LABORING ON THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST TYPIFIED BY THE GOOD LAND FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, FOR THE REALITY AND THE MANIFESTATION OF THE KINGDOM, AND FOR THE BRIDE TO MAKE HERSELF READY FOR THE LORD'S COMING

KEY STATEMENTS

In order to understand the significance of the Israelites entering Canaan and the warfare in Canaan, we need to know that Canaan has a twofold significance in typology: on the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches, typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches; on the negative side, Canaan signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan, the heavenlies that are full of Satan's forces.

In order to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must beware of having an evil heart of unbelief; we must exercise our spirit of faith and keep our heart turned to the Lord to believe wholeheartedly in His promises, to believe that He is with His people, and to believe that we are well able to overcome.

The people of Israel put aside a certain portion of their produce from the labor on the good land for the purpose of worshipping God; if we faithfully labor on the all-inclusive Christ, we will have the riches of Christ as the produce to exhibit in the church and have a surplus of Christ to bring to the church meetings for the corporate worship of God in spirit and in truthfulness.

The living word of God must pierce into our being and deliver us from our wondering mind and wandering soul into Christ as the Sabbath rest in our spirit; we should not be those who stagger in the wandering of our soul, but we need to deny the soul and press on into our spirit to partake of and enjoy the heavenly Christ so that we might participate in the kingdom rest of His reign in the millennium.

HWMR: LABORING ON THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST TYPIFIED BY THE GOOD LAND FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, FOR THE REALITY AND THE MANIFESTATION OF THE KINGDOM, AND FOR THE BRIDE TO MAKE HERSELF READY FOR THE LORD'S COMING (Week 6)

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:12; 2:6-15, 19; Deut. 8:9; Gen. 17:1; Phil. 1:19

Experiencing and Enjoying the All-inclusive Christ as the Good Land— a Land in Which We Do Not Lack Anything

Colossians 1:12	Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
Colossians 2:6	As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,
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 2:8	Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;
Colossians 2:9	For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
Colossians 2:10	And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.
Colossians 2:11	In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,
Colossians 2:12	Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.
Colossians 2:13	And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;
Colossians 2:14	Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.
Colossians 2:15	Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
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.
Deuteronomy 8:9	A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
Genesis 17:1	And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Jehovah appeared to Abram and said to him, I am the All-sufficient God; / Walk before Me, and be perfect.
Philippians 1:19	For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Day 1

Colossians 1:12 - Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- *Isiah 2:5* House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of Jehovah.
- I. Christ as the preeminent and all-inclusive One is the allotted portion of the saints in the light for our experience and enjoyment—Col. 1:12:
 - A. The allotted portion refers to the lot of the inheritance, as illustrated by the allotment of the good land of Canaan given to the children of Israel for their inheritance—Josh. 14:1.
 - B. The New Testament believers' allotted portion is not a physical land; it is the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit—Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 3:14:
 - 1. The riches of the good land typify the unsearchable riches of Christ in different aspects as the bountiful supply to His believers in His Spirit—Deut. 8:7-10; Eph. 3:8; Phil. 1:19.
 - 2. By enjoying the riches of the land, the believers in Christ are built up to be Christ's Body as the house of God and the kingdom of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17.
 - C. We must be *in the light* in order to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ as the good land; light is the presence of God—Col. 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:9; Isa. 2:5; 1 John 1:5:
 - 1. God is light—v. 5.
 - 2. The word of God is light—Psa. 119:105, 130.
 - 3. Christ is light— John 8:12; 9:5.
 - 4. The life of Christ is light—1:4.
 - 5. The believers are light—Matt. 5:14; Phil. 2:15.
 - 6. The church is a lampstand shining with light—Rev. 1:20; Psa. 73:16-17.

The only way to partake of Christ and to enjoy Him is in the light. God and Christ are light. When we turn to the Lord and come into His presence, we are in the light and spontaneously begin to enjoy Him as our portion.

