

The Work of Christ: Week 6 – The Ascension & Return of Christ

1. The Ascension: From Cross to Crown

Acts 1:9–11

The gospel ends not only with an empty tomb but with an occupied throne.

The Ascension is not departure in defeat, but enthronement in glory.

• The Cross was the altar. • The Resurrection was the vindication. • The Ascension is the coronation.

a. The Necessity and Nature of the Ascension

Jesus ascended bodily—the same risen Lord the disciples saw and touched.

The cloud represents God's glory (Shekinah), not weather. His departure was for our advantage (John 16:7).

He ascended to fill all things (Ephesians 4:10).

b. Christ's Enthronement – The Session

Psalm 110:1: "Sit at my right hand..."

Christ reigns now, not later. Nations and history bend to His scepter.

Every Lord's Day we confess: "He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty."

2. Fruits of the Ascension

1. Glorification of Christ – His veiled glory is now unveiled (John 17:1–5).
2. Coronation of the King – Jesus is installed as King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15).
3. Gift of the Comforter – The Spirit is the King's empowering presence (John 14:16; Acts 1:8).
4. Ongoing Priestly Intercession – Christ continually prays for His people (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

3. Benefits of the Ascension

- Confidence in Prayer – Our prayers are carried by nail-scarred hands.
- Courage in Mission – "All authority... go therefore" (Matthew 28:18–20).
- Stability in the Church – Christ Himself holds His body together (Ephesians 1:22).
- Hope for Glory – Our lives are hidden with Christ (Colossians 3:3–4).
- Humility with Joy – "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7).

4. The Return of Christ: Our Blessed Hope

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Hope is certainty, not wishful thinking (Titus 2:13).

The Return is visible, bodily, and triumphant—not secret.

The church is caught up to meet the Lord, not to escape but to join His royal procession.

5. Living Between the “Already” and the “Not Yet”

Christ reigns now and will return soon.

- Watchfulness without worry (Matthew 24:42–44)
- Diligence without despair (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Purity without pride (1 John 3:3)
- Patience without passivity (James 5:7–8)

6. Prayerful Readiness

Stay awake in the Word.

Stay close to the church.

Stay humble in repentance.

Stay open-handed in mission.

Stay focused on the throne (Colossians 3:1).

Closing Exhortation

Christ ascended—to reign, intercede, and give the Spirit.

Christ will return—to raise the dead and renew creation.

So: Pray boldly. Walk in holiness. Keep the long view. Bear witness with courage.

“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4)