

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER

Hebrews 1:3 “After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

When you confess your faith in the triune God in speaking the words of the Apostle’s Creed, you say as part of your confession you believe Jesus “sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.” Of what importance is the truth of these words?

The Small Catechism answers regarding the importance of Jesus sitting at His Father’s right hand, “With this expression Scripture teaches that Christ, as true man, is not only present everywhere, but also now fully exercises His divine power over the whole universe.” (Question 147) Ephesians 1:23 is then cited as a proof text, “And He put all things (my emphasis) under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Further, Jesus sits at the right hand of His Father, as your High Priest interceding for you. (Romans 8:34) Included in His intercession is His advocacy in your behalf for His Father to forgive you all of your sins as John writes in 1 John 2:1 “If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” In other words, Jesus is your defense attorney, pleading your case.

Unlike an earthly defense attorney who tries to defend you based upon either case law or even your personal good merits, Jesus offers Himself, His sacrifice on the cross, His shed blood, His nail pierced hands and feet, the scar on His side to plead your innocence based on His merits, not yours. “With His stripes you are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

In the name of Jesus, through His advocacy, pleading and begging in your behalf, your heavenly Father grants you forgiveness of your sins, peace, and the assurance of everlasting life. Thus, Jesus sitting at His Father’s right hand is of great comfort to you. Knowing His Father has given Him this seat of honor and listens to all He has to say in your behalf, you can live your life with confidence that for His sake you are a forgiven child of God.

Prayer: Jesus, my sure defense, grant me a confident faith that because of Your life, death, and resurrection Your Father grants me forgiveness, life, and salvation. In Your holy name. Amen.

Jesus Christ, my sure defense And my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence Rests upon the hope here given,
Though the night of death be fraught Still with many_an anxious thought.

Jesus, my Redeemer, lives; Likewise I to life shall waken.
He will bring me where He is; Shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His members dead?

No, Too closely I am bound By my hope to Christ forever;
Faith's strong hand the Rock has found, Grasped it, and will leave it never;
Even death now cannot part From its Lord the trusting heart.

I am flesh and must return to the dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern That from death I shall awaken
With my Savior to abide In His glory, at His side.

Glorified, I shall anew with this flesh then enshrouded;
In this body I shall view God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
In this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally.

Then take comfort and rejoice, For His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice; Dying, they will never perish;
For the very grave is stirred When the trumpet's blast is heard.

Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave And at death no longer tremble;
He, the Lord, who came to save Will at last His own assemble.
They will go their Lord to meet, Treading death beneath their feet

O, then, draw away your hearts From all pleasures base and hallow;
Strive to share what He imparts While you here His footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise, Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

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