

The Inclusive Truth

“ . . . a name which is above every name . . . every knee should bow . . . every tongue should confess . . . ” (Philippians 2:9-11).

Due to the many issues present in the classrooms of our day, a different approach to teaching is being introduced in some educational systems. In fact, “Inclusive Teaching” is said to mean “teaching in ways that do not exclude students, accidentally or intentionally, from opportunities to learn.” Instructors are urged to use proactive measures to communicate to students that they are welcome in the class and are seen as capable, potentially successful learners.

There are many “inclusive” truths associated with the gospel of Christ. For instance, the worst of sinners are included in God’s saving scheme. Of course, all who truly trust Christ are included in the body of Christ, the church, and every Christian is included when it comes to the privilege of prayer. The ground is not only level at the foot of the cross, but in every other spiritual realm, as well.

The emphasis in the verses before us is of a different nature. Here we soar to throne of God where Christ is exalted above all others. Then we condescend to earth and even down to hell and witness His superiority in all realms. His name is above every name! Every knee will bow before His Lordship! Every tongue will confess His worthiness! None are left out in the completeness of the process. Our awareness is made more sensitive by musing on the verses.

We are made aware of the inclusive truth about every name! “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name” (2:9). The ledgers of time are full of names—esteemed names, forgotten names, important names, meaningless names, powerful names, feeble names. But the name of the risen Lord is of such great significance that it is raised “above every name.”

We are made aware of the inclusive truth about every knee! God has so exalted Christ, we read “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth” (2:10). No one will escape from reverencing Him. Whether on earth, in heaven, or in hell, the knees of men, women, boys and girls will bow before the King! Believers have already bowed in faith, but even unbelievers will bow and give Him homage.

We are made aware of the inclusive truth about every tongue! “And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (2:11). The blaspheming tongue, the cursing tongue, the lying tongue, the vicious tongue, the boastful tongue—every tongue—all of them will one day confess Christ’s Lordship “to the glory of God.” Christ is exalted! And God will be glorified! Every name! Every knee! Every tongue! That’s “The Inclusive Truth!”