

**Week 6:
The Revelation and Experience of Christ**

Weekly Reading Materials

(All reading materials are available at: <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>)

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Week 6 Day 1

- Jn 1: 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- Jn 1: 14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- 1P 1: 3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Knowing Christ

Reading: *Life Lessons*, vol. 1, ch. 8, sec. 1, par. 1

KNOWING CHRIST

(1)

Christ is the subject and center of the Bible and is the main content of the Bible from beginning to end. Even more He is the reality of our faith. We who have believed into Him and received grace must know Him in a thorough way.

The Person of Christ

Ibid., par. 5-7

II. THE PERSON OF CHRIST

A. God

1) “Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever” (Rom. 9:5).

This word simply and strongly declares that Christ is God, who is over all, the complete God blessed forever.

B. The Son of God

1) “But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” (John 20:31).

We have already seen how God has the aspects of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. All Three—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit—are God, even the one unique God. Since Christ is God, He is not only God the Father, but also God the Son, that is, the Son of God.

C. Man

1) “In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh” (John 1:1, 14).

2) “The Man, Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5).

3) “And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness, who was manifested in the flesh” (1 Tim. 3:16).

The three portions of the Word above clearly tell us that Jesus Christ, who is God, became flesh to be a perfect man with a human body and human nature. Therefore, He is God manifested in the flesh. He is God and He is man, a God-man, possessing both the divine and the human natures. As to His divine nature, He is completely God; as to His human nature, He is perfectly man. This is a great mystery.

D. The Creator

The Work of Christ

Creating / Becoming Flesh / Being Crucified on the Cross / Being Resurrected from among the Dead

Ibid., par. 10-17

III. THE WORK OF CHRIST

In being anointed by God to be God’s anointed One to fulfill His eternal plan, Christ accomplished and will accomplish the following great things:

A. Creating

1) “You in the beginning, Lord, have founded the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands” (Heb. 1:10).

2) “Because in Him were all things created in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him” (Col. 1:16).

These two verses tell us that the first great thing Christ did was to create the heavens and the earth, all things, and man. Hence, He is the Creator of all things.

B. Becoming Flesh

1) “And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us...full of grace and reality” (John 1:14).

The second great thing accomplished by Christ, God’s Anointed, was that He as God became flesh; that is, He came to be a man in the flesh to be the tabernacle of God among men, bringing God to men to be realized as

reality and to be received as grace. Reality is God known and contacted by man, and grace is God received and enjoyed by man. In the fleshly tabernacle which He became, Christ lived with man for thirty-three and a half years, thus fully bringing God to man to be his reality and grace.

C. Being Crucified on the Cross

To fulfill God's eternal plan, Christ, who is God's Anointed, brought God to men in His earthly tabernacle to be contacted by men. After thirty-three and a half years, He went to the cross to be crucified to accomplish the redemption in God's eternal plan. This is the third great thing He did, solving, once and for all, the problem of everything that God had condemned in the universe, such as Satan, sin, the world, the flesh, the old man, and the old creation. He did this for God and for those who are chosen by God, who will eternally inherit His salvation.

D. Being Resurrected from among the Dead

Christ gave up His own life, and He Himself took it back by rising from among the dead (John 10:17-18). This is the fourth great thing He did, which accomplished the following three matters pertaining to us:

1) "Jesus...was raised because of our justification" (Rom. 4:24-25).

The death of Christ accomplished redemption for us that we might be justified by God, yet His resurrection is needed to confirm the effectiveness of His death. Therefore, His resurrection is the evidence of our justification.

2) "Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up together...in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:5-6).

The resurrection of Christ released God's life from within Him for us to receive, making us alive together with Christ and raising us up together.

3) "Who [God]...has regenerated us...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from among the dead" (1 Pet. 1:3).

Since Christ resurrected to release His life into us, He regenerated us that we may be a born-again, new man.

Week 6 Day 2

Ep 4: 8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."

Eph. 4:8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."

