

# Week Six

Quarter 2

Resurrection and Ascension

The Offices of Christ

# Outline

- Chapter 28
  - Resurrection
  - Ascension
  - States of Jesus Christ
- Chapter 29
  - Christ as Prophet
  - Christ as Priest
  - Christ as King
  - Our Roles as Prophets, Priests, and Kings

# Resurrection

- The entire New Testament bears witness to the resurrection of Christ
- The nature of Christ's resurrection
  - It was not a simple coming back from the dead
    - Lazarus was still subject to weakness, aging, and death
    - Jesus was the “first fruits” of a new kind of human life
      - “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep...But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming” (1 Cor 15:20,23)
  - He was recognizable
    - Jesus' disciples did not recognize Him immediately on the road to Emmaus, but that was because “their eyes were kept from recognizing Him” (Luke 24:13-32)
    - Other occasions have the disciples recognizing Jesus quickly (Matt 28:9, 17; John 20:19-20, 26-28; 21:7, 12)
  - There was a considerable amount of continuity between the physical appearance of Jesus before His death and after His resurrection, yet Jesus did not look exactly as He did before He died (pg 609)

# The Nature of Christ's Resurrection (Cont.)

- Jesus had “put on immortality” (1 Cor 15:53)
- Paul says the resurrection body is raised “imperishable...in glory...in power...a spiritual body” (1 Cor 15:42-44)
- It was a physical body
  - The disciples “took hold of His feet” (Matt 28:9)
  - He took bread and broke it (Luke 24:30)
  - He ate fish (Luke 24:41-43)
  - He invited Thomas to touch His hands and side (John 20:27)
  - “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39)

# Was Jesus Able to Disappear and Reappear?

- Even if He was, it may just be a miracle like with Phillip (Acts 8:39), and not a characteristic of a resurrected body
- Some verses cited for such behavior do not necessarily mean that He disappeared or reappeared
  - Jesus came and stood among the disciples on two occasions when the door was “shut” (John 20:19, 26)
    - Doors miraculously opened at other times (Acts 12:10)
  - After Jesus broke bread, “He disappeared from their sight” (Luke 24:31)
    - This does not have to mean “proof”
    - It could simply mean that He moved out of their sight (“the disciples could no longer see Him”)

# Other Notes on the Nature of Christ's Resurrection

- Nothing says that He was able to pass through walls (see discussion on locked doors)
- When Jesus ascended, an angel told the disciples “this Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11)
  - This alone does not have to mean in bodily form
- All evidence taken into account, it seems logical that Jesus' resurrected body was physical
  - It would have been wrong to teach the disciples that He had a physical body when in His customary mode of existence He really did not (pg 613)
  - When God created man in the flesh, He said “it was very good” (Gen 1:31)
  - Jesus, having a resurrected physical body, reaffirms the goodness of God's original creation...we must not fall into the error of thinking that nonmaterial existence is somehow a better form of existence for creatures (pg 613)

# Doctrinal Significance of the Resurrection (1)

- Christ's resurrection ensures our regeneration
  - “we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3)
  - Paul says that God “made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him” (Eph 2:5-6)
- Christ's resurrection/ascension gave us the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
  - Now “sin will have no dominion over you” (Rom 6:14)
  - “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

# Doctrinal Significance of the Resurrection (2)

- Christ's resurrection ensures our justification
  - Paul says that Jesus “was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Rom 4:25)
  - If God “raised us up with Him” (Eph 2:6), then, by virtue of our union with Christ, God's declaration of approval of Christ is also His declaration of approval of us (pg 615)
- Christ's resurrection ensures that we will receive perfect resurrection bodies as well
  - “And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power” (1 Cor 6:14)
  - “He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence” (2 Cor 4:14)
  - Paul calls Christ the “first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor 15:20)

# Doctrinal Significance of the Resurrection (3)

- Will we have scars?
  - Jesus had scars from the crucifixion (John 20:27)
  - Since our bodies will be “incorruptible” and raised “in glory”, it seems logical that we will not (but we’re guessing)
  - Jesus’ scars may stay as an eternal reminder of the price He paid for us (but we’re hypothesizing here)
- Ethical significance of the resurrection
  - Continued obedience – “Therefore...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor 15:58)
    - “Therefore” refers back to because Christ was raised from the dead, so we will as well
  - Focus on our future heavenly reward – “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above” (Col 3:1)
  - Stop yielding to sin (freed from bondage) (Rom 6:11-13)

# Ascension Into Heaven

- Grudem's points on heaven being a "place"
  - Jesus led the disciples to Bethany (a place) (Luke 24:50)
  - The disciples continued to stare into the sky when He left (Acts 1:9-11)
  - Jesus (and His physical body) had to go somewhere
  - The spiritual dimension is for spiritual beings
  - "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2-3)
  - Therefore, Jesus went to a "place" which is in our space-time universe, yet hidden from us
- Response
  - Scripture nowhere indicates that heaven is in our dimension
  - Jesus ascending up into the clouds was a more definite departure than if He simply "disappeared" into another dimension
- Agreement between the two views
  - Jesus went to heaven
  - Heaven is somewhere that we cannot see today and we do not know "where" it is

# Christ Received Glory and Honor that had Not Been His Before as the God-Man

- Jesus prayed “Gather, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory which I had with You before the world was made” (John 17:5)
- Peter preached that Jesus was “exalted at the right hand of God” (Acts 2:33)
- Paul declared that “God has highly exalted Him” (Phil 2:9)
- “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing” (Rev 5:12)

