


LOOKING UP

March-April 2025



*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*

Acknowledge Him

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

*"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God."
(Luke 12:8-9)*

These words of Jesus can be a bit jolting because of, 1) how plainly Jesus speaks, and 2) the absolute division that He makes between people, which is based solely on whether they either acknowledge or deny Him.

It was no secret among the people of His day that Jesus often referred to Himself as the Son of Man. Even in His words above Jesus made it abundantly clear that He was speaking of Himself in these exalted terms when He said, "everyone who acknowledges me before men." And notice that it is not (at least here) that Jesus says He will acknowledge these ones directly before God, but before the "angels of God." That is to say that the angels know without any doubt or confusion who Jesus really is. And when a person shares in that knowledge, Jesus testifies to the angels that this

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Studies

10:00 AM Wednesdays
6:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wed.'s

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

person shares their testimony about Him. But the stumbling block that people trip over in acknowledging Jesus...is Jesus Himself. Imagine for a moment being in the crowd to whom Jesus was speaking, and having that moment of dawning realization that Jesus is speaking of Himself as the gatekeeper of salvation. That He is saying that you personally must speak of Him as the Savior before other people in order to be saved, and failing to do so means that you are lost eternally. Here He stands before you, a man, telling you that it is His testimony (which is based on your testimony about Him) which determines your eternal destiny. For many, their response was, "Who does he think he is?" Or, "He's just a man... I can't worship him as God." Truly did Paul write that Jesus is, "a stumbling block to Jews and folly [foolishness] to Gentiles." (1 Cor. 1:23) If our belief of who Jesus is is based on human reason or understanding, then we'll inevitably write Him off and refuse to acknowledge Him.

On the other hand, though, Paul continues, "but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24) We who have the Scriptures and believe them know that Jesus, while being a true man, is also truly God. He is the One who came down from Heaven in order to die in our place, and then rose again on the third day. He lives eternally as the King of all kings, with all things in Heaven and on Earth being under His authority. This is the One Whom we acknowledge before other people. And He is the One Who acknowledges us before the very angels of God who rejoice in our testimony.

Dear Saints, rejoice in the salvation that you have in Jesus Christ, and may His name be always on your lips.

Looking Ahead

March 27th

Red Cross Blood drive

April 12th

Spring Cleaning

April 17th

Maundy Thursday
Service at 7:00

April 18th

Good Friday
Service at 7:00

April 20th

Easter Brunch at 9:30
Easter Service at 11:00

April 26th

(Backup date for Spring
Cleaning if needed)

April 27th - May 4th

Family Promise

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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