

“WORD OF LIFE”

January 26, 2025

47. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (27) – In the **Parables** of the New Testament

P - 13. The **Merchant** in the Parable of Pearl-finding

Hymns: #116 / Christ Gave Himself Up for Me Out of Love / #39

<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/ns/651>

✚ “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 – The church produced out of the Satan-corrupted world]

Mat 13:45 - Again, the kingdom of the heavens is like a **merchant** seeking fine **pearls**;

Mat 13:46 - And finding one **pearl** of great value, he went and sold all that he had and **bought it** [the pearl].

✚ “...He taught them many things in **parables**... (Mark 4:2)
“...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 is the **merchant** seeking fine **pearl** for His kingdom (Matt.13:45-46).

- Christ’s work in gaining the one **pearl** of **great value**.
 - The **pearl**, **produced** in the death waters (*the world filled with death*)
 - by the living **oyster** (*the living Christ*),
 - **wounded** by a little rock (*the sinner*)
 - and **secreting** its life-juice around the wounding rock (*the believer*),
 - is also the material for the building of the **New Jerusalem**.
 - Every gate of the New Jerusalem is a **pearl**
 - signifying the **entrance** into the kingdom of God
- The **pearl** comes out of the **sea**,
 - The **sea** signifies the **world** corrupted by Satan (Isa. 57:20; Rev. 17:15),
 - The **pearl** refers to the **church**,
 - which is constituted mainly of regenerated believers
 - after **wounding** Christ, the living **oyster**, we **stayed at the cross**, **remaining** at His wound.
 - then His resurrection life was **secreted**, covering us again and again,
 - and **made us the pearl**, the **church**.

✚ “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)

✚ Christ is the **merchant** seeking the fine **pearl**, the church for His kingdom. He found one **pearl** of great value, He went to the cross and sold all He had, and bought the **pearl** (not the sea). The **pearl** is precious, and the price paid for it was great. The Lord Jesus **paid the price**, selling all that He had to buy the **church**. According to Acts 20:28, He **purchased** the church **with His own blood**.

✚ Christ is the **oyster** and we are the **sand** that **wound** Him, and after **injuring** Him, **stay** at His wound His life secretes His life essence, **enveloping** us layer upon layer, eventually we **become** a **pearl**, this is the experience of **regeneration**. The life juice of Christ enveloped our being **signifying** our **entrance** into the kingdom of **God**.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 47 letter P – point 13)
[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 116
Praise the Lord –
His Redemption

- 1 How wonderful **redemption** is,
My gracious **Lord**, in Thee!
Not seen, nor heard,
nor e'er conceived
What Thou **hast done for me!**
Thou art divine, mysterious,
Beyond my grandest phrase!
Redemption is so marvellous,
Beyond all pow'r to **praise!**
- 2 For us Thou on the **Cross**
wast **pierced**,
And **blood** and **water** streamed;
That life divine be giv'n to us,
That we may be **redeemed**.
Thy precious **blood**
has made us clean,
That we accepted be;
Regenerated by Thy **life**,
We now are one with Thee.
- 3 Thou art the **grain** divine that **died**
The **many grains** to bear,
Which, blent and formed,
Thy **Body** are.
And all Thy **nature** share.
We are the **increase** of Thyself,
And Thou our content art;
Through us Thou livest
and dost move
And manifested art.
- 4 Since we're Thy **Body**,
Thou may come
And settle down in us;
In us Thou may obtain Thy home
And we become Thy trust.
Thy heart to satisfy and please,
We are Thy **counterpart**,
Now in one **Body** with Thyself,
Enjoying all Thou art.
- 5 While in **remembrance** now we meet
And here the **symbols** see,
For Thy **redemption** great and full
We're filled with **praise** to Thee.
Since we are made Thy **Body, Lord**,
Thy **dwelling place** and **bride**,
We would give **thanks**
and **worship** Thee
And in Thy **praise** abide.

Christ Gave Himself Up for Me
Out of Love
Praise the Lord –
Remembrance of Him

- 1 What kind of person
would **die** for **my sin**?
Someone more **perfect**
than all men have been.
Someone who did not deserve **death**,
my due,
Bridging the gap that brought **curse**
to all men.
- Chorus:**
Christ on the **cross** was a man **without sin**,
Living, while dying, by **virtues** within,
Virtues expressing divine **attributes**,
His life, most valued by **God**, shown therein.
- 2 **Christ** chose the friend
who **betrayed** Him for gain;
Loved Peter still,
though he'd **sworn** at His name;
Mutely faced hatred
from those who'd defame;
Saved one who **mocked** Him
but later felt shame.
- 3 For the **transgressors**
while dying **Christ** prayed,
"Father, **forgive them**,"
this prayer for us made.
"They do not know what they're doing,"
He said.
God's tender **mercy** and **love** He displayed.
- 4 Dying, in pain, **Christ** saw Mary bereaved.
Still, in **compassion**,
He cared for her need—
"Behold your mother" and
"Behold your son"—
She from that hour by John was received.
- 5 What shall we say then
for all of these things?
God's Son was raised
by the **Father**, approved.
Seated at **God's** right,
the **Lord** Himself brings
Me to the **Father**, all distance removed.
- 6 Were I the only one e'er to be born,
Christ would have given Himself,
still, in **love**.
He lived and died **making all of us one**,
His **life** and living **God's** gift from above.

Hymn 39
Worship of the Father –
His Redemption

- 1 To God be the glory,
great things **He hath done**,
So loved He the world
that He **gave us His Son**,
Who yielded His life
our **redemption** to win,
And **opened the life-gate**
that **all may go in**.
- Chorus:**
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the **Father**, through
Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great
things **He hath done**.
- 2 Oh, perfect **redemption**,
the **purchase** of **blood**,
To every believer
the promise of **God**;
The **vilest offender**
who truly believes,
That moment from **Jesus**
a **pardon** receives.
- 3 Great things He hath **taught** us,
great things **He hath done**,
And great our **rejoicing**
through **Jesus the Son**;
But purer, and higher,
and greater will be
Our **wonder**, our transport
when **Jesus** we see.