

Psalm 89:20-29 Part 4, II

Introduction: Christ, our Great and Perfect High Priest, being truly GOD, He became truly man (flesh), two natures in One Person without mixture, confusion, division, or separation by which He is our Intercessor and Mediator.

Once again I want to begin our time in the Psalm by reading verse 19. [Psalm 89:19 NASB] **19 Once You spoke in vision to Your godly ones, And said, "I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.** There is a mention of “once” You, meaning the LORD GOD, spoke in a vision to His godly ones; and as we have seen this is most likely a reference to the account of GOD giving to Samuel the Covenant Promises by way of vision to give to King David. However, the Good News that is heralded by the Prophets and Apostles throughout all of Scripture is “of Him” – of Christ. As the Apostle Peter proclaimed this Good News to Cornelius and his household, he said - [Acts 10:43 NASB] **43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."** And as the Apostle Peter writes to those saints suffering intense persecution - [1Peter 1:10-12 NASB] **10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that [would come] to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.**

Read Psalm 89:20-29

Exposition:

Last week we looked at Christ’s state of Humiliation and His state of Exaltation, and this is summarized in verse 11 of the passage we just read from I Peter, chapter 1 in the phrase “**sufferings of Christ (humiliation) and the glories to follow (exaltation)**”. In short, our Lord’s state of Humiliation is His Incarnation, or the Word becoming flesh, and His suffering to the

Father's Glory and for our sake. Our Lord's state of Exaltation is the glories to follow, His Resurrection and Ascension, His return to the Right Hand of the Father where He is ruling and reigning this very day as well as interceding for His people. To intercede is to mediate – to interpose or act between parties in order to reconcile. (Why must He intercede and be our Mediator?) These two “states” of our Lord is most plainly seen in [Philippians 2:5-11 NASB] **5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** In this portion of the Holy Word we are given the state of Christ's Humiliation and His Exaltation.

Last week our Pastor mentioned in his sermon that to truly understand this miracle and mystery of Christ being GOD and becoming flesh; that we need to understand what “grasped” means at the end of verse 6. I will begin by asking a question. What were the accusations of the Jews against Christ Jesus? [John 5:18 NASB] **18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.** [John 10:33 NASB] **33 The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out [to be] God."** So, the accusation from the men with blinded eyes, those in whom the veil remains un-lifted (**II Corinthians 3:14**) is that Jesus was “making” Himself out to be GOD. They could not understand the miracle of GOD becoming flesh. They could not understand the Son being GOD and walking among men in their likeness, yet without sin. This is a good way to understand His Grace. It is by His Glorious Grace that we are granted faith that we believe and confess Christ as GOD the Son being truly GOD and truly man. To help understand the magnitude of “grasped”, let's look at the way the

KJV translates “harpagmos” (Strong’s G275) [Philippians 2:6 KJV] **6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:** So, the essence of this sinful and blasphemous accusation is that Jesus usurped authority or claimed authority that is not His. Those who did and those who make such claims today are guilty of that which they accuse Christ of – blasphemy. So, GOD the Son in saying that He **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped** means that just as is confirmed in all of Scripture, but particularly here in Philippians is that Jesus existing in the form of GOD and being equal with GOD (because He is GOD) does not need to be asserted because this is only taken hold of by an imparted faith and received with eyes that have been given to see. The blinded eye could only discern His appearance as man. But, praise GOD for His Mercy and Grace that He has caused and allowed us to see into this great mystery.

Understanding both states (His state of Humiliation and Exaltation) helps us by GOD’s Mercy and the Spirit’s Ministry to behold the Lamb of GOD in all of His Glory that we see Him as the Most Valuable Being in all the universe. For the saved to ponder on the Truth of Jesus, being Truly GOD becoming truly man will stir within the heart and soul of the believer such amazement and wonder that the only response is to worship Him. Not only in that moment, but continually. This is what we see in Isaiah chapter 6 when the Prophet of GOD was “undone” or “ruined”. The Prophet Isaiah by the LORD GOD’s mercy encountered Him in this way – he encountered the Holiness of GOD. The Truth of the Prophet’s encounter is furthered in the Gospel of John. Christ Jesus does and is doing for His people that which He done for the disciples that He came alongside of that were on their way to the village of Emmaus. The Mercy that our LORD shows us as we encounter Him in His Holy Word - [Luke 24:27 NASB] **27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.** Our LORD, by means of His grace proclaims Truth that “undoes”, that mercifully “ruins” man and his arrogance and pride, that shatters our shameful “thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought” and lifts us from the dust and the ash heap; gives us eyes to see – eyes to behold Him, and He gives us the ability to be able to love what we see; to yearn for, thirst and hunger for Him and His righteousness. Who did Isaiah see? As we are given the Truth of who Jesus is in the Gospel of John the Prophet Isaiah is

quoted. We are given by what way or how or the reason Isaiah said what he did - [John 12:41 NASB] **41 These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.** The Prophet saw the LORD Jesus and a glimpse of His Glory that ruined him.

Now I want to backtrack a little. Let's go back to what is asserted in the fifth verse of Philippians 2 - **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.** Verse 5 mentions a specific attitude or mind that we are to have; "this" attitude, the humility that Christ exemplified in the flesh is to be perceived in us. So, because all that which is stated before and that which follows is true, it is to cause us to walk and live a certain way; in pursuit of holiness for His glory. Again, we are presented with the principle of the Scripture declaring Truth, and then what that Truth lived upon is to look like in our lives. A doctrine that is taught, upheld, and maintained at Covenant of Peace Church is that man is saved by what he believes and confesses, not by what he does. And this Truth is taken from the Word of GOD. [Romans 10:10 NASB] **10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.**

I want us to know what this believing and confessing biblically looks like, and sometimes the best way for us to know what something is, is to know what it is not. [John 12:41-43 NASB] **41 These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him. 42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing [Him,] for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.** The Word of GOD tells us that these rulers believed however they did not confess Christ. So, their belief was merely intellectual; it did not result in righteousness or obedience. If they believed with a granted faith they would have confessed Christ. You see, once a soul has been ruined or undone there will be both – belief and confession. The examples we see in the Scripture of those converted are plain. Isaiah desired to be sent to proclaim GOD's Truth even though his audience would not be receptive. This believing confessing is true of all of the Prophets, Apostles, and Disciples we see in the Word and by our LORD's Mercy and Grace; may it be true of you and I.

Amen