

“WORD OF LIFE”

June 08, 2025

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

P – 33. The Vine

Hymns: # 542 / # 198 / # 8043

✚ “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 organism of the Triune God in the divine dispensing]

John 15:1 - I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman..

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Col. 2:9 - For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

✚ “...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 John 15:1 the Lord Jesus is the true vine.”

- The vine is the Father’s pleasure that
 - all He is,
 - all the riches of His nature, and
 - all the fullness of the Godhead
 - be the riches of this vine.
- The vine is thus the embodiment of the fullness of the riches of divinity and of the Godhead.
 - As the vine, Christ is the center of God’s operation in the universe.
 - The entire universe is a vineyard, and centered in this vineyard is the vine.
 - God the Father is the source and the founder, and God the Son is the center.
 - Everything that God the Father is and has
 - is for the center,
 - is embodied in the center, and
 - is expressed through the center.
 - God the Father is expressed, manifested, and glorified through the vine.
 - As the vine Christ is the embodiment and manifestation of the Godhead.
 - ✓ “In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9).
 - As the vine He is also the declaration, the manifestation, of God.

✚ “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)

✚ As the vine Christ is an organism full of life, it is for the propagation and multiplication of life. It is noted for its manifestation of the riches of life. Christ is life to bring forth life and to reproduce life. This propagation and multiplication of life is to express life for the glorification of the Father.

✚ The life of the vine is expressed through the branches in its propagation and multiplication, thus the Father is glorified, because what the Father is in the riches of His life is expressed in the propagation and multiplication of the vine.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 48 letter P – point 33)
[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 542

Experience of Christ –
His Riches

1 O the **riches** of my **Savior**,
So unsearchable, immense;
All the **fulness of the Godhead**
I may now **experience**.

Chorus:

O the **riches**, O the **riches**,
Christ my **Savior** has for me!
How unsearchable their measure,
Yet my full **reality**!

2 O the **riches** of my **Savior**,
All-embracing: **life** and **light**,
Wisdom, **power**, healing, comfort,
Treasures rich of **God's delight**;

3 **God's redemption**, full **salvation**,
And His resurrection pow'r,
Sanctifying, glorifying,
All transcending every hour!

4 O the **riches** of my **Savior**—
Nothing less than **God** as all!
All His person and possessions,
Now my spirit doth enthrall.

5 O the **riches** of my **Savior**!
Who can know their
breadth and length,
Or their depth and height
unmeasured,
Yet they are my **joy** and **strength**.

6 May I know these **boundless riches**,
Christ experience in full;
And with others may I share them
In their content bountiful.

Eph. 2:4 – 7

But **God**, being **rich** in **mercy**, because
of His **great love** with which He **loved**
us, Even when we were **dead** in
offenses, **made us alive** together with
Christ ...And **raised us up** together
with Him and **seated us** together with
Him in the heavenlies in **Christ Jesus**,
That He might display in the ages to
come the **surpassing riches** of His
grace in kindness toward us in **Christ**
Jesus.

Hymn 198

Praise the Lord –
His All-Inclusiveness

1 Dear **Lord**, Thou art the **Tree of Life**,
The very **life supply**;
Thy fruits, replete with life divine,
Our hunger satisfy.

2 Thou art the true and heav'nly **Vine**,
Our very **source of life**;
By Thee we live, in Thee abide,
And rest from all our strife.

3 Dear **Lord**, Thou art the **Apple Tree**,
Thyself we all enjoy;
Thy fruits are sweet to all our taste,
Thy shadow brings us **joy**.

4 Thou art to us the healing **Tree**;
Our **death** Thou didst endure;
Thou on a **tree** for us wast **slain**,
That we may have Thy **cure**.

5 Thou art the very **Branch of God**,
His **fulness dwells** in Thee;
In Thee we take of Him as **grace**
And the reality.

6 **Lord**, Thou art also **David's Branch**
Incarnate here to be;
In Thee we see and comprehend
The true humanity.

7 Thou art the **sprouting Rod** with **God**,
In Thee is endless life;
Before Thy **resurrection pow'r**
Death never can be rife.

8 Thou also art the swimming **Stick**,
The fallen "ax" are we;
By Thine uplifting **pow'r of life**,
From **death** we're **lifted free**.

9 **Lord**, Thou art such a "Plant of Fame,
Of Thee we **richly** share;
As we are here **remembering** Thee,
Thyself we thus **declare**!

Col. 1:19 –

For in Him all the **fulness** was
pleased to dwell

John 1:16 –

For of His **fulness** we have all
received, and **grace** upon **grace**.

Hymn 8043

Worship of the Father –
His Grace in Sonship

1 O **Father**, Thou art boundless **love**;
We **praise** Thee and adore Thee.
For lessons from Thy **grace** above,
We can but joy before Thee.
For **sonship** Thou **predestined** us,
Before the world was founded;
In time Thy **pow'r** was manifest
And **grace** to us abounded.

2 Thine only **Son**
from death Thou raised,
Firstborn in resurrection;
His work completed,
well He's praised;
His vict'ry's our possession.
We've now become Thy **many sons**;
Our heart with **praise** is ringing;
All that Thy firstborn **Son** has done
Fills all our days with singing.

3 His **God** is also **ours**, we're shown;
His **Father** is our **Father**.
Flesh of His flesh, bone of His bone;
Naught us from Him can sever.
By Him we're now led back to Thee
To **sing** in congregation;
Like Him and one with Him are we,
Thy Firstborn's **duplication**.

4 What **grace** and **love** divine this is!
Thy **Son** and sons joined ever;
Our blest **eternal portion** 'tis,
Our **Father's joy** and **pleasure**!
Thy **Son** will come
from heaven soon;
Today we here await Him;
May this desire our hearts consume:
With lute and lyre to **praise** Him.

Eph 1:4 – 6

Even as He **chose** us in Him before
the foundation of the world to be
holy and **without blemish** before Him
in **love**, **Predestinating** us unto
sonship through **Jesus Christ** to
Himself, according to the good
pleasure of His will, To the **praise** of
the **glory** of His **grace**, with which
He **graced** us in the **Beloved**;