

January 31, 2021

# Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

---

## The Ascension Of Jesus

By Heath Rogers

**F**orty days after His resurrection, Jesus took the eleven disciples to the Mount of Olives, blessed them, and was lifted out of their sight into the clouds of the air. Two angels appeared to them and announced that Jesus would come in the same manner as they had just seen him depart (Acts 1:9-11).

The ascension of Jesus is not discussed as much as His death, burial, and resurrection. However, this amazing event should not be overlooked or reduced to a footnote in the life and ministry of Jesus. It was very important.

**1. It provided evidence that Jesus is the Messiah.** The Jews were always asking Jesus for a sign that would prove His identity. The day after Jesus fed the 5,000, the people wanted Him to feed them again. They hinted at this by asking for a sign and speaking of Moses feeding the fathers with bread from heaven (John 6:30-31). Jesus identified Himself as the bread of God who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world (v. 33). The multitude had a difficult time understanding Jesus, and He further frustrated their understanding

when He said, “What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before?” (v. 62).

Our Lord’s ascension was one of many pieces of evidence that proved He was the Son of God. If He had failed to ascend back to “where He was before” He would have failed to complete His work and confirm His identity.

Jesus made several predictions about the things He would experience (Matt. 16:21). If any of these had failed to come to pass, Jesus would have been exposed as a false prophet (Deut. 18:18-22). The fact that He ascended into heaven is just as significant as the fact that he was rejected by the Jews, delivered to the Gentiles, put to death, and raised on the third day. Jesus was proven to be a true prophet of God.

**2. It enabled Jesus to serve as our High Priest.** The High Priest of Israel would enter the Holy of Holies (representing the presence of God) on behalf of the people once a year. It was there that he would make atonement for the sins of the people, but the fact that these sacrifices had to be repeated proved they did not fully remove sins.

(Continued on page 2)

---

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He entered the presence of God to serve as our High Priest, making intercession on our behalf. “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Heb. 9:24). Jesus is a better High Priest because He has entered the actual presence of God with a better sacrifice — His own blood. This gives us confidence that our prayers are being heard and answered (Heb. 4:14-16).

**3. *It was necessary for Jesus to become King.*** When did Jesus actually become King? In Psalm 110:1-2, the Messiah was promised to be given a place at God’s right hand from which he would rule. Jesus sat down at the right hand of God when He ascended into Heaven (Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33-36). This is when Jesus began His reign as King.

The coronation of Jesus as King took place in heaven immediately after His ascension. Daniel received a vision of this wonderful event. “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).

Jesus is not going to return to earth to be made King to reign 1,000 years. He was made King when He ascended into Heaven. It was then that He was given dominion, glory, and an everlasting kingdom that will never be destroyed. Jesus is now reigning as King over His kingdom.

***Conclusion.*** The ascension of Jesus is an important part of the gospel (1 Tim. 3:16). It was necessary to make Him a Prophet, Priest, and King. Because our Lord has ascended into heaven, where He is ministering to our needs and reigning as our King, we can have confidence that He will come back and receive us into His glory.

---

## Why Do We Need Bible Doctrine?

By Kyle Campbell

**P**ostmodernism has radically changed our world. Most people might not even know its meaning, but they manifest the effects brought on them through societal and cultural influences. Postmodernism is generally defined by an attitude of skepticism, irony, or rejection of what we accept as religiously valid in modern society. This has yielded a refusal of definite truth and morphed into everyone being able to “speak their own truth.” The strongest antidote to all of this is Bible doctrine. Timothy was told, “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (1 Tim. 4:13).

“Doctrine” simply is teaching or instruction that comes from the God-inspired scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Doctrinal preaching, therefore, is preaching that imparts the word of God, increases the knowledge of those who hear, defends the faith, upholds the truth, refutes erroneous teaching, and allows saints to be “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith” (Col. 2:7). This is why we need Bible doctrine.

But doctrine is kind of boring to a lot of people. They want preaching (or “messages”) that pulls on the heart strings, or evokes an emotional response such as laughing or crying. For some, doctrine and doctrinal preaching are just too dry. However, there are three thoughts to keep in mind:

### **1. Doctrine affects our lives.**

Paul instructed Titus to stay away from evil attitudes and actions so that Christians “may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (2:10). How you live is an adornment or a beautification of the gospel. Hypocrisy, or people not “walking the walk,” is a deadly cancer to the doctrine of Christ. Sermons and classes on moral issues, along with strong exhortations to live godly will produce believers who are zealous for their purity.

**2. Doctrine affects our worship.** Jesus said, “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of

men” (Matt. 15:8-9). If you don’t have pure doctrine, you can’t worship God truthfully. It will be empty and useless. Sermons about what we do in worship and the proper preparation of the heart will let us grow closer to God and give Him the appropriate exaltation.

### **3. Doctrine affects our destiny.**

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Tim. 4:16). Doctrine may seem dry to you, but it has saving power because it explains how a heaven-dweller should live. Because of this, you have to “tend” it in your heart. You should look forward to and accept gladly sermons about the nature of the church and the necessity of baptism to be saved.

Not everything done in religion is acceptable. Christ explained, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). Paul added, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ” (Gal. 1:6-7). It is dangerous to ignore the doctrine of Christ, for ignoring it will lead inevitably to transgressing it. At that point, one loses fellowship with God (2 John 9).

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

If we drift with the prevailing winds, we will come to the point, as some have, of not wanting to tell anyone they are wrong about anything — and no one will change unless they know they are wrong. Although the words seemed harsh, Peter told Simon that he was “poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity,” and Paul told Elymas that he was “full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness” (Acts 8:18-24; 13:6-12). What was the result? Did the stern way it was expressed cause people to abandon truth? No. Simon repented and Sergius Paulus believed. This was the power of doctrine.

Abide in the doctrine of Christ and enjoy the fellowship of both the Father and the Son. Furthermore, continue to contrast the doctrine of Christ with the doctrines of men. And remember that we can still do good deeds without sacrificing the truth that we are required to both believe and practice.

---

***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

---

### **February Birthdays:**

The 1st Roseanna Carter; The 6th Jay Stewart; The 11th Mary Lynn McCartney; The 17th Austin Hisaw; The 20th Shirley Pike; The 22nd Peggy Thomas; The 25th Don Haynes

Postage  
Stamp

Valley Grove Church Of Christ  
2110 East Stateline Road  
P. O. Box 461  
Southaven, MS 38671

**This Bulletin** is a weekly publication of the  
Valley Grove Church Of Christ, Southaven, MS

### **Sunday**

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 A.M.  
Worship . . . . . 5:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday**

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

Phone: 662-342-1132

[www.valleygrovechurchofchrist.com](http://www.valleygrovechurchofchrist.com)