

**HWMR: THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST AND OUR GROWTH IN LIFE UNTO MATURITY
(Week 1)**

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:2, 9; 2:9-10; 13:1-8; Jer. 2:13; Lam. 3:22-24

**The Enjoyment of the All-inclusive Christ
as the Unique Solution to All Problems in the Church**

1 Corinthians 1:2	To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
1 Corinthians 1:9	God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 2:9	But as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man’s heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”
1 Corinthians 2:10	But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.
1 Corinthians 13:1	If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
1 Corinthians 13:2	And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
1 Corinthians 13:3	And if I dole out all my possessions to feed others, and if I deliver up my body that I may boast, but do not have love, I profit nothing.
1 Corinthians 13:4	Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;
1 Corinthians 13:5	It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
1 Corinthians 13:6	It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
1 Corinthians 13:7	It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
1 Corinthians 13:8	Love never falls away. But whether prophecies, they will be rendered useless; or tongues, they will cease; or knowledge, it will be rendered useless.
Jeremiah 2:13	For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.
Lamentations 3:22	It is Jehovah’s lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do not fail;
Lamentations 3:23	They are new every morning; / Great is Your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:24	Jehovah is my portion, says my soul; / Therefore I hope in Him.

Day 1

<i>1 Corinthians 1:2</i>	<i>- To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:</i>
<i>1 Corinthians 1:9</i>	<i>- God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.</i>

Day 2

<i>Philippians 3:14</i>	<i>- I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.</i>
<i>Philippians 2:2</i>	<i>- Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,</i>

I. First Corinthians is a book on the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ as the unique solution to all problems in the church; God's intention in His recovery is to recover Christ as the unique center of God's economy and as everything to us as **our portion for our enjoyment—1:2, 9, 24, 30:**

- A. We have all been called into the **fellowship**, the enjoyment, of Christ (v. 9); the word *fellowship* includes the thought of enjoyment; Christ is our **allotted portion** given to us by God **for our enjoyment** (v. 2; Col. 1:12).
- B. In 1 Corinthians the apostle Paul's intention was to solve the problems among the saints in Corinth; for all the problems, especially the matter of division, the **only solution is the enjoyment** of the all-inclusive Christ.
- C. We should concentrate on Christ, not on any persons, things, or matters other than Christ; we should **focus on Christ as our unique center** appointed by God so that all the problems among the believers may be solved—1:9; Col. 1:17b, 18b.
- D. Our goal is the **fullest enjoyment** of Christ and the **fullest gaining** of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ; this issues in our having the uttermost enjoyment of Christ as our prize in the millennial kingdom—Phil. 3:14; Matt. 25:21, 23.
- E. We need to be those who are thinking “the one thing”; *the one thing* in Philippians refers to the **subjective knowledge, experience, and enjoyment** of Christ; the one thing is the pursuing of Christ to gain Him and possess Him—2:2, 5; 1:20-21; 3:7-14; 4:13.
- F. To think something other than the one thing is to rebel against God's economy; God's economy is that we think the one thing; in the church life we need to help all the saints to think the one thing; our thoughts should be **focused** on and **filled** with the **enjoyment of Christ** for the church life, the Body life.
- G. First Corinthians reveals that God has given the all-inclusive Christ, with the riches of at least twenty items, to us as **our portion for our enjoyment**; the secret of the Christian life and the church life is for us to enjoy Christ—1:9:
 - 1. We need to enjoy Christ as the **portion** given to us by God—v. 2.
 - 2. We need to enjoy Christ as **God's power** and **God's wisdom** as **righteousness, sanctification, and redemption** to us—vv. 24, 30.
 - 3. We need to enjoy Christ as the **Lord of glory**, even as the **King of glory**, for our glorification—2:7-8; Rom. 8:30; Psa. 24:6-10.
 - 4. We need to enjoy Christ as the **depths** (deep things) of God—1 Cor. 2:10.
 - 5. We need to enjoy Christ as the **unique foundation** of God's building—3:11.
 - 6. We need to enjoy Christ as our **Passover** (5:7), the **unleavened bread** (v. 8), the **spiritual food**, the **spiritual drink**, and the **spiritual rock** (10:3-4).
 - 7. We need to enjoy Christ as the **Head** (11:3; Col. 2:19; Eph. 1:19-23) and the **Body** (1 Cor. 12:12, 24-25a; Eph. 4:15-16).
 - 8. We need to enjoy Christ as the **firstfruits** (1 Cor. 15:20, 23), the **second man** (v. 47), and the last Adam, who became the **life-giving Spirit** (v. 45), to be everything to us.