# Christ Was Seated at God's Right Hand

- He sat down at the right hand of God, sometimes called “His session at God's right hand”
  - “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’” (Ps 110:1)
  - “When He had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb 1:3)
- Significance
  - A dramatic indication of the completion of Christ's work of redemption
  - Indication that He received authority over the universe (Eph 1:20-21, 1 Pet 3:22, 1 Cor 15:25)

# Christ's Ascension has Doctrinal Significance for Our Lives

- Christ's going up into heaven foreshadows our future ascension into heaven with Him
  - “We who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thes 4:17)
  - Jesus promised to take us to be with Him (John 14:3)
- Our final home will be in heaven with Him
  - “I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3)
- We share now a part of Christ's authority over the universe, and will later share it more fully
  - God “raise us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:6)
  - We are to do battle with the weapons that “have divine power to destroy strongholds” (2 Cor 10:4)
  - We will share with Christ in His authority over the creation that God has made (Heb 2:5-8)
  - We will judge angels (1 Cor 6:3)

# States of Jesus Christ

- Humiliation
  - Incarnation
  - Suffering
  - Death
  - Burial
- Exaltation
  - Resurrection
  - Ascension into heaven
  - Session at the right hand of God
  - Return in glory and power

# The Offices of Christ

- Prophet
  - Spoke God's words to the people
- Priest
  - Offered sacrifices, prayers, and praises to God
- King
  - Ruled over the people as God's representative

# Christ as Prophet (1)

- Prophets spoke God's words to the people
- While this was not a primary designation of Jesus, there were still several references
  - “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me (Moses)” (Deut 18:15)
  - Paul identified Christ as the prophet predicted by Moses in Acts 3:22-24
  - When Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain from the dead, people said “A great prophet has arisen among us” (Luke 7:16)
  - The Samaritan women said “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet” (John 4:19)
  - “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!” (John 6:14)

# Christ as Prophet (2)

- Some scriptures avoid calling Jesus a prophet
  - “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son” (Heb 1:1-2)
  - Why? – He is far greater than the OT prophets!
    - He is the one about whom the prophecies in the Old Testament were made (Luke 24:27, 1 Pet 1:11)
    - He Himself was the source of revelation from God
      - “But I say unto you” (Matt 5:22, et al.) instead of “Thus says the Lord”
      - He is the eternal Word of God (John 1:1)
- Jesus is truly and fully a prophet

# Christ as Priest (1)

- Priests were appointed by God to offer sacrifices, prayers, and praises to God
- Jesus offered a perfect sacrifice
  - “But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Heb 9:26)
  - Hebrews emphasizes that it was a complete and final sacrifice (7:27; 9:12, 24-28; 10:1-2, 10, 12, 14; 13:12)
- Jesus continually brings us near to God
  - “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever” (Heb 6:19-20)
  - “...since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus...and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Heb 10:19-22)

# Christ as Priest (2)

- Jesus as priest continually prays for us
  - “He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:25)
  - Paul says that Christ Jesus is the one “who indeed intercedes for us” (Rom 8:34)
  - What does intercede (*entygchano*) mean?
    - Not to merely stand as someone’s representative before another person
    - It has the sense of making specific requests or petitions before someone
  - Conclusion – Jesus continually lives in the presence of God to make specific requests and to bring specific petitions before God on our behalf (pg 628)
    - This is done even when we are negligent in our prayer life
  - This is made possible because of His dual nature
    - Man – can relate to us and act as a representative for mankind
    - God – accepted in God’s presence, knows what we need

# Christ as King

- The king has authority to rule over the nation of Israel
- Jesus was born to be the King of the Jews (Matt 2:2)
  - Not to be fulfilled at that time through military or political measures (John 6:15)
  - “My kingship is not of this world” (John 18:36)
- Yet, He announced the arrival of His kingdom (Matt 4:17, 23; 12:28; et al.)
- “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38)
- After the resurrection, Jesus was given far greater authority over the church and the universe
  - God raised Him up and “made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; and He has put all things under His feet and has made Him the head over all things for the church” (Eph 1:20-22, Matt 28:18, 1 Cor 15:25)
  - This authority will be more fully recognized when He returns to earth in power and great glory to reign (Matt 26:64, 2 Thes 1:7-10, Rev 19:11-16)

# Our Roles as Prophets, Priests, and Kings

- These roles, which man has warped with sin, were restored by Jesus and we can share in such activities in a subordinate way
- Prophet
  - Adam was a prophet in that he had true knowledge of God
  - We proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the world
- Priest
  - Adam was able to freely and openly offer prayer and praise to God
  - We now have direct access to God for prayer and praise through our mediator Jesus Christ
  - Christians are called “a royal priesthood” by Peter
- King
  - Adam was given dominion and rule over creation
  - We have been raised to sit with Christ in heavenly places (Eph 2:6)
  - We battle against the evil spiritual forces (Eph 6:10-18, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9, 1 John 4:4)
- These roles for mankind will reach completion under Christ’s eternal, perfect reign

# Conclusions

- Jesus' resurrected in bodily form
  - He ascended to heaven that way
  - He will return that way
  - We will be resurrected in the same way
- Jesus' resurrection:
  - Ensures our regeneration
  - Empowers us with the Holy Spirit
  - Ensures our justification
  - Shows that we will have new bodies
- Jesus was and is Prophet, Priest, and King
  - We are in a subordinate way today

# Reading For Next Week

- Chapter 30
  - The Work of the Holy Spirit
    - Homework – questions 1,3,4,5
- Chapter 31
  - Common Grace
    - Homework – questions 1,2,3,5