

TEACHING GOAL

To study the nature of Christ's exaltation in His sitting at God's right hand and interceding for us.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

- Q. Wherein consists Christ's exaltation?
- A. Christ's exaltation consists in His rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.
- S.C. 28; L.C. 51-53; W.C. of F. VIII, XXXII; Savoy 8, 32; Young 68

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Revelation 1

Support Passages: Psalm 110:1 and its quotes in Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62, 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33-34, 5:30-32; Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 10:12-14; I Peter 3:22

BIBLE STORY

Acts 7:54-60; The stoning of Stephen and his vision of the Lord.

.MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

Colossians 3:1

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

APPLICATION

Since Jesus has risen indeed from the dead, and we serve a real and living King, let us not be slow or lax about seeking the real things of God.

SUMMARY

We have already studied the kingly office of Jesus in lessons 30, 35, 36, and 37, therefore in this lesson we shall confine ourselves to the nature of His exaltation in His sitting at God's right hand.

First of all let us determine that sitting at the right hand of God is exalting. Jesus, *"being the brightness of His (God the Father) glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"* (Hebrews 1:3). We are saved, *"Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him"* (1 Peter 3:22). In these two passages the seat at God's right hand is directly connected with the rule of kingship, being the present work of Christ. At the right hand of God, Jesus is not inactive, for as Paul writes *"Christ Jesus is He who died, yes rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us"* (Romans 8:34). This concept of Christ's sitting at God's right hand, which comes from Psalm 110:1, is exalting because it is the position of kingship, moreover, it is exalting because the context about each of the passages in which such an estate is mentioned is exalting to Christ.

Nowhere is there a more sublime picture of Christ than in John's vision in Revelation chapter 1. Seven Spirits are said to be before the throne of, *"Him who is, and who was, and who is to come"* (verse 4). This same one is said to be the *"Lord God,"* the *"Alpha and the Omega"* (the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet) and *"The Almighty"* (verse 8). He who is *"the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead"* (i.e. the best example of the dead who have been raised) is ruler of the kings of the earth and has made us to be a kingdom (past tense) etc. (verses 5-6). The phrase, *"Behold He is coming in the clouds,"* is a Hebrew idiom that means that the coming one is powerful (e.g. Isaiah 19:1). Now it is obvious that each of these verses or phrases refer to Christ for the rest of verse 7 speaks of Him who was pierced. The Jews who pierced Him and all the tribes of the earth began to see Jesus in His great power from His death to this very day and when He comes the second time all eyes will have seen Him. People everywhere will have repented and mourned over Him and over the dreadful sins that they have committed against the Savior.

Take note of the glorious Jesus in Revelation 1:13-18.

He is *"one like a son of man"* (compare Daniel 7:13-14).

He is *"clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breasts with a golden girdle"* (the attire of a king).

"And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow, and His eyes were like a flame of fire; and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters" (Jesus is glorious and powerful indeed).

"And in His right hand He held seven stars" (He provides for and protects His church).

"And out of His mouth came a sharp two edged sword" (which is the word of God).

"And His face was like the sun shining in its strength."

He said, *"I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."*

This is a vision of Jesus as He is now, and His words are directed to churches in Asia Minor that existed in the days of John to whom the vision came. This is a vision of Jesus who is said elsewhere to be at the right hand of God, of the Majesty on high. We must not hesitate to obey so glorious a being as this, nor fail to fall at His feet in worship. He is Jesus our risen King.