

**Outline of  
the Messages for the Full-time Training  
in the Fall Term of 2025**

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**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—  
PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS**

Message Sixteen

**Giving Christ the First Place in All Things**

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:18b, 17b; 3:11b; Rev. 2:4-5; 22:1-2a

**Col. 1:18**—And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

**Col. 1:17**—And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;

**Col. 3:11**—Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

**Rev. 2:4-5**—But I have *one thing* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

**Rev. 22:1-2**—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. <sup>2</sup>And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

- I. God's eternal economy can be likened to a great wheel (cf. Ezek. 1:15); Christ is the hub (the center, or God's centrality), and Christ is the rim (the circumference, or God's universality)—“Everything is in Christ, / And Christ is everything” (see chorus of *Hymns*, #513).**

**cf. Ezek. 1:15**—And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for *each of* their four faces.

- II. God's goal is for His Son to have “the first place in all things”; God's plan is focused on Christ as the center; “all things cohere in Him,” and “Christ is all and in all”—Col. 1:18b, 17b; 3:11b:**

**Col. 1:18**—And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

**Col. 1:17**—And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;

**Col. 3:11**—Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

- A. God's plan is “to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him”—Eph. 1:10:**

**Eph. 1:10**—Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

1. This heading up is “to the church” (vv. 22-23) so that the Body of Christ may share in all that is of Christ as the Head, having been rescued from the heap of the universal collapse in death and darkness, which was caused by the rebellion of the angels and the rebellion of man (Gen. 1:1-2 and all footnotes on v. 2).

**Eph. 1:22-23**—And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

**Gen. 1:1-2**—In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>But the earth became waste and emptiness, and darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was brooding upon the surface of the waters.

2. God’s economy to head up all things in Christ is accomplished through the dispensing of the abundant life supply of the Triune God as the life factor into all the members of the church that they may rise up from the death situation and be attached to the Body—John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.

**John 1:4**—In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 14:6**—Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

**John 10:10**—The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly.

**1 Cor. 15:45**—So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul”; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

**Rom. 8:10**—But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

**Rom. 8:6**—For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

**Rom. 8:11**—And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

- B. In His economy God administrates the universe, including all the kings and the kingdoms on the earth, in order to fulfill His purpose, which is that Christ should be preeminent in all things—Dan. 4:17, 26:

**Dan. 4:17**—This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.

**Dan. 4:26**—And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

1. For Christ to be preeminent, God needs a chosen people to coordinate and cooperate with Him; under the rule of the heavens, everything is working together for the good of God's elect for the purpose of making Christ preeminent—Rom. 8:28-29.

**Rom. 8:28-29**—And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup>Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

2. After coming as the God-cut stone to crush the aggregate of human government, the corporate Christ—Christ with His overcoming bride—will become a great mountain to fill the whole earth, making the whole earth God's kingdom—Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; Rev. 17:14; 19:7-8, 11, 14, 19.

**Dan. 2:34-35**—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. <sup>35</sup>Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

**Dan. 2:44-45**—And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever. <sup>45</sup>Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

**Rev. 17:14**—These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, *will also overcome them*.

**Rev. 19:7-8**—Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

**Rev. 19:11**—And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

**Rev. 19:14**—And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white *and* clean.

**Rev. 19:19**—And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.

3. As the stone, Christ is the centrality of God's move, and as the mountain, He is the universality; hence, He is the all-inclusive One, the One who fills all in all—Eph. 1:23; 4:10.

**Eph. 1:23**—Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

**Eph. 4:10**—He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)

**III. Christ must have the first place in our Christian life; to give the Lord the first place in all things is to love the Lord with the first love, being constrained by His love to regard and take Him as everything in our life—Rev. 2:4-5; Col. 1:18b; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Mark 12:30; Psalms 73:25-26; 80:17-19:**

**Rev. 2:4-5**—But I have *one thing* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

**Col. 1:18**—And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

**2 Cor. 5:14-15**—For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died; <sup>15</sup>And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

**Mark 12:30**—And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength.”

**Psalms 73:25-26**—Whom do I have in heaven *but You?* And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth. <sup>26</sup>My flesh and my heart fail, *But* God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

**Psalms 80:17-19**—Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You have strengthened for Yourself; <sup>18</sup>Then we will not turn back from You. Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. <sup>19</sup>O Jehovah God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

- A. The intrinsic reason for the desolation and degradation of the church is that Christ is not exalted by God's people; they do not give Him the preeminence, the first place, in everything; the failure to give Christ the preeminence and to honor and exalt Him is the cause of degradation and evils—Jer. 2:13.

