

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 353
Series: The Primal Church - Acts Chapters 1-8
Verses: Acts 2:32-36
Topic: The Exalted Christ
Date: 20th October 2004

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Acts 2:32-36 MKJV God raised up this Jesus, of which we all are witnesses. (33) Therefore being exalted to the right of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this which you now see and hear. (34) For David has not ascended into the heavens, but he says himself, "The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right *hand* (35) until I place Your enemies as a footstool to Your feet." (36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God made this same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

These five verses are absolutely packed with profound theological statements:

1. God has raised Jesus from the dead.
2. Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God.
3. Jesus received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father.
4. Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in visible and audible manifestations of grace.
5. Jesus has been made both Lord and Christ.
6. Jesus will be at God's right hand in Heaven until all His enemies have been subdued under His feet.
7. The Jews had crucified Jesus, who was now their exalted Messiah.

Thus their response of "What then can we do to be saved?" was perfectly understandable. More on that tomorrow.

The point of today's study is this – Jesus is not wearing a beard and sandals any more. He is the mighty Son of God, in Heaven, at the right hand of the Father and pours out the Holy Spirit on His Church.

Jesus is exalted:

Ephesians 1:20-23 MKJV which He worked in Christ in raising Him from the dead, and He seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, (21) far above all principality and authority and power and dominion, and every name being named, not only in this world, but also in the coming age. (22) And He has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Given that Jesus is no longer walking around Galilee and preaching from fishing boats and on mountains – how do we relate to Him? We relate to Him in at least four ways:

- a) As Lord – we receive and believe His teachings, obey His commandments and do His work.

- b) As Christ – as the anointed one, out who pours out the Holy Spirit, and performs healings and miracles in the midst of His Church.
- c) As High Priest – who has passed through the heavenlies and understands our weakness and gives grace and help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:12-16)
- d) As Son Of God – as deity, as God, as part of the Trinity, to be worshipped and adored and who will return in power and glory.

What are some of the things that Jesus is doing at the moment?

- He is upholding all things by the word of His power. (Hebrews 1:1-3)
- He is holding all things together. (Colossians 1:15-20)
- He is interceding for us. (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34)
- He is pouring out the Spirit upon all flesh. (Acts 2:33) so that He might fill all things. (Ephesians 4:10)
- He is loving the saints into maturity. (Ephesians 3:14-21)
- He is sanctifying believers and preparing the Church to be His bride. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Thus we need a clear vision of Jesus as He is now – as the risen exalted One who is both Lord and Christ. This is a bit more difficult to relate to than Jesus of Nazareth the carpenter, rabbi and prophet. Yet once grasped this vision can transform your life and the life of your church. Jesus is not a remote prophet dwelling in history a long time ago, He is a mighty ever-present and all powerful being who can dwell in your church and in your life.

Jesus wants to “fill all things” with Himself (Ephesians 4:10) and He started pouring out that infilling on the Day of Pentecost.

Because Jesus is no longer localized that pouring out can now occur at any place on the globe and at any time in history including right now.

(For more on this see Juan Carlos Ortiz’s excellent book “Living With Jesus Today.)

Blessings,

John Edmiston

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