

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2026**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS**

Message Eleven

Our Heart to Be Established Blameless in Holiness

Scripture Reading: 1 Thes. 3:13; Mark 4:1-20

1 Thes. 3:13—So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

Mark 4:1-20—And again He began to teach beside the sea, and a very great crowd was gathered unto Him, so that He stepped into a boat in the sea and sat down, and all the crowd was on the land, facing the sea. ²And He taught them many things in parables and said to them in His teaching: ³Listen! Behold, the sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some *seed* fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵And other *seed* fell on the rocky place, where it did not have much earth, and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered. ⁷And other *seed* fell into the thorns, and the thorns came up and utterly choked it, and it yielded no fruit. ⁸And others fell into the good earth and yielded fruit, coming up and growing; and one bore thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold. ⁹And He said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁰And when He was alone, those around Him, with the twelve, asked Him about the parables. ¹¹And He said to them, To you it has been given *to know* the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to those outside, all things are in parables, ¹²In order that seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand, lest they turn and it be forgiven them. ¹³And He said to them, Do you not know this parable? And how will you know all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵And these are the ones beside the way, where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown into them. ¹⁶And likewise, these are the ones being sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷Yet they have no root in themselves, but last only for a time; then when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they are stumbled. ¹⁸And others are the ones being sown into the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, ¹⁹And the anxieties of the age and the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts for other things enter in and utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²⁰And these are the ones sown on the good earth: *those* who hear the word and receive *it* and bear fruit, one thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold.

I. In order to live a holy life for the church life, we need the Lord to establish our heart blameless in holiness—1 Thes. 3:13:

1 Thes. 3:13—So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

- A. God is the unchanging One, but according to our natural birth, our heart is changeable, both in our relationship with others and with the Lord—Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23.

Matt. 13:3-9—And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵And others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much earth, and immediately they sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered. ⁷And others fell on the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them. ⁸But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold. ⁹He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matt. 13:18-23—You therefore hear the parable of the one who sowed. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way. ²⁰And the one sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹Yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled. ²²And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²³But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

- B. There is no one who, according to his natural, human life, is steadfast in his heart; because our heart changes so easily, it is not at all trustworthy—Jer. 17:9-10; 13:23.

Jer. 17:9-10—The heart is deceitful above all things, And it is incurable; Who can know it? ¹⁰I, Jehovah, search the heart *And* test the inward parts, Even to give to each one according to his ways, According to the fruit of his deeds.

Jer. 13:23—Can the Cushite change his skin, Or the leopard his spots? *Then* you also may be able to do good, Who are accustomed to do evil.

- C. Our heart is blamable because it is changeable; an unchanging heart is a blameless heart—Psa. 57:7; 108:1; 112:7; cf. 2 Tim. 4:10a; Col. 4:14; Philem. 24.

Psa. 57:7—My heart is steadfast, O God; My heart is steadfast. I will sing, indeed I will sing psalms.

Psa. 108:1—My heart is fixed, O God; I will sing, indeed I will sing psalms, Even *with* my glory.

Psa. 112:7—He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in Jehovah.

cf. 2 Tim. 4:10—For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age, and has gone to Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia; Titus to Dalmatia.

cf. Col. 4:14—Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, as well as Demas.

cf. Philem. 24—*As do* Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

- D. In God's salvation the renewing of the heart is once for all; however, in our experience our heart is renewed continually because it is changeable—Ezek. 36:26; 2 Cor. 4:16.

Ezek. 36:26—I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

2 Cor. 4:16—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

- E. Because our heart is changeable, it needs to be renewed continually by the sanctifying Spirit so that our heart can be established, built up, in the state of being holy, the state of being separated unto God, occupied by God, possessed by God, and saturated with God—Titus 3:5; Eph. 4:23; 5:26; 2 Cor. 4:10-12, 16; Rom. 6:19, 22; cf. Matt. 15:7-8.

