

EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (1)

KEY STATEMENTS

Christ came to minister as a
Physician to heal, recover,
enliven, and save us
that we might be reconstituted to be His new and heavenly
citizens, with whom He could establish His heavenly
kingdom
on this corrupted earth.

We need to know, experience, and testify
that the kingdom of God is the power to subdue
rebellion and is the transfiguration of the Lord
Jesus.

Christ as the Word of God speaks
for God through His becoming
the ladder
that brings heaven (God) to earth
(man) and joins earth (man) to
heaven (God) as one for
God's building.

Even as the Divine Trinity is the
framework of the entire New
Testament,
so the Divine Trinity is the structure of the book of
Acts; chapter after chapter of Acts
unveils the operation of the Divine Trinity
for the carrying out of God's New Testament economy.

HWMR: EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (Week 2)

Scripture Reading: Matt. 9:20-22, 36; 11:28-30; 13:3, 18-23

Christ as the One with the Heavenly-ruled Deeds, Our Shepherd, Our Rest, and the Sower

- Matthew 9:20** And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years approached from behind and touched the fringe of His garment,
- Matthew 9:21** For she said within herself, If only I touch His garment, I will be healed.
- Matthew 9:22** And Jesus, turning and seeing her, said, Take courage, daughter; your faith has healed you. And the woman was healed from that hour.
- Matthew 9:36** And seeing the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and cast away like sheep not having a shepherd.
- Matthew 11:28** Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Matthew 11:29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Matthew 11:30** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
- Matthew 13:3** And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.
- Matthew 13:18** You therefore hear the parable of the one who sowed.
- Matthew 13:19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way.
- Matthew 13:20** And the one sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
- Matthew 13:21** Yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled.
- Matthew 13:22** And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- Matthew 13:23** But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

Day 1

Matthew 9:20-22 - *And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years approached from behind and touched the fringe of His garment, For she said within herself, If only I touch His garment, I will be healed. And Jesus, turning and seeing her, said, Take courage, daughter; your faith has healed you. And the woman was healed from that hour.*

I. Christ is revealed as the One with the heavenly-ruled deed – the fringe of His garment

❖ **The One with Heavenly-ruled Deeds—the Fringe of His Garment**

- In **Matthew 9:20-22** Christ is revealed as the One with **heavenly-ruled deeds**—the fringe of His garment.
- According to **Numbers 15:38-40**
 - Israelite males had to wear a blue fringe on their garments, a ribbon in the color of blue.
 - Blue signifies **heavenliness**.
 - This meant that their lives, their walk, were restricted by a **heavenly limitation**.
 - They were **ruled**, **governed**, and **restricted** by heavenly regulations.

- The Lord's garments signify His **perfect behavior in His humanity**, His human virtuous perfection.
 - As a pleasant person, Christ is not only
 - the Forgiver
 - the Physician
 - the Bridegroom
 - the unshrunk cloth for making new garment
 - new wine
 - He is also the **One with healing power** in the beauty of His human virtues.
- The **more we contact** Him in prayer, the more we are **healed**.
 - This healing is a matter of **transformation**.
 - In this healing power there is a transforming element that changes our character.
- The Significance of the Woman's Disease
 - Her **disease** signifies the **leaking out of life**.
 - The **flow of blood** signifies the **leaking out of the life essence**
 - As fallen sinners, we **all** are afflicted with the leaking out of our life essence.
 - If you consider today's society, you will realize that with every sinful person there is the illness of the leaking out of the life essence.

✚ Out of Christ's heavenly-ruled deeds comes the virtue that becomes the healing power
 ✚ To touch the fringe of the Lord's garment was to touch the Lord Himself in His humanity, in whom God was embodied.
 ✚ Today the faith through which we are healed is the faith that is infused into us by Christ's attractiveness.

Day 2

Psalms 23:1-3 - Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; / He leads me beside waters of rest. He restores my soul; / He guides me on the paths of righteousness / For His name's sake.

