

**HWMR: THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST AND OUR GROWTH IN LIFE UNTO MATURITY  
(Week 4)**

*Scripture Reading: Col. 1:18, 27-28; 2:2-3; 3:1-4*

**Knowing the All-inclusive Christ and Growing with the Growth of God**

Colossians 1:18	And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
Colossians 1:27	To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
Colossians 1:28	Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
Colossians 2:2	That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
Colossians 2:3	In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
Colossians 3:1	If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
Colossians 3:2	Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.
Colossians 3:3	For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
Colossians 3:4	When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

**Day 1**

<i>Colossians 1:18</i>	- And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
<i>Colossians 1:27</i>	- To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

**I. It is a blessing that we can **know** and **experience** the all-inclusive Christ as revealed in Colossians:**

- A. Christ is “the **Head** of the Body, the church;...that He Himself might have the **firstplace** in all things”—1:18:
  - 1. In both the old creation and the new creation, Christ is the **first** and **occupies the first place**.
  - 2. Both in the **universe** and in the **church**, Christ is the **preeminent One**.
- B. “Christ in you, the **hope of glory**”—v. 27:
  - 1. Christ, who **dwells in our spirit** to be our life and person, is our hope of glory.
  - 2. When He comes, **we will be glorified in Him**.
  - 3. This indicates that the indwelling Christ will **saturate our entire being** so that our physical body may be transfigured and conformed to the body of His glory.

**Day 2**

<i>Colossians 2:6</i>	- As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,
<i>Colossians 2:19</i>	- And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

- C. In Colossians a number of important phrases point to our **experience of Christ**:
1. "Christ in you"—v. 27.
  2. "Full-grown in Christ"—v. 28.
  3. "Walk in Him"—2:6.
  4. "According to Christ"—v. 8.
  5. "Made alive together with Him"—v. 13.
  6. "Died with Christ"—v. 20.
  7. "Holding the Head"—v. 19.
  8. "Out from whom"—v. 19.
  9. "Grows with the growth of God"—v. 19.
  10. These expressions give us a complete picture of the **proper experience** of Christ.

Now we come to the extremely important matter of how to receive Christ. Receiving Christ requires the **exercise of our spirit**. In order for a transistor radio to receive radio waves, the receiver must be working properly. Likewise, although it is good to improve our behavior, the important thing is that we tune, or adjust, our spirit. **Our spirit must be clean, open, and properly adjusted.**

The unique way to exercise our spirit is to **pray**. As we exercise our spirit in prayer, our aim should be to **contact the Lord**, not first to pray for certain people or things. Simply contact the Lord and allow Him to burden you to pray for certain ones. Do not go to the Lord with your mind filled with things to pray for. If you try to contact the Lord in this way, you will close your spirit. We should come to the Lord with a spirit **fully open, worshipping Him, praising Him, and thanking Him**. Then we shall know what to pray for, and we shall have much to utter to the Lord in prayer.

As we receive such a heavenly transmission from the Lord, we not only receive the riches of Christ, but we also **experience His fullness**. This means we are filled to the brim. The fullness is related to the riches. However, we may have the riches without the fullness. Whether or not the riches of Christ become the fullness to us depends on whether or not we are filled with these riches to the limit of our capacity. If the riches exceed the demand, the riches are the fullness. But if they are less than the demand, they obviously are not the fullness. **The riches of Christ, being universally extensive, are never less than the demand.** Whatever may be our capacity to receive, the riches of Christ will exceed our capacity. The riches are always able to fill us to overflowing. A certain man may be very rich, even a billionaire. But if his wealth is only sufficient to give one dollar to every person on earth, his riches cannot be regarded as fullness. He does not have sufficient riches to make everyone abundantly wealthy. The riches of Christ, however, are universally extensive. They are sufficient to fill everyone to his capacity. (*Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 48*)

### Day 3

**Colossians 2:2-3** - *That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ, In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.*

