

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 11)

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-3, 6, 10-11, 20, 23; 1:4, 14, 16; 11:25

**In the Father's House – Living in the Place Prepared for Us
through the Death and Resurrection of Christ**

- John 14:1-3 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe into God, believe also into Me. In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- John 10:11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him. Then when he went out, Jesus said, Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

Day 1

- John 14:1-2* - Do not let your heart be troubled; believe into God, believe also into Me. In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- 1 Tim 3:15* - But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.,

I. The central thought of John 14 is that we must believe into God and thereby enter into God – v.1.

- A. To believe **in** God is objective, but to believe **into** God is subjective; it is the subjective believing that brings us into God.
- B. It is by believing **into** the Lord that **we enter into Him** to be one with Him, to partake of Him, and to participate in all that He has accomplished for us – 3:15
- C. Through believing **into** Christ, we have an organic union with Him and have our being merged into His so that we two may be one organically – 15:4-5

II. The Father's house is a matter of the Triune God – through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection – working Himself into the believers in order to be fully mingled with them so that He may build them up as an organism for His dwelling and expression. – 14:2-3; 23:

- A. In **2:16** My Father's house refers to the dwelling place of God on earth, the temple; the temple is a type, or figure, of the body of Jesus, which in resurrection has been enlarged to be the Body of

Christ – vv. 19-22

- B. My Father's house in 14:2 is the Body of Christ, the church as the house of God – Eph. 1:21-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15

The religious concept of heaven pales in comparison to what is in the heart of God. Christians are told that they will go to a physical place forever, but actually that place would be quite boring. Yet people today accept and believe in the religious concept of heaven. They believe that they can be a nominal Christian and live a minimal Christian life and that when they die, they will be headed for this wonderful place. Most do not know that this concept has its source in heathenism and paganism. Ancient peoples spoke of a beautiful afterlife. Some of the indigenous peoples of North America spoke of the afterlife as the happy hunting ground, where game is plentiful. We hate that Satan would beguile the Lord's children, deceiving them away from the very best that God has preordained and prepared for His chosen elect. We are not going to a physical place; we are being brought into God. (Excerpts from the Ministry of the Word, vol. 28, 07)

Day 2

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you are in the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 12:27 - Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

- C. The Father's house is a divine and human incorporation of the processed and consummated God constituted with His redeemed, regenerated, and transformed elect – John 14:20
- D. In the Father's house are many abodes – v. 2
- The many abodes are the many members of the Body of Christ, which is God's temple – Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 3:16-17
 - All the believers in Christ are the abodes in God's building, the Father's house; this building is the Body of Christ
- E. *I go to prepare a place for you* means that the Lord would prepare a place, accomplish redemption, open up the way, and make a standing for us to enter into God.
- By death and resurrection the Lord Jesus paved the way and prepared the place so that we might be brought into God – v. 20
 - By His death and resurrection He prepared a standing for us before God and in God; in this way He prepared a place for us in God – vv. 2-3, 6.

Day 3

John 14:3 - And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.

John 14:20 - In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

- The **standing** in God, being enlarged, becomes the standing in the Body of Christ – Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27.
 - Anyone who does not have a standing, a place, in God does not have a place in the Body of Christ, which is the Father's house, the dwelling place of God – Eph. 1:22-23.

- As believers in Christ, we all have a place in God and a place in the Body, and now we should live in the place prepared for us through the death and resurrection of Christ – John 14:2-3; 20:1; 1 Cor. 12:27
- F. The Lord's coming brought God into man, and His going brought man into God; by this coming and going, He builds up the house of God by building God into man and man into God. – John 1:14; 10:10b; 14:2-3.

Day 4

John 14:21 - He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.

John 14:23 - Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

- G. By the Spirit and through His death and resurrection, the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is building an organism, the church, which is His Body and the Father's house, produced by the mingling of the Triune God with His chosen and redeemed people – vv. 7-24
- H. The Father's house is built up by the **constant visitation** to the redeemed elect of the Father and the Son with the Spirit – v. 23.
- I. The Father's house is in three stages: the stage of God's **incarnation**, the stage of Christ **resurrected with His believers to be built up as the church**, and the **consummate** stage – the New Jerusalem – 2:19-21; Rev. 21:2-3; 9-10

Day 5

1 Thes. 1:1 - Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace..

Romans 11:36 - Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Where would you prefer to be? In that physical place or in the Triune God? We are not going to be brought to a heavenly mansion. We each must ask ourselves if we are aiming to go to heaven in the traditional sense, or are we being brought into a person, the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—to dwell in Him and live in Him. At the same time, this God is brought into us so that there is a mutual, eternal dwelling—an eternal mutual abode. Concerning this abode, the Lord said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him” (v. 23). Make in this verse has the thought of building; hence, the Triune God is building an abode with us. That abode is not a so-called mansion; it is an abode, a place in which one lives, abides, and settles down. It is a dwelling, a lodging. The Father and the Son come to make such an abode with the lover of Christ. That is our destiny and our destination.

We are in the Triune God already. He is in us, and we are in Him. But this is just the beginning. Today He is working continually to build His abode in each of us personally and to build us corporately into the Father's house, habitation, and dwelling place, the place where He has His rest, satisfaction, and expression.

(Excerpts from the Ministry of the Word, vol. 28, 07)

III. The Father's house, the church, is in God the Father – John 14:2,20; 1 Thes 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1:

- A. For the church to be in God the Father, **God must become the Father to us**, and **we need to have a life relationship with Him** – John 20:17:
- In the New Testament *the Father* denotes the source of life – 5:26
 - The title God refers to creation; the title Father refers to the impartation and multiplication of life – 1 John 3:1
 - God is no longer merely our Creator; He is also our **Father**, our **Begetter**, for He has begotten us with His life – John 1:12-13.
 - We can call God our Father because we have been born of Him, and now, as His children, we have a life relationship with Him – Rom. 8:15-16.
 - Through His life-releasing death and life-imparting resurrection the Lord has made us one with Him; His Father is now our Father – John 20:17
 - By His death and resurrection the Lord Jesus has brought us into Him; since He is in the Father, we are **in** the Father by being **in** Him, the Lord Jesus – John 14:20
- B. For the church to be **in** God the Father means that the church is in the One who is the unique source, the Originator and Initiator – 1 Cor. 8:6:
- To know God as the Father is to know that **everything originates** from Him and that **everything proceeds** from Him – Matt. 15:13; Rom. 11:36.
 - In the church life the Father should be the unique source, and we all should be in His unique purpose and plan – 2 Tim 1:9; Rom. 8:28.

Day 6

- John 17:21* - That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:23* - I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

IV. We need to see the intrinsic significance of living in the church as the Father's house – John 14:2-3, 23:

- A. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in the Triune God as life** – 1:4; 5:26; 6:53; 11:25; 14:6
- B. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in the light** – 1:4; 8:12
- C. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in resurrection** – 11:25.
- D. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in grace and reality** – 1:14, 16-17; 14:6; 16:13
- E. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in the divine glory** – John 17:22-23.
- F. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in a house of prayer and worship** – 14:13; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24; 4:23-24.
- G. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live a life of shepherding** – 10:10-11, 15-17; 21:15-17
- H. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in and for God's building** – 2:19-21; 14:23.
- I. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in the divine and mystical realm of the consummated Spirit for the keeping of oneness** – 7:39; 14:16-20; 16:1`3; 17:11, 21, 23.
- J. To live in the church as the Father's house is to **live in the divine and human incorporation** of the processed and consummated Triune God with the redeemed and regenerated tripartite believers – 14:10-11, 20.