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THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE

THE FOURTH STAGE –CHRIST'S FULL GROWTH IN US Knowing the Ascension

*In these three main parts of Christ's redemption[death, resurrection and ascension], **Christ's death** emphasizes deliverance from the negative aspects. That is, it saves us from sins, the world, the flesh, that which is natural, and all those things which are incompatible with God. **Christ's resurrection** emphasizes the entrance into the positive aspects. That is, it brings us into all the riches of the new creation, which God has in Christ. And **Christ's ascension** is the glorious conclusion of His death and resurrection. Christ's death and resurrection are not the conclusion of His redemption; His ascension is. We cannot say that Christ rested when He was raised from the dead. Christ did not rest in death nor in resurrection; He rested in His ascension. The Scripture does not say that the Lord sits in resurrection, but that He sits in the heavens (Eph. 2:6). Sitting signifies that the work has already been accomplished. Therefore, the redemptive work of the Lord was not considered accomplished until He ascended to the heavens. We can say that death and resurrection are only progressive stages of the Lord's redemption.*

2514 Truesdale Drive, Regina, SK
March 30, 2018

Scripture Reading

- John 20:17 Jesus said to her, **Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father**; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.
- Luke 24:39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. **Touch Me and see**, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you behold Me having.
- Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, **All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**
- Eph 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) **And raised us up together with Him** and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
- Eph 4:8-11 Therefore the Scripture says, “Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended,” what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended, **He is also the One who ascended far above all** the heavens that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,

*A]scension is the result of resurrection from death. Once we pass through the death of the cross and enter into resurrection, we reach the realm of ascension. Thus, if we want to experience ascension, we must first seek to experience death and resurrection. We must severely **put to death** by the Lord's cross everything of sins, the world, the temper, the flesh, the self, and the natural constitution, and **enter** into the Lord's resurrection by the Holy Spirit. **Then** we can experience ascension and **be a heavenly people** in the realm of ascension.*

Hymn: A lover of Christ

1 A lover of Christ should be one
Who's attracted by His love
And drawn by His sweetness
To pursue after Him, pursue after Him,
Pursue Him for full satisfaction.

2 A lover of Christ should be one
Who is called by Him
To be delivered
From the self through His oneness
With the cross, with the cross of Christ.

3 A lover of Christ should be one
Who is called by Him to live in ascension
As the new creation, creation of God,
In the resurrection of Christ.

4 A lover of Christ should be one
Who's called by Him more strongly to live within
The veil, thru His cross after the lover's
Experience of His resurrection.

D



1 **D** **Bm** **G**
A lover of Christ should be one
A **D** **Bm** **Em - A**
Who's attracted by His love and drawn by His sweetness
G **A** **D** **Bm**
To pursue after Him, pursue after Him,
G **A** **G** **D**
Pursue Him for full satisfaction.