

Wednesday, May 7th, 2008
The FOUNDATION of our FAITH
(PART XI)
DIVISION #2:
THE PERSONAL WORD OF GOD
-JESUS CHRIST'S KENOSIS-

- I. The word "kenosis" is a theological term derived from the Greek word "ekenosen" which is translated in Philippians 2:7 as "made of NO REPUTATION"
- II. The root verb used here literally means "to empty"
- III. Thus, the "Emptying Activity" was the KENOSIS of Christ.
- IV. There are 2 aspects to the relationship between Christ's KENOSIS and His INCARNATION.
1. (Philippians 2:7) "...was made in the likeness of men"
 - this is a phrase equivalent to John 1:14; "the Word was made flesh"
 2. (Philippians 2:8) "Being found in fashion as a man"
- V. INCORRECT Views Of KENOSIS:
- VIEW #1. Christ emptied Himself of ALL of His Divine attributes
- VIEW #2. Christ emptied Himself of SOME of His Divine attributes.
- VI. 2 Problems With These Views:
- PROBLEM #1. They both contradict what Paul wrote in Colossians 2:9 which says that in Christ "dwelleth ALL the fulness of the Godhead bodily."
- PROBLEM #2. The loss of any attribute would change Christ into a different kind of NATURE.
- VII. Correct Views Of KENOSIS:
1. Is based on a contrast between the two phrases; "the form of God" and "the form of a servant" (literally "slave")
 2. "form" = "outward APPEARANCE"
 3. Four Notes Concerning the SIGNIFICANCE of this act by Christ:

1) Before Christ's incarnation, He was "equal" with God The FATHER (verse 6) (Phil. 2)

2) Christ possessed the same fulness of deity as The FATHER.

3) Special privileges were made available to Christ which He could have used for His own advantage and personal benefit.

4) In His preincarnate existence, Christ did not consider His equality with The Father – with it's outward appearances of deity and available special privileges - as something to be used for His own advantage and personal benefit.

VII. This "emptying" involved two things for Christ while He was in the world:

1) He veiled His Divine glory. (Isaiah 53:2)

2) He did not use His divine attributes to benefit Himself. That is, Jesus greatly restricted the use and manifestation of His Divine attributes

VIII. The "GREAT EXCHANGE" (II Corinthians 8:9)

1) Jesus took on Himself "the form of a servant (slave)".

2) A slave = "a person who must obey the will of another"

3) Jesus fulfilled this role by obeying The FATHER in 2 respects:

(1) He died as a substitutionary sacrifice

(2) He died on a CROSS. (Is. 52, 53)

IX. CONCLUSION: Christ's motivation was Love.

1. * Galatians 1: 4 ; 2: 20; * Titus 2: 14

2. As Believers, we are commanded to have Christ's mindset of self-sacrificing love for the Benefit of others (Philippians 2: 3 - 5)

3. Ephesians 5: 2