

Introduction: Concluding a Gospel with Blessing

1. Jesus ascended pronouncing blessing

a. We think of blessing as "wishing someone well"

b. Bible examples of blessing

c. Blessing is done in faith, we are talking not simply to God we are talking to people, but intending God to be the one to act.

■ We are speaking to the person what God already intends.

● *This sounds presumptuous to us.* But we can pronounce what God intends and has already promised: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Rom 9:32)

d. Distinguishing between our blessing and "prophetic blessing"

e. Jesus' blessing likely involved what He had just said.

f. It is a Christlike thing to do to pronounce blessing

2. Jesus ascended to glory and honour

a. Psalms 93-99

b. Psalm 110:1-3

c. Psalm 2:8 Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance.

d. Daniel 7:13-15 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

e. Matt 28:18-20

3. Our response is blessing God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Conclusion: The good news is Jesus ascended to subdue all his enemies. Therefore our blessing is valid, and we can bless God--pronouncing our confidence in His glorious work.