

CHRIST'S ASCENSION
Ephesians 1:15–23

Continuing to examine “the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.”

This passage refers to **Christ's exaltation** “What was the estate of Christ's exaltation? The estate of Christ's exaltation comprehendeth his resurrection, ascension, sitting at the right hand of the Father, and his coming again to judge the world” (WLC 51).

Tonight's focus: **Christ's ascension.**

WLC 53: “How was Christ exalted in his ascension? Christ was exalted in his ascension, in that having after his resurrection often appeared unto and conversed with his apostles, speaking to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and giving them commission to preach the gospel to all nations, forty days after his resurrection, he, in our nature, and as our head, triumphing over enemies, visibly went up into the highest heavens, there to receive gifts for men, to raise up our affections thither, and to prepare a place for us, where himself is, and shall continue till his second coming at the end of the world.”

1. What do we mean by the Ascension?

- a. Physically ascended to heaven: “After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9–11).
- b. Enthroned as Lord of heaven and earth—“exalted to the highest place” (Phil 2:9).
 - i. Phil 2:9–11: “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
 - ii. Eph 1:20–22: “he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all thing sunder his feet.”

2. What is the significance of the Ascension?

- a. If Christ is in heaven, then we have access to heaven.

Heb 4:14–16: “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

- b. If Christ is enthroned, then all of his and our enemies are conquered.

1 Pet 3:22: “who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” See also Eph 1:21–22; Col 2:15

- c. After Christ ascended to heaven, he sent the Spirit to regenerate and indwell.

John 16:7: “Very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

- d. While Christ is in heaven, he is preparing a place for us.

John 14:1–2: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?”

- e. Since Christ is in heaven, we are in heaven

Eph 2:6: “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

- f. Since Christ is in heaven, we can seek heavenly things.

Col 3:12–2: “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”