Day 3

Jeremiah 2:13 - *For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.*

John 4:14 - *But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.*

Colossians 1:12 says, “Giving thanks to the Father, Who qualified you for a share of the portion of the saints in the light.” All Christians know what God has redeemed us, but not many realize that He has also qualified us to **partake of Christ as the portion of the saints**. The word portion in Colossians 1:12 indicates enjoyment. Christ is the unique enjoyment for all the saints. **Nothing** should be allowed to replace Him as our portion. Things such as baptism, speaking in tongues, or healing must not replace Christ Himself. Only the living Person of Christ, not any doctrine or practice, is our portion.

Sometimes we say that we enjoy the meetings of the church. However, instead of saying that we enjoy the meetings, we should testify that we **enjoy Christ in the meetings**. There is a great difference between enjoying a meeting itself and enjoying Christ in a particular meeting. Certain saints may boast that the meetings in their locality are better than the meetings elsewhere. We must be very careful concerning this. Do not say that you enjoy the meetings in your place. In a sense, every locality should be lowered down in our estimation so that we may uplift Christ, our unique portion. The unique portion of the saints is not the church in any particular locality. **Our unique portion is Christ.** (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians, chapter 5*)

Day 4

Lamentations 3:22-24 - It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do not fail; They are new every morning; / Great is Your faithfulness. Jehovah is my portion, says my soul; / Therefore I hope in Him.

II. **God is faithful in calling us into the fellowship, into the enjoyment, of His Son, but many times we are unfaithful to His calling us into His intention—1:9; Jer. 2:13; Lam. 3:22-24:**

- A. God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to **dispense Himself into us for our satisfaction and enjoyment**; the goal of this enjoyment is to produce the church, God's counterpart, as God's increase, God's enlargement, to be God's fullness for His expression—John 3:29-30; Eph. 3:16-19, 21.
- B. The only way to take God as the fountain of living waters is to **drink of Him** and **flow Him out** day by day; this requires us to call on the Lord continually (with singing, thanking, rejoicing, praying, praising, and making God's saving deeds known to others)—Psa. 36:8-9; Isa. 12:3-6; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 7:37-39; 4:10, 14; Rom. 10:12-13; 1 Thes. 5:16-18.
- C. Instead of enjoying God by drinking of Him, God's people were **unfaithful** to Him by committing two evils—“My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water”—Jer. 2:13:
 1. First, God's people **forsook God** as their fountain, their source, for their enjoyment; second, they **turned to sources other than God** that could not satisfy them or make them the enlargement of God as His fullness for His expression.
 2. The **hewing out of cisterns** portrays Israel's toil in their human labor to make something (idols) **to replace God**; that the cisterns were broken and could hold no water indicates that apart from God dispensed into us as living water for our enjoyment, nothing can quench our thirst and make us God's increase for His expression—John 4:13-14.
- D. The **evil condition** of the wicked is that they do not come to the Lord to eat, drink, and enjoy the Lord; they do many things, but **they do not come to contact the Lord**, to take Him, to receive Him, to taste Him, and to enjoy Him; in the sight of God nothing is more evil than this—Isa. 57:20; cf. 55:1-2, 6-7.
- E. Although we are unfaithful, God is faithful, but His faithfulness is **not** according to our **natural understanding or concept**:
 1. **God is faithful to take away our idols**; anything within us that we love more than the Lord or that replaces the Lord in our life is an idol—Ezek. 14:3; 1 John 5:21.

