The Saviour – Part 3

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We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His blood shed, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and His second advent to receive His Church.

1. **Reasons to Celebrate the Resurrection.**

   a) The resurrection assures us we are justified.
   defn. = to be declared legally righteous and free from guilt by God.

   He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. ROMANS 4:25

   Christianity is not about I can do, but about what Jesus has already done.

   I am blessed when I come in and blessed when I go out. DEUTERONOMY 28:6
   Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. PSALM 23:6

If a tragedy beset a Christian and they said "*What have I done to deserve this?*" What would that show you they believed about justification?

b) The resurrection proves that there is life after death.

"Because I live," [said Jesus] you also will live." John 14:19

These were not the words of a showman
These were not the words of a tacky salesman,
These were not the words of a scammer,
These were the words of an honest man, the Son of God, who validated everything he said to be true by proving it.

c) The resurrection assures us of new bodies in the future.

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." Phil. 3:20,21

There will be a day when our bodies will never wear out. Our eyesight won't fail. We won't go grey.
We won't creek and squeak. Our bodies will last for eternity!

We believe.. in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and His second advent to receive His Church.

The ascension was a common confession of the early church.

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory. 1 TIMOTHY 3:16

2. Reasons to Celebrate the Ascension

a) His ascension shows that Jesus did not die again and is still alive.

His birth was supernatural. *He was born of the Spirit. LUKE 1:35.*

His resurrection was supernatural. *The Spirit of God raised Him. ROMANS 8:11*

His ascension was supernatural. *The Spirit of God seated him at the right hand of God. EPHESIANS 1: 19-20*

b) **The Ascension shows that Christ's earthly ministry was complete:**

i) The Significance of 40 days.

Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days. Could it be that Jesus is reminding of us of his complete victory over Satan?
Beelzebub = Lord of the Flies. Flies are associated with demons. The life cycle of a fly is 39 days.
Is 40 days illustrative of being greater than the devil / demons? *(The comment about flies although popular and interesting, is not one mentioned in Scripture.)*
40 days is also significant of completeness – something which has come to full term.
Kind David reigned 40 years.
When Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive the 10 commandments, he was there 40 days and 40 nights.

ii) Jesus is sat down.

"But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, *sat down* on the right hand of God;
HEBREWS 10:12-13 KJV

It's interesting in the Temple, there were tables, tools, shovels, but there was not a chair because the High Priest's work was never done. The fact that Jesus sat down shows us that His earthly work of redemption is complete.

c) The Significance of the Right Hand.

"Jesus was received into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God" MARK: 16:19
It is symbolic of God's power and authority.

"You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great. PSALM 18:35"
(Your power and authority sustains me)

You make like to take some time to ponder and meditate upon the above verse. Look at it in different Bible translations. Think about what this means for you in your situation right now.

"Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he answers him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand." PSALM 20:6
(The saving strength of his power and authority)

d) What is Jesus doing now?

i) He's preparing a place for you!

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. JOHN 14:2

We think of death as ending,
but for the Christian it is a glorious beginning;
we think of it as going away,

but it is really a wondrous arriving!
NORMAN MACLEOD

We can thank God for the "pleasant inns" in life, but let's remember that our real home is in heaven where we "will be with the Lord forever"
C.S. LEWIS

ii) He's praying for us.

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
ROMANS 8:34

"He always lives to intercede." HEBREWS 7:25

We find comfort when we know other Christians are praying for us. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is praying for you?
How accurate do you think Jesus' prayers are?

e) Jesus' ascension is necessary for the Holy Spirit to be sent.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. JOHN 16:7

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. JOHN 14:12

He has not left us powerless. He has sent His Holy Spirit.
There is no situation that you can face where God's power is not strong enough to see you through.
The power to witness
The power to speak boldly.
The power to see others saved.
To set people free.
To do a miracle.
The power to remove the biggest stone
The power to remove the biggest obstacle.

What would you say to a Christian who says "I can never be used by God because. a) I'm not good enough. b) I don't know enough. c) God chooses only to use certain people like apostles.

We believe… in His second advent to receive His church.

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." ACTS 1 1-11
"every eye will see him" REV 1:7

He ascended alone but will return in the company of millions of the redeemed from all ages 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13.

Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, right now, and we can't even imagine what it is going to be like later on. But we do know this, that when he comes we will be like him, as a result of seeing him as he really is. 1 JOHN 3:2 TLB

This verse reminds us, that whatever we think about our future looks like, it's going to be better than we can ever imagine!

What most spoke to you from this week's message?