

Beholding the Son (Pt 5)

The Ascended Son

Trent Williams Sun Apr 24, 2022

I. Paul's Argument About Christ's Resurrection in 1 Cor 15

- A. If Christ is risen then there is a resurrection of the Saints
- B. If resurrection from the dead is no category at all, then Christ Himself is not risen.
- C. If Christ is not risen, our faith is useless, our preaching is for nothing, and we are still in our sins.
- D. However, since Christ is risen as the first fruits of many to come, our hope is firmly set on the Day that Christ returns and we are raised in like fashion as Him.

1. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Cor 15:19 ESV)

II. The Ascension Narrative

- A. **And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:50-53 ESV)**
- B. **And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11 ESV)**

- 1. The Ascension itself is the peak of 1st Advent Christolog (1 Tim 3:16), perhaps it should be the high point of the church calendar as well.

III. The Lord Jesus

- A. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (Acts 2:31-36 ESV)**
- 1. The Resurrection Furnishes proof that Jesus is Christ or Messiah, but the Ascension furnishes proof that Jesus is Lord**
 - a) It is the Lordship of Jesus to which obedient submission marks out their discipleship.**
 - B. In the Incarnation Jesus brought God before Man (John 1) in the Ascension Jesus brought Man before God (Heb 4).**
 - C. Could you imagine the look on the angels’ faces when that Man from Nazareth ascended and sat on that throne!**
- IV. And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10 ESV)**

- A. The authority of the believer: Paul concludes his prayer at the end of Ephesians 1 by saying that God has seated Christ far above all rule, authority, and power- far above every name that is named in this age or in the age to come
- B. So then this is where we too are seated in the Spirit by the mystical union we share with Christ by faith- never by our own achievement as chapter 2 goes on to lay out.
 - 1. So often our response to the warfare of the mind and the devil who comes like a prowling lion is to just wait it out until it passes.
- C. Calvin said in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, “The Lord, by his ascension into heaven, has opened up the access to the heavenly kingdom, which Adam had shut. For having entered it in our flesh, as it were in our name, it follows ... that we are in a manner seated in heavenly places, not entertaining a mere hope of heaven, but possessing it in our Head” (II.xvi.16). Olivero, M. (2018). [Jesus’ Ascension](#). In M. Ward, J. Parks, B. Ellis, & T. Hains (Eds.), *Lexham Survey of Theology*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.