

Message Five

The God-man Living

RA Hymns: 475, 86

Scripture Reading: Lev. 1:3, 9; 6:8-13; John 21:15-17;
1 John 3:14; 5:1; 2:6; 4:17; Gal. 6:2-3; Rom. 8:2

- Lev 1:3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall present it, a male without blemish; he shall present it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, that he may be accepted before Jehovah.
- Lev 1:9 But its inward parts and its legs he shall wash with water. Then the priest shall burn the whole on the altar, as a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 6:8 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Lev 6:9 Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering shall be on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it.
- Lev 6:10 And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen trousers he shall put on his flesh; and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has consumed the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.
- Lev 6:11 Then he shall take off his garments and put on other garments and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place.
- Lev 6:12 And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it must not go out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall lay the burnt offering in order upon it and shall burn the fat of the peace offerings on it.
- Lev 6:13 Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.
- John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
- John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
- John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
- 1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.
- 1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.
- 1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.
- 1 John 4:17 In this has love been perfected with us, that we have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world.
- Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ completely.
- Gal 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

I. The desire of God's heart is that "the reality...in Jesus" (Eph. 4:21), the actual condition of the God-man living of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, would be duplicated in the many members of Christ's Body by the Spirit of reality to become the reality of the Body of Christ, the highest peak in God's economy (vv. 20-24):

- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
- Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- A. The four Gospels show the pattern of the life that God desires, the mold of the life that can satisfy God and fulfill His purpose; Jesus lived a life in which He did everything in God,

with God, and for God; God was in His living, and He was one with God; this is what is meant by *the reality is in Jesus*; to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus is to be molded into the pattern of Christ, to be conformed to the image of Christ—Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 4:20-21.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,

Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

- B. We are being perfected by the Lord to be God-men, living the divine life by denying our natural life according to the model of Christ as the first God-man—Matt. 11:29a; 17:5b; 1 Pet. 2:21:

Matt 11:29a Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, ...

Matt 17:5b ... and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;

1. In His life on earth He set up a pattern, as revealed in the four Gospels; then He was crucified and resurrected to become the life-giving Spirit so that He might enter into us to be our life; we learn from Him according to His example, not by our natural life but by Him as our life in resurrection—1 Cor. 15:45b; Col. 3:4.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

2. Our Christian life is a life in Christ and also a life of Christ in us; we are in Christ as the mold, and He is in us as our life; in this way we learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus; this reality is the reality of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:17; 12:2a; Col. 1:27; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:10.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

2 Cor 12:2a I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago (whether in the body I do not know, or outside the body I do not know; God knows) ...

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,

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

- C. As we love the Lord, contact Him, and pray to Him, we automatically live Him according to the mold, the form, the pattern, described in the Gospels; in this way we are shaped, conformed, to the image of this mold—this is what it means to learn Christ— Matt. 11:29; Rom. 8:29.

Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

- D. When we live in the mingled spirit, we are learning Christ according to the reality in Jesus by the Spirit of reality; we learn from Him as our model so that His biography becomes our history; the living of the Body of Christ as the new man should be exactly the same as the living of Jesus revealed in the Gospels—Gal. 6:17-18; Rom. 1:1, 9; Eph. 4:20-24; Phil. 2:5; Matt. 11:29; 1 Pet. 2:21.

Gal 6:17 Henceforth let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the brands of Jesus.

Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
 Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
 Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how
 unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
 Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
 Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being
 corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
 Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
 Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and
 holiness of the reality.
 Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
 Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you
 will find rest for your souls.
 1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you
 a model so that you may follow in His steps;

E. The purpose of God in sending the Lord Jesus to be a man was for Him to live a God-man
 life by the divine life; when we eat Him, we live because of Him to become a universal
 great man who is exactly the same as He is—a man living a God-man life by the divine
 life—Lam. 3:22-24, 55-56; Rev. 2:4, 7; John 6:57, 63; Jer. 15:16; Eph. 6:17-18; Psa. 119:15.

Lam 3:22 It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do
 not fail;
 Lam 3:23 They are new every morning; / Great is Your faithfulness.
 Lam 3:24 Jehovah is my portion, says my soul; / Therefore I hope in Him.
 Lam 3:55 I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, / From the lowest pit.
 Lam 3:56 You have heard my voice; do not hide / Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.
 Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.
 Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who
 overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
 John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me,
 he also shall live because of Me.
 John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken
 to you are spirit and are life.
 Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness
 and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.
 Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the
 word of God,
 Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto
 this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
 Psa 119:15 I will muse upon Your precepts / And regard Your ways.