Heb. 8:1-2 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the bright hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

Ascending into the Heavens / Fulfilling His Heavenly Ministry / Coming Again / Establishing the Millennial Kingdom / Being the Center of the New Jerusalem in the New Heaven and the New Earth

Reading: *Life Lessons*, vol. 1, ch. 9, sec. 1, whole page

KNOWING CHRIST

(2)

E. Ascending into the Heavens

After Christ rose from among the dead, He ascended into the heavens. This is the fifth great thing done by Him as God's anointed One, accomplishing the following two matters for us:

1) "Having ascended to the height [the heavens], He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men" (Eph. 4:8).

Those taken captive refers to us, who were captured before by Satan and death. Now Christ, in His triumphant resurrection, has captured us from the hands of Satan and death, bringing us to the heavens to make us God's gift to Christ that Christ may give us as gifts to the church.

2) "And seated us together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6).

The ascension of Christ also brought us, who have believed into Him and have been joined to Him to be one, to the heavenlies, that we may attain to a heavenly position and live in a heavenly atmosphere and state.

F. Fulfilling His Heavenly Ministry

Upon His ascension into heaven, Christ proceeded to accomplish His heavenly ministry. He was anointed by God to do this sixth great thing, continually performing the following four matters on our behalf:

1) “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry; inasmuch as He is also the Mediator of a better covenant” (Heb. 8:6).

After Christ enacted the new covenant (Matt. 26:28) through His death on the earth, He ascended to the heavens to be the Mediator of this new covenant, executing it upon those who believe in Him.

2) “Who [Christ] sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle” (Heb. 8:1-2).

Christ is also the Minister of the true tabernacle in the heavens today, ministering to His believers the heavenly life and the divine, heavenly supply.

3) “Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God” (Heb. 4:14).

Today, Christ is also our great High Priest in the heavens, interceding before God on our behalf that we may be saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:24-26).

4) “And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous; and He is a propitiation concerning our sins” (1 John 2:1-2).

Christ in the heavens today is also our Advocate before the righteous God. If we sin after we are saved, based upon His being our propitiation, He pleads for us in order to recover the broken fellowship between God and us.

G. Coming Again

When Christ completes His heavenly ministry, He will come back to accomplish the seventh great thing as God’s Anointed, which includes the following three matters:

1) “Because the Lord Himself...will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are living, who remain, shall be caught up at the same time together with them in clouds into a meeting of the Lord in the air; and so we shall be always together with the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

Here we are told that when Christ comes again, He will rapture all believers to the air, whether they are resurrected or living, to meet with Him, that they may always be together with Him. This is the first matter He will perform in His second coming.

2) “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come out of Zion; He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (Rom. 11:26).

This tells us the second thing Christ will perform in His second coming, that is, He will save all of Israel.

3) “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory... then He shall sit on His throne of glory; and all the nations shall be gathered before Him, and He shall separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” (Matt. 25:31-32).

This portion of Scripture reveals to us the third matter the Lord will perform when He returns, that is, He will judge all the living unbelieving nations.

H. Establishing the Millennial Kingdom

After Christ cleans up the earth at His coming, He will set up the millennial kingdom. This is the eighth great thing He will accomplish as God’s anointed One.

1) “The souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God...and they lived [were resurrected]...and shall reign with Him [Christ] a thousand years” (Rev. 20:4, 6).

These verses show us that after Christ comes to the earth, He will establish the millennial kingdom and will reign with His overcoming believers in it for a thousand years.

I. Being the Center of the New Jerusalem in the New Heaven and the New Earth

At the end of the millennial kingdom, the old heaven and the old earth will be abolished. Christ will be the center of eternity in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth to come. This is the last great thing to be done by Christ as God’s Anointed in fulfilling God’s eternal purpose. All those redeemed by God throughout the ages will then be with Him, enjoying the bountiful issue of God’s work throughout the ages in God’s eternal life forever and ever.

1) “And the city...the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb”
(Rev. 21:23).

This verse shows us that in the future in the New Jerusalem of the new heaven and new earth, the unlimited glory of God will shine forth as light with Christ as the lamp, signifying that Christ is the center of the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and the new earth for all eternity.