Titus 3:5—Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Eph. 4:23—And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Eph. 5:26—That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word,

2 Cor. 4:10-12—Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹For 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. ¹²So then death operates in us, but life in you.

2 Cor. 4:16—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

Rom. 6:19—I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom. 6:22—But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

cf. Matt. 15:7-8—Hypocrites! Well has Isaiah prophesied concerning you, saying, ⁸“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart stays far away from Me;

II. There are two major signs of a renewed heart that is established blameless in holiness—a renewed heart is a heart that turns to God, and a renewed heart seeks purity:

- A. “Whenever Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart; but whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away...But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit”—2 Cor. 3:15-16, 18.

2 Cor. 3:15-16—Indeed unto this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart;
¹⁶But whenever *their heart* turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Cor. 3:18—But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

- B. The intrinsic significance of repentance is to have a change of mind issuing in regret, to have a turn in purpose; it is to turn our hearts from all things other than God and from the things outside of God to God Himself; it is a “repentance unto God” (Acts 20:21), a turning in reality from all things to God; repentance is a divine requirement of God’s New Testament economy (17:30):

Acts 20:21—Solemnly testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance unto God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

Acts 17:30—Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now charges all men everywhere to repent,

1. Repentance is the result of the Spirit’s seeking sanctification; it is a gift given by the exalted Christ (5:31); “then to the Gentiles also God has given repentance unto life” (11:18); *life* here is *zoe* (Gk.), referring to the life of God (Eph. 4:18), the eternal life (1 John 1:2), the uncreated, indestructible life (Heb. 7:16), which is Christ Himself (John 14:6; 11:25; Col. 3:4) as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45).

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.

Acts 11:18—And when they heard these things, they became silent and glorified God, saying, Then to the Gentiles also God has given repentance unto life.

Eph. 4:18—Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

1 John 1:2—(And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

Heb. 7:16—Who has been appointed not according to the law of a fleshy commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life.

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 11:25—Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

Col. 3:4—When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

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.

2. The New Testament indicates that not only the unbelievers but also the seeking, spiritual believers always need to repent; in the epistles in Revelation 2 and 3, the Lord commands most of the seven churches to repent—2:5, 16, 21; 3:3, 19.

Rev. 2:5—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. 2:16—Repent therefore; but if not, I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war with them with the sword of My mouth.

Rev. 2:21—And I gave her time that she might repent, and she is not willing to repent of her fornication.

Rev. 3:3—Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep *it* and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you.

Rev. 3:19—As many as I love I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore and repent.

- C. Hebrews 3:7-19 is a solemn warning to us concerning the danger of hardening our hearts and of having an evil heart of unbelief—“The Holy Spirit says, ‘Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts’...Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God. But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (vv. 7-8, 12-13); *falling away* means “turning away.”

Heb. 3:7-19—Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, ⁸Do not harden your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹Where your fathers tried *Me* by testing *Me* and saw My works for forty years. ¹⁰Therefore I was displeased with this generation, and I said, They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways; ¹¹As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest!” ¹²Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called “today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin— ¹⁴For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end— ¹⁵While it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation.” ¹⁶For who provoked *Him* when they heard? Indeed was it not all who came out of Egypt by Moses? ¹⁷And with whom was He displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did He swear that they should not enter into His rest, except to the disobedient? ¹⁹And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.

Heb. 3:7-8—Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, ⁸Do not harden your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness,

Heb. 3:12-13—Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called “today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin—

- D. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”; a pure heart is a single heart without mixture, a heart that seeks only the Lord and takes the Lord as the unique goal—Matt. 5:8; 1 Tim. 5:22b; 2 Tim. 2:22; cf. John 17:15; Jude 24:
Matt. 5:8—Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

1 Tim. 5:22—Lay hands quickly on no man, nor participate in others’ sins; keep yourself pure.

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.

cf. John 17:15—I do not ask that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them out of *the hands of the evil one*.

cf. Jude 24—But to Him who is able to guard you from stumbling and to set *you* before His glory without blemish in exultation,

1. The more a person is in the word of God, the purer he becomes; when we read the Lord’s word again and again, all the worldly matters in us are removed, and we are cleansed and sanctified:

- a. The word of reality sanctifies us from the mixed-up world, turning us back to the purity in God; the Lord has given the believers two kind of words: the constant word (John 17:14, 17) and the instant words (v. 8).

