

Message Two

**Knowing and Experiencing
Christ in His Resurrection and Ascension**

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:24, 33, 36; Eph. 1:19-23; 2:5-6

- I. God in His economy does not want us to experience something of Christ but to experience Christ Himself in His resurrection and ascension—Eph. 2:5-6; Eph. 1:19-22; 3:16-17:**
- A. To be resurrected with Christ is to enjoy the resurrected, life-giving Christ—John 12:24; Eph. 2:5-6.
 - B. To live in ascension is to enjoy Christ in the condition of ascension—Col. 3:1-3.
 - C. Christ's resurrection and ascension are actually one; if we are in His resurrection, we are in His ascension—Eph. 2:5-6.
- II. We need to know and experience the life and the power of Christ's resurrection—Acts 2:24; 4:30; Phil. 3:10; Heb. 7:16; Rev. 1:18; Eph. 1:19-20:**
- A. Bearing witness of Christ's resurrection is the crucial point, the focus, in carrying out God's New Testament economy—Acts 2:32; 4:33; 10:39-40.
 - B. Resurrection is the strongest proof that the Son of God is the divine life, a life which nothing can hold, damage, or overcome; this life overcomes all things, including Satan, death, Hades, and the grave—John 14:6; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18:
 - 1. Objectively, the Lord's resurrection is a proof, or testimony, that He is the indestructible life; subjectively, His resurrection is the imparting of Himself into us as life to make us the members of His Body—Heb. 7:16; 1 Pet. 1:3.
 - 2. Christ's being like a gazelle or a young hart signifies that His power to overcome difficulties and barriers is the power of His resurrection—S. S. 3:9; Phil. 3:10.
 - C. Ephesians 1:19-20 speaks of the resurrection power manifested by God in Christ through His raising Him from the dead:
 - 1. The surpassing greatness of God's power toward us who believe is the resurrection power manifested by God in Christ through His raising Him from the dead—vv. 1:19-20.
 - 2. The power of resurrection, and even resurrection itself, is now in the life-giving Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ—1 Cor. 15:45b; Phil. 1:19.
 - 3. The church is the place where God demonstrates the operation of the might of His strength, according to the power which He caused to operate in Christ—Eph 1:19-20.
- III. In His ascension Christ was enthroned and made the Head over all things in the universe—Acts 1:9-10; 2:33, 36; Eph. 1:20-22:**
- A. Resurrection is a matter of life and power, and ascension is a matter of position and authority—Acts 2:24, 33, 36.
 - B. In the Lord's resurrection we have received Christ as our life within us; in His ascension we have been brought into the heavens to be positioned and enthroned there in Christ—Eph. 2:5-6:

1. Because we have been identified with Christ in His ascension, we have been brought into the heavens with Him; when He ascended, we ascended in Him and with Him—1:20-22; 2:6.
2. The Lord's enthronement is our position; because He is on the throne in the heavens, we also are on the throne in the heavens—Rev. 3:21.