

## “WORD OF LIFE”

May 18, 2025

### 48. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (28) – In the **Parables** of the New Testament

#### P – 30. The **Best Robe** and the **Fattened Calf** in the Parable of the **Father Receiving** the Prodigal

Hymns: # 152 / # 233 / # 42

✚ “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)

[The Parable of a father receiving his son]

Luke 15:11-12 - ...A certain man had **two sons**...And he distributed to them his living.

Luke 15:13-19 - ...not many days after, the **younger son**...went abroad...and there **squandered** his estate... And when he had spent all...he began to be in want...he said, I will **rise** up and **go** to my father,

Luke 15:20-23 - And he rose up and came to his own father...his father saw him and was moved with **compassion**...the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the **best robe** and put *it* on him...And bring the **fattened calf**; slaughter *it*, and let us **eat** and be **merry**,

Luke 15:24 - Because this son of mine was **dead** and **lives** again; he was **lost** and has been **found**.

✚ “...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)

❖ In the parable of the Father receiving the prodigal son **Christ** is the **best robe** and the **fattened calf**.

- “*Quickly bring out the **best robe** and put it on him*” (v. 22).
  - “**the best robe**” had been **prepared** for the returning son
    - to **cover** him and
    - to **qualified** to match his father.
  - This **robe** signifies Christ to cover the penitent sinner (Jer. 23:6; 1 Cor. 1:30).
  - As the **best robe**, Christ is our **righteousness** in whom we are **justified** before God.
  - As those who have Christ as the **best robe**, we are **justified** by God.
- “*Bring the **fattened calf**; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry*” (v. 23).
  - The **fattened calf** **signifies** the **rich Christ** (Eph. 3:8)
    - **killed on the cross** for the believers’ enjoyment.
    - **As we eat** Christ as the **fattened calf**, we are filled with the **divine life** for our **enjoyment**.

✚ “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)

✚ **God’s salvation** is of two aspects:

- ✓ the **outward** objective aspect signified by the **best robe**, and
- ✓ the **inward** subjective aspect signified by the **fattened calf**.

Christ as our **righteousness** is our outward salvation; and Christ as our **life** and **life supply** for our enjoyment is our inward salvation. As we come back to our father, we enjoy all the riches of God’s provision in His salvation, a salvation that is **not only** a matter of **wearing** the **best robe** to match our Father’s righteousness **but also** of **eating** the **fattened calf** to satisfied our hunger.

✚ Today we are enjoying Christ as our outward **righteousness** and as our inward **life** and **life supply**. Wearing Christ as our **robe**, we feed on Him as the **fattened calf**, digesting Him and assimilating Him into the very fibers of our being. As a result, we are sustained, satisfied, and strengthened, and we experience an inward, metabolic change.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 48 letter P – point 30)  
[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 152

Praise of the Lord –  
His Love

- 1 O how deep and how far-reaching  
Is Thy **love**, dear **Lord**, to me!  
Far beyond my pow'r to fathom,  
Deeper than the deepest sea!  
It has caused Thee **death** to suffer  
And to me Thyself impart,  
That in Thee I might be grafted  
And become of Thee a part.
- 2 Who can tell of all the wonders  
Which Thy **love** for me  
has wrought,  
Yet the greatest of these wonders  
Is that Thou to me art brought.  
Oh! to me Thy **love** has given  
All Thou art as my **supply**;  
As true life I now may share Thee  
And Thy riches e'er enjoy.
- 3 **Lord**, Thy **love** is the expression  
Of Thy loving self divine,  
Making life so full of meaning,  
Harmonized with **God's** design.  
**Grace of life**, how all-sufficient,  
Is my portion day by day;  
I'm the object of Thy favor  
And Thy sweetness taste alway.
- 4 What from Thee can **separate** me?  
Thou wilt love me to the end!  
Oh! Thy **love** is so prevailing,  
E'en Thyself with me to blend!  
We two one will be forever;  
I am Thine and Thou art mine!  
This will be my testimony:  
In Thy **love** we'll ever twine!

#### Rom 8:35 –

Who shall **separate** us from the **love**  
of **Christ**? Shall tribulation or  
anguish or persecution or famine or  
nakedness or peril or sword?

#### Rom 8:37 –

But in all these things we **more than**  
**conquer** through Him who **loved** us.

### 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 **cov'nant** 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**.

**Mat 26:26** - And as they were eating,  
**Jesus** took **bread** and blessed it, and He  
**broke** it and gave it to the disciples and  
said, Take, **eat**; this is **My body**.

**Mat 26:27** - And He took a **cup** and gave  
thanks, and He gave it to them, saying,  
**Drink** of it, all of you,

**Mat 26:28** - For this is **My blood** of the  
**covenant**, which is being **poured out** for  
many for forgiveness of sins.

### Hymn 42

Worship of the Father –  
His Redemption

- 1 By Thee, O **God**, invited,  
We look unto the **Son**,  
In whom Thy **heart** delighted,  
Who all Thy will hath done;  
And by the one chief treasure  
Thy bosom freely gave,  
Thine own pure **love** we measure,  
Thy willing mind to **save**.
- 2 O **God** of **mercy**—**Father**!  
The one unchanging claim,  
The brightest **hopes**, we gather  
From **Christ's** most precious **name**:  
What always sounds so sweetly  
In Thine unwearied ear,  
Has **freed** our souls completely  
From all our guilt and fear.
- 3 The trembling sinner feareth  
That **God** can ne'er forget;  
But one full **payment** cleareth  
His memory of all **debt**.  
When nought beside could **free** us,  
Or set our souls at large,  
The **death** of **God's Beloved**  
Secured a full discharge.
- 4 No wrath **God's** heart retaineth  
To usward who **believe**;  
No dread in ours remaineth  
As we His **love** receive;  
**Returning sons** He kisses,  
And with His **robe** invests;  
His perfect **love** dismisses  
All terror from our breasts.

#### 1Pe 1:18 – 19 –

... that you were **redeemed** from your  
**vain manner of life** handed down from  
your fathers, But with precious **blood**, as  
of a **Lamb** without blemish and without  
spot, the **blood** of **Christ**;

#### Rev 12:11 –

And they **overcame** him because of the  
**blood** of the **Lamb** and because of the  
**word** of their testimony, and they **loved**  
**not** their soul-life even unto death.