Week 6 Day 3

- Phil. 3:8** But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- 9** And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
- 10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

We Need to Pursue to Know Christ

Knowing the Unsearchable Riches of Christ in a Particular Way

Reading: *How to Be a Co-worker and an Elder and How to Fulfill Their Obligations*, ch. 1, sec. 4, whole page; sec. 5, par. 1, 3

I. TO KNOW CHRIST

To be a co-worker or an elder, first, we must know Christ. In Philippians 3:10 Paul spoke about knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. To know Christ is not a simple matter. I want to fellowship with you concerning how to know Christ mainly in four items. The co-workers and elders must know these items. Not only must you know them, but also you must know them thoroughly and be able to speak them to others. To know Christ is not to know Him in a common way but to know Him in a particular way. The riches of what Christ is, are unsearchable (Eph. 3:8), but among them, there are the four following items which we need to know in particular.

A. He Is Both God and Man

First, we must know particularly that Christ is both God and man. We should not think that we already know this. We need to be reminded again and again that Christ is both God and man. He was God and He became man, so He is both God and man. Thus, He is a God-man.

B. He Possesses Both Divinity and Humanity

Second, we need to know that since Christ is a God-man, He possesses both divinity and humanity. Some may say, "We also know this already." Maybe we know, but we do not know how to speak it. Concerning the divinity and humanity of Christ, we must have a thorough knowledge.

C. In His Humanity He Accomplished His Judicial Redemption through His Death

Third, we have to know that in His humanity Christ accomplished His judicial redemption through His death. To know Christ, we have to discern clearly that His being in His humanity is one thing and His being in His divinity is another thing. Concerning the redemption of Christ, the general saying is that Christ was a man with blood and flesh, so He could die for us in His flesh. The deeper way, however, is to say that Christ accomplished redemption in His humanity. We should not remain only in the general saying; this is an indication that our knowledge concerning Christ is not deep enough. We must penetrate the deepest part of the divine truth to see the intrinsic significance of Christ in His humanity.

D. In His Divinity He Is Carrying Out His Organic Salvation in His Resurrection

Fourth, we also need to know that in His divinity Christ is carrying out His organic salvation in His resurrection. We need to see further that Christ's redemption is different from His salvation. Romans 5:10a says that we "were reconciled to God through the death of His Son"; this refers to His redemption. Romans 5:10b says, "Much more we will be saved in His life"; this refers to His salvation. The organic salvation is being carried out in resurrection by Christ in His divinity. This is new light and the new language given to us by God. In His divinity and in His resurrection, He is carrying out His organic salvation in the believers. The judicial redemption has been accomplished, but the organic salvation is being carried out.

We need to have a clear knowledge concerning these four items. Then whether we are co-workers or elders, when we go to shepherd and teach people, we can speak these things to them in a very clear way. The co-workers and elders need to know Christ particularly in these four main items. You must not despise these four items. You may think that you

already know these things, but when you go to speak to others, you may not know how to do it or how to call their attention to the main points. This requires practice. The churches in Taiwan are presently practicing four things: praying, studying, reciting, and speaking. This is the right way. Every co-worker and elder must deal with these four items concerning Christ by pray-reading over them, studying them deeply, reciting them from memory, and speaking them thoroughly to present clearly the main points to others.

II. TO EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY CHRIST (TO GAIN CHRIST) IN HIS FULL MINISTRY IN HIS THREE DIVINE AND MYSTICAL STAGES

To be a co-worker or an elder, we also need to experience and enjoy Christ (to gain Christ—Phil. 3:8) in His full ministry in His three divine and mystical stages. How can we be a co-worker and an elder? First, we need to know Christ; second, we need to experience and enjoy Christ, that is, to gain Christ, in His full ministry. First, we have the knowledge, and then we have the experience and enjoyment. To experience and enjoy Christ is to gain Christ. In Philippians 3:8 Paul said, "...Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ." To "have" is not sufficient; we need to "gain." To gain Christ requires paying a price. To gain Christ is to experience, enjoy, and take possession of all His unsearchable riches by paying a price. This is not so simple. Hence, Paul went on to say, "Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue....I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal" (vv.12-14a). It is not easy to win a game, and it is also not easy to win the victory in a war. These require us to pursue by forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before. Likewise, we need to gain Christ by experiencing and enjoying Him in His full ministry.

