

Monday, December 24th, 2012

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Scripture:

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Devotional:

It was November 1951 and I was a new graduate student at the University of Edinburgh looking for Christmas cards to send to family and friends in the U.S., inexpensive and appropriate cards that said much more than just “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

Surely it was grace that directed me to one small, plain white card. On the cover there was a simple dark line from a star in the upper left corner down to a small manger in the right bottom corner – an unpromising design, I thought.

However, when I opened this small card the simple message grabbed me hard: AND GOD STOOPED DOWN SO LOW. Despite the anthropomorphic cast, the truth of the Incarnation in that simple line was stunning. That surely is why one of the Christmas Eve scriptures is Philippians 2:5-11, where we read “...though [Jesus] was in the form of God,... he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.”

That’s it. “And God stooped down so low.”

Prayer:

Sacred Infant, all Divine
What a tender love is Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this! Amen. (Edward Caswall, 1814 – 78)