John 17:14—I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world.

John 17:17—Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

John 17:8—For the words which You gave Me I have given to them, and they received *them* and knew truly that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You sent Me.

- b. God’s living word works in the believers to separate them from the world and its usurpation unto God and His purpose, not only positionally (Matt. 23:17, 19) but also dispositionally (Eph. 5:26; 1 Thes. 5:23; Rom. 6:19, 22).

Matt. 23:17—Fools and blind men, which is greater, the gold or the temple which sanctifies the gold?

Matt. 23:19—Blind men, which is greater, the gift or the altar which sanctifies the gift?

Eph. 5:26—That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word,

1 Thes. 5:23—And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 6:19—I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom. 6:22—But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

2. Psalm 12:6—“The words of Jehovah are pure words, / Silver refined in a furnace on the earth, / Purified seven times.”
3. Psalm 119:9—“With what should a young man keep his way pure? / By guarding it according to Your word.”
4. Psalm 119:11—“In my heart I have treasured up Your word / That I might not sin against You.”
5. Psalm 119:72—“The law of Your mouth is better to me / Than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.”
6. Psalm 119:127—“Therefore I love Your commandments / More than gold, indeed, more than fine gold.”
7. Psalm 119:130—“The opening of Your words gives light / Imparting understanding to the simple.”
8. Psalm 119:133—“Establish my footsteps in Your word, / And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.”
9. Psalm 119:140—“Your word is very pure, / And Your servant loves it.”
10. Matthew 12:34-35—“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man, out of his good treasure, brings forth good things, and the evil man, out of his evil treasure, brings forth evil things.”

III. In order to live a life that is fully according to and for God’s New Testament economy with an established heart, we must allow the indwelling Christ as the seed of life in His word to grow in the soil of our entire heart that He might live in us and be expressed from within us, thus making our heart His home and a duplication of God’s heart—Mark 4:1-20; 12:30; Eph. 3:16-17:

Mark 4:1-20—And again He began to teach beside the sea, and a very great crowd was gathered unto Him, so that He stepped into a boat in the sea and sat down, and all the crowd was on the land, facing the sea. ²And He taught them many things in parables and said to them in His teaching: ³Listen! Behold, the sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some *seed* fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵And other *seed* fell on the rocky place, where it did not have much earth, and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered. ⁷And other *seed* fell into the thorns, and the thorns came up and utterly choked it, and it yielded no fruit. ⁸And others fell into the good earth and yielded fruit, coming up and growing; and one bore thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold. ⁹And He said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁰And when He was alone, those around Him, with the twelve, asked Him about the parables. ¹¹And He said to them, To you it has been given *to know* the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to those outside, all things are in parables, ¹²In order that seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand, lest they turn and it be forgiven them. ¹³And He said to them, Do you not know

this parable? And how will you know all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵And these are the ones beside the way, where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown into them. ¹⁶And likewise, these are the ones being sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷Yet they have no root in themselves, but last only for a time; then when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they are stumbled. ¹⁸And others are the ones being sown into the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, ¹⁹And the anxieties of the age and the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts for other things enter in and utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²⁰And these are the ones sown on the good earth: *those* who hear the word and receive *it* and bear fruit, one thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold.

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.”