Week 6 Day 4

Rom. 4:25 **Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification.**

1 Cor. 15:45 **So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.**

The Lord Jesus Being Not Only Our Redeemer But also Our Life-giving Spirit

Reading: *A Living of Mutual Abiding with the Lord in Spirit*, ch. 2, sec. 3, par. 3-4, 6, 8

THE LORD BECOMING THE SPIRIT TO ENTER INTO OUR SPIRIT AS LIFE

The Bible shows us that the Lord Jesus, who was God, took two big steps for the accomplishment of God's purpose. The first big step was that He was incarnated to be a real man with flesh and blood that He might be our Redeemer for the redemption of our sins. Then He took the second big step in His resurrection to become the life-giving Spirit. Today the Lord Jesus in whom we believe is not only the One who became flesh but also the One who died and resurrected. The Lord Jesus in whom we believe is the One who became flesh, who shed His blood for the redemption of sins, who died and was resurrected, and who dispenses life. When we believed into Him, first our sins were forgiven and we were redeemed, and second, He came into us. This is not only a doctrine; this is our experience. When you repent, confess your sins, pray, and believe in the Lord Jesus, you not only have peace within but have the forgiveness of sins so that the problems between you and God are resolved. After that you will feel that there is One who has come into you.

The Lord has surely come into you. However, if the Lord were not the Spirit, how could He come into you? Today there are some who say that the Lord is in heaven and not in us and that He is so great and man is too small to contain Him. Therefore, they say that the Lord is not in us, but rather that He has a representative, the Holy Spirit, who is representing Him within us. This is truly to twist the Bible. Nowhere in the Bible does

it say that the Holy Spirit is the representative of the Lord Jesus. Rather, the Bible says that the Lord is the Spirit. Furthermore, throughout the centuries, many of the spiritual writings which are of value also clearly state that in the experiences of Christians Christ and the Holy Spirit are just one.

Now we have seen that the Lord Jesus was God. He became flesh for the accomplishment of redemption; He died and was resurrected for the dispensing of life that He might work Himself into us. Regardless of how wrong some theology is and how negligent some people are in reading the Bible, the fact is that everyone who repents, confesses his sins, and believes in the Lord Jesus by calling on His name, has the Lord Jesus in him. No one can deny this. This Lord Jesus is in us; there is not a representative, but rather He Himself is in us. The Lord Jesus is “He who descended out of heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven” (John 3:13). Not to mention after His death and resurrection, even when He was in the flesh, He was on earth as in heaven.

We must not consider the Lord Jesus with our small brain; we must consider Him only according to what the Bible says. On the one hand, Romans 8:34 clearly says that today the Lord Jesus is in heaven sitting at the right hand of God. On the other hand, verse 10 of the same chapter says that Christ is in us. These are two aspects of the Lord Jesus. We can use electricity as an illustration. There is electricity in this building, and there is also electricity in the electric power plant. They are not two electricities but one electricity. Our Lord, who is boundless, was resurrected from the dead and became the life-giving Spirit. Therefore, John 7:38-39 says that out of the innermost being of those who believe into Him will flow rivers of living water. This He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive, but the Spirit was not yet. At the time the Lord Jesus spoke this word, the life-giving Spirit was not yet, because the Lord had not yet been resurrected from the dead and had not yet been glorified. In other words, at the time He was resurrected from the dead and was thus glorified (Luke 24:26), He then was the life-giving Spirit. This is the biblical truth.

The Lord Jesus is not only our Redeemer but also our life-giving Spirit. Therefore, today by our believing in Him our sins have been forgiven, and

we have been reconciled to God; at the same time, by our believing in Him He is in us. If the Lord were not the Spirit, how could we enter into Him? Because He is the Spirit, the life-giving Spirit, we entered into Him when we believed into Him. Therefore, 1 Corinthians 1:30 says that it is God who put us in Christ. By our believing into Him, we have entered into Him, the pneumatic Christ, and He has also entered into us.

