



PATHS

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"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word.
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know thus saith the Lord."

A BRIEF REPORT OF MINISTRY

PRAISE - How we praise the Lord for what He has done in 2025. Although this ministry is basically a means of spiritual encouragement to believers, we have witnessed a divine work of salvation and restoration in several meetings. As well, in a couple of churches, the Spirit of God worked among us with a breath of revival. And we give God the praise!

PRAYER - We do not take lightly the ministry of prayer! For those of our friends who have been praying for us while on the highways and in the pulpits, we are very grateful. Our God certainly hears and answers the prayers of His people! He has promised, "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3).

PLANS - We're grateful that our book, *"Paths In The Person And Work Of Christ,"* is now available (see on back). And, God willing, *"Paths In The Person And Attributes Of God"* will be printed in a few months. Also, we plan to print our commentary, *Paths In 1, 2 Timothy & Titus*, in 2026. In your prayers, please remember these projects, and the meetings and services listed below.

Tom's Itinerary (January-March 2026)

Jan. 4 AM	Oak Ridge Baptist Church	Rutherfordton, NC	Rev. Lewis Jackson
Jan. 11	Open Door Baptist Church	Linwood, NC	Rev. Gary Gibson
Jan. 18 AM	Bible Baptist Church	Callahan, FL	Rev. Mike Taylor
Jan. 18 PM	Camden Baptist Church	St. Marys, GA	Rev. Edward Dixon
Jan. 19-21	Campbell City Baptist Church	Kissimmee, FL	Rev. Danny Strickland
Jan. 25 AM	E. Hendersonville Baptist Church	Hendersonville, NC	Rev. Bobby Capps
Feb. 1	Christ Church	Starke, FL	Rev. Lester Austin
Feb. 2-5	Tabernacle Baptist Church	Lake City, FL	Rev. Mike Norman
Feb. 8-11	Heritage Baptist Church	Mt. Enterprise, TX	Rev. Rocky Otwell
Feb. 15 AM	Hudson River Baptist Church	Commerce, GA	Rev. Butch Moore
Feb. 15 PM-18	Freedom Fellowship Church	Central, SC	Rev. Mike Johnson
Feb. 22-25	E. Cleveland Baptist Church	Cleveland, TN	Rev. Joe Lockman
Mar. 2 -6	The Calling Conference	Duck Hill, MS	Rev. Joseph McDaris
Mar. 8 AM	Victory Baptist Church	Marietta, GA	Rev. Philip Crawford
Mar. 9	Bethel East Baptist Church	Woodland, AL	Rev. Keith Runels
Mar. 15	Higher Ground Baptist Church	Lexington, NC	Rev. Steve Hartzog
Mar. 16-18	Riverdale Baptist Church	Burlington, NC	Rev. Johnathan Graves
Mar. 22-25	Oak Ridge Baptist Church	Rutherfordton, NC	Rev. Lewis Jackson
Mar. 29-Apr. 1	First Broad Baptist Church	Bostic, NC	Rev. Steve Chastain

Christ's Humble Condescension

When she was quite small, my oldest daughter, Alethea, asked during the Christmas season, "How can someone as big as God become a little baby?" Perhaps, my answer was a bit preachy, but I said, "Honey, God is so big He can do anything!"

How do you explain the incarnation to a child? How do you explain it to anyone? As stated elsewhere, the story is truly "... the mystery of godliness" (1 Tim. 3:16). The mystery of mysteries is not that God made man in His own image, but that the great God of heaven would take upon Himself the image of earthly man.

Our text reads, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6-7).

Three wonderful thoughts are set forth, the first involving:

A. The Essence Of Christ

The One who was to come to this earth is said to have been "... in the form of God ..." (2:6), or in the "essence of God." It is, as one has aptly written, "to appear in a manner suitable to this great and incomprehensible nature" (John Daille). Christ was "the divine essence!" Some have viewed Jesus as only being like God. Without question, we agree that He was like God. However, He could not help but be like God, being God Himself. As stated elsewhere, He "... is the image of the invisible God ..." (Col. 1:15).

Furthermore, we are confronted with the grand truth of:

B. The Equality Of Christ

The next phrase, "... thought it not robbery to be equal with God" (2:6), emphasizes that Christ's divine essence was not something He grasped at or clasped onto. In all reality, the eternal Son was *co-existent* with the Father. He was *co-eternal* with the Father. He was *co-equal* with the Father. He was one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, as one has commented, "Christ considered equality with God as what justly and essentially belonged to Him. It was His by indisputable right" (A. W. Pink).

