

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth... I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20)

With Us in
God’s
Presence

With Us as Advocate



With Us
as High
Priest
and
Mediator

With Us as
Intercessor

With Us in Community

Class #1: With us at God’s right hand in the presence of God

- Christ promised: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”(Matt. 28:20)
 - God promised to be “with us” through His righteous right hand (Isa. 41:10; Psa. 80:17; Matt. 1:23)
- Christ is with us...
 - In God’s presence (literally, the “face” of God) Heb. 4:14; Heb. 9:24
 - At God’s right hand (symbol of favor, power, and authority) Rom. 8:34; Acts 5:31; Heb. 8:1
- We Access God’s Presence Through Christ (Eph. 2:18; Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 3:11-12)
 - *Prosogoge* “leading into the presence of a king” (Barclay)
 - Do we appreciate our access to God through Christ?
- The Importance of Where Christ is Now Is Clear From Psalm 110
 - “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” (Psa. 110:1)
 - The most quoted verse from the Old Testament
- Where Christ is Now: Proof that the Gospel is True

- In Acts 2, Peter asserts that the fulfillment of Psalm 16 (i.e., “in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore”) through Christ being at God’s right hand proves that the Gospel is true (“This Jesus God has raised up... being exalted to the right hand of God”)
- Where Christ is Now: a Place that Shows “the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe” (Eph. 1:19-22)
- Where Christ is Now: Saving to the Uttermost (Acts 5:31; Heb. 5:9; Heb. 7:25)
- Where Christ is Now: “...angels...having been made subject to Him” (1 Pet. 3:21-22)
 - Angels connected to God’s face/presence (Matt. 18:10)
- Seated Together with Christ (Eph. 2:4-7)
 - “made us alive together with Christ”
 - “raised us up together”
 - “sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”
 - “A believer is raised to heavenly places in Christ Jesus upon his baptism.” (Bro. R. Abel, *Wrested Scriptures*)
 - Promise of always being seated together (Rev. 3:21)
- Our Eyes Must Be Fixed on Where Christ is Now (Heb. 12:2; Col. 3:1)
 - Stephen’s example (Acts 7:55-56)
 - “...fixing our gaze [*aphoraó*] upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who rather than the joy set before him endured a cross, disregarding its shame, and has now taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2 Mounce).
 - *aphoraó*
 - Definition: to look away from all else at
 - Usage: look away from (something else) to, see distinctly.
 - When things of the world in these last days confront us, do we fix our eyes on Jesus?
 - Have we forgotten, in these last days where we see “distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear” (Lk. 22:25-26) that we must “seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”
 - “that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19-20 NET) in these last days
- “Presence”
 - OT (*paniym*) lit. “face”, fig. “presence”
 - NT (*prosopon*) lit. “face”, fig. “presence”
 - *paniym* is a plural, ubiquitous in OT (occurring over 2, 000 times) but we can miss this because KJV often translates *paniym* as the

- word “before” (e.g., the Mosaic ordinances “before the LORD” = the LORD’s face (*paniyim*))
- Seeing God’s face as the goal (1 Cor. 13:12; Rev. 22:1-4)
 - Masks have taught us a lot about faces and the human condition
 - COVID masking has taught us how much we need faces, how much we seek faces, how much information and meaning we gain from faces
 - Our natural developmental process is integrally connected to faces
 - Face as a Biblical metaphor for relationship
 - *paniyim*: “As most words in the Hebrew language express the idea of motion, this plural noun conveys the ideas of mood, emotions and thoughts, the different motions reflected in the face. This Hebrew word more precisely means the ‘presence’ or the ‘wholeness of being’ of an individual.” (Hebrew Research Center)
 - Before His face = A relationship with God: “So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Ex. 33:11 NKJV)
 - “Showbread” *lechem paniyim* (literally “Bread of the Faces”)
 - “On the table you are to place the bread of the presence in my presence always” (Ex. 25:30 CJB)
 - Type of Messiah, connected to remembrance (LXX Lev. 24:7; Lk. 22:19)

<i>lechem paniyim</i>	Christ
Pierced	“...he was pierced...” (Isa. 53:5 NIV)
12 (God’s community)	“He is the head...” (Col. 1:18 NKJV)
Arranged in rows (“bread of rows”)	“God arranged the members in the body” (1 Cor. 12:18 ESV)
Hot bread	“...our heart burn within us” (Lk. 24:32 NKJV)
Bread didn’t go stale	“He who eats this bread will live forever.” (Jn. 6:58 NKJV)
Bread and incense (prayer) created remembrance	“...even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us” (Rom. 8:34 NKJV)

- Barrier Separating Us from God’s Presence is Destroyed
 - Barrier: Temple Veil (Matt. 27:50-51)
 - Barrier: Flesh (Ex. 33:30)
 - “Through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, the Lord has brought us into the very presence of God”(Bro. J. Morris, *A Letter to Hebrews*)

- “The veil is Christ in the days of his flesh.” (Bro. J. Carter, *The Letter to the Hebrews*)
- Christ Went Through the Veil as Forerunner: Our Hope in God’s Presence (Heb. 6:19-20)
 - *prodomos* = “one who comes in advance to a place whither the rest are to follow” (Thayer)
- Unveiled Because Christ is With Us (2 Cor. 3:18)
- Christ With Us in God’s Presence Addresses Our Fundamental Problem
 - Our sin motivates us to flee from God’s presence; Christ brings us into God’s presence

In the Garden	In Christ
“Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence [lit. “face”] of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” (Gen. 3:8)	“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence [lit. “face”] of God for us.” (Heb. 9:24)
Made themselves clothes	Wear “put on” Christ (Gal. 3:26)
Hid from God’s presence	Bold, confident approach (Heb. 4:14-15; Eph. 3:12)
Self-delusion	Self-examination (1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5)

- Because Christ is With Us Our Action is Demanded (Heb. 10:19-24)
 - Boldness/confidence/honesty (also Eph. 3:12; Heb. 4:16; 1 Jn. 2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14)
 - Draw near with a true heart (also Matt. 5:8)
 - Hold fast (also Heb. 3:6, 14)
 - Unwavering (only time *aklinēs* is used)
 - Consider others (also James 1:23-24)
 - Stir up (literally, “jab”) love and good works
 - Assemble (literally, “a complete collection”)
 - Exhort (*parakaleo*, “call alongside”)