



BITE #5

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

What does it mean to be exalted?

- a. To use salt on everything you eat.
- b. To be lifted higher and honored more than anyone or anything.
- c. You're exhausted all the time.
- d. You don't have to fight in a war.

Because of Jesus' **total obedience** to his heavenly Father, God chose to honor him by making his name holy, powerful, and always worthy of praise. We often hear the name of Jesus used **sarcastically** on TV shows and in movies. **This deeply grieves God.** Paul reminds us that **there will come a day** when every single person in the entire world will bow in submission to the **authority of Jesus Christ.** Many people use his name carelessly today, but they'll realize their **mistake** as they bow in allegiance to him in the future.

How do *you* use the name of Jesus?

- a. Carelessly.
- b. Reverently.
- c. Sarcastically.
- d. I never use it.



Strive to always speak the name of Jesus with **reverence**, **love**, and **gratitude.** And when you hear his name being used in ways that grieve the heart of God, **stop** and **pray** at that very moment for the person who used Christ's name flippantly.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:12-13)

As Paul begins this Scripture, he alludes to the Christians in Philippi as being people of integrity. What *is* integrity?

- a. I think it's a sports car.
- b. It means you act with pure motives not only when people are watching, but also when you're alone.
- c. Um, I heard it's a new soft drink.
- d. It's a spice used in cooking.

Have you ever known someone who's "talked the talk" but hasn't "walked the walk"? In other words, she acts like a Christian on Sundays at church and with the youth group, but when she's at school it's a completely different story? Or she's a good person when her parents are around, but when *she's alone* she does things her parents wouldn't agree with?

Integrity is acting in **purity and honesty** not only when everyone is watching but when you're alone as well. It's not only **talking** about being a Christian, but it's actually **living** as a Christian would live! (That's what "walking the walk" is all about.)

Paul also tells us to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling." He's *not* saying that if we work hard enough, we can **earn** salvation. Check out what Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:13: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ."

It's Christ's blood that saves us—not our good works. None of us could do enough good things to ever deserve salvation. Find out what **John** (the disciple closest to Jesus) has to say about salvation. (Time to grab your Bible and look up 1 John 5:12.)