

us to think of Christ's exaltation as we put on the new self: *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.* (Colossians 3:1–2).

Discussion Questions

- -Have you ever heard someone say “he’s my right-hand man”? What do you think they meant by that?
- -What is significant about Christ being seated at God’s right hand?
- -What does it mean to “seek the things that are above, where Christ is”?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

According to our catechism answer, there is still one more way Christ will be exalted—when He returns on Judgment Day. The two angels at the ascension said Jesus would return in the same way, physically and visibly. Matthew 24:36 says *But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.* Whenever that day arrives, 1 Thessalonians 5:2 says *that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.* Although we don’t know the day, it is all part of God’s plan. Acts 17:31 says *he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.* 2 Timothy 4:1 informs us *Jesus will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing.* Our perfect judge loves righteousness and hates wickedness (Psalm 14:7). Scripture also says when He returns, every eye will see Him. Nobody will miss it. For some, this will be a terror. 2 Thessalonians 1:9 *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.* But, for Christians... Paul says that we will be *waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ* (Titus 2:13). Oh what a glorious day when we see Christ exalted! We as Christians long for this day---to see Christ face to face.

Discussion Questions

- -When Christ returns in His full power and might, will you be glad or scared? Why?
- -How can anyone be ready to face Jesus when He comes to judge?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, April 7th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #31

Q: Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

A: *Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Mark 16:19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Last week we talked about the humiliation of Christ and defined it as being made lower than He was and put under submission to the law. This week we contrast that by looking at the exaltation of Christ. Exaltation is the action of elevating someone in rank, power, or character. Jesus is already perfect, so He could not really be elevated had He not first condescended himself to us. The exaltation of Christ is Him returning to His former glory, power, and rightful status as the pre-eminent of all things. Have you ever been elevated in life or position? Your parents gave you a big responsibility perhaps, or as adults you were given a big promotion or responsibility. We tend to like being elevated in life, but it often comes with more work, more people to take care of, more stress. When Jesus humbled Himself to come and walk among us, His condescension was temporary. After His saving work was completed here on earth, He returned to His former glory in heaven to rule over us for eternity. Our memory verse this week says in Mark 16:19 *So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.* Sitting down at the right hand is a way of saying a position of great importance. Jesus is exalted!

Discussion Question

- -Have you ever been praised or elevated before your peers? What was it like?
- -How was Christ's exaltation different from your experience?
- -Why does it matter that Jesus was restored to His former glory?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

There are four main ways in which Christ was exalted. The first is that after He died on the cross and was buried for three days, He **arose** on the third day (1 Cor 15:4). It is not normal for dead people to come back to life. Something new and different was going on here. Something miraculous! In fact, it was prophesied almost 1,000 years earlier by David in Psalm 16:10 *For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.* Sheol is another word used for grave in this verse. David was saying Jesus would not be abandoned in the grave or see corruption. Our bodies naturally start to decay and stink (corruption) after death, but Jesus came back to life. The obvious question is "Why?" We know it was part of the plan of salvation, but it was also so Christ would be exalted. Scripture says in Acts 2:24 *God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.* He showed himself alive to many witnesses, including the disciples and apostles, Roman soldiers, and over 500 other people (1 Corinthians 15:5). Even angels declared, "He is not here, He has risen" (Matthew 28:6). Before He was crucified, Jesus spoke of the resurrection, saying, "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*" (John 2:19). The temple He spoke of was Himself. Glory be to God that Jesus had power even over death.

Discussion Questions

- -What is your favorite part of the resurrection (Easter) story? Why?
- -How is it encouraging for Christians to know that death could not hold Jesus?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

After the resurrection, Christ was further exalted by ascending up to heaven. Ascending means to go up, like when you ascend a mountain or hill. From the top of a mountain, you can see for miles on a clear day. It is amazing! But, Christ ascended all the way to heaven, and Ephesians 4:10 says *He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.* The "heavens" mentioned here are things like our sky and space. When we look at the beginning of Acts, we see the story of the ascension unfold. Jesus is answering final questions, promising to send them the Holy Spirit, *and when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight* (Acts 1:9). It is pretty clear from Scripture that Jesus' ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven. He begins to rise gradually and visibly, everybody watching closely until they can't see Him anymore behind the clouds. Two angels appeared and promised that Christ would return in just the same way that they had watched Him go. This period of human limitations was over. Christ's earthly work was done, and so He returned to His heavenly glory. His new work would now begin as our High Priest and mediator of the New Covenant.

Discussion Questions

- -In the ascension, Jesus was literally lifted up... all the way up to heaven. What do you think it was like for the disciples watching this happen?
- -If you are a Christian, how does it make you feel to know that Christ is heaven right now?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The third element of Christ's exaltation was when Jesus sat down at the right hand of God. This is meaningful and tells us several things about the exaltation of Christ. Hebrews 10:12-13 says *when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.* Again, His earthly work was completed once he had died as our substitute on the cross and ascended back to heaven. Sitting down marks this turn of events. Have you ever sat down after working hard? Often accompanied by a few sighs of relief? Christ did not sit down because He was tired, but it showed us one thing had ended and a new phase begun. It also demonstrates great dignity and honor. Hebrews 1:13 *And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?* This honor was reserved for Christ alone. Matthew calls it the right hand of power (Matthew 26:64), and the Psalms describe God's right hand as a source of deliverance, assurance, joy, and satisfaction (Psalm 138:7, Psalm 16:11). This is where Jesus resides. He is our source of all these things, and Colossians reminds