No matter what kind of disposition we may have, we have one weakness in common: we all like to argue. But whenever we argue, we are brought into darkness. Because we are not in the light, we cannot enjoy Christ as our portion. After arguing, we need to repent and make a thorough confession to the Lord. Through repentance and confession we are brought back to the light and to Christ as our portion. If we are in darkness because of arguing with someone, we cannot enjoy Christ. We may come to the meetings, but we have no enjoyment of Christ, because we are not in the light. Christ cannot be our portion in darkness. He can only be our passover. However, even for Christ to be our passover requires that we repent and confess. If we would enjoy Christ as our portion, we cannot stay in Egypt in darkness, but must turn wholly to God.

We need to have more and more contact with the Lord. We need to read His Word with an unveiled face and an open heart. As we fellowship with the Lord and follow the inner anointing, we shall experience Him as the life within us in a practical way. This life is the light. If we follow the inner anointing, we shall be in light. We are also brought into the light by fellowshipping with others in a genuine way. In fellowship there is the shining of light. Moreover, we need to be in the church life and attend the meetings, for in the church and in the meetings we are in the light. In the meetings of the church we often have the sense deep within that we are in the light enjoying Christ as our portion. All these are means by which we may be in the light to enjoy Christ as the portion of the saints. (*Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 7*)

- 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. Colossians 2:6-7 reveals that Christ as the good land, a land in which we do not lack anything (Deut. 8:9), is the rich soil in which we have been rooted so that we may grow with the elements that we absorb from the soil (Eph. 3:17b):
 - A. God is the real Farmer, and Paul was one of His co-workers (1 Cor. 3:6-9; 2 Cor. 6:1a); Paul planted the believers into Christ as the soil.
 - B. Day by day we need to take time to absorb Christ, the One into whom we have been planted; we must take time to enjoy the Lord as the all-inclusive land so that all the elements of Christ as the rich soil may be absorbed into us for us to be made full in Him in our experience—Col. 2:10a; 4:2:
 - 1. If we would absorb the riches of Christ as the soil, we need to have tender, new roots—2 Kings 19:30; Isa. 37:31; Jer. 17:7-8; cf. Mark 4:16-17; 2 Cor. 4:16.
 - 2. We need to forget our situation, our condition, our failures, and our weaknesses and simply take time to absorb the Lord; as we take time to absorb Him, we grow with the growth of God in us for the building up of the Body of Christ—Luke 8:13; Matt. 14:22-23; 6:6; Col. 2:7a, 19.
 - C. Our contact with the Lord should not be rushed; we must exercise our spirit to stay in the Lord's presence to absorb Him; we must spend more time to absorb the Lord—to adore Him, to praise Him, to offer thanks to Him, and to speak to Him freely—Psa. 27:4; Exo. 33:11, 14; Matt. 6:6; 14:22-23; Mark 1:35; cf. Eph. 4:20-21.
 - D. The growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the increase of God, within us in a very subjective way; the growth of the Body is the growth of God's building; the actual building of the church is by the believers' growth in life—Col. 2:19; Eph. 2:20-22; 4:16.

Both the growth and the building depend on being rooted. This is why Paul uses the perfect tense to say "having been rooted." Christ, the good land, is the portion, the allotment, of the saints. As the good land, He Himself is the rich, fertile soil. Having been rooted in Him, we must daily absorb the rich nourishment of Christ into us to be the element that causes us to grow. All day long tender roots should absorb the riches of Christ as the soil. The more we absorb these riches, the more we shall be saturated by Christ and organically replaced by Him. This is to grow and to be built up in Christ.

First, we grow individually, then corporately. Individual growth becomes corporate growth. Hence, not only are the members built up individually, but the Body is built up corporately. Our physical bodies illustrate this. Your body is built up through the growth of the individual members. If the members do not grow, the body cannot grow. Without growing, the members of the body cannot build themselves up. This would make it impossible for the body as a whole to be built up. Therefore, the building of the body depends on the building up of the individual members of the body. If all the members grow and build themselves up individually, the body will be built up corporately.