**Jer. 2:13**—For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew out for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns, Which hold no water.

- B. Psalm 80:17 says, “Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, / Upon the son of man whom You have strengthened for Yourself”; this verse reveals that Christ is at the right hand of God, the highest place in the universe; the first place, the highest position, the preeminence, has been given to Christ—Acts 2:33; 5:31; Phil. 2:9-11.

**Acts 2:33**—Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

**Acts 5:31**—This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

**Phil. 2:9-11**—Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

- C. Whenever God's people exalt Christ, giving Him the preeminence in every aspect of their living, there is restoration and revival—Psa. 80:18-19.

**Psa. 80:18-19**—Then we will not turn back from You. Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. <sup>19</sup>O Jehovah God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

- D. To give the Lord the first place in all things, to love the Lord with the first love, is to give the flow of life, the flow of the Lord Jesus within us, the preeminence in all that we are and do; then He is the shining One, the redeeming One, the reigning One, the flowing One, and the supplying One within us—Ezek. 47:1; Rev. 22:1-2; 21:21b:

**Ezek. 47:1**—Then He brought me back to the entrance of the house, and there was water flowing out from under the threshold of the house to the east (for the house faced east); and the water flowed down below the south side of the house, on the south of the altar.

**Rev. 22:1-2**—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. <sup>2</sup>And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

**Rev. 21:21**—And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

1. The One sitting on the throne is the Lamb-God, our redeeming God, from whose throne proceeds the river of water of life with the tree of life for our supply and satisfaction; the Triune God—God, the Lamb, and the Spirit—dispenses Himself into us under His throne, His headship—22:1-2; cf. John 4:14b.

**Rev. 22:1-2**—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. <sup>2</sup>And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

**cf. John 4:14**—But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.

2. We need to pray, “Lord, set up Your throne in my life; set up Your throne in the center of my being; Lord, bring my whole life with my daily life under Your throne”; if we offer such a prayer to the Lord every morning, we will immediately sense something full of God's riches flowing within us.

3. The throne is actually Christ Himself and signifies the administrative authority and the kingdom; Christ in His administrative authority is the throne that governs everything within the house of God—Isa. 22:23; Heb. 4:16. **Isa. 22:23**—And I will drive him as a peg into a sure place, And he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

**Heb. 4:16**—Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

- E. The highest point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with the throne above it—Ezek. 1:22, 26-28:

**Ezek. 1:22**—And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

**Ezek. 1:26-28**—And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it. <sup>27</sup>Then I saw *something* like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw *something* like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him. <sup>28</sup>Like the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud on a day of rain, such was the appearance of the brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah. And when I saw *it*, I fell on my face and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

1. The kind of sky we have as Christians depends on our conscience; our conscience is connected to our sky—Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:12.

**Rom. 9:1**—I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,

**2 Cor. 1:12**—For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

2. When there is nothing between us and the Lord and nothing between us and one another, our sky will be crystal clear, and we will have not only a good conscience but also a pure conscience—Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3; cf. Matt. 5:8; Prov. 22:11; 2 Tim. 2:22.

**Acts 24:16**—Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

**1 Tim. 1:5**—But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and *out of* a good conscience and *out of* unfeigned faith;

**1 Tim. 1:19**—Holding faith and a good conscience, *concerning* which some, thrusting *these* away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith;

**1 Tim. 3:9**—Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

**2 Tim. 1:3**—I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers in a pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions night and day,

**cf. Matt. 5:8**—Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**cf. Prov. 22:11**—He who loves pureness of heart *And* whose speech is gracious will have the king as his friend.

**cf. 2 Tim. 2:22**—But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

3. The throne is the center of the universe, and it is the Lord's ruling presence; the throne in our spirit is actually Christ Himself—Isa. 22:23; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:21; Rev. 22:1.

