

Themes: Christ has ascended to His rightful place in heaven. From there, the gifts and blessing He shares with us result in true worship and lasting joy.

Background and Introduction: Gospel will end that same way it began – with Jesus at the center – and in worship and joy!

I. The Time Has Come

A. His work is done

1. His perfect obedience
2. His atoning sacrifice
3. His glorious resurrection

B. Jesus must depart

1. A compression of events (Acts 1:3)
 - 40 days to prepare
 - Returning to Bethany
2. Into the cloud of God's presence (Acts 1:9)
3. These things must be (Luke 9:51; 22:69)

II. Christ Ascends to Glory

A. It's no surprise

- To His rightful throne and authority
- At the right hand of the Father
- Place of honor and rule (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22)
- It is pre-figured in Psalm 68 (Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:8)

B. Jesus is exalted!

1. In Heaven
 - Where is that? (1 Peter 3:22; 2 Chronicles 2:6)
2. With His Father (John 20:17)
3. With a new Name (Philippians 2:9-11)
4. With a glorified body
 - The first-fruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20)

III. Giving Gifts

A. His Blessing

- Lifting his hands (Leviticus 9:22?)
- The Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

B. An incomparable gift

- The promise of the Father? The Holy Spirit! (24:29)

1. Long looked for (Numbers 11:29; Ezekiel 36:27; John 16:7)

2. The Spirit of power

a. To know the truth

- Leading us into all truth (John 14:26)
- Convicting of sin and leading to repentance
- Giving comfort in trial, for he never leaves us

b. For the work of the ministry – to make Christ known.

- Acts 1:8

c. To be the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:3)

C. An exalted life

- In union with Christ (Romans 6:5)
- Seated with Him now (Ephesians 2:4-6; 1:20-22)

IV. Robed in Worship

A. They worshipped Him

- Doubts gone! They understood!

B. In great joy!

1. Truly forgiven!

- Christ's death and resurrection was for them!

2. Our God reigns!

3. In His unending blessing

IV. Conclusion: The Power of His Ascension

1. He prays for us – do we join our prayers to his? (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14; 7:25; 6:19,20)

2. The power to witness!

3. Closer than ever! (John 16:7)

4. He is coming again – to take us to heaven as well!