

**THE VISION, THE LIVING, AND THE PRACTICE  
OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY TODAY**

Afternoon Message One

**The Experience of the Cross—  
For the Proper God-man Living in the Lord's Recovery Today**

- I. According to the record of the Gospels, the life of Christ is a crucified life—Matt. 3:13-15; 10:37-39; 16:21-25; 26:39; John 5:19, 30; 7:6:**
- A. Christ has two lives, the divine life and the human life
  - B. For Jesus to express God, He had to deny His human life.
  - C. The crucified life gave the opportunity for the divine life to be lived out for the expression of God.
  - D. Before He was put on the cross, He lived under the cross continually and constantly.
- II. The Christian life is both a living life and a dying life—Gal. 2:20:**
- A. We live in the mold of the death of Christ by being conformed to His death—Phil. 3:10:
    - 1. Our marriage life and family life are the mold of the cross to us.
    - 2. Our church life is also the mold of the cross to us.
    - 3. The cross is our destiny; only when we are in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth will we be out of the shadow of death—Rev. 21:25.
  - B. We experience the power of resurrection in the shadow of the death of Christ—Rom. 6:5; S. S. 2:8, 14; 4:16.
  - C. Being conformed to Christ's death is the very base of the experience of Christ—Phil. 1:20-21; 3:10:
    - 1. In Philippians, a book on the experience of Christ, Paul spoke of being conformed to Christ's death.
    - 2. By being conformed to Christ's death, we participate in His suffering.
    - 3. Such participation brings us to the knowledge of the power of His resurrection.
    - 4. By knowing the power of resurrection, we know Christ Himself.
- III. We need to put to death the good aspects of our natural life including our culture, national characteristics, domestic logic, and philosophical ethics—Phil. 3:3-7:**
- A. Treasuring and preserving part of our natural life creates a serious problem with respect to the experience of Christ.
  - B. Our national characteristics are a huge rock that hinders the release of the power of Christ's resurrection.
  - C. These things may be very good, but they are not in resurrection and they are not in the new creation.
- IV. In order to experience the cross in a subjective way, we need a vision of Christ—Matt. 16:16-17; Col. 3:11:**
- A. What we see concerning Christ must become a dominating factor in our being.
  - B. When we see that God's unique desire is Christ with the church, everything besides Christ drops.

- C. To see such a vision, we must have a humble heart, an open mind, and be poor in spirit.