Eph. 3:16-17—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, ¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

- A. We must deal with the condition of our heart to make our heart the good earth for the full growth of Christ in us; the good earth signifies a heart that gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold—Mark 4:8-9, 20, 26-29; Luke 8:15; Isa. 37:31. **Mark 4:8-9**—And others fell into the good earth and yielded fruit, coming up and growing; and one bore thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold. ⁹And He said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Mark 4:20—And these are the ones sown on the good earth: *those* who hear the word and receive *it* and bear fruit, one thirtyfold, and one sixtyfold, and one a hundredfold.

Mark 4:26-29—And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth, ²⁷And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens—how, he does not know. ²⁸The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.

Luke 8:15—But that which is in the good earth, these are those who in a noble and good heart hear the word and hold *it* fast and bear fruit with endurance.

Isa. 37:31—And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

- B. The wayside signifies the heart that is hardened by worldly traffic and cannot open to understand, to comprehend, the word of the kingdom; the birds signify the evil one, Satan, who comes and snatches away the word of the kingdom sown in the hardened heart—Mark 4:3-4, 15. **Mark 4:3-4**—Listen! Behold, the sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some *seed* fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured it.

Mark 4:15—And these are the ones beside the way, where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown into them.

- C. The thorns signify the anxieties of the age, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts for other things, which utterly choke the word, preventing it from growing in the heart and causing it to become unfruitful—vv. 7, 18-19.

Mark 4:7—And other *seed* fell into the thorns, and the thorns came up and utterly choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

Mark 4:18-19—And others are the ones being sown into the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, ¹⁹And the anxieties of the age and the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts for other things enter in and utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

IV. “Other seed fell on the rocky place, where it did not have much earth, and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered”—vv. 5-6:

- A. The Lord gave us three main reasons why the seed sown on the rocky place grows so fast yet dries up so soon:

1. The first reason is that “it did not have much earth”; a person with this kind of heart is standing in a shallow place; he is a person living according to and controlled by his environment and his emotions; this is to live by our feelings without any inner knowledge of the Lord; the rocky places that do not have much earth signify the heart that is shallow in receiving the Lord’s word—vv. 5-6, 16-17.

Mark 4:5-6—And other *seed* fell on the rocky place, where it did not have much earth, and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered.

Mark 4:16-17—And likewise, these are the ones being sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷Yet they have no root in themselves, but last only for a time; then when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they are stumbled.

2. The second reason for barrenness is having “no root”; the roots refer to the ***hidden life***; the roots are the parts that cannot be seen, that are hidden, and that are in secret; our spiritual life depends very much on our hidden life before the Lord:

- a. The Lord said in Matthew 6:6 that when we pray, we should enter into our private room, shut our door, and pray to our Father who is in secret, and the Father who sees in secret will repay us; the Lord said that the Father would **see** us in secret; we have always thought that prayer is something that can merely be heard; however, the Lord said here that prayers are seen.

Matt. 6:6—But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

- b. How much of our lives can be seen by God alone and no one else? How much of our lives are spiritual before God and have never been told to men? How many of our precious experiences are kept exclusively for God's enjoyment?—S. S. 4:12, 16.

S. S. 4:12—A garden enclosed is my sister, *my* bride, A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

S. S. 4:16—Awake, O north wind; And come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden: Let its spices flow forth; Let my beloved come into his garden And eat his choicest fruit.

- c. The sun with its scorching heat signifies affliction or persecution; the heat of the sun is for the growth and ripening of the crop, which take place once the seed has been deeply rooted, but because of the seed's lack of root, the sun's heat, which should cause growth and ripening, becomes a deathblow to the seed.
3. The third reason is the rocky place; the rocky place is the hardened heart; only one kind of people will go all the way down to the depths; they are the ones who are as soft and feeble as a child, and they are the ones who fear and tremble at God's word (Luke 18:17; Isa. 66:1-2); if we have not dealt thoroughly with rocks (such as hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity) and if the stubborn self is not thoroughly dealt with and broken by the Lord, our roots will never be deep (Psa. 92:12; Hosea 14:5; Isa. 37:31). **Luke 18:17**—Truly I say to you, Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall by no means enter into it.

