

TAKING THE WAY OF ENJOYING CHRIST AS THE TREE OF LIFE , Week 1

Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life for the Accomplishing of God's Eternal Economy

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:7-9; Rev. 2:7; 22:14; John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 6:35, 57, 63

Genesis 2:7	Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
Genesis 2:8	And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed.
Genesis 2:9	And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Revelation 2:7	He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
Revelation 22:14	Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.
John 1:4	In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
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 6:35	Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
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.
John 6:63	It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Day 1

Genesis 2:8-9 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

I. In Genesis 2 we see **two choices** before man—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—vv. 7-9:

- A. The two trees show that in this universe there are **two wills**, **two sources**, and **two possibilities** for man to choose with his free will—cf. Deut. 30:19-20.
- B. The **tree of life** signifies **Christ**, the embodiment of the Triune God, as life to man in the form of food for man to enjoy Him and be constituted with Him for His glory, His corporate expression, thus accomplishing God's original intention according to His eternal economy—Gen. 1:26; Isa. 43:7; Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7; 22:14; John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 6:35, 57, 63; Rev. 21:10-11; cf. 4:3:
 1. The **tree of life**, the **tree of God**, the **God-tree**, is the center of the universe.
 2. The Old Testament **begins** with the **tree of life** (Gen. 2:9), and the New Testament **ends** with the **tree of life**

(Rev. 22:2, 14); thus, the thought of God being man's life runs through the entire divine revelation.

3. God's placing man in front of the tree of life indicates that God wanted man to **receive Him as his life by eating Him organically and assimilating Him metabolically**, so that God might become the very constituent of man's being—John 6:57, 63; Jer. 15:16; Matt. 4:4.

Day 2

Genesis 2:16-17	And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
Hebrews 2:14	Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

- C. The **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** signifies **Satan** as the source of death to man—Heb. 2:14:
 1. It also signifies **all things apart from God**, for anything that is not God Himself, including good things and even scriptural things and religious things, can be utilized by Satan, the subtle one, to bring death to man—John 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 3:6b.
 2. Good and evil are not signified by two trees but by one tree, the second tree; thus, seeking good other than God belongs to **Satan**.
 3. The **genuine good is God Himself**; hence, gaining God equals gaining the genuine good—Matt. 19:17a; Mark 10:17-18; Psa. 16:2.

Day 3

John 15:5	I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
Revelation 22:2	And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

- D. The **tree of life** causes man to be **dependent on God** (John 15:5), but the **tree of knowledge** causes man to **rebel** against God and be **independent from Him** (cf. Gen. 3:5):
 1. **Eating indicates dependence**; that God is our food, signified by the tree of life, means that we must depend on God continually.
 2. The **tree of knowledge indicates independence**; in the eyes of God, man's first sin and the greatest sin is independence.
- E. The two trees issue in two lines, two ways—the **way of life** and the **way of death**—that run through the entire Bible and end in the book of Revelation:
 1. **Death** begins with the **tree of knowledge** (Gen. 2:17) and ends with the **lake of fire** (Rev. 20:10, 14).
 2. **Life** begins with the **tree of life** and ends with the **New Jerusalem**, the city of the water of life—22:1-2.

Day 4

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.
Revelation 22:1-2	And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

God as food to man indicates that man is dependent upon God. We cannot eat one meal and live forever. I have often thought that it would be wonderful if God had created us so that we needed to eat only one time for our entire life. If this were the case, it would spare us a great deal of trouble, because much time is spent on food. The food we eat must be purchased from the grocery store, stored, cleaned, cut or sliced, and cooked. Sometimes my wife becomes tired of cooking for me, and I sometimes become tired of eating. To sit and eat for thirty-five minutes sometimes becomes a difficult task for me. On one hand, eating is an enjoyment, but on the other hand, eating is a difficult job. God is gracious to make eating an enjoyment to us, because if it were not an enjoyment, many of us would not eat. Eating makes us very dependent. Because we must eat many times a day, and not merely one time for our entire life, we are very dependent. Eating indicates dependence. That God is our food, signified by the tree of life, means that we must depend on God continually. We must come to Him in order to feed on Him again and again. However, the tree of knowledge indicates independence. Once we learn how to use a computer in school, we do not need to go back to school to learn the same thing again. The knowledge we gain makes us independent. (*The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man, chapter 1*)

II. We must stay on the way of life, the line of life, in the maintenance of life by enjoying Christ as the tree of life for God's building in life by our growth in life—John 10:10b; Rev. 22:1-2; Eph. 4:16; 2:21-22; Col. 2:19:

- A. We stay on the way of life by living and serving according to the principle of life, not according to the principle of right and wrong:
1. We must live and act according to the inner sense of life in our spirit, the leading of life, not according to right and wrong—Rom. 8:6; 2 Cor. 2:13.
 2. The standard for Christian living is the presence of the indwelling Christ within us; it is not a question of what is right or wrong but of whether or not the divine life within us agrees with something—Matt. 17:3, 5, 8; cf. Mal. 2:15-16.

