

“WORD OF LIFE”

December 01, 2024

46. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (26) – In the Parables of the New Testament

P - 5. The Unshrunk Cloth Not Suitable for Patching an Old Garment

Hymns: # The Humanity of Jesus / # 86 / # 16

✚ “So that what was spoken through the prophet [Psa. 78:2] might be fulfilled, saying, ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world’.” (Matt 13:35)

[Parable – Being incompatible with religion]

Matt. 9:16 - No one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for that which fills it up pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear is made.

Luke 5:36 - And He also spoke a parable to them: No one tears a patch from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise, he will tear the new garment, and also the patch from the new will not match the old.

✚ “...Why do You speak in parables to them? (Mat 13:10)

“...And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable ... clear to us. (Matt. 13:36)

❖ Christ was first the unshrunk cloth He was made a new garment to cover us (Matt. 9:16; Luke 5:36).

- The unshrunk cloth signifies Christ from His incarnation to His crucifixion.
 - Christ is the unshrunk cloth (untreated) for making a new garment.
 - As unshrunk cloth Christ was not adequate to cover us.
 - Such cloth was new but not in a suitable condition for us to wear.
 - Through His death and resurrection, He was made a new garment to cover us
 - as our righteousness before God
 - that we might be justified by God and acceptable to Him (Luke 15:22; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9).
- The “old garment” in Matthew 9:16 signifies our good behavior, good deeds, and religious practices by our old natural life.
 - A patch of unshrunk cloth put on an old garment–
 - pulls away from the garment by its shrinking strength, thus making the tear worse
 - signifies trying to imitate what Christ did in His human life on earth.
- The new garment in Luke 5:36 signifies Christ, after being “treated” in His crucifixion, as a new robe.
 - On the cross the Lord Jesus was treated.
 - Before His crucifixion He was unshrunk cloth,
 - but after His resurrection He is the new garment for us to put on.

✚ “And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, ‘I believed, therefore I spoke,’ we also believe, therefore we also speak,” (2Cor. 4:13)

✚ The Lord’s word in Matthew 9:16 indicates that we should never try to cut a piece of His unshrunk cloth and use it to mend the “holes” in our garments, for His cloth is full of shrinking power, and when applied to old garments will simply cause the holes in them to become larger.

Today we do not imitate Jesus’ human deeds to improve our behavior without believing in the crucified Jesus as our Redeemer and the resurrected Christ as our new garment to cover us as our righteousness before God.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 46 letter P – point 5)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

The Humanity of Jesus

Experience of Christ – His Humanity

- 1 For the building of the **Body**
We need **Jesus humanly**;
The **humanity** of **Jesus**
Builds the church **organically**.
In the **Spirit**, all that **Christ** is
Has become our **life supply**
To equip us for God's building,
God in Man to **glorify**.
- 2 When we fell, our human vessel
Was **corrupted** by the fall;
The **humanity** of **Jesus**
Now **uplifts, enriches** all.
Christ became us, **incarnated**,
To bring us into Himself;
With the **Triune God** we're **mingled**;
Christ our **life** saves us from self.
- 3 Do you yearn to **love** as **God** loves?
Grow up into **Christ** our Head.
Would you **live the way that God lives**?
Then **choose Christ to live** instead.
God gave us the **highest living**
And the **life to live this way**.
In the **Spirit**, God compounded
Everything we need today.
- 4 In the **Spirit** of this **Jesus**,
Every step **God** took became
Elements that we experience
And **apply** through **Jesus'** name.
Christ's humanity and **living**,
With the **cross** as our release,
Brings in life in resurrection
For our one accord in peace.
- 5 In the **church life**, in our spirit,
In the building we are one,
In one **Body** and one **Spirit**,
This our calling in the **Son**.
In the heavens, **Christ** is sitting
As the **Man** enthroned and crowned.
The **humanity of Jesus**
Is the life for glory bound.
- 6 Our High Priest, this Man in heaven,
Faithful, merciful and true,
Was in all respects once tempted;
Made like us, He **suffered** too.
His dear **blood** now gives us boldness
To approach the throne of grace,
Where the **Lamb of God** receives us,
Timely help we must embrace.
- 7 For the building of the Body
We are **human Jesusly**;
By the **Spirit** of this **Jesus**
We are built up corporately.
The **humanity of Jesus**
God **supplies us day by day**
To become God's holy city,
Glorifying **God** for aye.

Hymn 86

Praise the Lord – His Life

- 1 Though Thou art **God**,
most **glorious**, high,
Thou in the **flesh** to us came nigh,
A **lowly man** become thereby;
Lord, I remember Thee!
- 2 Glory divine was **put away**
Under the tent of **flesh** to stay,
No outward beauty to display;
Lord, I remember Thee!
- 3 Thou art a **root**
from out dry ground,
Thou wast the
Man of sorrows found,
Hated, despised by man around;
Lord, I remember Thee!
- 4 Gentle and lowly is Thy heart,
Willing to **suffer** all Thou art,
To **God** and man complaining not;
Lord, I remember Thee!
- 5 Thou as a man art tender, **sweet**,
Balanced in every way, complete,
Meal-offering to the **Father** meet;
Lord, I remember Thee!
- 6 Doing the **Father's** will Thy prize,
Never accepting Satan's lies,
None like Thyself,
so faithful, wise;
Lord, I remember Thee!
- 7 For Thine **obedience** to God's will,
Willing to **suffer deathly ill**,
E'en on the **Cross** my place to fill,
Lord, I remember Thee!
- 8 Therefore hath **God exalted** Thee,
Given Thee **glory**, majesty,
Heaven and earth
will bow the knee;
O **Lord**, I worship Thee!

Hymn 16

Worship of the Father – His Newness

- 1 Our **Father**, as the **evergreen**,
Thou art **forever new**;
Thou art the **ever living** Lord,
Thy **freshness** as the dew.
- Chorus:**
O Father, Thou art **unchanging**,
Thou never hast **grown old**;
Thru countless ages, **ever fresh**,
Thy **newness** doth unfold.
- 2 O Thou art **God**,
and Thou art "**new**";
Without Thee all is worn,
But all with Thee is **ever fresh**,
Though many years have gone.
 - 3 Each blessing Thou hast given us
Thy **newness** doth contain;
Thy covenant, Thy ways are **new**,
And ever thus remain.
 - 4 Now we Thy **new creation** are—
New spirit and **new heart**;
We're daily from the old renewed,
New life Thou dost impart.
 - 5 The earth and heavens will be **new**
And Thy **new city** share;
New fruits each month
will be supplied,
For all is **newness** there.
 - 6 O Father, Thou art **ever new**,
And all is **new** in Thee;
We sing the **new** eternal song,
New praise we give to Thee.