

THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE PERSON

Philippians 2:8-11

(8) And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth: (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Introduction

Reader's Digest used to carry a regular feature article called "The Most Unforgettable Character I Have Met." Subscribers to the magazine were requested to send in their choices and the most unique stories were published. It was an honor to have your submission selected, and it was an honor for the person who was considered to be the most unforgettable. Sometimes, these characters were world-famous. Others times, they were only known by a few outside of their own family, community, or neighborhood. Although each honoree was different, they all had one thing in common - for some reason they could not be forgotten. Their uniqueness made them unforgettable.

This brings to mind the late Nat King Cole. One of his signature songs was *Unforgettable*. The gist of the song is there is someone in my life who is unforgettable and I hope the feeling is mutual. With modern technology, his daughter Natalie, who is also now deceased, did a remix with her singing with him on this signature song. Since she was a daddy's girl, the message was clear: they were both unforgettable to each other. (By the way, Natalie Cole performed at Antioch-Lithonia by the invitation of Chanz Parkman, our former minister of music.)

While there are many unforgettable people in our lives, the testimony of every Christian should be, "The most unforgettable person I have ever met is the Lord Jesus Christ." Let me use the words of our foreparents. "He picked me up and turned me around. Then he planted my feet on solid ground. He steadied my feet so I could stay, and I will never forget that marvelous day."

This text and the first chapter of the Gospel of John come about as close as any passage in Scripture to making a systematic statement about the personhood of Jesus Christ. Interestingly, this statement was made as an illustration of how Christians should behave. Paul called for each Christian to be as humble as Jesus was when He

assumed human form. If Christ could take on human form and be humble, should we who are made of dust also be humble? Paul, in essence, was complimenting them for their humility and was admonishing them to continue in their Christ-like behavior and attitude, no matter how the world was behaving. (The subject of humility is another sermon for another day.)

Now let's look at why Jesus is the most unforgettable person of all times. What is so unique about our Savior that it makes Him unforgettable?

Exposition

1. Christ Is The Most Unforgettable Because Of His Preexistence.

(Let Us Make Man – He Was Part Of The Us.)

(In The Beginning Was The Word.)

2. Christ Is The Most Unforgettable Because Of His Incarnation.

(The Word Made Itself Flesh.)

(He Added Sinless Humanity, But Retained His Full Divinity.)

(He Did Not Lose His Divinity; He Added Sinless Humanity.)

3. Christ Is The Most Unforgettable Because Of The Cross.

(He Voluntarily Became The Vicarious Victim for Our Vicious Sins.)

4. Christ Is The Most Unforgettable Because Of The Resurrection.

(He Rose Early On Sunday Morning With All Power In His Hands.)

5. Christ Is The Most Unforgettable Because Of His Exaltation.

(He Is Exalted Because Of His Redemptive Deed.)

(His Exaltation Is Absolute, Universal, And Eternal.)

Closing Thoughts

I will close with more lyrics from our foreparents' oral tradition.

(They kept it real long before our time.)

“Jesus met me on the road to hell;

He saved my soul now I can tell.

He placed my feet on a rock to stay;
I will never forget that marvelous day.
I can't forget what He's done for me.
He healed my body and set me free.
No matter what the world may say,
I will never forget that marvelous day.”

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

End Note

Many of our members do further theological study on the texts from which I preach each Sunday. This is commendable. They are like the Bereans in Acts 17: 10-11. However, let me give you a heads up. In studying the second chapter of Philippians, you may come across the terms kenosis, kenotic theology, or kenotic Christology. All of these terms point to a single theological error. The error asserts that Jesus gave up His divine attributes when He became human. To be more specific, the concept asserts that Jesus emptied Himself of His authority and divinity to accomplish the work of salvation by His death on the cross and the resurrection. *Kenosis* is the Greek word for emptying. The error further asserts that while in the flesh, Jesus could not have been omnipotent and omniscient. The best argument against this error is that Jesus was sinless while in the flesh on earth. If He had given up His divinity, His thoughts and flesh would have been like any other human's thoughts and flesh, and He would not have been sinless. He was fully divine and fully human. His divinity did not subtract from His humanity, and His humanity did not subtract from His divinity. Neither state interfered with the other state. They complemented each other. Along with the Trinity, this is one of the great mysterious truths of Christianity.

Copyright © 2024 By James C. Ward
All Rights Reserved