Now this Redeemer has become the life-giving Spirit. When we believed into Him, God forgave us of our sins, and this life-giving Spirit entered into our spirit to regenerate our spirit. Therefore, John 3:6 says, "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." To be regenerated in our spirit means that we have another life; the divine life entered into us in addition to the life which we have in our flesh. Thus, we were born twice and have two lives. The first time, we were born of the flesh of our parents, so we have the life of the flesh. The second time, we were born of the Spirit of God in our spirit, so we have the life of the Spirit. Our Lord, who is the life-giving Spirit, dwells in our spirit. Therefore, 2 Timothy 4:22 says, "The Lord be with your spirit." If our Lord Jesus were not the Spirit, how then could He be with our spirit? Obviously this is not an allegory but a factual statement, proving that today our Lord dwells in the spirit of those who have been saved. Furthermore, 1 Corinthians 6:17 says, "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit." If the Lord Jesus were not the Spirit and if we did not have a human spirit within, how then could we be one spirit with the Lord? Now we surely know that we have a human spirit within, and this spirit in us has been regenerated. Not only so, as the Spirit, the Lord Jesus has entered into our spirit to dwell in our spirit. Thus, the two spirits became one spirit. All these matters have been neglected in Christian theology.

Week 6 Day 5

- Eph. 3:8** **To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel**
- 17** **That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**
- 1 Cor. 3:16** **Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

The Breadth, Length, Height, and Depth of Christ

Reading: *Christ Revealed in the New Testament*, ch. 3, sec. 2, par. 1

CHRIST MAKING HOME IN THE BELIEVERS' HEARTS

As an example of the above, let us consider Ephesians 3:8. Here Paul says that he will preach to us the unsearchable riches of Christ. Literally, this word seems to be very simple. But it is not that easy to understand what are the unsearchable riches of Christ. This phrase means that the riches of Christ are immeasurable. Because it is too mysterious and too inexhaustible to be described in human words, Paul could only use the four dimensions—breadth, length, height, and depth—to describe what Christ is. Christ is the breadth; He is the length, the height, and the depth. The breadth, length, height, and depth of the universe are all unlimited. These are the dimensions of Christ.

Christ Making His Home in Our Hearts

Ibid., par. 2-4

In verse 17 Paul said, “That Christ may make His home in your hearts.” When Christ makes His home in our hearts and fills and saturates our whole being, we will be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ. The word “make home” here is a compound word in Greek. It is the verbal form of the noun *oikos*, which means house, with the prefix *kata* added to it. *Kata* has the sense of establishing in a firm way. The word is therefore aptly translated as

“make home.” It is not just an abiding but a making home. I am often invited to different places to conduct conferences. Everywhere I go, the brothers and sisters warmly welcome me. They invite me to stay in their homes and ask me to make myself at home in their homes. I try my best to settle down according to their good wishes. But never have I been able to do so. I can never feel at home in those places. Only when I go back to my own home and put down my luggage can I feel truly at home. Not only do we have to let Christ abide in our hearts, but we also have to let Him make His home deeply in our hearts.

How does Christ make His home in our hearts? For this Paul prayed to the Father. He said that he bowed his knees unto the Father, that He would, according to the riches of His glory and through His Spirit, have Christ make home in our hearts. The meaning of this prayer is very deep. First, it mentions the Father. Second, it mentions the Spirit. Third, it mentions Christ. Lastly, it mentions our heart. We do not have time to go into them in detail one by one. We can only mention in brief the matter of Christ making home in our hearts.

Our heart is composed of four parts: the mind, the emotion, the will, and the conscience. For Christ to make home in our heart is for Him to make home in these four parts. A home has many rooms, such as the living room and the bedroom. Our heart is the home of Christ. This home has a mind-room, an emotion-room, a will-room, and a conscience-room. We have received Christ into our heart. But is He in our mind, emotion, will, and conscience? Actually, we have often allowed Him to stay only in the living room, not giving Him the liberty to go into the other rooms. The brothers like to exercise their minds. They often remain in their minds. Also they are usually strong in their will. If they say yes, they mean yes. Whether they are right or wrong, they would insist to the end. The sisters are more apt to exercise their emotions. They are often swayed by their joy, their anger, their sorrow, and their elation. All this means that Christ has no place and is not making home in our mind, emotion, and will. We really should have given to Him every room of our heart. Only then will He be able to make home in our heart. All the other tenants in the rooms of our heart have to be chased away. First Corinthians 3:16 says that we are the temple of God. But this temple is occupied by many illegal tenants.

We need the Lord Jesus to chase them away with a whip that this temple may be cleansed, just as He cleansed the temple twice while He was on earth (John 2:14-15; Matt. 21:12), chasing away all the oxen, sheep, doves, buyers and sellers, and money changers. Only then can Christ make His home in our hearts.