2. The **outward peace in our environment**, our **personal comfort and ease**, and our **possessions** can become idols to us to lead us astray; but God is faithful to take these things away so that we may drink of Him as the fountain of living waters.
3. **God is faithful in allowing us** to have troubles so that we may learn not to trust in ourselves but in Him and so that He may lead us into His economy for us to enjoy Christ, to absorb Christ, to drink Christ, to eat Christ, and to assimilate Christ so that God may increase in us to fulfill His economy—Jer. 17:7-8; 2 Cor. 1:8-9; John 16:33; 1 Cor. 10:3-4; 12:13.
4. God is not interested in anything other than **our enjoyment of Christ**; we may think that because of our failure, we are hopeless, but with God there is no disappointment; our failure simply opens the way for Christ to come in to be everything to us, enabling Him to bring us on to maturity—Rom. 8:28-29; Heb. 6:1a; Gen. 37:1 and footnote; 47:7 and footnote.

As we have seen, 1 Corinthians tells us that we need to enjoy and partake of all the riches of Christ by calling, “O Lord Jesus.” In this way He becomes our power, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, the deep things of God, the foundation, the Passover, our spiritual food, spiritual drink, and spiritual rock, the Head, the firstfruits, the second man, the last Adam, the life-giving Spirit, the Body, and the Body-Christ. **The issue of this enjoyment of Christ is the church life.** The way to have the church life is not to receive doctrinal teachings and be corrected and adjusted in the way of organization. Organizing can produce a society, but it can never produce the Body. The **Body comes out of the enjoyment of Christ.** By our calling on this rich Christ, on the Lord who is rich to all, He enters into us, and we digest and assimilate Him so that He comes into every part of our being to be our organic element, even to become us. Books on nutrition tell us that we are what we eat. If we eat fish and chicken every day, we will eventually be constituted with fish and chicken. In the same way, if we eat Jesus, we will eventually become Him. Paul says, “To me, to live is Christ” (Phil. 1:21). To us, to live is Christ, because we eat Christ day by day and hour after hour. Eventually, we all become Christ. Since there is only one Jesus, **the more we eat Jesus and become Him, the more we will be in oneness.** In the church we are enjoying not only the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ.

Many good teachers have pointed out that in 1 Corinthians Christ is power, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, the deep things of God, the foundation, our Passover, our spiritual food, spiritual drink, and spiritual rock, and the Head. However, most teachers would not tell us that Christ is the life-giving Spirit or that He is the Body-Christ. We are enjoying Christ all the way from the power and wisdom of God to the firstfruits, the second man, the last Adam, the life-giving Spirit, and the Body. Moreover, the issue of the enjoyment of all the items of Christ is the Body-Christ. The Body-Christ comes out of the full enjoyment of the riches of Christ. To enjoy Christ as the power of God is wonderful, but it cannot compare with the enjoyment of Christ as the Body-Christ. To enjoy Christ as power is to enjoy Him in one aspect, but to enjoy Him as the Body-Christ is to enjoy Him in fullness. (*The Enjoyment of Christ for the Body in First Corinthians, chapter 3*)

Day 5

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 - *But as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man’s heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*

III. First Corinthians reveals that the way to enjoy the Lord is to **love Him (2:9-10; 16:22) and to **love one another** (13:1-8a); the Lord’s recovery is a recovery of loving the Lord Jesus with the first love (Rev. 2:4; 1 John 4:19) and of loving one another for the building up of the organic Body of Christ (Eph. 4:16):**

- A. Our **loving the Lord** is the indispensable requirement for enabling us to enter into His heart and apprehend all its secrets and for our realization of and participation in the deep and hidden things God has ordained and prepared for us—1 Cor. 2:9-10; Matt. 22:37-38; Psa. 73:25; 116:1-2:

