

*CALL to PRAYER* -

Pray that God's name would be hallowed...

*Intro* - There are certain aspects of our faith that we tend to focus on more than others. Just like there are parts of Scripture that garner more of our attention. This is not always bad, but it can lead to us being out of balance. The same can be applied to our thoughts of Jesus Christ. We tend to focus on one part of His work and leave others outside our admiration. Our thoughts are usually weighed toward His humiliation & lowliness, but we forget that He is now highly exalted. His death was followed by His glorious resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father far above all rule and authority. <sup>Eph. 1:20-21</sup> We cannot think highly enough about Jesus Christ and today I want us to turn our eyes upon Jesus...and His EXALTATION. Paul Harvey - "*The rest of the story.*" We mustn't forget about the Ascension...the rest of the story.

***Ephesians 4:8-10 - Don't Forget The Ascension!******SMALL THOUGHTS***

- Martin Luther wrote to Erasmus, "*Your thoughts of God are too small.*"
  - Our thoughts of Jesus are too small...too low... for they can't be high enough
- Beware of the "*tiny jesus*" and "*puny jesus*" that is often presented
  - "pocket jesus" (if your "jesus" fits in your pocket...he is too small)
  - "Cartoon jesus" (an animated savior...god as a cartoon...is not hallowed)
  - There are many caricatures of Jesus -
    - certain qualities are overemphasized while others are diminished
  - Jesus doesn't excel in any quality because He excels in all - Jesus is perfect in every way
- Our thoughts of Jesus Christ are too small and too low...they must be elevated as He is.
  - Jesus is the Most High God...let's think of Him as He is!

***BALANCED THOUGHTS***

- Paul Harvey - "*The rest of the story*"
  - There is more to the Gospel story than Jesus' humiliation (incarnation & death)
  - These are, of course, very important & vital but there is more to the gospel story
- Heb. 12:2
  - Phil. 2:6-11 humiliation AND exaltation
  - Roman Catholics like to portray Him with their crucifix ... not there any more
  - Protestants like to portray Him in the manger ... not there any more
  - Jesus isn't in the manger any more...He is not on the cross anymore...grave
    - He is at the right hand of the Father...in the seat of power and authority
    - We mustn't forget the ascension...the rest of the story
- The King upon the cross is now The King upon the throne - Eph. 4:10
  - He conquered sin & death in His humiliation and is now reigning in exaltation

## *ELEVATED THOUGHTS*

- After the resurrection Jesus presented Himself alive for 40 days
  - Acts 1:3 (meeting with 500 – 1 Cor. 15:6)
- Acts 1:9-11
  - The disciples not only saw that Jesus rose up out of the grave but that He was lifted up and ascended into heaven itself. Don't forget the Ascension
  - John 3:13 John 6:62
  - They saw Him rise up & go up....
    - Our thoughts should “rise up” & “go up” with Him
- Jesus' ascension was to the Throne of Power - Matt. 26:63-64
  - After the King conquered, He sat down
  - Psalm 110:1 (this Psalm mentioned 30+ 's in NT)
  - Right now, Jesus is reigning on the throne and over His enemies
    - Matt. 28:17-18
    - Eph. 1:20-22
    - 1 Peter 3:22
    - Rev. 1:5-8
- Do we think of Jesus like this...in His high and exalted state?
  - Are our thoughts of Jesus only as meek and mild and lowly?
  - Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords!
    - Our thoughts should be raised up high where Christ is - Col. 3:1-2
  - Oh dear Christian...Rejoice!...The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!
    - Christ is upon the throne!
    - Every element of the universe is subject to Him
      - Heb. 1:2-3
  - We cannot think highly enough of Jesus Christ. He is the exalted ONE!
- Let's notice an amazing aspect of His exaltation
  - Eph. 4:10
    - Descended...ascended....above the heavens.....FILLS ALL THINGS
    - Jer. 23:23-24 (Eph. 1:22-23)
  - God the Son is **omnipotent** (almighty/all powerful) & **omnipresent** (infinite)
    - God is separate from everything, but He is everywhere
    - Psalm 139:6-12
    - Matt. 28:18-20
  - There is no escape from His rule...His sight ...or His hand
    - This is either terrifying or comforting
- Most people's idea of Jesus is a “pocket jesus”
  - That “jesus” is too small. The real Jesus fills all things
  - Does He fill your thoughts...your life...your heart?