

Thursday

January 22

JD-

RJ-sin is not a spinal reflex

**JL-Christ humbled Himself because that's who God
is**

Jill-

The Mystery of Godliness

A popular verse in the Bible is 1
Corinthians 8:2: "If anyone thinks that he knows
anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to
know" (NKJV). There is no subject about which we
know everything. We can always learn something
more about anything. How much more true is that
of eternal realities connected with the Godhead

and the Incarnation? Paul frequently refers to Christ's amazing condescension in becoming a human being. It's a subject that even eternity will be inadequate to exhaust.

Read Romans 8:3, Hebrews 2:14-18, and Hebrews 4:15. What characterized Jesus' condescension and His taking of human nature?

How was it possible for the eternal Son of God, through the operation of the Holy Spirit (*see Luke 1:35*), to become a divine-human being in Mary's womb? It boggles the mind how the infinite and eternal could suddenly become a finite human being subject to death. That is the heart of what Paul calls "the mystery of godliness" (*1 Tim. 3:16*).

In the beautiful hymn of Philippians 2, Paul here elaborates on this condescension more

fully in some respects than anywhere else in Scripture.

- “Being in the form of God” (*Phil. 2:6*).
The word *morphē* (form) refers to His divine nature, that Jesus was equal to the Father (*compare John 1:1*).
- “Emptied Himself” (*Phil. 2:7, NASB*).
The mysterious nature of Jesus emptying Himself of His divine prerogatives—so that He could become truly human and tempted as we are—is astonishing.
- “He humbled himself” (*Phil. 2:8*). In taking human nature, Jesus moved from universal supremacy to utter servanthood, the opposite of Lucifer’s aim.
- “Death, even the death of the cross” (*Phil. 2:8*). There was no more ignominious way to die than the way

Jesus chose, having planned it with the Father in the "counsel of peace" (Zech. 6:13), illustrating it beforehand through Moses lifting up the serpent (Num. 21:9, John 3:14), and thus becoming "sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS 2 AND THE SEVEN STEPS JESUS TOOK DOWN TO OUR LEVEL AND BEYOND:

1. NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD - JESUS DOES NOT STEAL SOMETHING THAT IS NOT INHERENTLY HIS OWN -JESUS IS GOD
2. MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION - EMPTIED HIMSELF OF HIS DIVINITY.
3. TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT-NOT A KING, PRESIDENT OR PERSON OF HIGH POSITION
4. MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN - WITH OUR WEAKNESSES FALLEN WILL
5. HUMBLING HIMSELF AS A MAN - CAME TO SERVE WAS DESPISED AND REJECTED
6. BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH - PHYSICAL DEATH AND SPIRITUAL DEATH TO SELF AND SELFISH PLANS
7. EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS - TASTED SECOND DEATH

How can, and should, focusing on what Jesus did for us at the cross—seeing the cross as our

example of surrender and humility—make us more
humble, as well as more submissive to God?

NO LESSON 5