

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. (14) For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

There is no accusation which is quite so commonly and frequently brought against the Christian way of life as the charge of narrowness. It is a charge that is constantly brought against the individual Christian believer by that type of man who, in his desire to show his own breadth of mind describes himself as a man of the world. He is so broad that nothing but world dimensions can give you a true impression of the width and largeness of his views! I fear at times also it is true to say that there is no accusation concerning which the average Christian is quite so frightened as this charge of narrowness. To some Christians at the present time, it is more or less immaterial what men may say about them as long as they do not describe them as narrow. [Evangelistic Sermons at Aberavon, Lloyd-Jones, Banner of Truth]

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com (blog)

www.lightfordarktimes.com (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

Sermon Text: Colossians 3:1-3

*At the Father's Right Hand –
Our Ascended Lord
June 1, 2025*

Scripture Reading: Colossians
3:1-17

Acts 1:1-11 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, (2) until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. (3) He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (4) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (6) So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (7) He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all

Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (9) And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (10) And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, (11) and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Today on the church calendar is Ascension Sunday on which we remember our Lord’s return to the Father in glory. We are more familiar with His *incarnation* remembered at Christmas, and with His death on the cross, remembered on Good Friday, and with His resurrection, commemorated on Easter Sunday. But this fact and doctrine of the Lord Jesus’ *ascension* is not as familiar to us, even though the Bible gives the doctrine equal importance. For example:

1 Timothy 3:16 Great indeed, we

confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Let's look into this subject of *our ascended Lord* and get a clearer understanding of what it means.

Christ's Ascension was His Coronation

Listen to Psalm 2 -

Psalms 2:1-12 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? (2) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, (3) "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." (4) He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. (5) Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, (6) **"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."** (7) I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. (8) Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. (9) You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (10) Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (12) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Christ is the Father's anointed King. This Psalm is speaking of the Father crowning the Son as King of the nations. Similarly, here is the 89th Psalm:

Psalms 89:27-29 And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. (28) My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. (29) I will establish his offspring forever and

his throne as the days of the heavens.

And again, the Apostle John wrote:

Revelation 19:15-16 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (16) On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

And Paul –

1 Timothy 6:13-15 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, (14) to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

The Lord Jesus Christ is not only our Savior, He is our King. And He is King over all kings, Lord over all lords, the Sovereign over all the nations. He was crowned on that Ascension Day and all judgment given into His hand:

Revelation 14:14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand.

The world mocks this King-

Matthew 27:27-29 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. (28) And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, (29) and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

But the day is coming when all will bow before Him.

Jesus is King! There must have been a great procession in heaven when He ascended back to the glory He had from all eternity with the Father. In this world when an earthly king is crowned, there is great pageantry and celebration – but what would that coronation day have been in heaven?

Ascension day is when we remember our Lord's ascending into glory in His Father's palace, you might say, and His being installed and crowned as the Father's king – king of all kings and Lord of all lords.

You have His Kingship and crown mentioned many times over in Scripture:

Hebrews 1:3-8 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (4) having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than

theirs. (5) For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? (6) And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." (7) Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." (8) But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

Hebrews 8:1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

At the Father's right hand, directly connected with the throne of God. All of this is speaking of the Son

having been crowned King of kings. And it was on that Ascension Day that He was crowned.

The Apostle Peter wrote about it:

1 Peter 3:21b-22 ...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (22) who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

The world is in rebellion against King Jesus. As Psalm 2 says –

Psalms 2:2-3 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, (3) “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

The Father’s response to all of this wicked nonsense is – *He laughs*. The Lord Jesus is King over them all and the Day is coming when all who refuse to bow to Him as King, will perish under His wrath.

What a contrast! In this world Jesus was scorned and mocked, hated, and killed. But now ascended to the Father’s right hand, He is King of all creation. Here is the reality:

Revelation 11:15-17 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” (16) And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, (17) saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.

This is not future. It is now. He is ascended and crowned. The Father has given Him the kingdoms of the world and He reigns over all. The promise to Mary is fulfilled-

Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father

David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Daniel gives a wonderful description of what happened when Jesus ascended back to the Father-

Daniel 7:13-14 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (14) And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

We have a King. Like no other King. He reigns over ALL, and there will never be an end to His throne or kingdom. Never.

Now, there is direct application for us here.

