

“WORD OF LIFE”

February 09, 2025

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

P - 15. The **Householder** in the Parable of the **Vineyard**

Hymns: # 6304; 497 / # 1090 / # 46; 28

✚ “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 **reward** of the kingdom]

- Matt. 20:1-2 - For the kingdom of the heavens is like a man, *who is a **householder***, who went out early in the **morning** to hire **workmen** for his **vineyard**... agreed with the workmen for a **denarius** a day, ...
- Matt. 20:3-7 - And he went out about the **third** hour ...about the **sixth** and the **ninth** hour and ...the **eleventh** hour ... go into the vineyard.
- Matt. 20:8 - And when **evening** fell, the master of the vineyard ... pay them their wages,...
- Matt. 20:9-10 - And when those **hired** about the **eleventh** hour came, they **received** each a **denarius**... And when the **first ones** came, ...they themselves **also** **received** each a **denarius**.
- Matt. 20:13 - ... Did you not agree with me for a **denarius**?
- Matt. 20:14-15 - ... I want to give to this last one **even as** I have given to you... because **I am good**
- Matt. 20:16 - Thus shall **the last be first** and **the first last**.

✚ “...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 in His **grace** as the **Householder**.

- The first being last and the last first (Matt 19:30),
 - The **morning** denotes the earliest part of the church age
 - The **workmen** are the disciples
 - The **vineyard** is the kingdom.
 - The **denarius** is the reward—the full enjoyment in the manifestation of the kingdom
- “**Hiring**” more workmen during **various** parts of the church age (Matt. 20:3, 5, 6),
 - Those hired at the **eleventh** hour received a **denarius**, and
 - Those hired **first**, supposing that they would receive more, **also** received a **denarius**.
- The **Householder**, the **Lord Jesus** has the right to **give the same** thing to the latest workmen according to the principle **not** of work **but** of **grace**.

✚ “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 reward to us is **not** commercial **but** according to His desire and **grace**. For us to gain the kingdom of the heavens we need to **leave all** and **follow** Him, the reward is more than what we deserve. It is **not according** to the principle of commerce **but according** to the **Lord’s good pleasure**.
- ✚ The Lord Jesus will not give the kingdom as a **commercial transaction**. We should not think that what we give up to follow Him amounts to the price that will **purchase the kingdom**. The Lord Jesus gives the **reward** as an act of **goodness**. The kingdom comes to us from the Lord’s **gracious** giving according to His own will. This is Christ in His **grace** as the **Householder**.

*{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 47 letter P – point 15)
[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 6304
Praise the Lord – Loving Him

- 1 I'm my **Beloved's** sweet;
His desire is for me.
Come, let us go forth into the **fields**;
In love, together, let's
Lodge in the villages,
Enjoy the **love** twixt You and me.
[SoS 7:10-11]
- 2 Let's **rise at dawn's** first hue,
See the **vineyards**, I and You,
Enjoy together our labor's fruit;
See if the vine has bloomed,
The pomegranates, too;
There I will give my **love** to You.
[SoS 7:12]
- 3 Mandrakes with sweet perfume,
Choicest fruits, both old and new,
These, my **Beloved**, I've stored up for
You;
My **love** belongs to You,
And I'll enjoy You, too;
Love's strong as death twixt me and You.
[SoS 7:13]

Hymn 497
Experience of Christ – As Grace

- 1 **Grace** in its highest definition is
God in the **Son** to be **enjoyed** by us;
It is not only something done or giv'n,
But **God** Himself, **our portion** glorious.
- 2 **God** is **incarnate** in the flesh that we
Him may **receive**, experience ourself;
This is the **grace** which we **receive** of **God**,
Which **comes** thru **Christ**
and which is **Christ** Himself.
- 3 Paul the Apostle counted all as **dung**,
'Twas only **God** in **Christ**
he counted **grace**;
'Tis by this **grace**—
the **Lord** experienced—
That he surpassed the others in the race.
- 4 It is this **grace**—
Christ as our inward **strength**—
Which with His all-sufficiency doth fill;
It is this **grace** which in our **spirit** is,
There energizing, working out **God's** will.
- 5 This **grace**, which is the
living **Christ** Himself,
Is what **we need** and must experience;
Lord, may we know this **grace**
and **by it live**,
Thyself increasingly as **grace** to sense.

Hymn 1090
Praise the Lord – His Redemption

- 1 Dear **Lord**,
how precious is Thy **blood**,
Of the New Testament!
By it **God's** blessings we **receive**,
And we with Him are blent.
- 2 "Tis by Thy **blood**
we've been **redeemed**,
And by it **sanctified**.
Now is our conscience
free from sin,
From dead works purified.
- 3 Better than Abel's, now Thy **blood**
Speaks unto **God** for us.
Perfect **redemption** it provides,
Meeting **God's** righteousness.
- 4 Through the eternal **Spirit**, Thou
Offeredst Thyself to **God**.
This sacrifice can ne'er grow old;
Timeless is Thy dear **blood**.
- 5 'Tis by Thy **blood** we boldly come
Unto the throne of **grace**,
Unto our **God**, the **cov'nant new**,
And to the **Holiest Place**.
- 6 **Lord**, by Thy **blood**,
God is obliged
His very **Self to give**;
He must **receive** us to Himself,
And **He in us must live**.
- 7 Dear **Lord**,
how precious is Thy **blood**
Of the New Testament!
By it **God's** blessings we **receive**,
And we with Him are blent.
- Luk 22:19 –**
And He took a **loaf** and gave thanks, and
He broke it and gave it to them, saying,
This is My **body** which is **being given**
for you; do this in **remembrance of Me**.
- Luke 22:20 –**
And similarly the **cup** after they had dined,
saying, This **cup** is the **new covenant**
established in My **blood**, which is **being**
poured out for you.

Hymn 46
Worship of the Father – His Grace in Sonship

- 1 O **gracious God**, Thy pleasure
Is in Thy **Christ** made known,
And tells the **boundless measure**
Of blessing for Thine own.
He has Thy presence entered,
As Man in heav'n is known;
In Him Thy **glory's** centered,
In Him Thy purpose shown.
- 2 And O what **love** is beaming
Refulgent in that face!
What blessed light is streaming
From that most glorious place!
Both **love** and **light** proclaiming
What Thou, the **Father**, art,
And wondrous **grace** revealing,
With Thine own **Son**, our part.
- 3 Thou source of every **blessing**!
Thou spring of all delight!
Thy **Name** with joy confessing
Let all the saints unite!
Each heart its **praise** outpouring
To Thee all **praise** above,
Each voice in strains adoring
Re-echoes—"God is love."

Hymn 28
Worship of the Father – His Love

- 1 The **love** of **God** is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His **Son** to win;
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.
- Chorus:**
O **love** of **God**, how rich and pure!
How **measureless** and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.
- 2 When hoary time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
All **measureless** and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
The saints' and angels' song.
- 3 Could we with **ink** the ocean fill,
And were the skies of **parchment** made;
Were every **stalk** on earth a quill,
And every man a **scribe** by trade;
To write the **love** of **God** above
Would **drain** the ocean dry;
Nor could the **scroll contain** the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.