

The Ascension of Christ – Part 3 of 3

The life of Christ. I would say that of all studies we find in the Word of God, this is the most blessed, the life of Christ. Especially as we study His life, we know that He was sinlessly perfect as He walked upon this Earth. He lived a sinless, perfect life. He never sinned. He went to the cross. He died to seek and to save those who were lost. That's what the Bible teaches. His shed blood cleanses from all sin. We cannot save ourselves. It has to be through the blood of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

We continue our study today in the ascension of Christ. And we've been looking through the life of Christ, and we've studied so far in this section of Scripture that we're looking at, and today we're looking at study number nineteen of the life of Christ. We've studied the fourfold purpose of Christ waiting forty days before He ascended, and we've also seen that the ascended Christ has gone back to Heaven. And we've also seen that He's not just sitting around. He's doing something. Well, we need to be reminded about where He is. Where is He?

The Bible says in Hebrews 10:10-12 that the Savior offered the once-for-all sacrifice for sins. It says, *11And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.*

After the victorious resurrection of our Lord, He ascended into Heaven and sat on the right hand of God the Father. The reason the Bible uses the term, "He sat on the right hand of God the Father," is to show the finished work. Remember, on the cross He said, "It is finished." Well, He had finished what He came

to the Earth to do. He died for us. He died for sinful man that we could know Him as our Lord and Savior. When He died, it was finished. The work was finished, that is, on this Earth. Now, when He sat on the right hand of God, it was like a consummation. In other words, it's done. He's there with God the Father. You can't add to and you can't take away from the finished work of our Lord.

In Hebrews 1:3, it says, Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high

Mark 16:19: So then after the Lord has spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Hebrews 8:1: Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

Hebrews 12:2: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It's finished. He's there. He's making intercession for us, and we're going to see that in just a moment. The Bible says that we, too, those who are saved, are seated with the Savior.

How can that be? Well, once you've trusted the Lord, it's as good as done. God sees us as being there. He sees the finished work of Christ.

Ephesians 2:5-6 says, *⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* *⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

Revelation 3:21: *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

How do you overcome? You overcome by receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior. Christ is seated at the right hand of God. The exaltation of Christ has taken place.

Right now, if you are saved, Christ is your High Priest, according to Hebrews 4:14-16. It says there: *¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens... Remember, He's ascended now. He's back there... Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

He knows what we're going through here. Verse 16 says, *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

He's your High Priest if you've trusted Him, if you're saved today. He's also your Mediator. In I Timothy 2:5, it says, *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.* No other person can be a mediator. No person on this earth, no human being, is a mediator between you and God if you're saved. There's only one mediator, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, this is what it means as a mediator. It's someone helping to end a dispute, somebody who works with both sides in a dispute in an attempt to help them to reach an agreement. As God looks at Jesus, He sees us. He sees Jesus when He looks at us, because Jesus died for us. He has become our great High Priest.

He's not only the High Priest. He's not only the Mediator, but He's also your Intercessor if you've trusted Him as Savior. "Interceding" means the action of pleading on somebody's behalf.

In Romans 8:34, it says, *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God... He's ascended... who also maketh intercession for us.*

He's an Intercessor. Hebrews 7:25: *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

Luke 22:32, in the first part of that verse, it says, *But I have prayed for thee.* Jesus prays. He prayed for us even before He went back to the Father, and He's there now, making intercession for us.

He's not only the High Priest. He's not only the Mediator. He's not only the Intercessor. He's your Advocate, as well, if you've trusted Him as Savior. This is a legal term, a legal representative, somebody such as a lawyer who pleads another's case in a legal forum. First John 2:1 says, *My little children... speaking to the saved... these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

Notice it doesn't say that you're never going to sin. As long as we're in this body, this is a body of sin. This does not give us a legal right to sin.

It's simply stating a fact that, until we have this body changed, there is sin in this body. But thank God, we have an Advocate with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me read that verse again. First John 2:1, *My little children...* He's speaking to saved people, not the people who have never been saved, but those people who have asked Him to come into their hearts; they've received Him into their innermost being; they've trusted Him with their innermost being. *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

Our hope is in the risen, ascended, exalted, glorified King of kings and Lord of lords who is now preparing for us a home in Heaven. John 14:1-3 tells us, *¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. Jesus said to us who are saved today, I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

First Timothy 3:16 says, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh... This is Jesus... justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

First Thessalonians 4:17: *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Everything is laid out. Everything is placed in front of the people of this world. He lived a sinless, perfect life. He was refused. Man refused Jesus, and there are people today who

refuse Him although they have all the evidences. They have the evidence of Creation. They have the Word of God. And they still refuse to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. But He's promised to come again and receive us... those people who have been saved. He's promised to receive us unto Himself. Then we, too, shall be received up into glory, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I trust and I pray for you today that you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you have received Him today, are you living for Him? Are you doing what He wants you to do? Remember, we studied in this section of our study of the life of Christ how that He left commandments, and we see that He has told us to go forth and make disciples. Are you doing that? Are you in love with the Lord? Do you love Him enough today to serve Him? I pray for you. I pray that you do love Him. I pray that you're serving Him to the best of your ability today through the Holy Spirit. If not, He says, if we confess our sin, He's faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That's for the child of God.

If you will ask Him, "Lord, I know I've sinned. I know I'm wrong. I know I haven't been serving You, but Lord, I confess that sin today, not to be saved, because I'm already saved, Lord, but I confess that sin so that my fellowship can be restored with You and I can serve You as my Lord and Savior."

If you're not saved, why not trust Him right now. Ask Him to save you. You can't save yourself. Realize that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Ask Him to come into your heart today, into your innermost being. Receive Him the best you know how. "Lord, I receive You as my Savior." If you'll do that, Jesus will save you today.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and let me remind you, you can download transcripts of this program, "The Life of Christ." We've gone through nineteen studies now on the life of Christ. If you'll go to our Website, www.LRWM.org, you can download this entire series on the life of Christ. You can listen to them and you can also get a transcript of each section that we've studied.

Let me remind you, until you hear me say this again, "It's a good life," I'll be praying for you. May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.