

# "The Right-Hand Man" Pastor's Choice

Introduction: "General Quarters. All Hands Man Your Battle Stations. This is not a drill."

Our Battle Cries (e.g. The Creeds = Latin: credo = "I believe..."

The Nicene Creed (325 A.D. and edited 381 A.D.) The Apostle's Creed ("The Old Roman Creed")

It is not enough to talk about the Crucified Lord or even the Risen Lord. We must also acknowledge the Ascended and Exalted Lord, who sits on the right hand of God, the Father and is coming again to judge the living and the dead (Mark 16:19; Acts 1:1-3, 9-11)

#### I. A Place of Honor

Jesus Christ is the Heavenly Father's "right hand man."

#### A. Place of Honor for Christ

"...[God, the Father] seated Him [Christ] at His right hand in the heavenly places..." (Eph. 1:20; cf. Acts 2:33)

Philippians 2:9-11 "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

#### B. A Place of Honor for Us

Revelation 3:21 "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to <u>sit down with Me on My throne</u>, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

We are fellow-heirs and joint-regents who will co-reign with Christ! "I am seated with the Risen Christ at the right hand of God, the Father."

## II. A Place of Intercession

Romans 8:34 "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."

Hebrews 8:1 (which speaks of Jesus) "...we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens..." (cf. Heb. 9:24l 1 Tim. 2:5)

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail (*Greek: eclipso = completely black out*)"

Hebrews 4:14-16 "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

#### III. A Place of Forgiveness

Hebrews 1:3b "When He (Christ) had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..." Romans 8:34 "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."

As our High Priest, the Risen Christ is sitting on the right where mercy and forgiveness are dispensed. Acts 5:31 "He (Christ) is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 10:12 "...He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God..."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### IV. A Place of Power and Authority

Luke 22:69 "But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

"[Christ] who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him." (1 Peter 3:22)

Psalm 110:1 The Lord (i.e. God the Father) says to my Lord (i.e. God, the Son): "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." (cf. Mt. 22:44; Mk 12:36; Lk 20:42; Acts 2:4; Heb 1:13)

The Exalted Lord who is seated at the right hand of the Father has His foot on the neck of all your enemies.

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."

## V. A Place of Preparation Maranatha: The Lord is Coming Soon!

Matthew 26:64 "...hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." (cf. Mk 14:62)

John 14:1-3 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

#### VI. A Place of Welcome

Acts 7:55-56 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he [Stephen] gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God...and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Colossians 3:1 "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Hebrews 12:2 "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has <u>sat down at the right hand of the throne of God</u>."

"Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing. You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same; and he must win the battle. (Second stanza of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" written by Martin Luther, the Great Reformer)

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1. What do you think as you picture the Jesus Christ in Heaven?
- 2. Reflect upon Jesus Christ sitting at the right hand of God as:
  - ...a place of honor:
  - ...a place of intercession:
  - ...a place of forgiveness:
  - ...a place of power and authority:
  - ...a place of preparation:
- 3. What did you get most out of this message?