

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2012**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
WHAT CHRIST IS TO THE BELIEVERS IN HIS PERSON**

Message One

The Portion of the Saints

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:12; 1 Cor. 1:2, 9; 10:16-17

I. “The Father...has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints”—Col. 1:12:

- A. Christ as the preeminent and all-inclusive One is the allotted portion of the saints—v. 12:
 - 1. The allotted portion refers to the lot of the inheritance, as illustrated by the allotment of the good land of Canaan given to the children of Israel for their inheritance—Josh. 14:1.
 - 2. The New Testament believers’ allotted portion is not a physical land; it is the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit—Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 3:14:
 - a. The riches of the good land typify the unsearchable riches of Christ in different aspects as the bountiful supply to His believers in His Spirit—Deut. 8:7-10; Eph. 3:8; Phil. 1:19.
 - b. By enjoying the riches of the land, the believers in Christ are built up to be His Body as the house of God and the kingdom of God—Eph.1:22-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17.
- B. God’s intention is to bring His chosen people into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, typified by the good land flowing with milk and honey; milk and honey, which are the mingling of both the animal life and the vegetable life, are two aspects of the life of Christ—the redeeming aspect for our judicial redemption and the generating aspect for our organic salvation—Exo. 3:8; Deut. 8:8; 26:9; John 1:29; 12:24; Rom. 5:10.

II. “To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours”—1 Cor. 1:2:

- A. Christ, the all-inclusive One, belongs to all believers; He is our portion given to us by God—Col. 1:12.
- B. In 1 Corinthians 1:2 *theirs and ours* emphasizes the fact of Christ being the unique center of all believers in whatever place or situation.
- C. First Corinthians reveals that God has given to us the all-inclusive Christ, with the riches of at least twenty items, as our unique portion for our enjoyment—1:24, 30; 2:8, 10; 3:11; 5:7-8; 10:3-4; 11:3; 12:12; 15:20, 23, 47, 45.

- D. God has determined that in His economy one person—His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—must be everything to all the believers—Matt. 17:5; Col. 3:11.
- E. In His economy God’s intention is to give Christ to us as our portion and to work Christ into us—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:17a.

III. “God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”—1 Cor. 1:9:

- A. God has called us into the fellowship of His Son that we may partake of Christ, participate in Him, and enjoy Him as our God-given portion.
- B. God has called us into the fellowship of, the participation in, the all-inclusive Christ; all believers should be focused on Him, not being distracted by any gifted person, any overstressed doctrine, or any particular practice.
- C. Fellowship means that we and Christ have become one—6:17:
 - 1. We have been called into a oneness where we are one with Him and He is one with us.
 - 2. The word *joined* in 6:17 is a synonym for *fellowship* in 1:9; the joining is actually the fellowship.
 - 3. Whenever we are one spirit with the Lord, we are in the fellowship of Christ, and we experience Him as the all-inclusive One.
- D. Fellowship means that we enjoy Christ and all He is and that He enjoys us and all we are—Phil. 1:18; 2:17-18, 28; 3:1; 4:4, 10:
 - 1. We have been called into a mutuality in which we enjoy what the Son of God is and He enjoys what we are.
 - 2. This fellowship implies a wonderful, universal, mutual enjoyment—our enjoyment of the Triune God, the Triune God’s enjoyment of us, and the enjoyment that the believers have with one another.
- E. The fellowship of Christ becomes the fellowship that the apostles shared with the believers in Christ in His Body, the church—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3:
 - 1. This is the fellowship that we enjoy in partaking of His blood and His body at His table—1 Cor. 10:16, 21:
 - a. The emphasis of the Lord’s table is the fellowship of His blood and body, the participation in the Lord, the enjoyment of the Lord in mutuality, in fellowship—vv. 16-17, 21.
 - b. The Lord has given Himself to us that we may partake of Him and enjoy Him by eating and drinking Him.
 - c. This wonderful Christ is everything to us for our enjoyment; all that He is, is for our participation and enjoyment—1:9.
 - 2. This fellowship involves not only the oneness between us and the Triune God but also the oneness among all the believers—John 17:21-23; Eph. 4:3.
- F. Fellowship also implies a mutual flowing among the believers—1 John 1:3:
 - 1. In the New Testament, fellowship describes the flowing both between us and the Lord and between us and one another—Phil. 2:1.
 - 2. The flow, the current, that we have in our spiritual fellowship involves both oneness and life; our fellowship is a flow of oneness.
 - 3. This fellowship is the reality of the church life—1 Cor. 1:2, 9.