**Isa. 22:23**—And I will drive him as a peg into a sure place, And he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

**Heb. 4:16**—Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

**Rom. 5:21**—In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Rev. 22:1**—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

4. If we have a clear sky, the throne will be present, and we will spontaneously be under the ruling and reigning of the throne; for God to have the throne in us means that He has the position to reign in us—cf. Dan. 4:17, 25-26; 5:18-31; Isa. 6:1-8.

**cf. Dan. 4:17**—This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.

**cf. Dan. 4:25-26**—You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do* and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills. <sup>26</sup>And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

**cf. Dan. 5:18-31**—Regarding you, O king, God the Most High gave to Nebuchadnezzar your forefather kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty; <sup>19</sup>And because of the greatness which He gave to him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him; whomever he wished he slew, and whomever he wished he kept alive, and whomever he wished he raised up, and whomever he wished he brought down. <sup>20</sup>But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so arrogant that he conducted himself in pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and *his* glory was taken away from him. <sup>21</sup>And he was driven from the sons of men, and his heart was made like that of the beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys; *men* fed him with grass as *they do* bulls, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he came to know that God the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and sets over it whomever He wills. <sup>22</sup>And you his descendant, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; <sup>23</sup>But you have



exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and of gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see nor hear nor know. But the God in whose hand is your breath and to whom all your ways *belong*, you have not honored. <sup>24</sup>Then *that* part of the hand was sent from before Him, and this writing was inscribed. <sup>25</sup>And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. <sup>26</sup>This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE—God has numbered your kingdom and brought it to an end; <sup>27</sup>TEKEL—You have been weighed in the scales and found to be lacking. <sup>28</sup>PERES—Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians. <sup>29</sup>Then Belshazzar commanded; and they clothed Daniel in purple and *put* a chain of gold around his neck, and they made the proclamation concerning him that he should rule as the third *ruler* in the kingdom. <sup>30</sup>In that very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. <sup>31</sup>And Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

**cf. Isa. 6:1-8**—In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphim hovered over Him, each having six wings: With two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to the other, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Jehovah of hosts; The whole earth is filled with His glory. <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the threshold shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>Then I said, Woe is me, for I am finished! For I am a man of unclean lips, And in the midst of a people of unclean lips I dwell; Yet my eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts. <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with an ember in his hand, *which* he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth *with it* and said, Now that this has touched your lips, Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is purged. <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us? And I said, Here am I; send me.

5. To have the throne above a clear sky is to allow God to have the highest and most prominent position in our Christian life; in our spiritual experience, to reach the point of having the throne above a clear sky means that in everything we are completely submissive to God's authority and administration.
6. In Ezekiel 1:26 "the likeness of a throne" is "like the appearance of a sapphire stone"; a sapphire stone is blue in color, which is a heavenly color, indicating the heavenly situation, atmosphere, and condition of God's ruling presence—Exo. 24:10.

**Ezek. 1:26**—And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

**Exo. 24:10**—And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was *something* like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.

7. God desires to manifest Himself through man and to reign through man; He wants man to express Him and to exercise His authority; God's complete salvation is for us to be saved in life and to reign in life by the abundance of



grace and of the gift of righteousness—Gen. 1:26; Rev. 11:15; 3:21; 22:3-5; Rom. 5:17, 21.

**Gen. 1:26**—And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

**Rev. 11:15**—And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the *kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

**Rev. 3:21**—He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

**Rev. 22:3-5**—And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him; <sup>4</sup>And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

**Rom. 5:17**—For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

**Rom. 5:21**—In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- F. Christ must have the first place not only in our living but also in all our messages; “we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake”—2 Cor. 4:5; cf. Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 12:2; Psalms 80:1, 17-19; 110:1-7:

**cf. Heb. 1:3**—Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**cf. Heb. 8:1**—Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

**cf. Heb. 12:2**—Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

**cf. Psalms 80:1**—O Shepherd of Israel, give ear, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth.

**cf. Psalms 80:17-19**—Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You have strengthened for Yourself; <sup>18</sup>Then we will not turn back from You. Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. <sup>19</sup>O Jehovah God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

