

## **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 3)**

*Scripture Reading: Reading: Matt. 28:16-20*

**Discipling All the Nations by Baptizing Them  
into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**

- Matthew 28:16** And the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus directed them.
- Matthew 28:17** And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him, though some doubted.
- Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Matthew 28:20** Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.

**Day 1**

- Matthew 28:18** - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Ephesians 1:20** - Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
- 2 Corinthians 13:10** - 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. “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”—Matt. 28:18**

- **Spiritual Authority**
  - Spiritual authority does not mean anything official but something in **life**.
  - Since the authority is not official, there is **no** rank or position. Anything that is not official is not positional.
- **The Leading Ones**
  - **Hebrews 13:17**: “*Obey the ones leading you and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not groaning; for this would be unprofitable to you.*”
    - This verse tells us to **obey** the ones **leading** us, **not ruling** us.
    - We **obey** their **leading**, **not their authority**.

*(Elders' Training, Book 4: Other Crucial Matters concerning the Practice of the Lord's Recovery, chapter 8)*

- **Declaring That All Authority Has Been Given to Him in Heaven and on Earth**
  - **Matthew 28:18** says, “Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*”
    - In His divinity as the only begotten Son of God, the Lord had authority over all.
  - According to **John’s** record,
    - Because they needed to be strengthened by **life**, the Lord came to them as **life**, **breathed** upon them, and told them to receive the holy breath.
    - John’s concern was for **life**, and life requires **breath**.
    - The Gospel of John reveals that **we need life** to care for the little lambs and to feed the Lord’s flock.
    - In John resurrection is a matter of **life**, **power**, **breath**, and **shepherding**.
  - According to **Matthew**,
    - the Lord **charged** the disciples to go to a mountain in Galilee.
    - In Matthew it is not a matter of breath but a matter of **authority**.
    - Matthew’s concern was for the **kingdom**, and the kingdom requires **authority**.
    - In Matthew the Lord **commanded** the disciples to **disciple** all the nations in order to make all the nations part of the kingdom.
    - In Matthew it is a matter of **righteousness**, **authority**, and **disciplining** the nations.

*(Life-study of Matthew, chapter 72)*

✚ When there are elements outside of Christ that are present in us, there is no authority. Authority is in the church, and the church is upheld by Christ.

## Day 2

**Matthew 28:19** - Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**Matthew 16:19** - I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

## II. “Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”—v. 19

- **Charging the Disciples to Go and Disciple All the Nations**
  - **Matthew 28:19** says, “Go therefore and **disciple** all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
    - Because **all authority** had been given to Him, the heavenly King **sent** His disciples to **disciple** all the nations. They go with His authority.
    - To disciple the nations is to cause the heathen to **become the kingdom people** for the establishing of His kingdom, which is the **church**, even today on this earth.
      - To preach the gospel is simply to **bring sinners to salvation**.

*(Life-study of Matthew, chapter 72)*

- **For Us to Participate in the Divine Authority**

- The Gospel of Matthew is concerned with the **kingdom of the heavens**, which is a matter of **authority**.
- The **church** revealed in this book represents the **kingdom** to reign.
- **Matthew 28:18-19** is another portion of the Word which reveals that we **participate** in the divine authority.

*(The Conclusion of the New Testament: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ, Volume 1, chapter 265)*

- **Preaching Not Only with Power but with the Authority of the Heavenly Government**

- We all have to realize that to **preach the gospel** is not merely to preach or to teach; it is to **fight the battle**.
- The whole world is now under darkness and the usurping hand of Satan.

*(Preaching the Gospel in the Way of Life, chapter 3)*

✚ To preach the gospel to bring someone to the Lord is to plunder some goods out of the usurping hand of Satan. Therefore, we have to pray to bind the strong man Satan. For this we need not only power but also authority.

### Day 3

**Acts 2:38** - And Peter said to them, Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 19:5** - And when they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

- **Charging the Disciples to Go and Disciple All the Nations**

- **Baptism** brings the repentant people out of their old state into a new one by **terminating** their old life and **germinating** them with the new life of Christ, that they may become the kingdom people.
- This baptism has **two aspects**:
  - The **visible** aspect by water.
    - The visible aspect is the **expression**, the **testimony**, of the invisible aspect.
    - **Without** the visible baptism by water, the invisible baptism by the Spirit is **abstract** and **impractical**.
  - The **invisible** aspect by the Holy Spirit.
    - The invisible aspect is the **reality** of the visible aspect.
    - **Without** the invisible baptism by the Spirit, the visible baptism by water is **vain**.
- To **baptize** new believers into the death of Christ, into Christ Himself, into the Triune God, and into the Body of Christ is to do just one thing:
  - On the **negative** side, to **terminate** their old life.
  - On the **positive** side, to **germinate** them with new life, the eternal life of the Triune God, for the Body of Christ.

