

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2018**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
ENJOYING THE RICHES OF CHRIST
FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Message Seventeen

**Offering Up a Sacrifice of Praise Continually to God
through the All-inclusive, Heavenly Christ within the Veil
and in the Genuine Church Life outside the Camp**

Scripture Reading: Heb. 8:1-2; 7:25-26; 13:8-15

- I. “Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name”—Heb. 13:15:**
- A. *Through Him* refers to the all-inclusive, heavenly Christ unveiled in Hebrews:
1. Christ is the Son (1:2), the effulgence of God’s glory and the impress of His substance (v. 3), the Firstborn (v. 6), the Son of Man (2:5-6), the Author of salvation (v. 10), the Apostle (3:1), the Builder of the house (vv. 4-6), the Sabbath rest (4:9), the real Joshua (v. 8), the Forerunner (6:20), a Minister of the holy places (8:2), the Mediator of a new covenant (9:15), the Author and Perfecter of our faith (12:2), and the great Shepherd of the sheep (13:20).
 2. The heavenly Christ is the kingly and divine High Priest, who can minister to us whatever we need and who saves us to the uttermost—8:1; 7:11, 25.
 3. Christ is the termination, fulfillment, replacement, and New Testament reality of all the Old Testament offerings—10:5-10.
 4. The heavenly Christ revealed in Hebrews is the present Christ—the Christ now, the Christ today, and the Christ on the throne in the heavens, who is our daily salvation and our moment-by-moment supply—8:2; 4:14-15; 7:26.
- B. In Hebrews 13:15 *us* refers to the believers, the many brothers of Christ, who are in the church and are practicing the church life:
1. The church as revealed in Hebrews has various aspects:
 - a. The church is a living composition of the many sons of God, who are the many brothers of Christ brought forth in His resurrection—2:10-12.
 - b. The church is the corporate partnership with Christ—3:14; 1:9.
 - c. The church is the house of God (3:4-6), God’s flock (13:20-21), and the unshakable kingdom of God (12:28).
 2. Hebrews 13 shows us the human virtues and the experiences of Christ that are necessary for the church life—vv. 1-19:
 - a. These virtues include brotherly love, hospitality, and remembering the suffering members—vv. 1-3.
 - b. For a true and steadfast church life we need to hold on to the unchangeable Christ and enjoy Christ as grace—vv. 8-10.
- II. In the church life and in our personal life, we need to offer a sacrifice of praise to God—2:12b; 13:15:**

- A. A sacrifice is something that is a loss to oneself and a gain to God.
- B. In the midst of the church, the resurrected Christ sings hymns of praise to God the Father—2:12b:
 - 1. This is the firstborn Son's praising of the Father within the Father's many sons in the church meetings—vv. 10, 12.
 - 2. When we, the many sons of God, meet as the church and praise the Father, the firstborn Son praises the Father in our praising; He praises within us and with us through our praising—v. 12b.
- C. "Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God"—13:15:
 - 1. Since in the church life we enjoy the unchanging Christ as grace and follow Him outside religion, we should offer through Him spiritual sacrifices to God—vv. 8-10, 13, 15:
 - a. In the church we should offer up through Christ a sacrifice of praise continually to God—v. 15.
 - b. In the church He and we, we and He, praise the Father together in the mingled spirit—2:12b; 1 Cor. 6:17:
 - (1) He, as the life-giving Spirit, praises the Father in our spirit, and we, by our spirit, praise the Father in His Spirit—15:45b; John 4:24; Eph. 2:18; Jude 20-21.
 - (2) This is the best and highest sacrifice that we can offer to God through Him—Heb. 2:12b; 13:15; cf. Hosea 14:1-3.
 - 2. When we pass through reproach and suffering, we should continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God—Heb. 13:12-14.
 - 3. Through the Christ whom we have experienced and enjoyed, we need to offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually—1:2-3; 2:9, 17; 3:1; 4:14; 6:20; 7:25; 8:1; 12:2; 13:8, 15:
 - a. The real praise to the Father comes out of our experience and enjoyment of Christ in our daily life; this is a very pleasing praise to the Father, gladdening and rejoicing His heart—Eph. 3:8, 17a; John 4:24.
 - b. The praises out of our experience and enjoyment of Christ are the best praise to the Father—Psa. 45:1-2; 145:1.

III. If we would offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God through the all-inclusive, heavenly Christ and in the genuine church life, we need to enter within the veil to enjoy the glorious Christ and go forth unto Jesus outside the camp to follow the suffering Jesus—Heb. 6:19; 13:11-14:

- A. The three crucial matters set forth in Hebrews are the Holy of Holies, the pathway of the cross (signified by going forth unto Jesus outside the camp, bearing His reproach), and the unshakable kingdom—6:19; 13:13; 12:28.
- B. The Holy of Holies with its rich supply enables us to take the narrow, difficult pathway of the cross, and the pathway of the cross ushers us into the kingdom in its manifestation that we may obtain the reward of glory—10:35.
- C. Let us enjoy the glorious Christ, follow the suffering Jesus, and offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God.