

## CRUCIAL POINTS ON THE LIFE AND PERSON OF A LEADING ONE

Afternoon Message One

### **The Living of the Elders and Co-workers in Building Up a Personal and Affectionate Relationship with Christ and Being Brought into a Private and Spiritual Fellowship with Him**

Scripture Reading: S. S. 1:2-8

#### **I. As lovers of Christ, we must seek and pursue Him for satisfaction:**

- A. We have to pursue Christ to gain Him—Phil. 3:7-14:
  - 1. This is the basic, elementary, and governing principle of the Christian life.
  - 2. All things other than Christ are refuse and vanity; only Christ is excellent.
- B. The seeker in Song of Songs is drawn to run after the king because of three things:
  - 1. His love is attracting—“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!”—1:2.
  - 2. His name is charming—“Your name is like ointment poured forth”—S. S. 1:3a.
  - 3. His person is captivating—“Draw me; we will run after you”—v. 4a.
- C. We need to build up a *personal* and *affectionate* relationship with and seeking of Christ:
  - 1. After we believe in Christ, we have to love Him; faith is to receive Christ, and love is to pursue Christ—1 Cor. 2:9 (*note 3*).
  - 2. We do not want a movement in the Lord’s recovery; a person can be moved to join a movement and not have any personal contact with the Lord.
  - 3. In order to practice the high truth, we need the personal and affectionate experience of Christ.
  - 4. The very God whom we pursue is personal and affectionate; there should be a warm, intimate, and close affection between us and Him:
    - a. The Lord Jesus mentioned Peter’s name and John reclined on the Lord’s bosom, both in a personal and affectionate way—Mark 16:7; John 13:23.
    - b. Only the face of tears that Peter saw, only the face of glory into which Stephen looked, and only the heart that wept with Mary can keep us away from idols, the attractions of this world (*Hymns, #437*)—Luke 22:61; Acts 7:55; John 11:35.
  - 5. We all need this kind of intimate contact with the Lord every morning and every day; no one can represent you or do anything for you in this matter; it must be personal.

#### **II. As seekers of Christ, we must go to our mingled spirit for fellowship with Him:**

- A. Jesus today is no longer a physical Savior but the pneumatic Christ:
  - 1. In resurrection Christ became the life-giving, compound, consummated, all-inclusive Spirit as the consummation of the processed and consummated Triune God.
  - 2. This One is *private* and *spiritual*; He visits us privately and not openly, spiritually and not physically.

- B. The seeker in Song of Songs was brought into the king's chambers, his dwelling place, to have fellowship with him—1:4b:
1. The inner chambers of Christ refer to our regenerated spirit mingled with and indwelt by Him as the life-dispensing Spirit—Rom. 8:16; 2 Tim. 4:22.
  2. It is the practical Holy of Holies in us for our participation in and enjoyment of the pneumatic Christ—Heb. 4:16.
  3. Since the Triune God dwells in our spirit, we must go to our spirit to have fellowship with Him—Eph. 2:22.