

24 May



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Remembering Ascension Day



Let's hear your story

1. According to Mark 16:19 and 1 Peter 3:22; where is Jesus seated in Heaven? (**At the right hand of God, the Father**).
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples in John 14:2 – 3; what is He preparing in heaven? (**A place for them and all believers**).
3. In Acts 7:56; who saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God? (**Stephen**).
4. How will Christ return according to Acts 1:11? (**as He ascended**).



Let's go deeper

5. According to Hebrews 1:2; by whom has God spoken to us? (**His Son**)
6. Can you name two things Jesus Christ did for us according to Hebrews 1:3? (**He upholds all things by the word of His power, and made purification for sins**).
7. According to Hebrews 1:3; who is Jesus Christ? (**He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact representation of His nature**).
8. What are the three reasons in Hebrews 1:3, for Jesus sitting down at the right hand of God the Father? (**Jesus made purification of sins; He upholds all things by His Word and He is the exact representation of the Father's nature**).



Let's apply this

9. **What does it mean that Jesus sits down next to God the Father in our everyday lives?**

In the same way as Jesus uphold all things by the Word of his power, and made purification of sins by the worth of his blood. In the same way He upholds; help; strengthen; protect; provide for us and gives us peace, freedom and joy – will you allow Him to uphold you (your family; finances; relationships; creative business solutions), and will you allow Him to purify you today (thoughts; shame; guilt; addictions, etc?).

SUMMARY:

Read: Acts 1:1 – 11; Mark 16:19; 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 1:1 – 3 and Heb. 10:12–14.

Mark 16:19 and **1 Peter 3:22**; tells us that Jesus is in heaven right now seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Hebrews 1:3; gives us three reasons for Christ sitting down at the right hand of God the Father.

1. Purification of Sins

Read: **Hebrews 10:12 – 14**.

From these verses we see that Christ was seated at the right hand of God to honour Him for the total completeness of His sin-bearing work on the cross. He sat down at the right hand waiting until all his enemies are subdued, *for* by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. This word "**for**" (see verse.14); means that He sits in this place of honour, authority and power *because* His offering accomplished exactly what God wanted it to. What did the self-offering of Christ accomplish? By one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. That is, in Christ we are forgiven for all our sins and, are righteous for all time. This is why Christ was exalted to the honoured place at the right hand of God. His sacrifice is perfect and complete.

2. Upholds All Things

Hebrews 1:3 says, "He upholds all things by the word of his power."

Why mention that the whole universe hangs on the word of Christ for existence? There are two things that will keep you from entering heaven, and enjoying the glory of God and all His works. One is if your sins were not forgiven. The other is if you went out of existence and all the works of God went out of existence. When we see him sitting at the right hand of the Majesty it is not only to honour the work of his purification in saving us, but also to honour the word of his power in keeping us.

3. Who He Is

"He [Christ] is the radiance of His [God's] glory, and the exact representation of His nature." The first two points described what Christ *did*, while this point describes who He *is*. But who *is* he? Christ is the radiance of God's glory and exact representation of his nature. What does this mean?

We are to realize that to see Christ is to see God the Father. Jesus said in **John 14:9**, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." **Colossians 1:15** says, "He is the image of the invisible God." To see what God is like, we see what Christ is like.