

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

ORGANIZED 1786

VOL. 16, NO. 12
SEPTEMBER, 1985

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

CHRIST: THE VOLUNTARY EXILE

BY: C. D. Cole

"...Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross..." Philippians 2:5-11.

There have been and still are many exiles. Men who have been banished from their native lands for one reason or another. Einstein is an exile from Germany; Samuel Insull has fled the United States and is an exile in Greece; Kaiser Wulhelm was forced to abdicate his throne and become an exile during the late war; Machado, while ruler of Cuba, is an exile; John was banished to the Isle of Patmos and was in exile when he wrote the book of Revelation. But none of these were voluntary exiles. But our Saviour was a voluntary

exile while in this world. He was not banished from heaven. He was sent, but not driven.

There is another contrast between Christ and other exiles. Others sought an asylum in the land to which they went, a place of rest and safety. Not so with Christ. He came to this world not for rest and safety, but for a service which ended in death. Others seek their own interest in the land of exile, but Christ went into exile to bring others out of exile. He came not to be ministered unto. He became an exile temporarily that His people might not be exiles forever.

I. His original state. "In the form of God." This does not mean figure or shape, for God is invisible. He was of the same nature and essence as God.

II. His descent from the heights of glory to the depth of shame. He was at the top--He was God in His essential being; He went to

the bottom, He could go no lower in humiliation.

A. He emptied Himself. What does this mean?
1. He did not divest Himself of Deity. He emptied Himself but He remained Himself. He was still God--God manifest in the flesh. In Him dwelleth the fulness of the God head bodily. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." He gave up no attribute.

The Twentieth Century translation renders the whole passage: "Let the spirit of Jesus be yours also. Though from the beginning He had the Divine nature, yet He did not look upon equality with God as something to be clung to, but impoverished Himself by taking the nature of a servant, and becoming like other men. Then He appeared among us as a man, and still further humbled Himself by submitting himself even to death, yes, the death of the cross; And this is why God raised Him to the very high-

est place, and gave Him the Name which ranks above all others, so that in honor of the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

B. He gave up the independent exercise of the divine attributes. He had all the attributes, but exercised them under the will of God, so that He did nothing of Himself. He did not exercise them selfishly. He had power but never used it for Himself.

C. He laid aside His heavenly glory. "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." John 17:5. He was made a spectacle of shame. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

D. He laid aside the riches of that heavenly estate. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye thru His poverty might be made rich." II Corinthians 8:9.

E. He laid aside His own will and became subordinate to the will of God. "Not my will but thine be done"

The key passage in interpreting His original state and the emptying Himself, is the preceding verse: "Not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others."

F. He became obedient unto death. Christ's obedience began when He became incarnate. Previous to this He was only God and God cannot be obedient for he is under no law.

G. He took upon him

the form of a servant. Servant to God and man. Servant to the will of God. Servant to man, not to man's wishes but to his needs.

III. His Ascent. He humbled Himself; He was exalted by God. Look at His steps upward.

A. In His resurrection.

B. In His ascension, and reception into heaven. He shares with God in His governmental dealing with the world. He is at the right hand of the majesty on high.

C. His coming again in glory when every knee shall bend and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord. There is yet to be universal recognition of the Lordship of Christ. This is to be at the name of Jesus and not at the name Jesus. It will be at the new name given to Jesus as expressed in Revelation 19:16 "...King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Every knee in heaven will bow. Of course the saints will bow in adoring worship.

Every knee in earth. Yes, the Millennial saints will bow in worship. And the angels will worship Him when He comes again. "...And let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:6.

Every knee in hell will bow and confess that He is Lord. To the glory of God the Father. God made man for His own glory and God will be glorified in all men. Hell will be a tribute to his justice, and the damned will have to confess to the glory of God the Father. Oh, sinners confess him now and live.

In hell there will be no defiance and infidelity. He has had many bold and defiant enemies, but they were only so while breath was in them. His smile will gladden all heaven above; His laugh will

fill all hell with awe. Every knee shall bow. Kiss the Son lest He be angry and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.

BE THANKFUL

"Be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalm 100:4b.

Suppose there were to come a knock at your door and at the door stands a poor beggar. Suppose that you take him in and let him take a nice, hot shower and give him a fresh set of clothes to wear. Then you feed him a good meal, perhaps the first he has had in a long while. You insist that he spend the night at your house, so that night he sleeps under sheets in the comfort of your home. Let's imagine that he stays for a whole week and during all of that time, he never once thanks you for all of your kindness to him. You say, "Well, that ungrateful wretch! I sure wouldn't put up with him for very long."

