

“WORD OF LIFE”

March 16, 2025

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

P - 20. The Thief in the Parable of Watching

Hymns: # 169 / # 160 / # 48

✚ “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 – Christ’s coming to the earth]

Matt. 24:43 - But know this, that if the householder had known in which watch the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

Rev. 3:3 - Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep it and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you.

Matt. 24:44 - For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming.

✚ “...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 as a thief comes to steal precious things at an unknown time (Matt. 24:43-44).

- Thieves come secretly to steal what is valuable,
 - having a discerning eye for what is precious
 - stealing precious things at an unknown time.
- The Lord Jesus will come secretly as a thief
 - to those who love Him and will take them away as His treasures.
 - we should seek to be precious, worthy of being “stolen” by Him in His secret coming

✚ “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)

✚ We should be a normal Christian who are qualified to be stolen by the Lord. We do not know the time of His secret coming so, we need to be watchful and be ready. The Lord Jesus will come secretly as a thief to those who love Him and will take them away as His treasures.

✚ Hence, for the Lord’s secret coming as a thief we need watchfulness and readiness.

- ✓ Revelation 3:3 says, “If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief...”
- ✓ Revelation 16:15 tells us (Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments that he may not walk naked and they see his shame.)
- ✓ 1Thessalonians 5:2 says, “For you yourselves know perfectly well that like a thief in the night, so the day of the Lord comes.”
- ✓ 2Peter 3:10 says, But the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away ..., and the earth and the works in it will be burned up.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 47 letter P – point 20)
[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 169
Praise of the Lord –
His Sweetness

1 Thou, **Lord**, to **God** art precious,
His chosen, His **delight**;
With oil of joy, anointed,
How **comely** in His sight.

Chorus:

We **treasure** with affection
Thy perfect **comeliness**,
Thy **sweetness** and Thy **fragrance**,
And all Thy **loveliness**.

2 The altogether **lovely**,
The **fairest** of the fair,
Thy mouth with **grace** o'erfloweth;
Our hearts their love declare.

3 The wise men offered treasures
And **honored** Thee at **birth**;
Thou wast by noble **buried**,
Still **lovable** in **death**.

4 Thy head has been **anointed**,
The **lovely** One Thou art;
Thy feet anointed also,
Beloved in every part.

5 Thy **death** as myrrh in **sweetness**
Man's spirit comforteth;
Thy **resurrection** **fragrance**
God's longing answereth.

6 As henna flow'rs, Thy **beauty**
In **loveliness** complete;
As apple trees that flourish,
Thy fruit abundant, sweet.

7 Sweet wine Thy **love** surpasseth,
Thy **name** an ointment is;
We take Thee as our love feast
And taste the **sweetest** bliss.

8 As on Thyself we ponder
And all Thy **beauty** trace,
We **taste** to full Thy **sweetness**
And rest in Thine embrace.

Joh 12:3 - Then Mary took a pound of ointment, of very valuable pure nard, and **anointed** the feet of Jesus, and **wiped** His feet with her hair; and the house was **filled with the fragrance** of the ointment..

Hymn 160
Praise the Lord –
His Love

1 **King** of my life, I **crown** Thee now,
Thine shall the **glory** be;
Lest I forget
Thy **thorn-crowned** brow,
Lead me to **Calvary**.

Chorus:

Lest I forget **Gethsemane**;
Lest I forget Thine **agony**;
Lest I forget Thy **love** for me,
Lead me to **Calvary**.

2 Show me the **tomb**
where Thou wast **laid**,
Tenderly **mourned** and **wept**;
Angels in robes of light arrayed
Guarded Thee while Thou **slept**.

3 Let me like Mary,
through the gloom,
Come with a gift to Thee;
Show to me now the **empty tomb**,
Lead me to **Calvary**.

4 May **I** be **willing**, **Lord**, to bear
Daily my **cross** for Thee;
Even Thy **cup** of grief to share,
Thou hast borne all for me.

5 Fill me, O **Lord**, with Thy desire
For all that know not Thee;
Then **touch my lips** with holy fire,
To speak of **Calvary**.

Mrk 14:32 - And they came to a place named **Gethsemane**, and He said to His disciples, Sit here while I **pray**.

Mrk 14:34 - And He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. **Remain** here and **watch**.

Mrk 14:36 - And He said, Abba Father, all things are possible to You; remove this **cup** from Me; yet **not what I will**, but **what You will**.

Hymn 48
Worship of the Father –
His Grace in Sonship

1 We bless Thee, **God** and **Father**,
We joy before Thy **face**;
Beyond dark death for ever,
We share Thy **Son's** blest place.
He lives a **Man** before Thee,
In cloudless light above,
In Thine unbounded **favor**,
Thine everlasting **love**.

2 His **Father** and our **Father**,
His **God** and ours Thou art;
And He is Thy **Beloved**,
The **gladness** of Thy heart.
We're His, in **joy** He brings us
To share His part and place,
To know Thy **love** and **favor**,
The shining of Thy **face**.

3 Thy **love** that now **enfolds** us
Can ne'er wax cold or dim;
In Him that **love** doth center,
And we are loved in Him.
In Him Thy **love** and **glory**
Find their eternal rest;
The **many sons**—His **brethren**—
In Him, how near, how blest!

Eph 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** with every spiritual **blessing** in the heavenlies in Christ,

Eph 1:4 - Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to **be holy** and without blemish before Him in love,

Eph 1:5 - Predestinating us unto **sonship** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,