

**KEY STATEMENTS FOR THE 2024 THANKSGIVING BLENDING  
CONFERENCE**

**Although the subject of 1 and 2 Peter is God's  
government, we need to see that everything  
concerning God's government  
should bring us back to the central focus and basic structure of these  
Epistles—the Triune God as our full enjoyment to carry out the  
economy of God.**

**The preciousness of Peter's writing is that  
he combines the Christian life and God's government,  
revealing that the Christian life and the government of God go  
together as a pair.**

**“The God of all grace”—who has called the believers into His  
eternal glory— perfects, establishes, strengthens, and grounds  
them through their sufferings; this “all grace” is the “true grace  
of God,”**

**into which the believers should enter and in which they stand.  
As believers in Christ, we may become a reproduction of Christ as  
our model, and we can experience and enjoy Christ as the  
Shepherd of our souls.**

**HWMR: LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CHURCH LIFE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF  
GOD FOR THE ECONOMY OF GOD (Week 4)**

*Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 2:21-23, 25; Matt. 11:28-30; Phil. 1:27; 2:2*

**Becoming a Reproduction of Christ and  
Experiencing Christ as the Shepherd of Our Souls**

- 1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;
- 1 Pet 2:22 Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth;
- 1 Pet 2:23 Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;
- 1 Pet 2:25 For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
- Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Matt 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. Matt 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
- Phil 1:27 Only, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, that whether coming and seeing you or being absent, I may hear of the things concerning you, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel,
- Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing.

**Day 1**

*1 Peter 2:21-23 - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps; Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth; Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;*

**I. As believers in Christ, we may become a **reproduction** of Christ as our model—1 Pet. 2:21:**

- A. The **living of the Lord Jesus** under the government of God is a model so that we may **follow** in His steps by becoming His reproduction—vv. 21-23; Eph. 4:20-21.
- B. The Greek word for *model* in 1 Peter 2:21 denotes a master copy used in the teaching of writing—a writing copy, an underwriting, for students to use in tracing letters as they learn to draw them:
1. The Lord Jesus has set His life before us as an **underwriting** for us to copy by **tracing** and **following** His steps—Matt. 11:28-30.
  2. It is not God's intention that we try to imitate Christ by our own effort; what we need is not imitation but **reproduction**—Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18.
- C. We need to become Christ's reproduction, **copies of Christ**, by a process that involves the riches of the divine life; when this process is completed, we will become a reproduction of Christ—John 3:15; Eph. 3:8.
- D. The making of xerox copies may be used to illustrate what Peter means by Christ being a model for us.

In the process of spiritual xeroxing, the Spirit of Christ is the light, and the riches of the divine life are the inking substance. We are the paper on which the reproduction of the original is to be made. This paper must be put under the light of the Holy Spirit, and it must pass through the inking substance in order to have the original copy—Christ Himself—reproduced on it. Through this process we eventually become a reproduction of the original, a reproduction of Christ. (*Life Study of 1 Peter, Message 20*)

## Day 2

*Galatians 2:20* - I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

*John 6:57* - As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

- E. In order to become a reproduction of Christ as our model, we need to **experience Christ** as the One living in us, being formed in us, and making His home in our hearts—Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17a:
1. The New Testament reveals that Christ is deeply related to our inner being—Gal. 1:16; Col. 3:10-11.
  2. The pneumatic Christ—Christ as the **life-giving Spirit**—is **living in us**—1 Cor. 15:45b; Gal. 2:20:
    - a. God's economy is that the "I" be crucified in Christ's death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection—John 14:19.
    - b. We are one spirit with the Lord, we have one life with Him, and we should now be **one person with Him**—1 Cor. 6:17; Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:21a.
    - c. Since Christ dwells in us as the Spirit, we need to **let Him live in us**—John 14:16-19; Gal. 2:20.