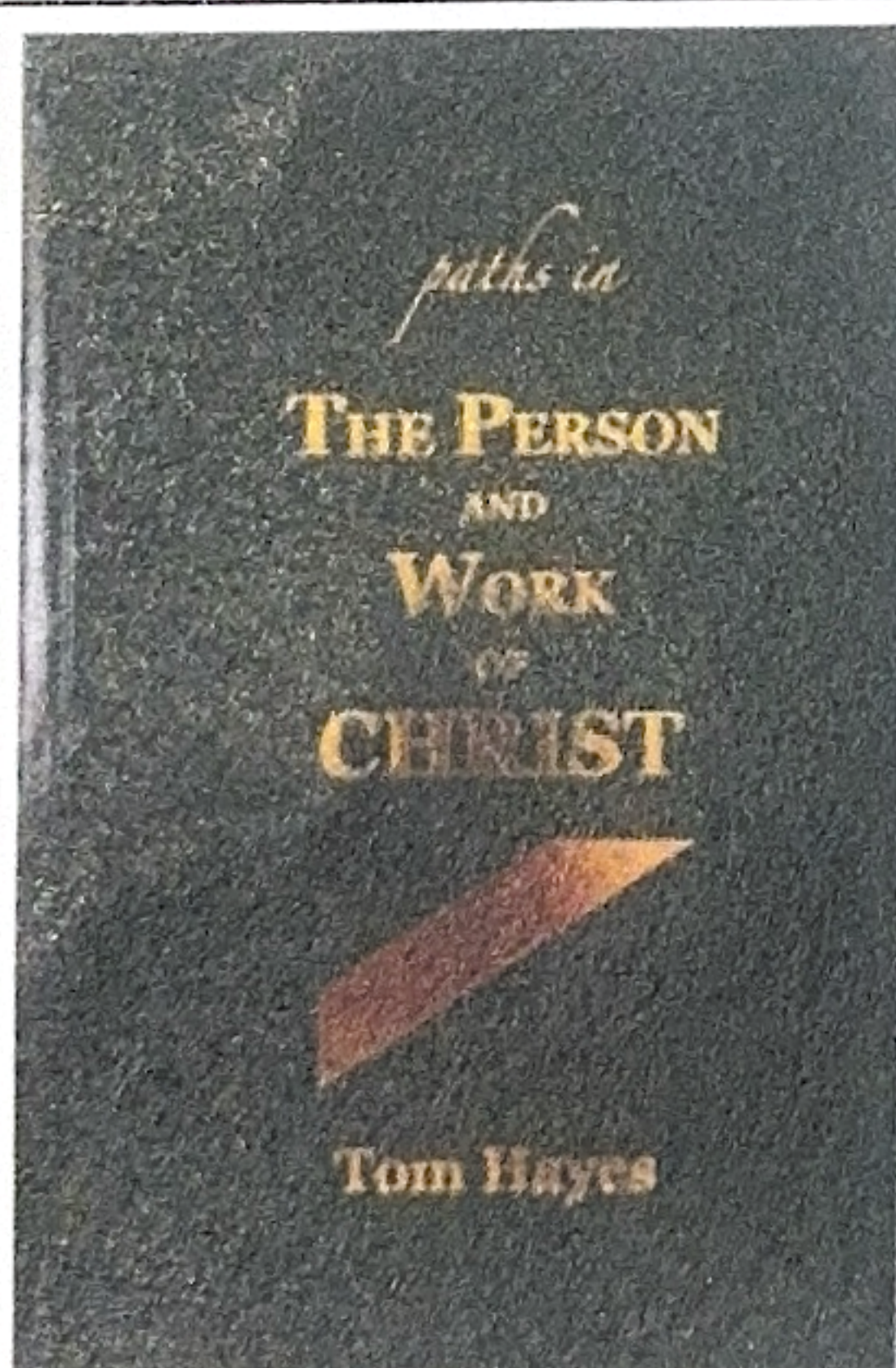
The last emphasis in the text pointedly confronts us with:

C. The Emptying Of Christ

The next few words, "But made Himself of no reputation ..." (2:7), indicate that Christ "emptied Himself." Like the drink offering in the Old Testament, which was poured out before the Lord (see Num. 28:7), He poured Himself out. As bread is made of wheat, and as wine is made of grapes, so Christ, who was very God, emptied Himself and condescended to this world to be "... made of a woman ..." (Gal. 4:4).

As Mary embraced and cared for baby Jesus, may the Holy Spirit help us to embrace Christ through the truth of the incarnation.

• This article is taken from our newest book, *Paths In The Person And Work Of Christ*.



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