Some dissenting ones have said, since we are so small, how can such a great Christ be contained in us? Has not the Bible said that Christ has ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of God with glory as His crown? How then can we say that He lives in our heart? These words seem logical at first hearing. But they are void of the central revelation of the Bible. Romans 8:34 says that Christ has been raised from among the dead and is now at the right hand of God, interceding for us. However, verse 10 of the same chapter says that Christ is also in us. Paul told us that, on the one hand, Christ is in heaven and that, on the other hand, He is in us. This is just like the electricity which is in this meeting hall and is at the same time in the power station. Christ is in us; at the same time, He is in heaven. We should not try to understand Christ with our limited mentality. He is too profound and too unlimited. We can only receive this revelation according to the pure word of the Bible.

Week 6 Day 6

- 1 Thes. 5:23** And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Cor. 3:18** But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

The Dispensing of the Triune God into the Tripartite Man

Reading: *A Deeper Study of the Divine Dispensing*, ch. 5, sec. 3, par. 1, 3-5

GOING ALONG WITH THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

The Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life has been installed into us. The question now is whether or not we are willing to go along and to cooperate with Him. In the Old Testament, the history of Jacob is a type depicting man being full of natural strength. He was born a usurper. Even while he was in his mother's womb, he was fighting with Esau to be the first. He held onto his brother's heel and tried to keep him from coming out first. He was a crafty, calculating, and scheming person. He took over the birthright from his brother by deception, and cheated his father concerning his blessing. Later, under the hand of his uncle, Laban, he took away all the sheep by his tricks. In the end, he even took away his uncle's two daughters and their maids. Yet God had chosen him and had put him in the process of transformation. He disciplined him and dealt with him bit by bit. Once, when he was about to pass over the ford Jabbok, God came in the form of a man to wrestle with him. On that day, it was not God who would not let Jacob go; it was Jacob who would not let God go. God touched the hollow of his thigh, and the hollow of his thigh became out of joint. God changed his name to Israel. From that day on, Jacob was changed. Under God's leading and shepherding, he eventually became

God's mature prince, worshipping God and blessing others. The usurper Jacob had been completely subdued by God. He was no longer living by his natural life. Rather, he was living under God's life, having God's life as his life, and living one life with God. What was lived out was no longer Jacob, but Israel. He had subjected his natural life to God's life, and he had allowed God's life to regulate him within continually. As a result, he became the prince of God and God's overcomer.

I see a lot of young people sitting among us here. I would like to say a word to you. I have been following the Lord for over fifty years. I know my Lord. He does not like to deal with man; yet He does want to live out His grafted life from within us. He has grafted Himself into us; now He expects that we would live by this life and would live it out. This requires that we be completely subdued by God's life. You have all been grafted; yet there is still the natural element within you. For this, you need God to touch the hollow of your thigh, so that your life would be dealt with and would no longer be whole, but would be broken and have the genuine transformation. In this way, you will live out God's grafted life.

God's law of the Spirit of life does not move in a rash way within us. Rather, it operates spontaneously and softly. This can be compared to our eating. Within us is a law of digestion that does the work of digestion in us. A little while after the food gets into us, the digestion is completed, and the food becomes our nutrients. It is true that we are not good, but we should not expect to improve quickly. We have to do what *Hymns*, #841, stanza 6, says, "I would cease completely from my efforts vain." We should not struggle or strive anymore. Instead, we should simply hand ourselves over to God's law. We have to know that our natural life is also a law. After Satan entered into man, the natural law within man became distorted. Either we do not love the Lord, or we expect that we can be a "saint." However, we should not expect too much. Instead, we should simply allow the grafted life to grow spontaneously according to its own law of life.

