

Pastor Brians'
Mid Week Message
May 20, 2020

“WHO’S IN CHARGE HERE?”

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19

We’re coming to the conclusion of the Easter season, although we continue to be Easter people every day and celebrate the resurrection of Christ each and every Sunday. Forty days after His glorious resurrection Jesus ascended back to His heavenly home. That forty day period after Easter 2020 ends this Thursday with Ascension Day. Our worship on Sunday will be centered on this event and its significance. You might wonder; why did Jesus go back to heaven? Why wouldn’t He stay here on earth with us to carry out the mission of the Church...that of carrying the Gospel message to all the world?

Wouldn’t it be easier, and more successful, to point people to Jesus for salvation if they could actually see, hear and touch Him? There are a number of reasons for our Lord’s return to heaven. First off, He came from the Father and now He would return to Him. Jesus speaks of it in John 7:33; “For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me.” He also goes to prepare a place for us, “In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going away to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2) Christ ascends to the Father so that He can send the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that proceeds from both the Father and the Son, to all believers on earth. Now the Spirit of God can be in all places on earth at one time through the indwelling of His people. The Spirit enables us to believe and trust in Jesus for our salvation and gives us “power and love and self-control”(see 2 Timothy 1:7) Ultimately, the ascension of Jesus would be His coronation as King and Judge over all things. With His earthly mission accomplished in humbling Himself by descending into human form, living a life totally obedient to the will and ways of the Father, and dying on Calvary’s cross to pay for the sins of the world, forgiveness and salvation was now won for all mankind. His resurrection is proof that the sacrifice was accepted and sufficient in satisfying God’s righteous wrath against all sin and sinners. It was now time to get that message out, and that duty is given by God to the Church, His children through faith in Christ. In Mark’s Gospel we read the verse above, “After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.” (Mark 16:19) Immediately before this Jesus spoke to His disciples “The Great Commission” of going into all the world to preach the Gospel. That first phrase also can be linked to all that Jesus had said to His followers, and to us, over His three years of public ministry and proclamation.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2) He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light. No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see Him. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen (1 Timothy 6:15-16). Jesus reigns from the right hand of the Father. He alone is given authority over all things, and He gives us the power to rise up over all obstacles to accomplish the mission that He gives us, the mission of the Gospel. “I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13