

November 3, 2019

The Intercessory Ministry of Jesus & the Spirit

- We have seen that God raised Jesus to sit at His Right Hand [Ps. 110:1] to rule over the cosmos in the Father's Name as the King of kings having all authority in heaven and on earth [Matt. 28:18].
- However, when Jesus rose from the dead, He not only ascended to become the King of kings, but also He rose as our Divine High Priest with Royal authority to be our Intercessor.

Ps. 110:4 The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever [Heb. 5:9-10; 7:3,25] after the order of Melchizedek [Gen. 14:18]."

- In His earthly ministry as our Divine High Priest, Jesus has redeemed us unto God through His blood:

Eph 1:7 In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...

- And now in His Heavenly ministry as our Divine High Priest Jesus is our Intercessor before the Throne of God:

Heb. 7:25 ... [Jesus] always lives to make intercession for them...

- This is what Jesus promised the disciples in the Upper Room:

John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever...

John 14:26 ...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things...

John 15:26 ...when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth...

- The Kingdom of God was inaugurated through the intercession of Jesus.
- However, Jesus is not only the High Priest Whose intercession inaugurated the Kingdom, He is also the High Priest in Whose intercession we are forever represented because of His enduring Life before the Throne of God on our behalf.

Heb 7:24-25 ...[Jesus] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them

Eph. 2:13brought near [to the Father] by the blood of Christ...

- Jesus has brought us into the closest communion with God the Father as He forever represents us against all the accusations of Satan.

Eph. 2:18 ...through [Christ our Intercessor] we [all] have access to the Father...

- What does access to the Father mean? It means personal union and communion with God Himself.
- It means that through the intercessory ministry of Jesus, we have been granted fellowship with the Father:

1 John 1:3 ...our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ...

- And our fellowship with the Father is furthered and developed by the intercessory ministry of the Spirit.

Rom 8:26-27 ...likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God

- Having accomplished our salvation, Jesus is now our High Priest in Heaven Whose intercession keeps us in the presence of God:

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand...

- The Holy Spirit in us Whose intercession keeps us in our experience of God's love for us in Christ:

Jude 20-21 ...pray in [by the means of] the Holy Spirit; 21 keep yourselves in the love of God...

- In Christ, the Spirit has brought us into eternal union-communion with God to experience communion with Him.
- Our union in Christ means that we have become partakers of the Divine [love of the Father]. Why? Because God is love and His is an everlasting love [Jer. 31:3].
- This means that our union with God is not affected by us or any circumstance but is the result of His constant and unchangeable Nature [Mal.3:6].

Jer 31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you...

- God's love for us in the continuing intercession of Christ is not touched by circumstances but our communion with Him is subject to change. By communion is meant our experience of His love, not the fact of His love.

Luke 15:11-24