### Day 4

**Colossians 3:1-4** - *If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.*

11. “The mystery of God, Christ, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden”—vv. 2-3:
  - a. Colossians concerns the **mystery of God**, which is **Christ the Head**.
  - b. All the treasures of genuine wisdom and knowledge are **hidden in Christ**—v. 3.
  - c. This is the spiritual wisdom and knowledge of the divine economy concerning Christ and the church.
  - d. **Wisdom** is related to our **spirit**, and **knowledge** is related to our **mind**—Eph. 1:8, 17.
12. “In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you have been made full in Him”—Col. 2:9-10:
  - a. What dwells in Christ is not only the riches of the Godhead but the **expression** of the riches of what God is.
  - b. All the fullness of the Godhead **dwells in Christ** as One who has a human body.
- D. “If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God”—3:1:
  1. Verses 1 through 4 imply that **with** Christ we have **one** position, **one** life, **one** living, **one** destiny, and **one** glory.
  2. God in the heavens should be the **sphere of our living**; with Christ we should **live in God**.

#### Day 5

*Colossians 2:7* - Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

*Colossians 2:19* - And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

### II. “Holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied..., **grows with the growth of God**”—2:19:

- A. To grow is to have **Christ added into us**—1 Cor. 3:6-7; Gal. 4:19.
- B. The growth of the Body depends on **what comes out of Christ** as the Head—Eph. 4:15-16:
  1. When the Body is **supplied** by holding the Head, the Body grows with the growth of God—Col. 2:19.
  2. The Body grows out from the Head, for **all the supply comes from the Head**—Eph. 4:15.

#### Day 6

*Ephesians 4:11-12* - And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

*Ephesians 4:15-16* - But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- C. The growth of the Body depends on the **growth** of God, the **addition** of God, the **increase** of God, within us—Col. 2:19:
  1. God gives the growth by **giving Himself** to us in a **subjective** way.

2. The **more God is added** into us, the **more growth** He gives to us; this is the way God gives the growth—1 Cor. 3:6-7.
  3. **Only God** can give growth; **only God** can give us Himself, and without Him, we cannot have growth—vv. 6-7:
    - a. The addition of God into us is the **growth He gives**.
    - b. For God to give us growth actually means that **He gives us Himself**—Rom. 8:11.
- D. The **growth** of the Body is the **building up** of the Body—Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19:
1. Ephesians 4:12-16 occupies a special place in the New Testament because it shows the mystery concerning the **building up of the Body of Christ**.
  2. The growth of the Body of Christ is the **increase of Christ** in the church, which results in the **building up of the Body** by the Body itself—3:17a:
    - a. When Christ enters into the saints and lives within them, the **Christ within** the saints **becomes the church**—Col. 3:10-11.
    - b. The Body of Christ **grows by the growth of Christ** within us and is built up this way—1:18; 2:19.
  3. The love in which the Body builds itself up is not our own love but the **love of God in Christ**, which becomes the love of Christ in us, by which we love Christ and the fellow members of His Body—1 John 4:7-8, 11, 16, 19; Rom. 5:5; 8:39:
    - a. Love is the inner substance of God; when we enter into God's inner substance, we **enjoy God as love** and **enjoy His presence** in the sweetness of the divine love, and thereby love others as Christ did—Eph. 5:25.
    - b. It is in such a love that we **hold to truth**, that is, to Christ with His Body, and are kept from being influenced by the winds of teaching and from bringing in elements that are foreign to the Body—4:14-15.

As we **enjoy** Christ and **hold** Him as the Head, we **absorb His riches**. According to Colossians 2:19, something proceeds out from the Head which causes the **Body to grow with the growth of God**. When we enjoy Christ in the heavens and in our spirit, we hold the Head and absorb His riches. Then out from the Head something will proceed to produce the growth of God in us. This means that more of the element of God is added into our being and thereby into the Body. This causes the Body to grow with the growth, the increase, of God.

As we hold the Head, we absorb the riches of the extensive, all-inclusive Christ. These riches are the elements of God, the very elements that proceed out from the Head and **become in us the increase of God by which the Body grows**. Eventually, the Body will be the one new man in which Christ is all and in all. Because Christ is the unique constituent of the new man, He is every member of the new man and in every member.

To hold Christ as the Head is to **enjoy Him continually**, to **be in the heavens**, and to **remain in our spirit**. Through holding Christ as the Head, we become conscious of the Body. Experiencing the Body life, we absorb the riches out from the Head. These riches are the very elements of God which become in the members of the Body the increase of God by which the whole Body grows. Therefore, the growth of the Body is the product of enjoying Christ, holding Him as the Head, and absorbing His riches. (*Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 56*)