

**BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: CHRIST'S ASCENSION**

- Intro:** - In Hebrews 9:1-10 the writer sets forth the types and shadows of the priest going into the holy of holies to present the blood of the sacrifice.  
 - Now in Hebrews 9:11-28 shows the accomplishment of that work in the person and work of the Lord Jesus. Christ has entered into heaven itself!  
 - On Ascension Day, we looked at the historical account of Jesus' ascension. Here we look at the fact of and especially the blessing of it.  
 - Christ, that is "the Anointed One" (prophet, priest, and king) has entered into the heaven "now to appear in the presence of God for us."

**I. THE FACT OF CHRIST'S ASCENSION.**

- A. The wonder of the ascension itself.
1. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascended from Mt. Olivet.
  2. He was taken up in the sight of his disciples.
  3. A cloud receives him from their sight.
  4. It was a separation of his person to an extraterrestrial place.
- B. The meaning of the ascension.
1. It is proof of the victory over the grave and death.
  2. In this way Jesus accomplishes what God had determined for us.
  3. As Jesus ascended into heaven, received by his Father, so also we shall be taken home to glory.
- C. The significance for the Church.
1. First, Jesus is no longer physically with his church on earth..
  2. The disciples saw his ascension in that light.
  3. That is true also for the church in our own day.
  4. Secondly, Christ is in a position to provide for his church.
  5. Before he could speak to his disciples face to face.
  6. But now he is with his church through the Comforter.
  7. Jesus promised the Comforter after his death and resurrection.
  8. Now the Spirit gives the guidance that Christ wants us to have.

**II. THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST.**

- A. The occasion for 'problems' with Christ's ascension.
1. Does this mean that we are left all alone in this difficult, sinful world, left to our own resources?
  2. What about Jesus' promise to be with us even unto the end of the world? Does not God keep his promises?
  3. Is Jesus physically divided? Is he physically in heaven but also here on earth?
- B. The. Lutherans teach the 'ubiquity' of Christ's human nature
1. This means that his human nature assumes some of the attributes of the divine nature.
  2. Specifically this means that Jesus human body can be everywhere present.
  3. This teaching is used to support the false teaching of 'consubstantiation'.
- C. The error of this view:
1. This ignores the teaching of Christ in his ascension.
  2. This creates confusion between the natures of Christ:
  3. Christ's human nature is limited to one place. His divine nature is unlimited and omnipresent.
- D. The Lutheran question:
1. Are the two natures of Christ separated from each other?
  2. Is Christ really with us, also at the communion table?
  3. If Christ is physically in heaven, and also present at every communion table, how?
  4. If only spiritually present at the table, human nature in heaven, these two natures are separated!
  5. Our catechism instructor gives again the correct answer: deal with the natures involved!

**III. BLESSEDNESS OF CHRIST'S ASCENSION.**

- A. Advantage or disadvantage for us?
1. At first we might conclude that this is a disadvantage. The disciples loved being with Jesus each day.
  2. They could see his works, hear his words, and touch and be near him.
  3. We might conclude that we now simply flounder on our own.
- B. Positively:
1. Christ can now do what would not be done if he were still on earth.
  2. Christ rules the affairs of all things in heaven and on earth.
  3. Christ is with each of his children wherever they are, and with his church whenever and wherever they worship.
  4. Christ's ascension benefits his church!
- C. Specifically the blessing of Christ's ascension is:.
1. Christ is in heaven serving as our advocate.
  2. We have our flesh in heaven: a pledge that one day we will be there also.
  3. He sends his Spirit as an 'earnest'.
  4. So there is tension: Already by Christ's Spirit we have a victorious life.
  5. But the half of the glory that is awaiting us has not been told. We will be with Jesus. Come Lord Jesus! Quickly!