His Bride Reigns With Him

We have been learning in the Romans Bible study, as we in particular have been considering chapter 6, the doctrine of *the believer's union with Christ*. Namely, that because we have been joined to Christ, what the Lord Jesus has done and what was done to Him, *has happened to us*.

- Christ perfectly obeyed God's Law
- He died on the cross
- He was buried
- He was raised again

And NOW, *we have ascended with Him AND we have been crowned with Him*. The Christian shares in the King's reign over the nations. Let me show you:

Colossians 3:1-4 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ

who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

And again –

Revelation 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

That 1,000 years is now – the church age. *We ascended into glory with the Lord Jesus!* We are there, seated at the Father's right hand. We are the children of the King. This is why the Apostle Paul rebuked the Corinthians when he heard they were arguing and even suing one another in court:

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be

judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? (3) Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

We are to judge, rule over, even the angels! We reign with King Jesus.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

It is the Lord's promise to Abraham *and his seed*, fulfilled-

Romans 4:13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Do You Know Who You Are?

In this fallen world, we are told many false things about ourselves. We are not greater than our Master,

and consider what the world said about Him:

John 8:48 The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

Or about Paul –

2 Corinthians 10:10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.”

If you are a Christian, then it is vital that you realize who you are in Christ. The world has lied to you. Perhaps you had a parent who lied to you about who you are. Or the world in general –

Luke 6:22 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

We must not believe these lies. We must know who we are in Christ. We are not the old man. He died, he really died, on the cross. And we

have been raised up, born again, made new creations in Christ. We are not who we used to be. And one of the truths about us now, in Him, *is that we are ascended to the right hand of the Father where we reign with King Jesus.*

Now, let’s think on this further. In this world, the people of this world are going to express their contempt for the Christian. Even hatred and outright hostility. Other times more covertly – like considering you to be a fool. And if we allow these attitudes toward us to worm their way into our minds so that we – even somewhat unknowingly – believe them – that we really don’t know, that we really are foolish, that the wisdom of this world is the wisdom we need – *then we are allowing ourselves to be duped. Because these things are lies.* We are seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father, reigning with the King of kings.

And this is why Paul rebuked the Corinthians for buying into this world’s way of handling disputes among themselves. “Don’t you

know that we shall judge angels?”
Don’t you know who you are?

And here it is again:

1 Corinthians 2:12-16 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (13) And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (14) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (15) The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. (16) “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

We have the mind of Christ. We have the wisdom of God given us by the Spirit. *We judge all things and are judged by no one.* Understand? As new creations in

Christ with eyes to see and ears to hear, led by the Spirit through the Word, *we are able to rightly judge what is true and what is a lie. We are able to know. We are able to discern.*

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

One of the chief weapons of Satan which he uses over and over against us and against Christ’s church is to send evil, deceiving people in among us. These creeps creep in and if we are not careful, they will have us thinking that they are right and we are wrong. They will cause us to doubt what we thought was true. About ourselves and about one another. They will convince us that *we cannot trust our own perceptions of things, but that we must look to them for wisdom.* And more – *they will convince us that only they know what and who we are and what our motives are – and these things are always negative and destructive.*

But we are kings in Christ. We reign. We are born again, new creations. We know truth and we can recognize lies and error and evil.

And so you see it? *We must know who we are in Christ if we are going to have victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.* This is not a call to some kind of arrogance and boasting. It is a call to trust in Christ and in what He has done for us – who He has made us.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 but examine all things; hold fast to that which is good;

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Philippians 1:9-10 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in full knowledge and all discernment, (10) so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and

without fault until the day of Christ,

Understand? We can examine all things and test them. We can know what is right and good and what is not. We can approve the things that God regards as excellent, and reject all that He rejects. And we can grow in this ability if we give ourselves to His Word.

All these things are true because of who we are in Christ. He has made us to be a kingdom of priests – holy to the Lord. We are ascended with Him to the right hand of the Father and we reign with Him. *That is where our life is, because that is who we are now.* Don't yield to Satan's lies as he tries to convince you that you are a fool, whose judgment is not to be trusted.

The hymn writer had this right-

“Sing unto God, you nations,
You kingdoms of the earth!
Sing unto God, all people,
And praise His matchless worth.
He rides in royal triumph
Upon the heavens abroad;

He speaks, the mountains tremble
Before the voice of God.”

And we reign with Him! Over the
nations, over the earth, over all
people. We see. We know.