

John 14; Lord's Day 18

I BELIEVE IN JESUS' ASCENSION

1. The history.

1. Jesus' ascension anticipated: Heb. 9:11,12, prophesied (Ps. 68:18), foretold by Jesus (John 20:17).
 2. When Jesus ascended a cloud actively received Him out of the disciples' sight (Acts 1:9).
 3. This change of the location of His human nature marks progress in Jesus' exaltation.
 1. He ascended because He finished the work He came to do on earth (John 17:4; Heb. 1:3).
 2. Jesus said, "I go to My Father" (John 14:2,3,12; 16:10,28); and the heart of heaven is that it is where God reveals Himself most clearly: His throne and glory (Heb. 9:24).
 4. The ascension marks Jesus as the High Priest presenting His perfect sacrifice to the Father (Heb. 10:11,12).
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1. First, His priestly work is to serve as our advocate before the Father (I John 2:1).
 2. Second, He is our intercessor, constantly praying for blessings to be given to us for our sanctification (Heb. 7:25).
 3. Third, He is able to be with us in a much close sense.
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1. He ascended as the Bridegroom (John 14:2) and so He could send the Holy Spirit, Comforter (John 7:39; 16:7).
 2. It is a cause of great joy (though the disciples were initially saddened).
 3. In essence the church ascended with Him (our Head) and sits with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).
 4. Practical benefits for us.
 1. Our human nature (exalted in Christ) is as a magnet drawing us there (Heb. 6:19,20).
 2. As Jesus was other-worldly, so now those who believe in Christ are in this world, but are not of it.