Paul could say not only that Christ lived in him, but also that to him to live was Christ (Phil. 1:21). On the one hand, Christ lived in Paul; on the other hand, Paul lived Christ. Inwardly Christ was Paul's life, and outwardly Christ was Paul's living. Paul and Christ thus had one life and one living. Christ's life was Paul's life, and Paul's living was Christ's living. The two, Christ and Paul, lived as one. First Corinthians 6:17 refers to such a living. In this verse Paul says that we are one spirit with the Lord. The organic union that has taken place between us and Christ causes us to be so close and intimate with Him that we are even one spirit with Him. If we would live Christ, we must take Him as our person and be one person with Him. He and we must be one in a practical way.

To live Christ is not merely to be holy, spiritual, and victorious. To live Christ is to live a person. We admit that the expression "live Christ" is new. We use this term deliberately. In our daily living we should simply live Christ. We should live a life that is Christ Himself. (*Conclusion of the New Testament, Message 55*)

## Day 3

*Galatians 4:19* - My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

*Ephesians 3:17* - That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

3. To have Christ formed in us is to have Christ **fully grown** in us—4:19:
  - a. Christ was born into us at the time we **repented** and **believed** in Him, then He lives in us in our Christian life, and finally, He will be **formed** in us at our maturity—John 1:12-13; 3:15; Gal. 2:20; 4:19.
  - b. To have Christ formed in us is to **allow** the all-inclusive Spirit to **occupy** every part of our inner being, to have Christ fully grown in us—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
  - c. To have Christ formed in us implies that we are being **constituted** with Christ organically—Col. 3:10-11.
  - d. *Formed* in Galatians 4:19 corresponds to *image* in 2 Corinthians 3:18; Christ will be formed in us so that we may express Him in His image.
4. The Christ who lives in us and who is being formed in us is **making His home in our hearts**—Eph. 3:16-17a.
5. As Christ **lives** in us, is **formed** in us, and **makes His home** in our hearts, we become a **reproduction** of Christ for the corporate expression of God—Rom. 8:29; 12:4-5; Rev. 21:2.

The indwelling Christ is living in us, He is being formed in us, and He is becoming our constitution. This is transformation. In our thinking, for example, we should take Christ as our person. If we do this, His element will become part of the very constitution of our mind. Eventually, our entire being will be constituted of the element of Christ. As a result, our constitution will simply be Christ Himself.

For Christ to be formed within us means that His element is being constituted into our being. In other words, His being becomes our being, and His constitution becomes our constitution. This is not merely a matter of the element of Christ being within us but of having the element of Christ constituted into our being. To be constituted of Christ in this way involves a process of organic transformation and formation. In this process something living is being constituted into, wrought into, our being. (*Conclusion of the New Testament, Message 55*)

#### Day 4

*1 Peter 2:25* - For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

*Psalms 23:3* - He restores my soul; / He guides me on the paths of righteousness / For His name's sake.

## II. As we become a reproduction of Christ, we can experience and enjoy Christ as the **Shepherd** of our souls—1 Pet. 2:25; Matt. 11:28-30; Phil. 1:27; 2:2:

- A. As the **Shepherd** of our souls, the pneumatic Christ **oversees** our inward condition, caring for the situation of our inner being:
  1. Christ's organic shepherding **primarily** takes care of **our soul**—Psa. 23:3.
  2. Christ shepherds us by caring for the welfare of our soul and by exercising His oversight over the condition of our inner being—cf. Heb. 13:17.
  3. This kind of shepherding is an inward, intrinsic, organic comforting.
- B. Because our soul is very complicated, we need Christ, who is the life-giving Spirit in our spirit, to **shepherd** us in our **soul**, to take care of our **mind**, **emotion**, and **will** and our **problems**, **needs**, and **wounds**—John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17:
  1. As our pneumatic Shepherd, Christ takes care of us from **within our spirit**.
  2. His shepherding begins from our spirit and spreads to every part of our soul.

3. From our spirit Christ reaches all the parts of our soul and takes care of us in a tender, organic, all-inclusive way.
- C. As the Shepherd of our souls, Christ **restores** our soul—Psa. 23:3a:
  1. For our soul to be restored means that we are revived.
  2. Restoring our soul also includes **renewing** and **transforming**—Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.