**cf. Psalms 110:1-7**—Jehovah declares to my Lord, Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies Your footstool. <sup>2</sup>Jehovah will send forth The scepter of Your strength from Zion:

Rule in the midst of Your enemies. <sup>3</sup>Your people will offer themselves willingly In the day of Your warfare, In the splendor of their consecration. Your young men will be to You Like the dew from the womb of the dawn. <sup>4</sup>Jehovah has sworn, And He will not change: You are a Priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek. <sup>5</sup>The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His anger. <sup>6</sup>He will execute judgment among the nations; He will fill the place with corpses; He will shatter the head Over a great land. <sup>7</sup>He will drink from the brook by the way; Therefore He will lift up His head.

1. In our work we should continually draw people back to the center and let them see that “Christ is Lord”; we must give the Lord Jesus His place on the throne—cf. S. S. 1:1-4; Isa. 6:1, 3; John 12:41.

**cf. S. S. 1:1-4**—The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s. <sup>2</sup>Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine. <sup>3</sup>Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; Your name is like ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you. <sup>4</sup>Draw me; we will run after you— The king has brought me into his chambers—We will be glad and rejoice in you; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

**cf. Isa. 6:1**—In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

**cf. Isa. 6:3**—And one called to the other, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Jehovah of hosts; The whole earth is filled with His glory.

**cf. John 12:41**—These things said Isaiah because he saw His glory and spoke concerning Him.

2. In order to give such a message, we ourselves must be broken by God and allow Christ to have the first place in us; our message is just our person— 2 Cor. 4:10-13; John 12:24-26; cf. Luke 12:49-50.

**2 Cor. 4:10-13**—Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. <sup>11</sup>For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So then death operates in us, but life in you. <sup>13</sup>And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, “I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak,

**John 12:24-26**—Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

**cf. Luke 12:49-50**—I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am pressed until it is accomplished!

3. The Lord’s “well done” surpasses all the praises of the world; the smiling face of heaven surpasses all the angry faces of the earth; the comfort of heaven surpasses all the tears of the earth—Matt. 25:21, 23; Jer. 1:7-9, 18-19; Dan. 4:26.

**Matt. 25:21**—His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

**Matt. 25:23**—His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

**Jer. 1:7-9**—But Jehovah said to me, Do not say, I am a youth; For everywhere I send you, you shall go; And everything I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you, declares Jehovah. <sup>9</sup>Then Jehovah stretched out His hand and touched my mouth; and Jehovah said to me, Now I have put My words in your mouth.

**Jer. 1:18-19**—And I am now making you today into a fortified city and into an iron pillar and into bronze walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against its princes, against its priests, and against the people of the land. <sup>19</sup>And they will fight against you, but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you, declares Jehovah, to deliver you.

**Dan. 4:26**—And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

- G. In order to give Christ the first place in all things, we must have an affectionate love for Him; then our tongue will be the pen of a ready writer, ready to write our love for Him and our praise to Him with our experience and enjoyment of Him according to all that He is—Psa. 45:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:3, 6.

**Psa. 45:1-2**—My heart overflows with a good matter; I speak what I have composed concerning the King. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer. <sup>2</sup>You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever.

**2 Cor. 3:3**—Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.

**2 Cor. 3:6**—Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, *ministers* not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- H. Regardless of what the situation is on earth, regardless of what the nations are doing, Christ is riding on triumphantly, prosperously; from the day of His ascension He began to ride on, and He will continue to ride until He comes back in victory—Psa. 45:4-5; Isa. 5:20; 6:1; Acts 5:31; Rev. 6:2; 19:11-16.

**Psa. 45:4-5**—And in Your splendor ride on victoriously Because of truth and meekness and righteousness; And let Your right hand teach You awesome deeds. <sup>5</sup>Your arrows are sharp: The peoples fall under You; *The arrows* are in the heart of the King's enemies.

**Isa. 5:20**—Woe to those who call evil good, And good evil; Who put darkness for light, And light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, And sweet for bitter!