II. The only life that is pleasing to God is the life that is a repetition of the life Christ lived on the earth; this is a life that experiences Christ in His experiences as the burnt offering— Lev. 1:9; John 8:29; 2 Cor. 5:9:

Lev 1:9 But its inward parts and its legs he shall wash with water. Then the priest shall burn the
 whole on the altar, as a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
 John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that
 are pleasing to Him.
 2 Cor 5:9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being
 well pleasing to Him.

A. The burnt offering typifies Christ in His living a life that is absolutely for God and for
 God's satisfaction; the burnt offering also typifies Christ in His being the life that enables
 God's people to have such a living—Lev. 1:3; Num. 28:2-3; John 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; Heb.
 10:5-10.

Lev 1:3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall present it, a male without
 blemish; he shall present it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, that he may be
 accepted before Jehovah.

- Num 28:2 Command the children of Israel and say to them, My offering, My food for My offerings by fire of a satisfying fragrance to Me, you shall be careful to present to Me at its appointed time.
- Num 28:3 And you shall say to them, This is the offering by fire which you shall present to Jehovah: two male lambs a year old without blemish each day as a continual burnt offering.
- John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.
- Heb 10:5 Therefore, coming into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.
- Heb 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not delight.
- Heb 10:7 Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me) to do Your will, O God."
- Heb 10:8 Saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not desire nor delight in" (which are offered according to the law),
- Heb 10:9 He then has said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first that He may establish the second,
- Heb 10:10 By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- B. The word translated "burnt offering" denotes something that is ascending; this ascending refers to Christ (Lev. 1:3, 10, 14); the only thing that can ascend to God from earth is the life lived by Christ, for He is the unique person to live a life that is absolutely for God (John 6:38).
- Lev 1:3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall present it, a male without blemish; he shall present it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, that he may be accepted before Jehovah.
- Lev 1:10 And if his offering is from the flock, of the sheep or of the goats, for a burnt offering, he shall present it, a male without blemish.
- Lev 1:14 And if his offering to Jehovah is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall present his offering of turtledoves or of young pigeons.
- John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- C. The burnt offering was "a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah" (Lev. 1:9); the Hebrew words translated "satisfying fragrance" literally mean "savor of rest or satisfaction"; a satisfying fragrance is a savor that brings satisfaction, peace, and rest; such a satisfying fragrance is an enjoyment to God.
- D. By laying our hands on Christ as our burnt offering through the proper prayer, we are joined to Him, and He and we become one; as Christ lives in us, He repeats in us the life He lived on earth, the life of the burnt offering—v. 4; 1 Cor. 6:17; Gal. 2:20.
- Lev 1:4 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him, to make expiation for him.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- E. In such a union, such an identification, all our weaknesses, defects, and faults are taken on by Him—2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:20a.
- 2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Gal 2:20a I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me;...
- F. We must allow the Lord to burn us so that we may be a continual burnt offering to burn others and be reduced to ashes to become the New Jerusalem for God's expression—Psa. 20:3; Lev. 1:16; 6:8-13; 1 Cor. 3:12a; Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10-11, 18-21:
- Psa 20:3 May He remember all your meal offerings / And accept your burnt offering. Selah.

- Lev 1:16 And he shall take away its crop with its feathers and cast it beside the altar toward the east, in the place of the ashes.
- Lev 6:8 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
 Lev 6:9 Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering shall be on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it.
- Lev 6:10 And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen trousers he shall put on his flesh; and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has consumed the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.
- Lev 6:11 Then he shall take off his garments and put on other garments and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place.
- Lev 6:12 And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it must not go out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall lay the burnt offering in order upon it and shall burn the fat of the peace offerings on it.
- Lev 6:13 Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.
- 1 Cor 3:12a But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, ...
 Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- Rev 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.
- Rev 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;
- Rev 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.
- Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
1. The ashes signify Christ reduced to nothing; since we are one with the Christ who has been reduced to ashes, we also are reduced to ashes, that is, reduced to nothing, to zero—Mark 9:12; Isa. 53:3; 1 Cor. 1:28; 2 Cor. 12:11.

Mark 9:12 And He said to them, Elijah does indeed come first and restore all things. And how is it that it is written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be counted as nothing?

Isa 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, / A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; / And like one from whom men hide their faces, / He was despised; and we did not esteem Him.