In our experience sometimes we do not know what to think about. We do not know where to direct our thoughts. This is an indication that our mind needs the Lord Jesus as the Shepherd. As a result of His shepherding, our mind is directed and set in the right way.

Our emotion, being complicated, is easily upset. Therefore, we need the Lord Jesus to shepherd us in our emotion. His shepherding comforts our emotion.

Our will also needs the Lord's shepherding. As human beings, we often find it difficult to make the right decision. Sometimes the most difficult thing to do is to make a decision. Unbelievers have no one to lead them and guide them in making decisions, but we have a Shepherd to lead us and guide us. The Lord's leading and guiding is primarily related to our will. As the living Shepherd, the Lord continually directs our will. The Lord is truly the Shepherd of our soul. He directs our mind, comforts our emotion, and leads and guides our will. (*Conclusion of the New Testament - Volume 3, Message 384*)

## Day 5

*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.

- D. As the Shepherd of our souls, the Lord **gives rest** to our soul—Matt. 11:28-30:
  1. The Lord calls those who are striving to keep the law or struggling to be successful in any work to **come to Him** for rest—v. 28.
  2. This rest refers not only to being set free from the toil and burden under the law or religion or under any work or responsibility but also to **perfect peace** and **full satisfaction**.
  3. To take the Lord's yoke is to **take the will of the Father**—12:50.
  4. The Lord lived such a life, **constrained** by and caring for the will of His Father (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38); He was fully satisfied with the Father's will and had rest in His heart.
  5. The rest that we find by taking the Lord's yoke and learning from Him is an **inward rest**, a rest for our souls—Matt. 11:29-30.

This world is a tiresome world. Many people have money, yet they say, "I am tired!" Many people are in business, yet they say, "I am tired!" Many people have received fame and love in this world, yet they are tired. They think they can never rest until they have gained a certain item. The world realizes clearly that rest is good, but because their burdens are too heavy, they dare not seek after rest; they would be happy enough if their labor could be reduced. They are like the Israelites in the Old Testament, who only hoped that Pharaoh would reduce their labor and had no hope for rest. The condition of the Israelites represents the world. The Israelites only hoped that their labor could be lightened; they dared not hope for rest. In the same way, you only hope that your burden would be reduced a little, and that you would be free from tiredness and worries. However, I must tell you that what our Lord Jesus gives is not only a reduction of your toil but absolute rest; He causes you to stop everything. I wonder if you know what rest is? Rest means not to work or to stop working. You have suffered from the heavy burden and entanglement of sin and lust and do not have rest. You have to understand that the Lord Jesus wants you to come and have rest. You do not have to do anything to have this rest. (*CWWN, vol.17*)

## Day 6

*Philippians 2:2* - Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,

*Philippians 3:1* - Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, for me it is not irksome, but for you it is safe.

- E. As the Lord shepherds our soul and restores our soul, we not only experience Christ but also **enjoy** Him—Phil. 2:2; 3:1a:
1. The experience of Christ is a matter primarily in our spirit, but the **enjoyment of Christ is in our soul**—1:27; 2:2.
  2. If there is a **problem with our soul**, we may have the experience of Christ **without** the enjoyment of Christ.
  3. Regarding Christ, our taste is mainly with our soul; this is the reason that in order to have the enjoyment of Christ, we need the Lord to **shepherd every part of our soul**, especially our mind.

According to the Bible, the soul is for enjoyment. To have enjoyment we need desires, emotions, and feelings. The more emotional we are, the more we will long for enjoyment. Enjoyment is mainly related to the soul. In order to enjoy Christ, we need to have a proper soul, a soul that is one with the souls of other saints. We need to ask ourselves whether we are many souls or just one soul.

Every soul has an opinion. If in one place there are five hundred souls, then there will be five hundred opinions. However, if we all have different opinions, we will lose our enjoyment. If everyone in a family, for example, has the same opinion, that family will have a wonderful time of enjoyment. But if the father, the mother, and the children have different opinions, there will be no enjoyment in that family. When we all have one opinion, the situation among us will be heavenly. (*The Experience of Christ, Chapter 4*)