

**THE SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST
FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Second Morning Session—Message One

**To be One Soul, and to Think the Same Thing, Having the Same Love,
through Taking Christ as Our Pattern**

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:2, 5

I. In the book of Philippians, the experience and enjoyment of Christ are a Body matter:

- A. Paul remained in the flesh for the saints' progress and joy of the faith—1:24-25.
- B. Paul's joy being made full indicates fellowship as a two-way traffic between him and the believers—2:1-4.
 - 1. The experience of Christ is a matter of proper mutuality between the apostle and the believers.
 - 2. Our attitude toward the apostle is a test of our condition.
 - 3. The proper fellowship between the believers and the apostle is a safeguard to the normal experience of Christ.
- C. Paul, being constituted a drink offering, was poured out upon the sacrifice of the believers' faith—v. 17.
- D. Paul's seeking after Christ resulted in a concern for the church—vv. 20-21.

II. The secret of the experience of Christ is to be one in soul or joined in soul—1:27; 2:2, 20-21:

- A. If we are only one in spirit but are not joined in soul, we will be hindered and limited in our experience of Christ—4:2.
- B. Differences in the soul are the primary cause of division—1 Cor. 1:10.
- C. Because Timothy was like-souled with Paul, he was in a position to experience Christ to the uttermost in the Body—Phil. 2:19-20.
- D. For the enjoyment of Christ we need such a "co-soul"—v. 2:
 - 1. Thinking the same thing in our mind delivers us from opinions—v. 2a.
 - 2. Having the same love in our emotion delivers us from the honey of having different levels of love for the saints—v. 2b.
- E. Being one in soul in the fellowship of the gospel delivers us from envy, strife, and selfish ambition—1:5, 15, 17.

III. The only way that we can be one in soul is by taking Christ as our pattern—1 Pet. 2:21:

- A. Christ emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men, humbling Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross—Phil. 2:7-8.
- B. This pattern is within us—Col. 1:27; Phil. 1:19; 2:13.
- C. The way to take Christ as our pattern is by living the crucified life—Luke 9:23; Phil 3:10.

D. By taking Christ as our pattern we have His mind to think the same thing—2:2c, 5; 4:2.