**Scripture Reading:** Ps. 47

**Singing:** 420:4-5 – 302:1-3 – 198:1-7 – 130:1-5

Opening observations …

* Ps. 47 glows with OT believers praise to God almighty
* Ps. 47 is an exhortation to NT believers to join in this praise

**The Joy of Christ’s Ascension**

I. He ascended to labor for us II. He ascended to give to us

III. He ascended to receive us

**I. He ascended into heaven to work for us**

A. Definition of ‘us’

 1. The ‘us’ are is *His disciples*

 a. how do you know that you belong to those?

 b. how can I be assured that I belong to them? (Canons I, 12)

 2. What marks of grace should I look for?

 a. the ‘earnest of the Holy Spirit’ (Eph. 1:13-14)

b. how do I know I possess this Spirit as the *earnest*?

 c. if you can’t deny the *marks of grace pointed out in the Word*, then

 be careful not to *take ownership of your new identity in Christ*

B. The joy of His ascension is that He ascended to ***labor for us***!

 1. He ascended to be *King over all the earth* (vs. 2, 7-8)

 a. None else rules over our earth than Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:23)

b. Bride of Jesus: *let none and nothing rob you of this truth!*

 • Your Savior-King is watching over His Church more *intent*

 than any parent has ever watched their child: Ps. 33:18; 121

 • none will pluck a single hair from your head without His will

 2. He ascended to be *our High Priest – Advocate before His Father*

 a. Behold Him interceding on basis of His obedience(Rom. 8:34)

b. He knows our frame; He remembers we are dust (Ps. 103:14)

 3. He also ascended to continue *to be Our prophet: to teach us more*

**II. He ascended into heaven to *give us***

A. Psalmist refers to Jesus’ ascension as *going up with a shout*

 1. What was the reason for the ‘shout?’

 2. Yet His ascension wasn’t *to abandon but to enrich* His people

 a. John 14:18 *I will not leave you comfortless I will come to you*

 b. John 16:7: *It is expedient of you that I go away: for if go not*

*away, the Comforter will not come unto you: but if I*

*depart,* ***I will send Him unto you*** *(Acts 2:33)*

B. His Spirit is administered *through ministry of His Word*: Eph. 4:8-12

 1. Behold the *treasure of the NT is Spirit’s Gift*

 2. Have you – are you not experiencing that?

 a. think back on what made you spiritually concerned and seeking?

 b. consider Who makes the Word special to you today?

**III. He has ascended into heaven to *receive us***

A. Remind yourself often on John 14:1-3

 1. He expects us often to take these words into our hands of faith often

 2. Being the ‘head’ He will not rest until His body is with Him there

 a. His physical presence there is *sure pledge* for our future

**Close Inquiry: *What is thy only comfort in life and death?***