

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-3 – 4:14-16 – 7:23-28 – LD 18.46-49
9:11-14, 25-28 – 10:10-14
Singing: 426:1-3 – 302:1-3 – 198:1, 7 – 52:1-4

The Profit of Christ's Ascension (3)

I. He ascended to give to us II. He ascended to labor for us
III. He ascended to receive us

I. He ascended to give to us

A. He poured out the Spirit Who is the 'earnest' in all believers (Eph. 1:14)

1. Why did start with this point: *to identify whether we belong to Him and may be comforted with His ascension glory*

2. It is our duty to *examine ourselves* (2 Cor. 13:5)

II. He ascended to labor for us

A. Picture Jesus' disciples in John 13-17 (14:1; 27b; 16:1b; 16:6)

1. Why distressed?

2. Why did Jesus tell them not to be troubled? (John 16:7)

B. Texts read from Hebrews answer clearly why Jesus' ascension is profit

1. The advantage of Jesus' ascension is similar as incarnation

2. Hebrews majors on 'annual OT Day of Atonement'

C. What is Christ's work in the heavens for His Church?

1. Heb 1:3: *He reigns as King over all the creation* (Matt. 28:20)

2. Heb. 4:14-16: *He serves as High Priest at right hand of God*

a. He is there *exclusively* on our behalf (John 17:9)

b. He is there *emphatically* with us in our daily needs

c. He is there *welcoming* us day and night (7:24-26)

3. 1 John 2:1-2: *He acts as the heavenly advocate*

a. He is working in this position *on behalf of all His children*

- falling into sin as believer does not *sever* relationship

- but sin *stresses and strains* our relationship with Father

b. what does Jesus do as He observes us *stumble – wander?*

c. John has no narrow view of His office in vs. 2: *He is the living mercy seat where entire world is welcome* (vs. 3)

III. He has ascended into heaven to receive us

A. Let all believers in Jesus often tarry in John 14-17!

1. John 14:1-3: *He is preparing a place for us in Father's House*

a. He is already where He will one day bring us

b. How is He 'preparing a place for us?'

c. When He returns, it is not to bring us to a 'certain place'

B. What comforting implications must we draw from this!

1. One day we will see Him face to face as disciples saw Him on Mt. of Transfiguration *without fear* (Matt. 17:1-7; Rev. 1:17a; 1 John 3:2)

2. One day we will be like Him in a perfect world: Rev. 21:1-5

LIVING THESE TRUTHS ...

A. Is the ascended Christ your only comfort in life and death already?

B. Why is He lingering in returning as yet?