

Only as we are united to Christ can we ascend the hill of the Lord.

1) The Transfiguration prefigures Christ's Ascension.

- a) "He went up on the mountain" (v. 28)
- b) Moses (v. 30)—Exod. 3 Moses' encounter with God's glory on Mt. Horeb, "the mountain of God"; Exod. 19:20 Moses' ascent on Mt. Sinai, where God had descended; Deut. 34 Moses' ascent on Pisgah to view the promised land before his departure
- c) Elijah (v. 30)—2 Kings 2:11 Elijah's ascension into heaven by a whirlwind
- d) "A cloud came and overshadowed them" (v. 34)—Exod. 24:18 "Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain" (cf. Exod. 19:16-20)
- e) Compare to Christ's Ascension to Heaven in Acts 1:9-11 "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. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, **behold two men stood** by them in **white** robes, 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.'"

2) The Transfiguration prefigures the exaltation of Christ's glorified humanity.

- a) In the incarnation God the Son took upon Himself a lowly, mortal, human nature, subject to the miseries of a fallen world.
- b) In the Ascension, Christ does not discard this human nature; He glorifies it. Note, "the appearance of His face was *altered*," not obliterated (v. 28).
 - i) God's purpose for humanity (Eph. 1:9-10) could not be realized as long as mankind remained alienated from God in sin.
 - ii) Reconciliation between God and man could only occur through humanity's perfect obedience to God's will and satisfactory payment for his disobedience. Christ's obedience to God unto death satisfied both of these requirements: "He tasted death for everyone" "to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (payment for disobedience); and "He learned obedience through what He suffered . . . being made perfect" (perfect obedience to God's will) (Heb. 2:9-10, 17; 5:8-9).
 - iii) His Transfiguration/Glorification/Ascension is the display of His Divine glory through His "perfected" humanity.
 - iv) Philippians 2:9-10 "highly exalted Him" "Name that is above every name" "Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"

3) The Transfiguration prefigures the glorification of all who are in Christ.

- a) Moses and Elijah "appeared in glory" (v. 31)
- b) Peter and John and James "entered the cloud" of glory (v. 34)
- c) Hebrews 2:5-10 expounds on Psalm 8: 4-6, explaining that Jesus has been "crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death" in order to bring "many sons to glory."
 - i) Hope of bodily glorification in the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-57)
 - ii) Hope of moral glorification in sanctification (Rom. 12:2)
- d) Begins with conversion (2 Cor. 16-18 "being transformed from glory to glory")
- e) Perfected at Christ's Parousia (1 John 3:2-3)

4) Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? —Psalm 24

- a) We can ascend because Jesus takes us with Him (v. 28). Union with Christ is our ascent 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9
- b) Must ascend from self-love and self-glorification to the love and glory of God (Gen. 11:4; Isaiah 14:12-15 Babel/Babylon)

- c) Must ascend from an evil, unbelieving heart (Heb. 3:12) to a persevering faith by grace (Heb. 4:14-16)
- d) Must ascend from superficiality to mature discernment of faith (Heb. 5:12-14)
- e) Must ascend from ungodliness to holiness (Heb. 12:12-17)
- f) Always remembering that you can ascend because the blood of Jesus speaks on your behalf (Heb. 12:18-24).