

Hebrews 9; Lord's Day 18

FAITH IN JESUS' ASCENSION

- I. The history.
 - A. When Jesus ascended a cloud actively received Him out of the disciples' sight (Acts 1:9).
 - B. This change of the location of His human nature marks progress in Jesus' exaltation.
 - 1. His human nature had been earthly and humbled, but at His resurrection it became heavenly and exalted.
 - 2. The ascension took His heavenly human nature from the earthly realm into the heaven (Heb. 9:24).
 - C. The ascension marks Jesus is the High Priest presenting His perfect sacrifice to the Father.
 - D. In His human nature Jesus began an exalted (heavenly) existence in heaven.
- II. In heaven Jesus is active.
 - A. First, He is our advocate before the Father (Heb. 9:11,12,24,28).
 - 1. He is as a defense lawyer presenting the Judge with the evidence of our justification.
 - 2. He presents His sacrificial death to the judgment seat.
 - B. Second, He is our intercessor (Heb. 7:25).
 - 1. He pleads on the basis of His perfect work.
 - 2. Also He presents our prayers to God perfected.
 - C. Third, He is able to be with us in a much close sense.
 - 1. His presence is more real than when He walked with the disciples.
 - 2. Now He is with each of the elect on earth, even to the end of the world (Matt. 28:20).
- III. His ascension brings spiritual benefits to us.
 - A. It is a cause of great joy.
 - B. In essence the church ascended with Him (our Head) and sits with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).
 - C. Practical benefits for us.
 - 1. Our human nature (exalted in Christ) is as a magnet drawing us there (Heb. 6:19,20).
 - 2. The presence of the Spirit of our ascended Lord within each believer.
 - 3. Concerning our prayers.
 - 4. As Jesus was other-worldly, so now those who believe in Christ are in this world, but are not of it.