

beyond the grave. Calvary guarantees us a past without guilt, but it leaves us to face a future without hope!

**I Cor. 15: 17:** "If Christ be not raised ye are yet in your sins."

**I Cor. 15: 18:** "They that have fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

If Jesus had not risen, both His claim to personal sinlessness and to Saviourhood would have been left forever in doubt. His mission to earth would have been a total failure. He would have remained History's most baffling enigma. Mankind would have lived forever under the shadow of this mocking question mark: "Was Jesus really the Son of God after all?"

#### 5.—THE ASCENSION — John 20: 17

But Christ must not only rise from the dead. He must ascend to heaven. He who came from God must return to God.

##### Why was the Ascension of Jesus Necessary?

To receive the seal of divine approval upon His earthly mission.

To testify before the universe that His former place at the Father's side was His by right.

To bestow the gift of the Holy Spirit upon His waiting Church.

To guarantee our ascension to the presence of God at the last day.

To make possible the next phase of His saving work—His priesthood.

#### 6.—THE PRIESTHOOD — Heb. 8: 1, 2

The ascension of Jesus was preparatory to the sixth important step in His work of salvation. As our great High Priest, He must perform a further indispensable work for us in heaven.

##### Why was the High Priesthood of Jesus Necessary?

Many people ask: "Was not Christ's death all-sufficient? Did He not cry: 'It is finished!' on the cross? How then can His work in heaven add anything to the benefits of His finished work on earth?"

These questions introduce us to the innermost heart of present and personal salvation. By His life, death and resurrection, Jesus made full and complete provision for the salvation of all mankind. He established an inexhaustible fund of saving merit. There was nothing lacking in this provision. His sacrifice was a finished and adequate sacrifice. However, in order to qualify for its benefits, we must individually accept this saving provision, and its benefits must be applied directly to our individual lives.

By His present work in heaven, Jesus is now making application of the benefits of His redeeming work to the lives of those who come to God by Him. He does this in two ways:

- (a) By His personal intercession, whereby He shares with us the benefits of His sinless life and atoning death, before the throne of God (Rom. 8: 31, 34).
- (b) By His gift of the Holy Spirit, whereby He shares with us the power of His risen life, in our daily struggle with temptation (Acts 2: 33; Rom. 5: 10; 6: 13).

#### 7.—THE SECOND ADVENT — Heb. 9: 28

In order to build the final span in the great Bridge of Salvation, Christ must come again, to bring the long, dark night of evil to an end, and to complete the redemption of His people.

##### Why is the Second Coming of Jesus Necessary?