

## The Message of the Ascension

### Introduction

- A. We have a tendency to overlook the Ascension in our description of the atonement. From the Biblical viewpoint it is extremely important.
- B. As we approach this subject we must keep in mind our identification with the Lord Jesus Christ. In the mind and plan of God the believer was "in Christ." We died in His death, participated in His Resurrection, and were seated in the heavenlies in His Ascension.
- C. The value of this representative work has been imputed to us. It is all ours "legally." Our daily need is to understand what we have and learn to put it into practice.

### I. The Meaning of the Ascension.

- A. The Ascension was and is a declaration that the work of the atonement was sufficient and completed, Romans 8:34-39.

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that die, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

- B. The Ascension was and is an affirmation that in Jesus Christ the believer has a Forerunner Who has entered heaven as our representative. This serves as an anchor for the soul, Hebrews 6:15,20.

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil. Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

- C. The Ascension was and is a testimony that Jesus Christ has entered into His intercessory work as the believer's High Priest, 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.

- D. The Ascension was and is a proclamation of a provision for the salvation and sanctification of His people, Hebrews 10:9-14.

He said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all . . . But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God . . . For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

- E. The Ascension was and is a witness to and a pattern for the return of Jesus Christ for His people as well as for that time when God will require all men and angels to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Which (the angels) also said. Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing tip into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven, Acts 1:11.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, Philippians 2:9-11.

II. The Message of the Ascension Summarized.

A. In regard to salvation - the message is - ASSURANCE.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession, Heb. 4:14.

And having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. . . . Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for he is faithful that promised, Heb. 10:21-23.

B. In regard to sanctification - the message is - PROVISION.

1. Provision regarding prayer, Hebrews 4:14-16.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God . . . let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2. Provision regarding freedom from sin, Colossians 3:1-5.

If ye then be risen with Christ . . . for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God . . . . Mortify therefore . . . .

3. Provision regarding freedom from Satan, Ephesians 1:19-23.

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us -ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion . . . . And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.

4. Provision regarding divine gifts, Ephesians 4:7,8.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he said, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.