II. The Lord Jesus is our Shepherd, and we are His sheep

❖ The Shepherd

- **Matthew 9:36** *Seeing the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and cast away like sheep not having a shepherd.*
 - The Lord Jesus considered the people as **sheep** and Himself as the **Shepherd**.
 - As such a Shepherd, the Lord Jesus did miracles to **take care of the needy ones**.
 - As a minister of the Lord, we should learn how to be **concerned for the needy ones**.
- (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 2790-2791)
- Christ's shepherding of us is in five stages
 - The **first** stage is of the **pastures and the waters of rest**.
 - The **second** stage is the stage of the **paths of righteousness**.
 - The **third** stage is the **valley of the shadow of death**.
 - The **fourth** stage is the **battlefield**.
 - The **last** stage is to **dwell in the house of God** all the days of our life

- The resurrected Christ **shepherds us** first in the initial stage of enjoyment in **green pastures**.
 - Because He is our Shepherd, we will **lack nothing**.
 - When Peter said that he did love the Lord, the Lord charged him to **feed His lambs**
 - We need to be like nursing mothers to **cherish** and **feed** the little ones under our care.
- He also leads us to **waters of rest**.
 - The **Spirit** is the restful waters.
 - When we go to take care of the new ones, we must not only feed them with Christ but also help them **to drink of the Spirit**.
 - We must help them to call on the name of the Lord and to pray.
- **Psalm 23:3** says, “*He restores my soul; / He guides me on the **paths of righteousness** / For His name’s sake.*”
 - To restore our soul is to **revive** us.
 - Restoring also includes **renewing** and **transforming**.
- He **guides us** (to walk according to the spirit) on the paths of righteousness (to fulfill the requirement of righteousness).

✚ We should not do things according to our soul, because it is full of opinions. Instead, we should do things according to our spirit. When we walk according to the spirit, we fulfill the righteous requirement of the law.

(Life-study of Psalms, chapter 11)

Day 3

Psalm 23:4-6 - *Even though I walk / Through the valley of the shadow of death, / I do not fear evil, / For You are with me; / Your rod and Your staff, / They comfort me. You spread a table before me / In the presence of my adversaries; / You anoint my head with oil; / My cup runs over. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me / All the days of my life, / And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah / For the length of my days.*

❖ The Third Stage of the Experience of the Presence of the Resurrected Pneumatic Christ through the **Valley of the Shadow of Death**

- Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we do not fear evil, for the **pneumatic Christ is with us**
 - This means that we experience **His presence**.
 - His presence is a comfort, a rescue, and a sustaining power to us when we are walking in the valley of the shadow of death.
- The best way is for us to **forget** that we are in the valley, because we have the Lord with us.

❖ The Fourth Stage of the Deeper and Higher Enjoyment of the Resurrected Christ

- Every Lord’s Day when we come to His table to take the feast, it is always in the **presence of our adversaries**.
 - On the one hand, we **enjoy** the feast of the Lord.
 - On the other hand, we should **fight** for the victory.

❖ The Fifth Stage of the Lifelong Enjoyment of the Divine Goodness and Kindness in the House of Jehovah

- **Psalm 23:6** speaks of the fifth stage of the lifelong enjoyment of the divine goodness and kindness in the **house of Jehovah**.
 - **Goodness** refers to the **grace of Christ**.
 - **Kindness** refers to the **love of the Father**.
 - **Follow** refers to the **fellowship of the Spirit**.
- The grace of the Son, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit are **with us**.

✚ Our resting in the Lord will shorten the valley, reduce the shadow, and remove the death.
✚ We need to fight the battle in the Lord all week long before we come to the Lord's table. Then we will be able to have a rich enjoyment of the Lord as our feast at His table.
✚ This enjoyment will usher us into the house of God. We will dwell in the house of Jehovah (the church and the New Jerusalem) for the length of our days (in the present age and in the coming age and in eternity).

(Life-Study of the Psalms, chapter 11)

Day 4

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

III. The Lord Jesus is our rest

❖ Rest

- Christ is **rest**.
- Taking Christ as our wisdom needs to be balanced by taking Him as our rest.
- **Matthew 11:28** Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you **rest**
 - The **toil** mentioned in this verse refers
 - not only to the toil of **striving to keep the commandments** of the law and religious regulations
 - but also to the toil of **struggling to be successful in any work**.
 - **Rest** refers
 - not only to being **set free** from the toil and burden under the law and religion or under any work and responsibility
 - but also to **perfect peace** and **full satisfaction**.
- In **Matthew 11:29** the Lord Jesus gives us the way to rest: "Take My **yoke** upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls."
 - The **Lord's** yoke, His way of living, is a **rest**.
 - but **our** yoke is a **burden**.
- The Lord's yoke is to **take the will of the Father**.
- The Lord Jesus lived such a life, caring for nothing but the will of His Father.
 - He **submitted** Himself **fully** to the Father's will.
 - He asks us to **learn from Him**.
 - To learn from Him is **not to imitate** Him outwardly but to **copy the Lord in our spirit** by taking His yoke—God's will

