

Lord's Day 18

Questions 46, 47, 48, & 49

Question 46: *What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven?"*

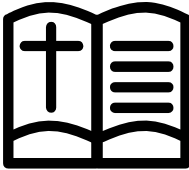
Answer: *That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.*



Heart of the Matter:

"Earth needs heaven." Why? _____

What benefits of heaven are you receiving? _____



Key scriptures:

Luke
24:50-51
Acts
1:9-11, 1:11
Romans
8:34
Ephesians
4:8-10
Hebrews
7:23-25, 9:24

Acts 1:9:11 *"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven'."*

Try to visualize yourself at this scene. Paint a mental picture. Express your feelings. _____

Romans 8:34 *"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."*

What would you ask him to intercede for, on your behalf today? _____

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Question 47: *But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?*

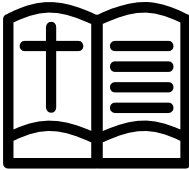
Answer: *Christ is truly human and truly God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth, but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is not absent from us for a moment.*



Heart of the Matter:

Form your own statement that expresses your experience with the invisible presences of Christ in your life. _____

List several circumstances when you especially felt His closeness. _____



Key scriptures:

Matthew
28:20, 18-20
Acts
1:9-11, 3:19-21
John
14:16-19

Hebrews 11:1-3 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

What difficulties do you have with things not seen? _____

Hebrews 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

Would your faith please God? _____

In what ways do you wish your faith was greater? _____

How is it growing? _____

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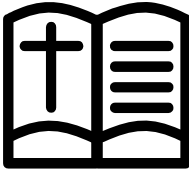
Question 48: *If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?*

Answer: *Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity he has taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.*



Heart of the Matter:

Take a minute to contemplate the men who formed the Catechism and the teachers that have taught its beautiful depth. How are its simple yet complex answers helpful to you?



Key scriptures:

Reflect on this truth as you fill in the blanks.

Philippians 2:5-11 *“Let this _____ which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but _____, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore _____ and given Him the name which is above every name, that _____, of those in _____, and of those under the _____, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Jeremiah
23:23-24

Acts
7:48-49

Isaiah
66:1

John
1:14, 3:13

Colossians
2:9

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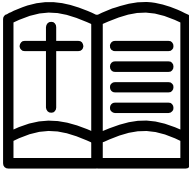
Question 49: How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

Answer: **First, he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father.**
Second, we have our own flesh in heaven — a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, his members, to himself in heaven.
Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee.
By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.



Heart of the Matter:

Define ADVOCATE in your own words.



Key scriptures:

Romans
8:34
1 John
2:1
John
14:2, 17:24
14:16
Ephesians
2:4-6
2 Corinthians
1:21-22, 5:5
Colossians
3:1-4

First: 1 John 2:1 "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Spiritually (without writing) think about the reasons you need an Advocate.

Second: John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

How would you feel to be with Christ and experience His glory?

Third: Colossians 3:1 "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."

Things of EARTH I need to think LESS about.

Things ABOVE I need to think MORE about.
