

THE WORD

Volume 8

February 2, 2019

Number 5

Sunday

Bible study: 10am

Worship: 11am

Wednesday

Bible Study: 6pm



PREACHER

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*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” -----
---Matthew 5:16---*

Visitors: You are our honored guests. Please fill out a visitor’s card. You can place in the collection plate or hand to one of us. Please stay a few minutes after service so we can get to know you.

Rabun County Church of Christ

P.O. Box 266

876 Bethel Road

Tiger, GA 30576

ATTENDANCE week of January 27, 2018

Sun School-----26
Worship----- 27
Wed, night-----8
Contribution-----\$669

PRAYER LIST:

Leota Weston
Sonny Gay
E.Y. Fry
J.D. Butler
Dick Godfrey
Michael Dixon
Josh McElrath
Janice Johnson
Annemarie Ruhlman
Margaret Schoen
Coleen Holt
Jan Townsend
Carolyn Ledford
Muriel Boyd
Martin Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are visiting with us, please stay for our first Sunday fellowship.

There are free cards in the office if you wish to send one to a fellow christian in need. A kind word goes a long way.

If you are going to be traveling and know you will miss service, please let us know so we can pray for your safe return.

Birthdays:

Wednesday Night Bible Study
Minor Prophets (Habakkuk)

Christ Emptied...Himself!

By: Jason Flowers

Through the years, some theologians have used **Philippians 2:6-7** to defend the idea that the second Person of the Godhead, at the time of the incarnation (**when “the Word became flesh”—John 1:14**), “emptied Himself” of deity. It has been alleged that whereas Christ existed in the “form of God” prior to the incarnation, He “emptied” himself of that status while on Earth.

Despite the popularity of such ideas in some religious circles, they cannot be proven by citing **Philippians 2:6-7** or any other passage in the Bible. In **Philippians 2:7**, Paul wrote that Jesus “emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.” Exactly what did the apostle mean by the phrase, “emptied himself”? Because it is **assumed** that the verb “emptied” (Greek *ekenōsen*) requires an object (a genitive qualifier), then Christ must have “emptied himself” **of** something. However, as Gordon Fee has mentioned in his commentary on Philippians, “Christ did not empty Himself **of** anything, the text simply says that **He** emptied **himself**, He poured **Himself** out” (1995, p. 210, emp. added). The NIV seems to have captured this sense by stating that He “made **himself** nothing” (emp. added). The Greek word *kenōō* literally means “to empty; to make empty; or to make vain or void.” This word is rendered “made void” in **Romans 4:14**, where Paul stated that “faith is made void.” Faith did not empty itself **of** anything, rather **faith** emptied **itself**. Similarly, commenting on Jesus death as if it had already occurred, Isaiah wrote: “He [Jesus—EL] poured out his soul unto death” (**Isaiah 53:12**). What did Christ pour out? Himself.

But **how** does Philippians 2:7 say Christ emptied Himself? “Grammatically, Paul explains the ‘emptying’ of Jesus in the next phrase: ‘Taking the form of a servant and coming in the likeness of men’” (*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*). Unlike Adam and Eve, who made an attempt to seize equality with God (**Genesis 3:5**), Jesus, the last Adam (**1 Corinthians 15:45**), humbled Himself and obediently accepted the role of the bondservant. As N.T. Wright stated: “The real humiliation of the incarnation and the cross is that the one who was himself God, and who never during the whole process stopped being God, could embrace such a vocation” (1986, p. 346).

Although this text does not instruct us regarding **of what** Christ emptied Himself, we can be assured that there was no change in His divine nature. While Jesus was on Earth, He claimed equality with God the Father (**John 10:28**) and allowed others to call him “God” (**John 20:30; Matthew 16:16**). He also accepted worship, even though He plainly taught that only God is worthy of worship (**Matthew 8:2; Matthew 4:10**). If one contends that Jesus was not divine while upon the Earth, then they make Him either a fraud or a madman.

Philippians 2:7 does not teach that Christ emptied himself of His deity. Rather, to His divinity He added humanity (i.e., He was “made in the likeness of men”). For the first time, He was subject to such things as hunger, thirst, pain, disease, and temptation (**cf. John 19:28; Hebrews 4:15**). In short, He came to Earth as a God-man

SCRIPTURE READING – Philippians 2:1-3

THOSE WHO ARE HONORED TO SERVE TODAY

Announcements.....Micah Pate
Bible Class Prayer.....Ed Townsend
Song LeaderDon Roe
Direct Lord’s Supper.... Ron Weston
Assist Lord’s Supper.....Ed Townsend
Assist Lord’s Supper.....Ernest McElrath
Opening Prayer.....Doug McElrath
Scripture Reading.....Jim Johnson
Sermon..... Jason Flowers
Closing Prayer..... Martin Davis

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

HEAR GOD’S WORD—ROMANS 10:17
BELIEVE IN CHRIST—JOHN 3:16, MARK 16:16
REPENT OF SINS—LUKE 13:3 ACTS 2:38
CONFESS CHRIST—ACTS 8:37, ROMANS 10:10
BE BAPTIZED—GALATIANS 3:27, ACTS 2:38
LIVE FAITHFULLY—JOHN 8:31, 1ST COR 15:58

Announcements, prayer requests, or suggestions
Contact: Jason Flowers 336-509-0967 or
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Wi-Fi password mark16:16