Listen, we had better be glad that God is not that way! He has showered innumerable blessings upon us, and most of us can't remember the last time we got on our knees and just thanked Him for what He has done for us. Instead, we complain because we don't have more, or better, or newer things. How disgusted God must get with us sometimes--we're just like that beggar!

Take some time today to reflect on all that God has done for you and "be thankful unto Him!"

B. Taylor

A sin is two sins when it is defended.

--Henry Smith

Trophies Of Grace

BY: C. D. Cole

In this message we want to think of a sinner as a trophy of the grace of God. Every saved man is a memorial or evidence of the conquering power of grace. Grace is the power of God working in us and making us different than what we are by nature.

OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE GRACE

Objective grace is God's favor towards us; subjective grace is God's power in us.

Objective grace did something for the sinner; subjective grace does something in the sinner.

Objective grace is legal; subjective grace is experimental.

Objective grace takes us out from under the law; subjective grace works the spirit of obedience in us.

Objective grace takes us out from under the law; subjective grace works the spirit of obedience in us.

Objective grace removes the sentence of condemnation; subjective grace breaks the spirit of rebellion in us.

Objective grace imputes the righteousness of Christ to us; subjective grace imparts the nature of Christ to us.

Objective grace is manifested in the gift of Christ to us; subjective grace is manifested by the Spirit of Christ working in us.

Objective grace results in justification; subjective grace results in regeneration.

Objective grace changes our standing before God; subjective grace changes our thoughts, affections, and will.

Objective grace gives us the right to go to heaven; subjective grace fits us for the enjoyment of heaven.

Objective grace is external; subjective grace is internal.

SUBJECTIVE GRACE FURTHER CONSIDERED

Subjective grace is God's power working in us and can be seen in several particulars.

1. In Conversion: "By the grace of God I am what I am". (I Cor. 15:10). No man converts himself. In conversion the sinner repents and believes and this is caused by grace working in him.

"And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace" - Acts 18:27.

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace". - Galatians 1:15.

2. Supports Us Under Trials: God's grace is greater than Paul's thorn. Grace is sufficient for any and every trial. I often anticipate troubles and trials and feel that when such comes I cannot bear it, but when it has come, grace comes with it.

3. Accomplishes Things Through Us: Grace gets the glory for our service as well as for our salvation. Grace gets the glory for what we do as well as for what we are. The secret of the liberality of the Macedonian saints was that the grace of God was bestowed upon them. Grace enables us to do our duty toward God and men. Sin has ruined our nature so that we do not love God and men; grace works love in us for both God and our neighbor.

ABUSERS OF GRACE

The Bible speaks of those who abuse grace by turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. We abuse grace when we offer grace as an alibi for sinning. We abuse grace when we try to justify a life of sin. A man was being remonstrated for his drinking. He replied, "O that is alright, I am not under law but under grace". Grace does indeed save apart from works, but it does not beget the spirit of lawlessness.

Heaven is going to be a marvelous display of the trophies of grace. "That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of His grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:7).

Saved men are trophies or memorials of the grace of God; living testimonials of the power of grace in human lives. Consider some of these trophies:

1. Saul of Tarsus: Look at this ambitious and aggressive Pharisee, member of Sanhedrin, busily engaged in stamping out Christianity. See him as he goes about arresting Christians and putting them in prison. He holds the garments of the men who stone Stephen to death. Who would ever expect this young man to become a believer in the very thing he so intensely hates? But grace had an eye on him all the time. When God's time came for His conversion, God called him by His grace and revealed His son in him. Grace changed him from a persecutor to a bond slave of Christ. Grace changed him from a self righteous pharisee to the greatest exponent of the imputed righteousness of Christ. Grace changed him from a proud pharisee to a humble believer. Grace changed him from a spirit of self sufficiency to a spirit of dependency on Christ.

2. The Dying Thief: Here is a man bred in sin and trained in sin. He is dying as a criminal at the hand of the Roman law. His hands are covered with human blood and his mind is enmity against God for he derides the Son of God who hangs by his side. But, like a flash, he is changed from a reviler to a lover of Christ. Oh, the speed with which grace can act! Here is a man who will be in hell in a few minutes if it were not for grace. Grace makes him to differ from the other thief. Grace makes a prayer out of this reviler. Grace calls him and he calls upon Christ and says, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into Thy kingdom". (Luke 23:42).

3. The Philippian Jailor: Grace changed him from a cruel official to a gracious host Grace changed him from a sour sinner to a happy saint.

4. Every Saint is a Trophy of Grace: God's ultimate objective in salvation is the display of His grace.

Sinners are saved because God wants people in heaven as trophies of His matchless, amazing grace.