Isa. 66:1-2—Thus says Jehovah, Heaven is My throne, And the earth the footstool for My feet. Where then is the house that you will build for Me, And where is the place of My rest? ²For all these things My hand has made, And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is* poor And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Psa. 92:12—The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Hosea 14:5—I will be like the dew to Israel; He will bud like the lily And will send forth his roots like *the trees of* Lebanon.

Isa. 37:31—And the remnant of those who have escaped of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

- B. In order to have Christ as the seed of life deeply rooted in us, we need to be deeply rooted in Him by having a secret life and secret history with Him—Col. 2:7; S. S. 4:12; Psa. 31:20; 32:7; 83:3; 91:1; 119:114.

Col. 2:7—Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

S. S. 4:12—A garden enclosed is my sister, *my* bride, A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

Psa. 31:20—You hide them in the hiding place of Your presence Apart from the conspiracies of men; You lay them away secretly in a shelter Apart from the contention of tongues.

Psa. 32:7—You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with the ringing shouts of deliverance. Selah

Psa. 83:3—They devise crafty counsel against Your people, And conspire against Your hidden ones.

Psa. 91:1—He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psa. 119:114—You are my hiding place and my shield; In Your word do I hope.

- C. We must take time in secret to absorb the Lord, setting aside time every morning to have direct and intimate fellowship with Him in pray-reading and musing upon His Word and interceding for the interests of God's economy—Mark 1:35; Matt. 6:6; Psa. 5:3; 27:4; 46:5; 59:16; 88:13; 90:14; 119:15, 147-148; 143:8; 1 Kings 8:48.

Mark 1:35—And rising very early in the morning, *while it was still* night, He went out and went away to a deserted place, and there He prayed.

Matt. 6:6—But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Psa. 5:3—O Jehovah, in the morning You will hear my voice; In the morning I will set forth *my words* in order to You, And I will watch.

Psa. 27:4—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. 46:5—God is in the midst of her; she will not be moved; God helps her at the dawn of the morning.

Psa. 59:16—But I will sing of Your strength; And I will joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning. For You have been my high retreat And a refuge in the day of my distress.

Psa. 88:13—But I, O Jehovah, have cried out to You; And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Psa. 90:14—Satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness That we may give a ringing shout and rejoice all our days.

Psa. 119:15—I will muse upon Your precepts And regard Your ways.

Psa. 119:147-148—I anticipated the dawn and cried out; I hoped in Your words. ¹⁴⁸My eyes anticipated the night watches, That I might muse upon Your word.

Psa. 143:8—Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You I trust. Make known to me the way on which I should walk, For to You I lift up my soul.

1 Kings 8:48—And *if* they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who have carried them captive, and they pray to You toward their land that You have given to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name;

- D. Day by day and morning and evening, we must keep our heart open to the Lord by talking to Him personally and intimately and by repenting and confessing all our sins to Him; this is the way to deal with our heart to make it the good earth for the growth of Christ as the seed of life—Psa. 102, title; v. 7; 142, title; vv. 2, 7; 139:23-24; 2 Cor. 3:16; 1 John 1:9.

Psa. 102:7—**I watch, and I am like / A lone sparrow on a housetop.**

Psa. 142:2—I pour out my complaint before Him; / I declare my trouble before Him.

Psa. 142:7—Bring my soul out of prison, / That I may give thanks to Your name. / The righteous will surround me, / For You will deal bountifully with me.

Psa. 139:23-24—Search me, O God, and know my heart; / Try me, and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴And see if there is some harmful way in me, / And lead me on the eternal way.

2 Cor. 3:16—But whenever *their heart* turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- E. Giving the Lord the full way to grow in our heart will make our heart the duplicate of God's heart, and we will live a life fully according to and for God's New Testament economy to carry out His heart's desire—*Hymns*, #395, #1132.