

# *First Impressions*

First Baptist Church | P. O. Box 201 | Harrison, OH 45030

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**Bro. Harold Becknell**

**68th Anniversary**  
**First Baptist Church**  
**March 20, 2016**

*Speaker*  
**Bro. Harold Becknell**

**Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe**

Sunday School . . . . . 10:00 AM  
Worship Service . . . . . 11:00 AM  
Afternoon Service . . . . . 1:30 PM

**COME AND BE WITH US!**



# Christ's Humiliation

By Dr. Ronnie W. Wolfe, DREd

When we think of the greatest work of Jesus Christ, we usually think first of his death, burial, and resurrection, which cannot very well be debated. There are other events in his being that are nearly as much astonishing in our theological minds as his atoning work.

One of those events is his humiliation, the very thought that Jesus, the King of Heaven, the Creator of all things, the supporter of all natural and spiritual laws, would condescend to the level of sinful humanity is almost beyond our receiving if we contemplate it in the right manner.

First, how can it be? This would be no less than a great miracle, not simply the healing of some lame person, the bringing to sight a blind person, or even the raising of the dead; but this must be among the greatest of all of God's miracles.

We stumble at the thought of Jesus' becoming "like unto sinful man" in order that he might redeem man from his sins. We cannot easily accept the fact that Jesus was both man and God and that he was on earth and in Heaven at the same point of time (John 3:13). Can we comprehend his excellence and at

the same time see his humility? Can we see His essence without confusing it with his appearance? Can we see Him lying in the boat asleep and at the same time know that He is controlling the sea and the wind? The human mind is not so sharp as to realize these things simultaneously. Yes, theologically we can, but teleologically we cannot.

Some revealing words are used in Scripture to mark Jesus' humiliation, and we should mark them well.

## Emmanuel

This word, of course, means "God with us," and it is the name given to Jesus three times in the Bible, twice written Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8), and once written Emmanuel (Matt. 1:23). When Jesus came into the world, it was God who was making His presence known to us in a physical way. When Jesus announced in Luke 4:21 . . . *This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears*, Jesus was announcing that He as God had come down to earth to fulfill the promise given to the Jewish fathers and the prophets that Messiah would come, and He did come just as it had been

promised, Jesus, therefore, fulfilling the Scriptures and humbling himself to become "like unto sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3) to condemn sin in the flesh (or in the world).

## Humbled (Emptied)

Philippians 2:8 says, *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.* The word "humbled" means "emptied," and it identifies the work that Jesus did when He came down from his glory that he had before the world was (John 17:5).

## In The Flesh

1 Timothy 3:16 says that *God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.* So He was "in the flesh," but He was "received up into glory" (1 Tim. 3:16).

He was abased that He might be exalted, and so should we abase ourselves (believe and surrender to Him) so that we might be exalted—saved (Matt. 23:12). ω

