

May 24, 2020 Sermon: The Significance of the Ascension **Text:** various Scripture

Introduction: All Christian traditions give special attention to Christmas (the Incarnation of Christ), Good Friday (the cross of Christ), and Easter (the resurrection of Christ). Very few give the same emphasis to the Ascension of Christ. Has this been your church experience too? Why do you think we do not place more emphasis on the Ascension?

Examination:

- Read Acts 1: 3 – 11 and compare this with Daniel 7:13-14 (a text the disciples would have been very aware of). What do you think the response of the disciples was in vs. 9-11? Why did the angels (“two men in white”) appear and speak as they did?
- N.T. texts that speak of or allude to the ascension of the Lord: Mark 16:19; Luke 24: 50-51; John 6:61-62; John 20:17; Hebrews 4:10; Hebrews 9:24-27; 1 Timothy 3:16

In the sermon there are five reasons given as to why the Ascension of the Lord is important/relevant for believers.

1. **The Ascension of Jesus is the confirmation that heaven is a reality – a real place.** How does the bodily ascension of the Lord confirm this? Why is this important and relevant for believers? See John 14: 1-4.
2. **The Ascension of the Lord is the assurance that we have One who pleads our cause in the presence of God the Father.** See Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1; and Hebrews 7:25. Why is this important? How is this relevant to us? Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does this impact your praying? How does knowing this truth make you feel?
3. **In the Ascension Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, the Helper.** See John 14:25-26; John 16:5-14; Acts 1:8. Why is this important and relevant for Christians? *(Teachers: I have added an extra page below for further study on the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the Christian).*
4. **Jesus sitting at the right hand of God the Father Almighty speaks to the finished work of Christ on our behalf and to His limitless authority.** See Mark 14:60-62. Also, Heb. 8:1-2; Heb. 10: 11-14; Heb. 12:2; Ephesians 1:20-23. Discuss the importance and relevance of this truth for believers. Also, discuss Matthew 28: 18-20 in light of this!
5. **The Ascension of Jesus to God’s right hand is the confirmation that history has a good ending!** See 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Matthew 25: 31-33; Acts 10:42; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 20:11-14.

In response to this study, spend some time at the end of class in group prayer (praise and thanks) for the implications of the Ascension of Christ to our lives.

The following are some of the works of the Holy Spirit in relation to a

believer: assures the believer of our adoption into the family of God (Romans 8:15-18); regenerates the believer (Titus 3:5); permanently indwells (John 14:16); seals the believer with a pledge of future glory (2 Corinthians 1:22); guides and fills (Romans 8:14); fills the believer with Himself, giving a power for witness (Acts 1:4-8); imparts spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:10-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11); sanctifies the believer with Himself, setting us apart unto holiness (2 Thessalonians 2:13); abides continuously with the believer (John 14:16); takes the Word of God and teaches the believer (John 14:26); brings to remembrance the things that we have faithfully learned (John 14:26); testifies to us regarding the Savior constantly revealing Christ, (John 15:26); guides the believer into all truth (John 16:13); takes the things of Christ and reveals them to us (John 16:14); gives us power to obey God in the time of weakness and strengthens us (Ezekiel 36:27); gives the believer freedom from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2); gives the believer power to please God by granting victory over the flesh (Romans 8:5-6); gives power to put to death the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13); directs the believer in his/her prayer life to pray in the will of God (Romans 8:26-27); leads the believer out from under the law to freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:17); empowers us to bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); assists us in putting away the things that displease our Father God (Ephesians 4:30-32); assures us that we belong to the Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3); gives divine love to the children of God (Romans 5:5); t) strengthens us with spiritual power (Ephesians 3:16); u) reveals, interprets and applies the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-14); convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16: 8); empowers us to impart truth to others (Acts 1:8); makes genuine our access to the Father in Heaven (Ephesians 2:18); inspires worship and adoration of God Himself (John 4:23-24); directs us in our service (Acts 8:27-29).