

For Our Information

Paula Laubach will have throat surgery in Hot Springs Wednesday. She will be homebound for at least two weeks as she recovers.

John LaValla's doctor indicated that his medication is working well and helping with his condition.

Carolynn Richmond will be in Houston for several months for her treatment and recovery.

Joyce Venable's nephew passed away Friday.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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self-humiliation. If Jesus emptied out of himself a bunch of attributes, then how can we follow this example? We can't divest ourselves of our human nature any more than he could divest his divine nature. The line of reasoning that Paul uses to say that we should be selfless becomes meaningless through such an interpretation. It is an attitude that he is teaching.

7. Very simply, then, the text tells us that we should empty ourselves. We should deny ourselves, doing nothing out of selfishness. We do this by taking the attitude of Jesus, the supreme example of self-denial. He emptied himself. As a servant, he completely submitted to the Father and poured out himself unto death. Afterwards, he was exalted. If we, too, will humble ourselves in like manner, God promises that we will be exalted (**Jas. 4:10**).

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Seeking His Righteousness

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Jesus Emptied Himself: A Basic Approach

Doy Moyer

That Jesus "*emptied himself*" is not a debatable issue (**Phil. 2:6-7**). Of what he emptied himself, or exactly what that phrase means, has been an ancient debate. What I have to offer here may not solve any controversies, but I hope it will give some food for thought.

1. Any position which effectively destroys the deity of Jesus is wrong. This is the effect of the position that teaches Jesus gave up his divine attributes and characteristics. Those who teach this need to explain how Jesus could remain God while giving up the nature of God. The nature of



Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
James 4:10



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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something is the attributes and characteristics that make it what it is. If Jesus did not have the nature of God, he was not God (see **Gal. 4:8**).

2. The text does not say that Jesus emptied himself "of" anything. When we add "of" to the phrase, and then start enumerating upon what all he supposedly gave up to come to earth, we are not being faithful to the text. We are reading into the text what it does not say. As opposed to being "full of" himself (a modern idiom), he *"emptied himself."* He did not empty himself "of" a bunch of things.

3. To insist that *"emptied himself"* should be taken literally to mean that Jesus had to dump something out of himself before he could take something else on is a misuse of the text. The text says, *"He emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant."* That is self-explanatory. His taking on servant hood was a self-emptying act.

4. A good comparison can be made with **Isaiah 53**, a text describing the suffering Servant. Note in verse 12 the phrase, *"He poured out himself to death."* Does that not have a striking resemblance to *"emptied himself,"* and *"humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death"* (**Phil. 2:7-8**)? As the suffering Servant, he emptied himself, poured himself out even to death.

5. The context of **Philippians 2** itself shows what it means by the phrase *"emptied himself."* Paul's point of the text is to urge the brethren to be of the same mind, to be united and intent on one purpose (**v. 2**). To accomplish this, he instructs: *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more*

Store In My Heart

Psalm 103:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me,
bless His holy name.

One of the common themes among the Psalms is the offering of praise to God.

How often do you offer praise to the Creator? We often talk of the need to thank God, but do we consider the offering of praise as something we ought to do? Many of our songs are songs of praise and adoration. Singing a song of praise in worship is certainly something we should do, but let us also offer such praise as we go about our daily activities. We ought to honor and praise God continually.

Joyful exaltation is one way in which we can show God our love and devotion. It certainly is deserved by our God.

important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (**vv. 3-4**). These are the instructions, but how does one do this? *"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus"* (**v. 5**). To reach the point of selflessness, one must look to Jesus. Why? Because he is the perfect example of these instructions. Though he himself is God, while on earth he did not grasp after his godhood by trying to exercise his own independent will apart from the Father (*"did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped"*). Rather, he *"emptied himself,"* which is the perfect phrase to describe the attitude of **vv. 3-4**.

So what does it mean that Jesus *"emptied himself"*? Jesus Christ, in his role of the Servant, did nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but in lowliness of mind he regarded others as more important than himself. He looked out for the personal interests of others. How did he do this? Ultimately, by dying on the cross.

So, Paul's point is that, as Jesus emptied himself, so must we all empty ourselves. It is simply another way of saying that we need to deny ourselves (**Luke 9:23**), for this is what Jesus did when he fulfilled his mission for a lost world. He set himself aside so that everything he did was selfless. Mark says it this way: *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (**Mark 10:45**). These passages say the same thing.

6. The idea that Jesus emptied himself of attributes and characteristics is completely foreign to Paul's argument. He points to Jesus as our example of