Once I planted a peach tree in my garden. Daily I waited for it to grow. For this reason, I trimmed it daily. But it still would not bear fruit. One day, an expert in gardening visited me. I asked him why my peach tree would not grow. He said, "It is because you have trimmed it too well. If

you will stop trimming it, it will bear fruit.” It is the same way with God’s life in us. I encourage you to love the Lord, to grow, and to be spiritual, but I would not encourage you to be quick. To be quick is not according to the law of life. If you are quick, you will fail through your quickness. For God to be life in us, everything is steady. He is not limited by time. I am a quick person. In doing everything, I want to be quick. But gradually, I discovered that God as life in me is not like this. He is not quick. After I was saved, I loved the Bible very much. Often I went to the Brethren meetings to meet with them. They knew the truth very well. One day, one of their leading brothers came to me and told me that God is never quick, and that He did everything slowly. God promised that Christ would come, and it was four thousand years later that Christ eventually came. He told Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed because of his seed. It was two thousand years later that this promise was fulfilled. God never does things quickly. There is only one thing that He did quickly, and that is in Luke 15 when He ran out to embrace the prodigal son. In receiving the sinner, God is very quick. In everything else, He is not quick.

Regeneration in the Spirit

Reading: *The Parts of Man*, ch. 2, sec. 1, par. 1

THE THREE STEPS OF THE LORD'S SALVATION REGENERATION IN THE SPIRIT

Since we are of three parts, the Lord in His salvation takes three steps to deal with us. These are: (1) regeneration in our spirit, (2) transformation in our soul, and (3) transfiguration in our body. With every part of our being, the Lord has a specific dealing. Our spirit is the innermost center of our whole being and our body is the circumference. Between the center and the circumference is the soul. The Lord starts His salvation from the center by regenerating us in our spirit (John 3:6). At the very moment we receive Christ as our Savior, the Spirit of the Lord comes into our spirit to regenerate us by imparting Christ into our spirit as life. By this divine act our deadened spirit is not only made alive, but the life of God with its divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4) is put into it. Thus, a change of life is begun from the very center of our being.

Transformation in the Soul

Ibid., par. 2

TRANSFORMATION IN THE SOUL

From the moment we are regenerated in our spirit, it is the Lord's desire that this change of life continue by spreading into our soul, that our mind, our emotion, and our will may all be transformed. Our spirit is regenerated and changed, but our mind, emotion, and will are not transformed and still remain the same. We have Christ as life in our spirit, but we do not have Christ in our soul. We need Christ to continually expand from our spirit into our soul till every part of our soul is transformed into His image (2 Cor. 3:18, ASV). Then we will think as He thinks, love as He loves, and choose as He chooses. We will have the likeness of the Lord in our practical life, because our soul is thoroughly saturated with His divine elements.

We may be regenerated in our spirit, yet not transformed in our soul. Our spirit is renewed, but our soul remains old. Our way of thinking, loving, and choosing may still be one hundred percent old. The Lord is in our spirit, but what about our soul? Thus, we need the renewing or the transformation of the soul.

The Triune God's Move Being for the Accomplishment of His Eternal Economy

Ibid., sec. 7, par. 2 13

TRANSFIGURATION IN THE BODY

In the way of His salvation, the Lord firstly regenerates us in our spirit that we may have Him within us as our life. Then He begins to transform us in our soul that He may saturate, fill, and possess our whole being. Thus, we may be transformed into His image to be His very expression even now while living on this earth. By His regeneration in our spirit we receive His divine life. By His transformation in our soul we grow in His life and eventually become mature in His life. Then at His coming back, He will transfigure us in our body.

Our spirit has been regenerated and our soul may be also fully transformed, yet our body still remains old. With all its physical weakness

and illnesses, it is under the power of death. It is still mortal and subject to infirmity and death. Though it may be quickened today by the Lord's Spirit that dwells in us (Rom. 8:11), yet it is a mortal body, subject to death and needing to be fully redeemed (Rom. 8:23). Today, by cooperating with Him in our spirit, we may experience the Lord's Spirit spreading His life-power into our body to quicken and even to saturate it to a certain degree. But regardless of how much it may be quickened and even saturated by the Lord's Spirit, it still requires the Lord's full redemption. This is why we often groan within ourselves. But, praise the Lord, when He comes back, He will transfigure this "body of humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of His glory" (Phil. 3:21, ASV). Then "we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2), not only in our spirit and in our soul, but also in our body. By that time we shall be in His full likeness both inwardly and outwardly, from the very center of our being to the full circumference, from our innermost spirit to our outermost body. That will be the ultimate consummation of the Lord's salvation. Thus, we will enjoy the Lord's redemption and salvation to the uttermost. Hallelujah! That is what we are now waiting and looking for (Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:20).