

## Clinging to Jesus after His Ascension

- I. How can David rejoice in God in the midst of present trials?
  - A. Trials are present (vv. 1, 9)
    1. Thomas Manton, “The fullness of what God has provided for us is in the world to come,” but seeking God in this life “is to enjoy God now until we come fully to enjoy him in heaven.”
  - B. David’s joy in God is connected to the worship of God (vv. 2-4)
  - C. How, when trials are present, does David rejoice in God? According to Matthew Henry, his joy is sixfold:
    1. vv. 1-2—His desire towards God
    2. vv. 3-4—His esteem of God
    3. v. 5—His satisfaction in God (cf. 1 Chr. 28:9; 2 Chr. 15:2)
    4. v. 6—His secret communion in God
    5. vv. 7-8—His dependence upon God (cf. Ruth 2:12; Matt. 23:37)
    6. vv. 9-11—His triumph in God over his enemies
- II. How can guilty sinners cling to a holy God?
  - A. The holiness of God (e.g., Hab. 1:13; Isa. 6:2; Ex. 32:20)
  - B. How can guilty sinners cling to a holy God? (Lu. 24:47).
  - C. William Cooper, “Christians have innumerable and invaluable spiritual mercies. The decree to send Jesus for poor sinners, the opening of a fountain of grace, the making and ratifying of the covenant of grace, his precious promises, with all other choice gospel privileges of grace and glory, of God’s all sufficiency, and the infinite merit and righteousness of the Son upon the cross—all of these deserve a suitable and proportionate gift of thanks and blessing from us, both here and in heaven. ‘Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you’ (Ps. 63:3).”
  - D. Where else can we find this storehouse of riches? (cp. Jn. 6:68; Ps. 63:8)
- III. How can Christians cling to Christ after his ascension?
  - A. First, observe the comfort with which Christ approaches his disciples after his resurrection (Lu. 24:36-39)
    1. For fear, comfort (Lu. 24:38)
    2. For doubt, an opportunity to believe (Lu. 24:39; Jn. 20:24-29)
    3. For denial, trust (Jn. 21:15-19)
  - B. Second, Christ’s continues to be intimately sympathetic with our trials (Heb. 4:15; Acts 9:4).
  - C. Third, Christ continues to work and pray diligently for us (Jn. 14:15-21)
    1. The promise of the Holy Spirit fulfilled (Jn. 16:7; 14:16; Acts 2:33)
    2. Christ continues to pray for us (Jn. 14:12; 16:26)
    3. Christ goes to prepare a place for us (Jn. 14:3; 6:37-40)
  - D. As surely as we have the Spirit, we can know that Christ is praying for us, is preparing a place for us, and will return for us.