

“WORD OF LIFE”

December 08, 2024

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

P - 6. New Wine Not Able to Be Contained in the Old Wineskin

Hymns: # 496 / # 1108 / # Lovingkindness, Compassion, Faithfulness; # 36

✚ “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. 9:17 - Neither do they put **new wine** into **old wineskins**; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into **fresh wineskins**, and both are preserved.

✚ “...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)

❖ The **new wine** signifies **Christ** as the **new life**, full of vigor (Matt 9:17).

- As the **new wine**, Christ is our **content**, the provision for our inward thirst.
 - When we receive **His life**, it stirs us up, excite us, energize us, and make us happy.
 - His life is full of vigor and cheering strength, stirring us to excitement and satisfying us.
 - This **new life** excites us inwardly for the enjoyment of Him as our Bridegroom.
- The **Old wineskins** signify **religious** forms, rituals, and practices,
 - The Lord Jesus said that we should **not** put **new wine** into old wineskins.
 - To put **new wine** into old wineskins is to put Christ as the exciting life into any kind of religion.
 - We **should not** attempt to squeeze Christ into different modes of religious ritual and formality.
 - We **should never** try to put the **wine of Christ's life** into the **wineskin of old religious practices**.
 - The **new wine** of Christ as life requires a **new wineskin**.
 - We must put the **new wine** into fresh wineskins.
- The **fresh wineskins** signify the **church life**, the outward container that holds the **new wine**.
 - The churches are the outward containers that hold the **new wine**, which is Christ Himself as the exciting life.

✚ “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 kingly Savior is **not only** the **Bridegroom** to us for our enjoyment **but also** our **new garment** for us to be equipped outwardly that we may be qualified to attend the **wedding**. Furthermore, He is our **new life** to stir us up inwardly to enjoy Him as our Bridegroom. To enjoy Him as the **Bridegroom** in the kingdom feast, we need Him as our **new garment** outwardly and our **new wine** inwardly.

✚ The **individual Christ** is the **new wine**, the inward exciting life, and the **corporate Christ** is the **fresh wineskin**. For us it is **not a matter** of fasting or any other religious practice, **but a matter** of the **church life with Christ as our content**.
✓ Christ came to establish **not** an earthly religion of rituals **but** a heavenly kingdom of life.
✓ He is establishing such a kingdom **not with** any dead religious practices **but with** Himself, as the Savior, the Physician, the Bridegroom, the unfilled cloth, and the **new wine** for our full enjoyment, that we may be the **fresh wineskin** to contain Him and may become the **constituents** of His kingdom.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 46 letter P – point 6)
[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]}

Hymn 496

Experience of Christ – As the Reality

- 1 Christ is the one reality of all,
Of Godhead and of man
and all things else;
No man without Him
ever findeth God,
Without Him man
and everything is false.
- 2 All types and figures
of the ancient time,
All things we ever need,
both great and small,
Only are shadows
of the Christ of God,
Showing that He must be
our all in all.
- 3 All things are vanity of vanities,
Christ, the reality all things to fill;
Though everything
we may enjoy and own,
If we're devoid of Christ
we're empty still.
- 4 Christ is our real God,
our real Lord,
Christ is our real life, our real light;
Christ is our real food,
our real drink,
Our real clothing,
and our real might.
- 5 Christ also is the one reality
Of all our doctrine and theology;
And all our scriptural knowledge
without Him
Is just in letter and is vanity.
- 6 Christ, the reality of time
and space,
Christ, the reality of every stage;
Christ is the one reality of all
Thru all eternity from age to age.

Hymn 1108

Praise the Lord – Remembrance of Him

- 1 Eat the bread,
ye people of the Lord:
Praise His name,
for He has made us one.
Now we come to eat in one accord
As the church
which He has made His own.
- Chorus:*
Eat the bread and drink the wine,
ye saints!
We are one in Him fore'er.
Stand in oneness
on the local ground,
Eat and drink in oneness there!
- 2 Drink the wine,
ye people of the Lord:
We're the church
His precious blood has bought.
We're redeemed
to be in one accord—
This the goal
for which He long has sought.
- 3 Stand as one,
ye people of the Lord:
Not as individual grains are we—
We are one,
we're blent in one accord
As a loaf in each locality.
- 4 We are one as people of the Lord;
We declare that we are really one!
Not just word,
but life in one accord
Testify what God in us hath done.
- 5 Eat the bread,
ye people of the Lord:
Praise His name,
for He has made us one.
Now we come to eat in one accord
As the church
which He has made His own.

Lovingkindness, Compassion, Faithfulness

Worship of the Father - General

- 1 The Father's lovingkindness
Is precious, good, and strong,
And higher than the heavens,
Yet felt my whole life long;
My sins were all forgiven
Through Jesus, graciously
Redeeming, healing, caring,
And kindly saving me.
- 2 God's merciful compassions
In Jesus Christ appear,
Exper'nced every morning,
Dissolving all my fear;
The Father of compassions
And God of comfort gives
To me His loving essence
And in my spirit lives.
- 3 God's faithfulness is greater
Than all my faithlessness;
His nature and His being
Became my blessedness;
His calling and His keeping
In Christ the Son, so sweet,
Will sanctify me wholly,
And will preserve complete.

Hymn 36

Worship of the Father – His Predestination

- 1 We praise Thee, glorious Father,
As objects of Thy grace,
Who for Thine own heart's pleasure
Are now before Thy face:
Thy sons marked out for glory
Known from eternity
With Christ Thy Well-beloved,
Object supreme to Thee.
- 2 Who else but Thee, O Father,
Could in Thine only Son
So bless us with Thy Spirit,
And have us for Thine own?
Soon shall we be forever
With Christ in glory; then
We'll shine in His blest image
Eternally, Amen!