1 Cor 1:28 And the lowborn things of the world and the despised things God has chosen, things which are not, that He might bring to nought the things which are,

2 Cor 12:11 I have become foolish; you yourselves have compelled me. For it is I who should have been commended by you; for in nothing am I inferior to the super-apostles, even though I am nothing.
 2. The more we are identified with Christ in His death, the more we will realize that we have become a heap of ashes; when we become ashes, we are no longer a natural person; instead, we are a person who has been crucified, terminated, burned—Gal. 2:20a.

Gal 2:20a I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; ...
- G. Putting the ashes at the east side of the altar, the side of the sunrise, is an allusion to resurrection—Lev. 1:16; John 11:25; Phil. 3:10-11; 2 Cor. 1:9:
- Lev 1:16 And he shall take away its crop with its feathers and cast it beside the altar toward the east, in the place of the ashes.

- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- 2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;
1. With Christ as the burnt offering, the ashes are not the end— they are the beginning; the ashes mean that Christ has been put to death, but the east signifies resurrection—Mark 9:31.

Mark 9:31 For He was teaching His disciples. And He said to them, The Son of Man is being delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, after three days He will rise.
 2. The more we are reduced to ashes in Christ, the more we will be put to the east, and on the east we will have the assurance that the sun will rise and that we will experience the sunrise of resurrection—Phil. 3:10-11.

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- H. Eventually, the ashes will become the New Jerusalem—Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10-11:
- Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
1. Christ's death brings us to an end, reduces us to ashes, and in resurrection the ashes become precious materials for God's building—1 Cor. 3:9b, 12a.

1 Cor 3:9b ... you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

1 Cor 3:12a But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, ...
 2. When we are reduced to ashes, we are brought into the transformation of the Triune God to become the precious materials for the building of the New Jerusalem—Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rev. 21:18-21.

Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

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.

Rev 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Rev 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

Rev 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

III. In carrying out God's New Testament ministry, the Lord Jesus, as the reality of the burnt offering, did not do anything out of Himself (John 5:19), He did not do His own work (4:34; 17:4), He did not speak His own word (14:10, 24), He did everything not by His own will (5:30), and He did not seek His own glory (7:18); He was never disappointed because He was satisfied only with God (Isa. 42:4; 50:4-5; 53:2a; cf. John 4:13-14; 6:15; Mark 9:7-8):

- John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
- John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.
- John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth, finishing the work which You have given Me to do.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
- John 14:24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.
- John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him.
- Isa 42:4 He will not faint, nor will He be discouraged, / Until He has established justice in the earth; / And the coastlands will wait for His instruction.
- Isa 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.
- Isa 50:5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; / And I was not rebellious, / Nor did I turn back.
- Isa 53:2a For He grew up like a tender plant before Him, / And like a root out of dry ground. ...
- John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again,
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
- John 6:15 Then Jesus, knowing that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him King, withdrew again to the mountain, Himself alone.
- Mark 9:7 And a cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: This is My Son, the Beloved. Hear Him!
- Mark 9:8 And suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone, but Jesus only with them.

A. The Lord's life was His work, His move, and His ministry; His work was His living, and His move was His being; with Him there was no difference between His life, His work, His move, and His ministry; the Lord Jesus lived His ministry—cf. Luke 22:26-27; John 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 1 John 5:16a; 2 Cor. 3:6; Phil. 1:25.

- Luke 22:26 But you shall not be so; but let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves.
- Luke 22:27 For who is greater, the one who reclines at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am in your midst as the one who serves.
- John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 1 John 5:16a If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. ...
- 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- Phil 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith,

B. The Lord Jesus was a man of prayer, being one with God, living in the presence of God without ceasing, trusting in God and not in Himself under any kind of suffering and persecution, and being One in whom Satan, the ruler of the world, had nothing (no ground,

no hope, no chance, no possibility in anything)— John 10:30; 8:29; 14:30b; 16:32-33; 1 Pet. 2:23:

John 10:30 I and the Father are one.

John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

John 14:30b ... for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

John 16:32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has come, that you will be scattered each to his own place and will leave Me alone; yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

1 Pet 2:23 Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;

1. He was a man in the flesh praying to the mysterious God in the divine and mystical realm; He often went to the mountain or withdrew to a private place to pray—Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:28.

Matt 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.

Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still night, He went out and went away to a deserted place, and there He prayed.

Luke 5:16 But He Himself often withdrew in the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 6:12 And in these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Luke 9:28 And about eight days after these words, He took with Him Peter and John and James, and went up into the mountain to pray.

