

Lord's Day 18

Heidelberg Catechism

The Second Part – Of Man's Deliverance – Of God the Son

Question 46

How dost thou understand these words, "He ascended into heaven"?

Answer

That Christ, in sight of His disciples, was taken up from earth into heaven;¹ and that He continues there for our interest,² until He comes again to judge the quick and the dead.

Question 47

Is not Christ then with us even to the end of the world, as He hath promised?

Answer

Christ is very man and very God; with respect to His human nature, He is no more on earth;³ but with respect to His Godhead, majesty, grace, and spirit, He is at no time absent from us.

Question 48

But if His human nature is not present wherever His Godhead is, are not then these two natures in Christ separated from one another?

Answer

Not at all, for since the Godhead is illimitable and omnipresent,⁴ it must necessarily follow that the same is beyond the limits of the human nature He assumed,⁵ and yet is nevertheless in this human nature and remains personally united to it.

(Continued...)

1 Acts 1:9

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Mark 16:19

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

2 Heb. 4:14

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Rom. 8:34

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Eph. 4:10

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

3 Acts 3:21

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

John 3:13

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven

John 16:28

I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

Matt. 28:20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

4 Acts 7:49

Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? Saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

Matt. 24:30

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

5 Matt. 28:20

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 16:28

I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

John 17:11

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 3:13

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Question 49

Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension into heaven?

Answer

First, that He is our advocate in the presence of His Father in heaven;⁶ secondly, that we have our flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that He, as the Head, will also take up to Himself, us, His members;⁷ thirdly, that He sends us His Spirit as an earnest,⁸ by whose power we seek the things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, and not things on earth.⁹

6 Heb. 9:24

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

1 John 2:2

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Rom. 8:34

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

7 John 14:2

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you.

Eph. 2:6

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ

Jesus:

8 John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

2 Cor. 1:22

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Cor. 5:5

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

9 Col. 3:1

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Phil. 3:20

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: