

**Outline of  
the Messages for the Full-time Training  
in the Fall Term of 2007**

-----

**GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS**

Message Thirty-Two

**Their Present—Experiencing and Enjoying Christ as the Son in His Grace**

Scripture Reading: Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor. 1:12; 10:13-14; 12:7-10; 13:3-4, 14

**I. Grace is Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God transmitted into our being as the Spirit for our experience and enjoyment—John 1:16-17; Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor. 1:12; 13:14; Rom. 5:17, 21; 1 Cor. 15:10; cf. Gal. 2:20:**

- A. Eating the tree of life, that is, enjoying Christ as our life supply, should be the primary matter in the church life; the more we enjoy Him, the richer the content of the church life will be for the pure testimony of Jesus—Rev. 2:7.
- B. The goal of our Christian life is the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ; “the one thing” in Philippians is the pursuing of Christ to gain Him, lay hold of Him, possess Him, and enjoy Him—1:20-21; 2:2, 5; 3:7-14; 4:13:
  - 1. “Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the *one thing*”—2:2.
  - 2. “Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but *one thing* I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward”—3:12-14.
  - 3. “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; but there is need of *one thing*, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her”—Luke 10:41b-42.
  - 4. “*One thing* I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple”—Psa. 27:4.
- C. To have the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ, we must love the Lord to the uttermost, holding Him and honoring Him as the Head of the Body—Rev. 2:4; Col. 2:19; 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:8; 2:7.
- D. To have the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ, we must keep our consecration fresh and up to date with the Lord for His present recovery—Psa. 43:4; 73:25; 110:3; Gen. 12:8; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 14:7-9.
- E. To have the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ, we must have an attitude of utter helplessness in Christ—2 Cor. 13:3-4; S. S. 8:5-6; *Hymns*, #267:
  - 1. We must see that we cannot make it, and we must realize that we are fully incapable of doing anything in ourselves; the Lord may sovereignly allow us to fail in “one thing” to prove to us that we cannot make it and that we have esteemed ourselves too highly—Luke 18:22, 27; *Hymns*, #578.
  - 2. On the one hand, we boast in our weaknesses; on the other hand, we boast in Christ Jesus—2 Cor. 12:7-10; Phil. 3:3.

3. Apart from Christ we can do nothing, but we can do all things in Christ as the empowering One—John 15:5; Phil. 4:13.
4. Grace is God’s visitation to stay in man, to be born in man, and to be one with man; the church’s duty is not mainly to do something for Christ but to be open to Him as her Husband so that she may continually receive Him as grace upon grace—Luke 1:28, 30, 35-38; John 1:16; cf. Rev. 12:5.
5. Grace is the presence of God coming to us to be our life supply, our strength, and our everything so that we may live out and express Christ as our subjective righteousness; it is by the power of grace, the strength of grace, and the life of grace that we can be right with God, with one another, and with ourselves—Gen. 6:8; Rom. 5:17, 21; cf. 2 Cor. 3:3, 8-9.
6. The God of all grace is the All-sufficient God (Heb. *El Shaddai*) for His believing ones to walk in His presence, constantly enjoying Him and His all-sufficient supply, in order to have God added to them as the element and factor of their perfection—1 Pet. 5:10; Gen. 17:1; Phil. 1:19-21a:
  - a. The divine title *El Shaddai* is composed of two Hebrew words—*El* means *the Mighty One* and *Shaddai* comes from the Hebrew word meaning *breast or udder*.
  - b. Thus, God is the Mighty One with an udder, the all-sufficient Mighty One to be the Nourisher, Strength-giver, and bountiful Supplier of His called ones, who continually receive Him—Gal. 3:2, 5; John 1:16.
  - c. The All-sufficient God is the God of crucifixion for the termination of our natural man in the flesh and the God of resurrection for the germination of our new man for the new creation—Phil. 1:19; Col. 2:11; Gal. 5:24; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Phil. 3:3.
- F. To have the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ, we must enjoy Him as the Overcomer in our spirit, overcoming the accuser of our brothers, because of the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, not loving our soul-life even unto death—Rev. 3:21; 12:10-11; 2:10-11; cf. Micah 5:7-8; 7:18-20.

**II. We enjoy Christ as grace in the church life on the genuine ground of oneness, typified by the dew of Hermon descending on the mountains of Zion—Psa. 133:**

- A. The dew signifies the descending, refreshing, watering, and saturating grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7), the Triune God as our life supply for our enjoyment (2 Cor. 13:14; cf. Lam. 3:22-24):
  1. In typology Hermon signifies the heavens, the highest place in the universe—cf. Eph. 1:3; Matt. 17:1-2.
  2. The mountains of Zion typify the local churches; there is one Zion, one church as one Body, but many mountains, many local churches—Rev. 1:11.
  3. By the grace we receive on the mountains of Zion, we can live a life that is impossible for people in the world to live—Acts 20:32; 2 Cor. 1:12; 12:7-9:
    - a. In the church life all the believers can receive great grace—Acts 4:33.
    - b. In such an organic church life the grace received by the believers is visible—11:23.
- B. The anointing of the Spirit and the supply of grace make it possible for us to live in oneness—Psa. 133:2-3; Eph. 4:3; cf. Psa. 110:3.

**III. We enjoy Christ as grace in the Body life by knowing Him as “the God of measure” to be under the ruling of grace—2 Cor. 10:13-14; Rom. 5:21:**

- A. God has placed all the members in the Body even as He willed—1 Cor. 12:18:
    - 1. The Head sets us in our special place in the Body and points us to our special function—Rom. 12:4; 1 Cor. 12:15-17.
    - 2. Each one of us members has our own place in the Body of Christ; it is assigned by God and should be accepted by us.
    - 3. Since such an assignment is according to God's will, every member is necessary—vv. 19-22.
    - 4. Every member has a definite place, a definite assignment, and a particular portion with which he serves the Body of Christ.
    - 5. Each member has his own characteristics, and each has his own capability; these characteristics constitute the place, position, or ministry of each member—Rom. 12:4-8.
  - B. A basic requirement for the growth and development of the Body is that we recognize our measure and do not go beyond it—Eph. 4:7, 16:
    - 1. We must be willing to be limited by our measure—Rom. 12:3, 6.
    - 2. As soon as we go beyond our measure, we go beyond the authority of the Head and move out from under the anointing.
    - 3. When we go beyond our measure, we interfere with the order of the Body.
    - 4. To think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think without a sober mind is to annul the proper order of the Body life—v. 3.
  - C. Like Paul, we should move and act according to how much God has measured to us, staying within the limits of God's ruling, God's measuring—2 Cor. 10:13:
    - 1. When we give a testimony about our work, experience, or enjoyment of the Lord, we must testify within measure, that is, within a certain limit.
    - 2. Although we expect the work to spread, we must learn how to be under God's restriction; we should not expect a spread that is without measure—vv. 13-15:
      - a. If we spread the work according to the Spirit, there will always be a certain limit—cf. 2:12-14.
      - b. Inwardly, we shall have the consciousness that the Lord intends to spread the work only to a certain extent; inwardly, we do not have the peace to spread the work beyond a certain point.
      - c. Outwardly, in the environment, the Lord may cause certain matters to restrict the spread of the work; the environment does not allow us to go beyond a particular boundary line—cf. Rom. 15:24.
      - d. In the church service we need to realize that God has only measured out so much to us, and we should not overstretch ourselves—12:3-4, 6a.
- IV. The grace given to the local churches in the dark age of the church's degradation is for the believers who seek to answer the Lord's calling to be His overcomers—Rev. 1:4.**
- V. The grace of the Lord Jesus, dispensed to His believers throughout the New Testament age, consummates in the New Jerusalem as the consummation of God's good pleasure, in joining and mingling Himself with man for His enlargement and eternal expression—22:21.**