

Christ's Intercession

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 highlights **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 we examine what Christ *does* at the right hand of the Father: **Christ's intercession**.

The **WLC** addresses Christ's intercession in two questions:

- **54:** “How is Christ exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God? Christ is exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God, in that as God-man he is advanced to the highest favor with God the Father, with all fullness of joy, glory, and power over all things in heaven and earth; and doth gather and defend his church, and subdue their enemies; furnisheth his ministers and people with gifts and graces, and maketh intercession for them.”
- **55** develops the last clause on intercession: “How doth Christ make intercession? Christ maketh intercession, by his appearing in our nature continually before the Father in heaven, in the merit of his obedience and sacrifice on earth, declaring his will to have it applied to all believers; answering all accusations against them, and procuring for them quiet of conscience, notwithstanding daily failings, access with boldness to the throne of grace, and acceptance of their persons and services.”

Main ideas:

1. The exalted Christ gathers and defends his church, and subdues his enemies

a. The OT anticipates Christ's kingship:

i. 2 Sam 7

ii. Ps 2

iii. Ps 110:1–3

b. The NT sees David's restored kingdom fulfilled by Christ in the church: **Acts 15:13–18**.

2. The exalted Christ furnishes his ministers and people with gifts and graces

a. Eph 4:7–13

b. See also the gifts lists in 1 Cor 12–14; Rom 12; 1 Pet 4:10–11.

3. The exalted Christ makes intercession for God's people

a. Christ appears in heaven on our behalf

Heb 9:24, 26: “For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence...he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.”

b. Christ answers accusations against us

Rom 8:31–34: no one can condemn you for your sin because Christ died, rose again, and presently intercedes for you. WLC 55 highlights:

c. Christ gives us access to the throne of grace

Heb 4:16: “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.”