Day 5

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

Psalms 119:147-148 I anticipated the dawn and cried out; I hoped in Your words. My eyes anticipated the night watches, that I might muse upon Your word.

- B. We stay on the way of life by loving the Lord to the uttermost, drawing others to run after Him—Mark 12:30; S. S. 1:4a:
1. To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must tell Him all the time, “Lord Jesus, I love You”; if we have a burning love toward the Lord Jesus, giving Him the first place in all things, we will enjoy all that He is—Rev. 2:4-5, 7.
 2. To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must betroth people to Him, bringing them into the genuine appreciation, love, and enjoyment of the precious person of the Lord Jesus—2 Cor. 11:2-3.
- C. We stay on the way of life by eating Jesus through pray-reading the Word, musing on the word, and ministering the word as the Spirit into others by the exercise of our spirit of faith—John 6:57, 63; Jer. 15:16; Psa. 119:15; Matt. 4:4; 24:45; 1 Cor. 2:4-5, 13:
1. We must enjoy Him in the Word early in the morning to have a new start of each day, and we must receive His word with much and careful consideration—Psa. 119:15, 147-148; cf. Lev. 11:3.
 2. We must speak Christ to all kinds of people daily in season and out of season (Acts 5:42; 8:4; 2 Tim. 4:2) and desperately endeavor to build up a habit of speaking in any meeting (1 Cor. 14:26, 4-5, 12, 31).

Day 6

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

- D. We stay on the way of life by **enjoying the Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life** with its divine capacity—Rom. 8:2; Jer. 32:39:
1. In the garden of Eden with the two trees, we see life, good, and evil; we are a **miniature garden of Eden** with the **law of the Spirit of life in our spirit**, the **law of good in our natural, independent mind**, and the **law of evil in our flesh**—Rom. 7:23; 8:2, 16.
 2. We must “switch on” the **law of the Spirit of life by walking according to the spirit and setting our mind on the spirit** for the dispensing of the Triune God as life into our tripartite being—vv. 2, 4, 6, 10-11.
- E. **We stay on the way of life by living in resurrection**, in the reality of the church as the Body of Christ, signified by the golden lampstand as a tree of resurrection life; this is so that we may bear the glory of God for God’s expression as the city of life, the New Jerusalem—Eph. 1:22-23; Exo. 25:31-40; Rev. 1:11-12; 21:10-11.

III. The unique way for us to be overcomers is by eating and enjoying Christ as the tree of life so that we can be transformed in life to become the man-child for the display of Christ’s victory and for us to become the bride for Christ’s satisfaction—2:7, 17; 3:20-21; 12:5-12; 19:7-9; 22:2, 14.

To say, “O Lord Jesus, I love You,” is not just a saying. This is **spiritual breathing by calling on His name**. When you say, “Lord Jesus, I love You,” you have a sweet sense within you. When you say this, you afford Him more space within your being. **He will spread Himself in your being and saturate your being with all that He is, with all His riches**. If you do this day and night, you will be thoroughly saturated with Jesus. This is to have Jesus revealed in you, living in you, formed in you, and making His home in your whole being.

When He makes His home in your heart, He is not only revealed in your spirit but also **taking full possession of your whole being**. There is no need for you to pray, “O Lord, come in and take me over.” **Simply call on Him and tell Him that you love Him**. Tell Him that He is so sweet to you. Tell Him that He is so lovely to you. “O Lord Jesus, I just love You. Show me Your beauty. Show me Your fairness. Show me Your sweetness. Cause me to have the full sense of Your sweetness.” If you are going to pray, you should pray in this way.

You should forget about all other things. If you have a bad temper, forget about that. If you cannot love others, forget about that. If you cannot serve or function, forget about that. When I was young, I frequently asked the Lord to make me capable in my ministry and in my service and work for Him. I would not say that those prayers were not good, but today I have a simple way to pray. **The more I grow in the Lord, the more simple the way I contact the Lord becomes**. I simply say, “O Lord Jesus, I love You. I just love You. You are so sweet to me.” Try to say this one hundred times tomorrow; then come to the meeting and see what will come out. We need to say, “Lord Jesus, I love You. O Lord Jesus, I love You. I just love You. You are so sweet. Reveal Yourself to me. Show me Your beauty. Capture me, Lord, with Your beauty. I want to be crazy by being wrecked with Your beauty.” Then you will see what will come out in the meeting. You will be the first one, even the best one, to function. (*The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ, chapter 3*)