2. He was never alone, for the Father was with Him; every moment He saw His Father's face— John 5:19; 16:32; Psa. 16:7-8.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 16:32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has come, that you will be scattered each to his own place and will leave Me alone; yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

Psa 16:7 I will bless Jehovah, who counsels me; / Indeed in the nights my inward parts instruct me.

Psa 16:8 I have set Jehovah before me continually; / Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

- C. When Christ as the God-Savior wanted to save an immoral woman of Samaria, He had to travel from Judea to Galilee through Samaria, He detoured from the main way of Samaria to the city of Sychar, and He waited at the well of Jacob, near Sychar, for His object to come that He might cherish her by asking her to give Him something to drink so that He might nourish her with the water of life, which is the flowing Triune God Himself— John 4:3-14.

John 4:3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.

John 4:4 And He had to pass through Samaria.

John 4:5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land that Jacob gave to Joseph his son;

John 4:6 And Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from the journey, sat thus by the well; it was about the sixth hour.

John 4:7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me something to drink.

John 4:8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

John 4:9 The Samaritan woman then said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, who am a Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

- John 4:11 The woman said to Him, Sir, You have no bucket, and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?
- John 4:12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as well as his sons and his cattle?
- John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again,
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

D. When none of the accusing Pharisees could condemn the adulterous woman, Christ as the God-Savior, in His humanity, said to her, “Neither do I condemn you,” to cherish her that He, as the great I Am, might nourish her with the freedom from sin and enable her to “sin no more”—8:3-11, 24, 34-36.

- John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the midst,
- John 8:4 They said to Him, Teacher, this woman has been caught committing adultery, in the very act.
- John 8:5 Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. What then do You say?
- John 8:6 But they said this to tempt Him, so that they might have reason to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote with His finger on the ground.
- John 8:7 But when they persisted in questioning Him, He stood up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.
- John 8:8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.
- John 8:9 And when they heard that, they went out one by one, beginning with the older ones. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman stood where she was, in the midst.
- John 8:10 And Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?
- John 8:11 And she said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.
- John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins.
- John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.
- John 8:35 And the slave does not abide in the house forever; the son does abide forever.
- John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

IV. When we abide in the love that is God Himself, love has been “perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world” (1 John 4:17)—Christ as the reality of the burnt offering lived in this world a life of God as love, and He is now our life that we may live the same life of love in this world and be the same as He is (3:14; 5:1; 2:6):

- 1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.
- 1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.
- 1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.
- A. The law of the Spirit of life in our spirit is the law of Christ as the law of love (Rom. 8:2; Gal. 6:2-3); the law of love must be substantiated by the law of the Spirit of life so that we may be able to bear one another’s burdens; but if we are filled with pride, we will be unable to bear others’ burdens because we deceive ourselves by thinking that we are something when we are nothing (v. 3).
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ completely.

- Gal 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
- B. When the law of love is activated within us, we automatically and spontaneously will be shepherds who have the loving and forgiving heart of our Father God and the shepherding and seeking spirit of our Savior Christ— John 21:15-17; Luke 15:3-7.
- John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
- John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
- John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
- Luke 15:3 And He told them this parable, saying,
- Luke 15:4 Which man of you, who has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?
- Luke 15:5 And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- Luke 15:6 And when he comes into his house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.
- Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.
- C. When the law of love is activated within us, our labor in the Lord is a labor of love (1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Thes. 1:3) in which we “support the weak” (Acts 20:35) and “sustain the weak” (1 Thes. 5:14); *the weak* refers to those who are weak either in their spirit or soul or body, or are weak in faith (Rom. 14:1; 15:1).
- 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 1 Thes 1:3 Remembering unceasingly your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father;
- Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you by example that toiling in this way we ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.
- 1 Thes 5:14 And we exhort you, brothers, Admonish the disorderly, console the fainthearted, sustain the weak, be long-suffering toward all.
- Rom 14:1 Now him who is weak in faith receive, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his considerations.
- Rom 15:1 But we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those who are weak and not to please ourselves.
- D. After His resurrection the Lord shepherded Peter and commissioned him to feed His lambs and shepherd His sheep; this is to incorporate the apostolic ministry with Christ’s heavenly ministry to take care of God’s flock, the church, which issues in the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate in the New Jerusalem for the accomplishment of the eternal economy of God— John 21:15-17.
- John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
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