After a church has been in a locality for a certain period of time, friction may develop between the saints, even among the leading ones. How can the church be built up if there is such friction? Along with the friction, there must also be growth. This growth will nullify the effect of the friction. I can testify that throughout the years in the church life, there has been considerable friction caused by the enemy. But the growth in Christ has canceled out all this friction. Therefore, we can be happy together and truly one. The shortages among us are filled by the riches of Christ. Then we grow both individually and corporately. This is the genuine building of the church. The building up of the church is based upon the building up of the individual members. Furthermore, the building of the members depends on their growth, which, in turn, depends upon being rooted in Christ and absorbing the riches of Christ to become the very element with which the members grow. (*Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 52*)

Colossians 2:9-10 - For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.

- III. Colossians 2:8-15 presents a full description and definition of Christ as the soil, in which we do not lack anything; as we take time to absorb Him as the all-inclusive land, the facts in these verses become our experience; the facts are in Christ, and the experience is by Christ and with Christ:
 - A. Christ as the soil is the One in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily—v. 9:
 - 1. *Fullness* refers not to the riches of God but to the expression of the riches of God; what dwells in Christ is not only the riches of the Godhead but the expression of the riches of what God is—v. 9; 1:15, 18; 3:10-11.
 - 2. When we are rooted in Christ as the soil, we are made full in Him; we are filled up with all the divine riches to become His expression—Eph. 3:8, 19.
 - 3. In Christ as the soil we are filled, completed, perfected, satisfied, and thoroughly supplied; we do not lack anything—cf. Phil. 1:19.
 - B. Christ as the soil is the Head of all rule and authority—Col. 2:10.
 - C. In Christ as the soil there is the killing power, which puts the flesh to death—v. 11.
 - D. In Christ as the soil there is an element that causes us to be buried—v. 12a.
 - E. In Christ as the soil there is an element that causes us to be raised up—v. 12b.
 - F. In Christ as the soil there is an element that vivifies us—v. 13.
 - G. In Christ as the soil there is the wiping out of the handwriting in ordinances—v. 14.
 - H. In Christ as the soil there is the victory over the evil spirits in the atmosphere—v. 15.

Every morning we need to take an adequate amount of time to absorb the Lord. Although even ten minutes is good, it is best to spend thirty minutes to enjoy Him at the start of each new day. If you spend thirty minutes to absorb the Lord and to enjoy Him in the morning, you will not be bothered by negative things during the day. The "flies" and "scorpions" will not pester you, for the elements in the soil will repel them. However, if you fail to absorb the Lord in the morning, you are apt to be troubled by "flies" and "scorpions." Many saints can testify that absorbing the Lord in the morning supplies them with the best insect repellent. However, we should spend time with the Lord not only in the morning but also throughout the day. If we have a good time with the Lord in the morning, afternoon, and evening, not only shall we be supplied with the most effective pest control, we shall also enjoy a feast. However, if we are not faithful to take time to absorb the Lord, our condition will gradually deteriorate. Our experience confirms this. Let us turn from our thought, emotion, and intention and open ourselves to the Lord, exercising our spirit to say, "O Lord Jesus, I love You, I worship You, and I adore You. Lord, I give myself to You. I give You my heart and everything concerning this day." As you contact the Lord in this way, do not be hurried. Take time, the more the better. As you spend time contacting the Lord, spontaneously you will absorb into you the riches of the soil. The fullness, the circumcision, the burial, the raising up, the imparting of life, the wiping out of the ordinances, and the stripping off of the authorities will be yours. All these facts in the book of Colossians will become your experience. (Life-Study of Colossians, chapter 53)

Day 5

- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- 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.

