

“WORD OF LIFE”

December 29, 2024

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

P - 9. An Eater and Drinker in the Parable of the Playing Children

Hymns: # 239 / # 223 / # 26

✚ “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 – Lamenting and reproaching the stubborn and unrepentant generation]

Matt. 11:16 - But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like little children sitting in the marketplaces, who call to the others

Matt. 11:17 - And say, We have played the flute to you, and you did not dance;
we have sung a dirge, and you did not mourn.

Matt. 11:18 - For John came neither eating nor drinking; and they say, He has a demon.

Matt. 11:19 - The Son of Man came eating and drinking; and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Yet wisdom is justified by her works.

✚ “...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)

- ❖ They say, Christ a gluttonous man and a wine drinker, (Matt. 11:16-17).
 - ✓ “John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He has a demon.
 - ✓ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”
- John the Baptist and Christ “played the flute”
 - it means to preach the gospel of the kingdom,
 - but the Judaizers “did not dance” for the joy of salvation.
 - The grace of God afforded them salvation, but they would not receive it.
- John the Baptist and Christ “sang a dirge”
 - it means to preach repentance,
 - but the Judaizers “did not beat the breast” for the grief of sin.
 - The righteousness of God required them to repent, but they would not obey.

✚ “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)

✚ John, coming to bring men to repentance (Mark 1:4) and to cause them to grieve for sin, he had no taste for eating and drinking (Luke 1:15-17). But Christ, coming to bring salvation to us sinners and to cause us to rejoice in it, He had the joy of eating and drinking with sinners like us (Matt. 9:10-11). They called Christ a gluttonous man and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and sinners, but us He is not only the Savior; He is also the friend, sympathizing with our problems and sensing our griefs.

[(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 46 letter P – point 9)
[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 239
Praise the Lord –
General

1 Ten thousand thanks to Jesus,
Whose life our ransom paid,
Whose blood a full redemption
For all the world has made:
Let every heart adore Him;
Let every creature sing
Ten thousand thanks to Jesus,
Our Savior and our King.

Chorus:

Ten thousand thanks,
ten thousand thanks,
We'll praise Him o'er and o'er;
And for the life with Him to live,
Ten thousand thousand more.

2 Ten thousand hearts to Jesus
How gladly would we give;
Ten thousand lives to Jesus,
Had we so long to live;
Ten thousand tongues
shall praise Him,
Ten thousand songs ascend
To Him, our blest Redeemer,
To Him, our dearest Friend.

3 Ten thousand thanks to Jesus
For blessings every hour;
Ten thousand times ten thousand,
For love's redeeming pow'r;
And when He comes in glory
His blessed face we'll see,
His love through endless ages
Our sweetest song shall be.

Hymn 223
Praise the Lord –
Remembrance of Him

1 On the table of Thy love,
With the bread, the cup is spread.
By partaking of these signs,
We with Thee are richly fed.
How we thank Thee for this cup,
For the cup of blessing, Lord,
Cup of Thy Salvation full,
Cup of all Thou dost afford.

2 'Tis the blood Thou shedd'st for us,
That our sins may be forgiv'n;
'Tis the covenant made for us,
That Thy blessings may be giv'n.
Thou didst drink the cup of wrath,
Thou hast tasted death for us,
Thus the cup of blessing bought,
As the portion gained for us.

3 In this portion we have God,
Whom we lost thru Adam's fall;
By the shedding of Thy blood,
God becomes our all in all.
In this portion all we have—
Life and peace, redemption sure;
All that God has planned
and willed,
In this portion we secure.

4 An eternal portion, 'tis,
Overflowing cup divine;
Heav'nly taste do we enjoy
In this cup of God's design.
Here in love we drink this cup
In remembrance, Lord, of Thee;
Thus in spirit we partake
All Thy work on Calvary.

Hymn 26
Worship of the Father –
His Mercy

1 God, we praise Thee
for Thy mercy,
'Tis so great and so profound!
In our weakness and our failures;
With its greatness it abounds.
We adore Thee! we adore Thee!
With such mercy
we've been crowned!

2 How we marvel at this mercy
So far-reaching and so vast!
It has reached us, e'en the sinners,
And will ever hold us fast.
From this mercy, from this mercy,
What can cause us to be cast?

3 For Thy mercy we are grateful,
'Tis so rich, so plenteous!
Thru Thy mercy in redemption,
Thou hast richly favored us.
If without this, if without this,
How could we be favored thus?

4 Oh, Thy mercy, so inspiring!
Gentle, tender, dear and sweet!
With Thy patience
and Thy kindness,
Us in all our need it meets.
It we treasure, it we treasure,
Nothing can with it compete.

5 Father, we enjoy Thy mercy,
Ever fresh and ever new;
Every morning shed upon us,
It refreshes as the dew.
How we taste it! how we taste it!
Giving Thee the praises due.

6 We can never cease to praise Thee,
As Thy mercy e'er endures;
All Thy grace and all Thy favor,
Ever for us it secures.
Trusting in it, trusting in it,
Thy sure mercy us assures.