*(Life-Study of the Matthew, chapter 72)*

✚ There is one name for the Divine Trinity. The name is the sum total of the Divine Being, equivalent to His person. To baptize someone into the name of the Triune God is to immerse him into all that the Triune God is.

## Day 4

*Matthew 1:1* - The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

*Matthew 4:17* - From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

- *Matthew 4:17*, “From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the **kingdom** of the heavens has drawn near.”
  - This indicates that the gospel is presented first not in the way of life, as in John, but in the way of the **kingdom**, as in Matthew.
  - There is the need of a kingdom so that God can **exercise** Himself to **dispense** Himself into us as our life blessing.
  - Therefore, in the gospel we receive Jesus Christ first not as life but as the **King**.
- We need to repent not only because we are sinful but also because we are **rebellious**.
  - Because we are rebels, we need to **repent** and **receive** Christ as our authority, as our Sovereign and King, that He may rule in us and over us in God’s kingdom.
- We all like to receive the blessing, but we may not realize that the blessing requires a **sphere of God’s authority**, a sphere under God’s administration.
- In our experience our Savior, Jesus Christ, must first be the **Son of David** for the **kingdom** and then the **Son of Abraham** for the **blessing**.
  - To receive Him as the Son of David is to recognize **His kingly status** and to realize that we should be **under** His kingship and sovereignty.
  - If we have the **kingdom**, we will also have the **blessing**.
  - The **more** we are under the Lord’s ruling, the **more** we enjoy the Triune God as our blessing.

*(The Conclusion of the New Testament: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ, Volume 1, chapter 265)*

✚ Matthew 28:19 speaks of the believers’ being baptized into the Triune God—into the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This is the enjoyment of the Triune God. As the Son of David and the Son of Abraham, Christ brings us into the Triune God.

## Day 5

*Matthew 3:16-17* - And having been baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight.

- **Charging the Disciples to Go and Disciple All the Nations**
  - For our experience of **life**, John unveils the mystery of the **Godhead** in the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.
  - For the constituting of the **kingdom**, Matthew discloses the reality of the Divine Trinity by giving **one name** for all three.
  - According to Matthew, being baptized into the reality of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit is for the **constituting of the kingdom of the heavens**.

- Unlike an earthly society, the **heavenly kingdom** cannot be formed **with human beings of flesh and blood**.
  - It can be constituted **only with people who have been immersed into the union with the Triune God** and who have been established and built up with the Triune God, who has been wrought into them.

*(Life-Study of Matthew, chapter 72)*

✚ Acts 26:18 refers to the believers' divine inheritance. This inheritance is the Triune God Himself with all that He has, all that He has done, and all that He will do for His redeemed people. This Triune God is embodied in the all-inclusive Christ, who is the portion allotted to the saints as their inheritance.

#### Day 6

**Matthew 28:20** - *Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.*

**Matthew 1:23** - *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel" (which is translated, God with us).*

### III. "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age"—Matt. 28:20

- **Promising to Be with the Disciples All the Days until the Consummation of the Age**
  - **Matthew 28:20** say, *"Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age."*
    - Here He promised that in His resurrection **He will be with us all the days**, with all authority, until the consummation of the age, that is, until the end of this age.
    - Wherever we are gathered into His name, **He is in our midst**
    - The Lord is with us **today**, and He will be with us **tomorrow**. Not one day will be an exception.

*(Life-Study of Matthew, chapter 72)*

- **Ministry Requiring the Experience of Lessons of Life**
  - We can use **gifts** to collect, prepare, and produce building materials, but we must have **ministry** in order to build people into the church.
  - **Ministry** is to help others according to the **lessons that we have learned**.
  - **Gifts** are of **little use** in the building of the church.
  - The way to build the church depends on our **paying a price** and **learning the lessons of life** that work God into us.

*(The Ground of the Church and the Ministry That Builds Up the Church, chapter 9)*

✚ Paul often mentioned learning, teaching, exercising, and training in his two Epistles to Timothy. These matters do not come by gifts but by lessons learned through paying a price. We should learn to discern different kinds of vessels and to know people; these matters require the paying of a price.