**Isa. 6:1**—In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

**Acts 5:31**—This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

**Rev. 6:2**—And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

**Rev. 19:11-16**—And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, *and* He has a name written which no one knows but Himself. <sup>13</sup>And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white *and* clean. <sup>15</sup>And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup>And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- I. Only Christ the King reigning on the earth with the overcomers as His helpers in the kingship can solve the problems of today's world (Isa. 42:1-4); Christ's name will be remembered in all generations through the overcoming saints; He will be praised by the nations through His overcoming and co-reigning saints (Psa. 45:16-17; Rev. 2:26).

**Isa. 42:1-4**—Here is My Servant, whom I uphold, My chosen One *in whom* My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him, And He will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry out, nor lift up *His voice*, Nor make His voice heard in the street. <sup>3</sup>A bruised reed He will not break; And a dimly burning flax He will not extinguish; He will bring forth justice in truth. <sup>4</sup>He will not faint, nor will He be discouraged, Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait for His instruction.

**Psa. 45:16-17**—In the place of Your fathers will be Your sons; You will make them princes in all the earth. <sup>17</sup>I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will praise You forever and ever.

**Rev. 2:26**—And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

- J. The overcomers, who are typified by Zion, are the beachhead through which the Lord will return to possess the whole earth—Psa. 48:2; Dan. 2:34-35.

**Psa. 48:2**—Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, The city of the great King.

**Dan. 2:34-35**—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. <sup>35</sup>Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- K. “Lift up your heads, O gates; / And be lifted up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in. / Who is the King of glory? / Jehovah strong and

mighty! / Jehovah mighty in battle!... / Who is this King of glory? / Jehovah of hosts— / He is the King of glory!”—Psa. 24:7-10:

1. The gates are of the cities of the nations, the doors are of the houses of the people, and Christ is the Desire of all the nations (Hag. 2:7); all the nations, in a general way, are expecting Christ to come, but Christ will not come quickly according to our human concept (2 Pet. 3:8-9); thus, we need to lift up our heads and await and expect His coming with long endurance.

**Hag. 2:7**—And I will shake all the nations, and the Desire of all the nations will come; and I will fill this house with glory, says Jehovah of hosts.

**2 Pet. 3:8-9**—But do not let this one thing escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord does not delay regarding the promise, as some count delay, but is long-suffering toward you, not intending that any perish but that all advance to repentance.

2. The King of glory is Jehovah of hosts (that is, of armies), the consummated Triune God embodied in the victorious and coming Christ (Luke 21:27; Matt. 25:31); Jehovah is Jesus, and Jesus is the incarnated, crucified, and resurrected Triune God, who is strong in fighting and is victorious (1:21; Rev. 5:5).

**Luke 21:27**—And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

**Matt. 25:31**—But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, at that time He will sit on the throne of His glory.

**Matt. 1:21**—And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for *it is He who* will save His people from their sins.

**Rev. 5:5**—And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.

3. He is the One who will come back in resurrection with His overcomers to possess the entire earth as His kingdom—Dan. 2:34-35; 7:13-14; Joel 3:11; Rev. 11:15; 19:13-14.

**Dan. 2:34-35**—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. <sup>35</sup>Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

**Dan. 7:13-14**—I watched in the night visions, And there with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming; And He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

**Joel 3:11**—Hurry and come, All you surrounding nations, And be gathered. There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!

**Rev. 11:15**—And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the *kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

**Rev. 19:13-14**—And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white *and* clean.

- L. Christ's throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of His kingdom; as the King, Christ has loved righteousness and hated wickedness, and God the Father has anointed Him with the oil of gladness above His companions—Psa. 45:6-7; Heb. 1:8-9.

**Psa. 45:6-7**—Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. <sup>7</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness above Your companions.

**Heb. 1:8-9**—But of the Son, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners”;

**IV. Christ as the One on the throne of God has the appearance of sardius (its red color signifying redemption) and jasper (its dark green color signifying life in its richness); thus, when we submit ourselves to Christ's headship and are under His throne, we are the beneficiaries of all that He is in His judicial redemption and His organic salvation so that we may bear the same appearance as the God of glory in His rich life—Rev. 4:3; 21:10-11a; Rom. 5:10.**

**Rev. 4:3**—And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and *there was* a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

**Rev. 21:10-11**—And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

**Rom. 5:10**—For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,