

Labor Day Conference 2010

Subject: Christ, Christ, Christ

Message 1: The Christ - His Living Presence Is Precious to the Saints

- I. Philippians a book denoting the most precious experiences a Christian can have after he has seen the church and is living in the church life. This precious book shows us at least five treasures that indicate how Christ is related to His believers.
- A. The First Treasure - To have Christ, that is to be with Christ, by enjoying the presence and the person of Christ (Phil. 1:23).
"For I am hard pressed between the two: having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."
- B. The Second Treasure - Christ as the Divine and Mystical Realm for the believers to enjoy, to partake, to live and to walk in (2:1).
"Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit,"
- C. The Third Treasure - Christ with His excellency is for us to gain, to win, even to possess by our counting all things to be lost (3:8).
"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may Gain Christ"
- D. The Fourth Treasure - Christ as the prize of God's calling on high is for us to forget the things behind and to stretch forward to the things before while pursuing toward this goal (3:13-14).
"One thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ *Jesus*."
- E. The Fifth Treasure - Christ is the source, the reason, the substance, and the element for the believers to rejoice with His servants, with other saints, even with the believers in other local churches (4:4).
"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"
- II. In His resurrection, Christ has sent us to preach the gospel to all the nations and has promised to be ***with us*** all the days until the consummation of the age (Matt. 28:19-20).
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."
- A. On the day of Pentecost, by enjoying the perfect presence of the Lord, Peter spoke boldly with the eleven apostles (Acts 2:1-2, 14).
"When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting... Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them,"
- B. When Paul encountered fierce opposition in Corinth, the Lord Himself was with him (18:5-6, 9-10).
"Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed... Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.'"
- C. John enjoyed Christ who was with the Father, and by being in Christ's presence he brought the saints into the divine fellowship with the Triune God (I Jn. 1:2-3).
"The life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us -- that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

III. Those who are able to enjoy and apply the presence of Christ:

- A. Are willing to surrender themselves to Christ as slaves (Phil. 1:1a).
"Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ"
- B. Join themselves to the church of Christ--to the saints and the serving ones in the church (1:1b).
"To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons"
- C. Enjoy grace and peace in Christ in their daily life (1:2).
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"
- D. Are full of appreciation for the church life.
 - 1. They appreciate the saints' fellowship unto the gospel from the first day until the day of Christ Jesus (1:4-6).
"Always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day...until the day of Jesus Christ;"
 - 2. They appreciate the church because they know that the saints are in the inward parts of Christ Jesus (1:8).
"For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus," (RcV)
 - 3. They appreciate that the saints may approve by testing the things which differ and are more excellent (1:10).
"So that you may approve by testing the things which differ and are more excellent," (RcV)
 - 4. They appreciate that the saints are filled with the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ (1:11).
"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ,"

IV. Those who have the enjoyment of the Lord's presence experience Christ in a variety of aspects for the church.

- A. In suffering, including bonds, the things turn out to the advancement of the gospel (1:12).
"Now I want you to know, brothers, that the things concerning me have turned out rather to the advancement of the gospel" (RcV)
- B. In rejoicing in the Lord's presence because Christ is announced, even if some preach Him because of envy and strife (1:15, 18).
"Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife... What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice,"
- C. In salvation through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (1:19), they:
"For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ," (RcV)
 - 1. In nothing are put to shame but rather full of the boldness in the Lord (1:20a).
"According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always"
 - 2. Magnify Christ in their bodies whether through life or through death (1:20b).
"So now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death,"
 - 3. Testify that to live is Christ (1:21).
"For to me, to live is Christ"
- D. Desiring to depart and be *with Christ*, for this is *far better*, but to remain on the earth for the church is more necessary (1:23-24).
"For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you,"