

Outline of the Messages for the Memorial Day Conference
May 24-27, 2013

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE COMPLETING MINISTRY OF PAUL

Message Three
The Indwelling Christ

Hymns 537,538

Scripture Reading: John 14:16-18, 20; Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 4:7; Col. 1:27; Eph. 3:17a

- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

I. The most precious result of our faith in Christ is that we receive Him into us—

John 1:12-13; 3:15; Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:27:

- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are disapproved?
Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
A. Although this is the pure and unadulterated yet mystical truth, it has been neglected by most Christians.
B. Christ has ascended to heaven, but He is also dwelling in us—3:1; 1:27:
Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
1. On the one hand, He is in heaven interceding for us as our great High Priest, our Advocate, to carry out God's economy—Heb. 7:25-26; 1 John 2:1; Rom. 8:34.
Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.
Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens,
1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous;
Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
2. On the other hand, He is the all-inclusive Christ dwelling in us—v. 10.
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

II. Christ dwells in the believers as the life-giving Spirit in resurrection—John 14:16-18, 20; 1 Cor. 15:45b:

- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- A. The Christ who was the Comforter outside the disciples while He was on earth has become, through His death and resurrection, another Comforter, the Spirit of reality, inside the disciples—John 14:16-18, 20.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- B. Christ's resurrection was His transfiguration into the life-giving Spirit in order to enter into the believers—1 Cor. 15:45b; John 14:17.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- C. As another Comforter, the Spirit of reality, inside of us, the indwelling Christ is our life, our supply, and our person—Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

III. The gospel of God, as the subject of the book of Romans, concerns Christ as the Spirit living within the believers after His resurrection—1:3-4; 8:10:

- Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- A. Romans reveals that Christ has resurrected and has become the life-giving Spirit; He is no longer merely the Christ outside of us—He is now the Christ within us—vv. 9-10, 34.
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- B. The gospel in Romans is the gospel of the One who is now indwelling the believers as their subjective Savior—v. 10.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

IV. The indwelling Christ is the secret of the Christian life—Col. 1:27; Phil. 4:12:

- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

- A. The most crucial point in our enjoyment of Christ's salvation is the indwelling Christ—2 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 1:19; 2:12-13.
 - 2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are disapproved?
 - Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 - Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
 - Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- B. Christ is subjective to us; He is not only near us but also within us, in the depths of our being.
- C. Christ in us is the heart of the Bible and the heart of our being—Eph. 3:17a.
 - Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

V. The indwelling Christ is the treasure in earthen vessels—2 Cor. 4:7:

- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- A. God's shining in our hearts brings into us a treasure, the indwelling Christ of glory, who is the embodiment of the Triune God to be our life and our everything—v. 6.
 - 2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- B. This treasure, the indwelling Christ, is the divine source of the supply for the Christian life—v. 7.
 - 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- C. If we learn to take Christ as our person by looking at the index of His eyes and enjoying His presence, we will have a sweet sense of the preciousness of the indwelling Christ—2:10; 3:18; 4:6-7.
 - 2 Cor 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;
 - 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
 - 2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

VI. We worship the enthroned Christ in the heavens, but we experience, enjoy, and partake of the indwelling Christ in our spirit; we are one with Him in a very subjective way—Col. 3:1; 1:27; 1 Cor. 6:17:

- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- A. Christ, who dwells in our spirit, is our hope of glory; the indwelling Christ will saturate our entire being so that our physical body may be transfigured and conformed to the body of His glory—Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:21.
 - Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

- Phil 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.
- B. The Christ who indwells us is not a small, limited Christ but the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ—Col. 1:15-16, 18-19.
- Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
Col 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
Col 1:19 For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell
- C. We need to be infused, saturated, and permeated with the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ until in our experience He is everything to us—2:16-17; 3:4, 10-11.
- Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- D. The indwelling Christ is our life; universally, Christ is extensive, but in our experience He is our life, our being—v. 4.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- E. We need to allow the peace of the indwelling Christ to arbitrate in our hearts; the arbitrating of the peace of Christ is Christ working within us to exercise His rule over us, to speak the last word, and to make the final decision—v. 15.
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
- F. We need to let the word of the indwelling Christ dwell in us richly so that He may exercise His headship and minister His riches to us—v. 17; 1:18; 2:19.
- Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

VII. Paul prayed that we would be strengthened into the inner man so that Christ may make His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:17a:

- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- A. Our heart is the totality of our inward parts, the center of our inward being, and our representative with regard to our inclination, affection, delight, and desire; thus, when Christ makes His home in our hearts, He controls our entire inward being and supplies and strengthens every inward part with Himself.
- B. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in us, occupying every part of our inner being, possessing all these parts, and saturating them with Himself.
- C. As Christ makes His home in our hearts, He becomes us and causes us to become Him—v. 17a; Gal. 4:19; Phil. 1:21a.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

- D. When Christ spreads into our hearts, He becomes our person; the only way for Christ to be our person is for Him to make His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:17a.
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- E. The Christ who is making His home in our hearts is an unlimited, immeasurable Christ—v. 18.
Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- F. When Christ makes His home in our hearts, we will be filled unto all the fullness of God; the fullness of God is the Body of Christ as the expression of the Triune God to the uttermost, the ultimate consummation of the corporate expression of the Triune God—v. 19.
Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- G. The genuine church life is the issue of the unlimited and immeasurable Christ personally making His home in our hearts; the content of the church is the Christ whom we take as our person, the Christ who is wrought into our being—v. 17a; 4:16.
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.