(The rest we find by taking the Lord's yoke and learning from Him is for our souls., chapter 269)

- God's will is our yoke.
 - In the Lord's recovery we all **have been** yoked.
 - Such a yoke is **easy**, not bitter.
 - Such a burden is **light**, not heavy.
 - Thus, we are not free to do as we please; rather, we are yoked.
- In **Matthew 11:29** the Lord told us to **learn from Him**.
 - To be **meek**, or gentle, means **not to resist** any opposition.
 - Throughout all the opposition the Lord was meek.
 - To be **lowly** means **not to esteem** oneself highly.
 - throughout all the rejection He was lowly in heart.

✦ Christ, the heavenly King, always submitted to the Father's will, taking God's will as His portion and not resisting anything. Hence, He was always at rest. We must learn of Him and also take this view. If we do, we will have rest in our souls.

(Life-Study of Matthew, chapter 31)

Day 5

Matthew 13:3 - And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

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.

IV. The Sower is the wonderful person of the Lord Jesus, and the seed sown is also the Lord Himself as the embodiment of the Triune God

❖ The Sower

- As the **Sower**, the Lord Jesus was the **Distributor of the divine life**.
 - In teaching the truth and in preaching the gospel, He was a Sower, and His life was a **life of sowing**.
- Sowing Himself as the seed of life **into us**.
 - Christ has **sown Himself** as the seed of life **into us**.
 - So that He may **live** in us, **grow** in us, and be **expressed** from within us.
 - **Christ** is the seed signified by the **word**.
 - **We**, the chosen ones of God, are the **soil**.

(The Conclusion of the New Testament: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ, Volume 1, chapter 270)

- Christ's sowing Himself as the seed into us as the soil for God's building
 - **Christ** is the **seed**.
 - **We** are the **soil** with the nutrients for the growth of the seed.
 - The Christ who has sown Himself into us is now doing a particular work in us.
 - The work of **making His home** in our inner being, in our hearts.

- ✚ The Body of Christ in reality is a plant growing out of Christ as the life seed into the human heart as the growing earth.
- ✚ God is working Himself in Christ into us to make a house not only for us but to us. This house will be both God's house and our house, a mutual abode.
- ✚ Our need today is not merely to be holy, spiritual, and overcoming. Our need is for God to carry out His building work within us.

Day 6

Ephesians 3:16-17 - That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

- Christ Making His Home in Our Hearts
 - In **Ephesians 3:16-17** Paul prayed to the Father, saying, “*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, that Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith.*”
 - The words *that Christ may make His home* are a strong indication that He is doing a work of building **in us**.
- Materials for the Building
 - On the one hand, this material is **Christ Himself** as the element.
 - On the other hand, this material includes something **from us** with our humanity.
 - In **John 14:23** the Lord Jesus said, “*If anyone loves Me,...My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an **abode** with him.*”
 - The words make an **abode** in this verse equal make His **home** in **Ephesians 3:17**.
- The Seed and the Soil with Its Nutrients
 - Here we see an important spiritual principle.
 - In order to grow, the seed must be **sown into good soil**.
 - If the seed were sown into sand or among stones, it would not grow.
 - Because neither sand nor stone can supply the necessary nutrients.
 - In **Matthew 13** the seed is divinity, and the soil with its nutrients is humanity.
 - The rate at which the seed grows within us depends on the **nutrients afforded by us**.
 - The **more** nutrients we supply, the **faster** the seed will grow and the more it will flourish.
 - Growth equals building.
- Our Need to Be Strengthened into Our Inner Man
 - If we **remain** in our soul, in our natural man,
 - there will **not** be any nutrients for the growth of the divine seed.
 - If we are **strengthened** into our inner man and if we pay attention to our spirit and exercise our spirit,
 - the nutrients **will be** supplied.

✚ On the one hand, God strengthens us with Himself as the element, and on the other hand, we afford the nutrients. Through these two God in Christ carries out His intrinsic building—the building of His home—in our entire being.