- IV. Furthermore, Christ as the soil is the history and mystery of God with all the riches of His person and processes—v. 2:
 - A. Christ is God— John 1:1; 20:28-29; Isa. 9:6; John 14:9-10; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Acts 2:36.
 - B. Christ is man—1 Tim. 2:5:
 - 1. He is the Apostle—Heb. 3:1.
 - 2. He is the Prophet—Acts 3:22-23.
 - 3. He is the Counselor—Isa. 9:6.
 - 4. He is the Teacher—Matt. 23:8, 10.
 - 5. He is the Leader—Heb. 2:10.
 - 6. He is the Master—Luke 5:5.
 - 7. He is the Slave—Isa. 42:1.
 - 8. He is the Shepherd—John 10:11.
 - 9. He is the Witness—Rev. 1:5.
 - 10. He is the **Priest**—Heb. 7:25-26.
 - 11. He is the Mediator—8:6.
 - 12. He is the surety—7:22.
 - 13. He is the King—Matt. 2:2.
 - 14. He is the Bridegroom— John 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2.
 - C. Christ is our necessities— John 14:6:
 - 1. He is our light—8:12.
 - 2. He is our air—20:22.
 - 3. He is our water— 4:14.
 - 4. He is our food—6:35.
 - 5. He is our clothing—Gal. 3:27.
 - 6. He is our lodging—John 15:5.
 - 7. He is our enjoyment and rest—Col. 2:16-17; Matt. 11:28.

- 1 Corinthians 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
 - D. Christ is our divine provision—1 Cor. 1:30:
 - 1. He is our power—v. 24b.
 - 2. He is our wisdom—vv. 24b, 30b.
 - 3. He is our righteousness—v. 30b.
 - 4. He is our sanctification—v. 30b.
 - 5. He is our redemption—v. 30b.
 - E. Christ is to the church:
 - 1. He is the Head of the Body—Col. 1:18.
 - 2. He is the Body of the Head—1 Cor. 12:12.
 - 3. He is the foundation of the church—3:11.
 - 4. He is the cornerstone of the house of God, the church—Eph. 2:20.
 - 5. He is all the members of the new man—Col. 3:10-11.

V. Christ as our allotted portion, our unsearchably rich good land in which we do not lack anything, is our All-sufficient God and the great I Am, whom we can experience and enjoy day by day; what He is meets our every need in order to meet His need for the building up of His church as His Body and the preparation of His church as His bride for His coming back—1:12; Deut. 8:9; Gen. 17:1; Phil. 1:19; John 8:58; Heb. 11:6; Matt. 16:18; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2.

In Christ we do not lack anything. We should not talk about how much we lack. Because we are in Christ, we lack nothing. In Him is the fullness, the perfection, the completion. Actually, He Himself is the fullness, perfection, and completion. Because we are in Him, we also are complete and perfect. We are those who possess the riches of Christ.

Before we were rooted in Christ as the good land, we did not have anything positive. Instead, we were involved with the flesh, the ordinances, and the power of darkness. But now that we have been rooted in the good land, the fullness has become ours, and we are supplied with every positive thing. In this all-inclusive and extensive fullness, we have everything: God, an uplifted humanity, divine attributes, and human virtues. Because this fullness is all-inclusive, it accomplishes everything for us, it fully satisfies and supplies us, and it makes us full, perfect, and complete. How rich is the soil in which we have been rooted! It supplies us with everything, and we have no lack. We have the all-inclusive, inexhaustible fullness. In this universe there is such a thing that Paul calls the fullness. This fullness dwells in Christ bodily. In Him, the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead, we are made full.

In Christ, on the one hand, we have been made full, and, on the other hand, we have been circumcised. Because we have been made full in Him, we are short of nothing. Because we have been circumcised in Him, all the negative things have been removed. Regarding the positive things, we are complete. Regarding the negative things, everything has been cleared up, and we have no problems. Therefore, regarding the positive things, we are not short of anything, and regarding the negative things, we are no longer troubled by anything. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ, Volume 2, chapter 355*)