentiles as well. Though the audiences may have been different the message was still the same.

Introduction/Opening

When learning the art of public speaking, one of the first lessons is to avoid extreme language such as “never,” “always,” “must,” etc. One such word to avoid is “all,” but we find this word in our sermon title. We can use this word today because the Scripture clearly articulates that Christ is for all. While this does not mean that everyone will accept Christ as Lord and Savior, we can rest assured that He is for all of us.

Outline

- I. **Christ emptied Himself for all (vv. 6-7)**, Jesus, who identified Himself as the great I AM seven times in the book of John, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Jesus would have been justified in saying that it was all about Him because He was God in the flesh. Yet, He did not exploit this fact and He lived out this truth in front of everyone.

Not only did He not exploit His equality with God, but He also emptied Himself by assuming the role of a servant. The phrase “emptied Himself” (v. 7) shows a personal choice. No one forced Jesus to become a servant. To be a servant means to put the needs of others ahead of yourself. Jesus came to earth to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). Jesus did this by being a servant to the perfect will of God and thereby offering salvation to all.

If someone is truly a follower of Jesus, then his or her life is to emulate His. Given the fact that Jesus emptied Himself, served others, and thereby followed God’s will, then our lives should follow this same pattern. We too are called to be like Christ and serve others. This calling is lived out as we put the needs of others ahead of ourselves.

II. Christ suffered for all (v. 8). Christ humbled Himself by emptying Himself and taking on the likeness of humanity. James told the scattered and persecuted church that God “resists the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). Jesus lived obediently to God’s Word in that He chose humility over pride. Therefore, His followers once again have a model to follow.

Jesus’s humble obedience led to His death on a cross. A cross today is seen as a decoration in someone’s home or a piece of jewelry that we can wear. A cross during the time of Christ was seen as an instrument of extreme pain, humility, and suffering. The Romans had perfected its use to teach would-be revolutionaries to pause before breaking any laws of insurrection. Yet, Jesus faithfully lived in obedience to God’s commands and willingly suffered death on the cross.

As a follower of Jesus, we once again should be challenged to pattern our lives after His. He told His followers that “if anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Jesus suffered for all, and He calls us to a life of denial and suffering as well. While obedience is difficult, we need to trust that God will use our obedience to point others to Jesus.

III. Christ is exalted above all (v. 9). The word “exalted” means to lift high, to raise up above all others. As a direct result of Jesus living in obedience to the will of the Father, His name was highly exalted above all other names. Therefore, no other name is above the name of Jesus.

Our culture today wants us to believe that Jesus was merely a good teacher or that He was no different from other religious leaders. The fact that He lived in obedience to the Father and defeated death tells us He is different from all others. His name is above others.

His name is also above our name and accomplishments. If someone believes that they are going to heaven because they are a good person and not as bad as someone at the office or down the street, that person is trusting in his deeds instead of trusting in Christ. Yet, it is only Christ’s name that is exalted, and this is a direct result of His obedience to the Father’s will.

IV. Christ will be confessed by all (vv. 10-11). A time is coming in which Jesus will return as King of kings and Lord of lords. When this occurs, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord. This does not mean that every person will be saved, but it does mean that everyone will know that Jesus truly is Lord.

The word “lord” is used extensively throughout the Bible. But do we know what it means? The simplest definition is boss. If we are going to acknowledge the Jesus is boss, then we must also acknowledge that we are not. Jesus rightfully deserves to be

called Lord because He emptied Himself, suffered, and has been exalted by the Father.

Conclusion

The text shows us that everyone will confess Jesus as Lord. This means everyone will acknowledge Him as sovereign King. Since we are all going to acknowledge Him as Lord, why not do that now? When we confess Him as Lord now, He saves us from our sins, and we can spend eternity with Him.

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