1. The content of the church life depends on the **enjoyment of Christ**; the more we enjoy Him, the richer the content will be; but to enjoy Christ requires that we **love Him with the first love**—Rev. 2:4-5, 7.
2. The degradation of the church begins with our leaving the first love toward the Lord; to love the Lord with the first love, the best love, is to give the Lord the **preeminence**, the **first place**, in all things, being constrained by His love to regard and take Him as everything in our life—vv. 4-5; Col. 1:18b; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Mark 12:30; Psalms 73:25-26.
3. The very life that we received when we believed in the Lord Jesus is a **person**, and the only way to apply and enjoy this person is by **loving Him with the first love**; since the Lord Jesus as our life is a person, we need a new **contact** with Him to enjoy His present presence at this very moment and day by day—John 11:25; 14:5-6; 1 Tim. 1:14; John 14:21, 23; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rev. 2:4-7; Col. 1:18b; Rom. 6:4; 7:6.
4. We must be persons who are **flooded with the love of Christ**; the divine love should be like the rushing tide of great waters toward us, impelling us to live to Him and love Him to the uttermost beyond our own control—2 Cor. 5:14.
5. In order to love the Lord to the uttermost, we need to be those who **desire and seek to dwell in the house of God** all the days of our life, to behold His beauty (loveliness, pleasantness, delightfulness), and to inquire of God in His temple; to inquire of God is to check with God about everything in our daily life—Psalms 27:4.

Day 6

1 Corinthians 13:4 - Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

- B. **Love is the most excellent way** for us to be anything or do anything for the building up of the church as the organic Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:31b—13:8, 13; cf. 14:1, 3, 4b:
1. “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”; we may listen to the messages of the ministry and become **puffed up with mere knowledge**—8:1b; cf. 2 Cor. 3:6.
 2. When the law of the Spirit of life as the law of love (Rom. 8:2; Gal. 6:2-3) is activated within us, our labor in the Lord is a **labor of love** (1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Thes. 1:3), in which we support and sustain the weak (Acts 20:35; 1 Thes. 5:14); *the weak* refers to those who are weak either in their spirit or soul or body, or are weak in faith.
 3. The Christ whom we love is the **church-loving Christ** (Eph. 5:25); when we love Him, we will love the church as He does; the church life is a life of brotherly love (1 John 4:7-8; 2 John 5-6; John 15:12, 17; Rev. 3:7; Eph. 5:2; cf. Jude 12a), and the Body builds itself up in love (Eph. 4:16).
 4. Our God-given, regenerated spirit is a **spirit of love**; we need a **burning spirit of love** to conquer the degradation of today’s church—2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 12:10-11.
 5. Our love for one another is made real to us as we enter more and more into the experience and enjoyment of **being blended together for the oneness**, the building up, and the reality of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:14-27; Rom. 16:1-16; Col. 4:16; John 12:24; Lev. 2:4-5.

If we are not in the church, we lose the shepherding of Christ. Outside of the church, without the church, there is no way for Christ to shepherd us. This is because He is the Shepherd of the flock, and the flock is the church. To get out of the church is to get out of the flock, and the Shepherd is always with the flock.

To be in the church is an enjoyment. Without the church, I would not like to live on this earth. Without the church, I would not have any enjoyment. Many people like sinful and worldly amusements, so they have parties and go to clubs. We do not do this because the church is our “club,” the church is our “party,” the church is our amusement. The best place for our amusement is the church life. If we decide to stay home in the evening instead of coming to the church meeting, we will suffer loss. To avoid this suffering, we need to come to the church meetings. **In the church meetings, in God’s house, we can enjoy the divine goodness** (the grace of Christ) **and the divine kindness** (the love of God) **following us** (in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit) **all the days of our life.**

We human beings have to be social. If we are socializing in the wrong place, we will have trouble. The best place for us to be social is the church. The church is the proper society. Eventually, the church will consummate in the New Jerusalem where we will meet together for eternity. (*Life-Study of Psalms, chapter 11*)