

Labor Day Conference 2010

Subject: Christ, Christ, Christ

Message 2: Christ--the Divine and Mystical Realm In which We Live and Walk

- I. The divine and mystical realm is a realm in which we enjoy who Christ is, what He has accomplished, and what He is doing today in His resurrection.
- II. In this realm, we have encouragement in the inward parts of Christ, consolation of love (*apape*), and fellowship of life in spirit (Phil. 2:1).
"If there is any consolation in Christ, if any *comfort* of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit,"
- III. In this realm, we take the mind of Christ as our own (2:5).
 - A. Christ existed in the form of God and did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped (2:6).
"Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped" (RcV)
 - B. He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave and becoming in the likeness of men through incarnation (2:7).
"But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;" (RcV)
 - C. He lived in fashion as a man, not craving for the things of this world nor hoping for any success in His divine work; He humbled Himself among men and became obedient to God (2:8a).
"And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient" (RcV)
 - D. His obedience brought His earthly ministry to an end at the cross of shame (2:8b).
"even *unto* death, and that the death of a cross. (RcV)
 - E. God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, thus beginning His heavenly ministry (2:9).
"Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name," (RcV)
- IV. In this realm, we need to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (2:12), leading to four things:
"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always *obeyed*... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;"
 - A. God can operate in us. Although we are heavenly and live in the realm of resurrection, we still need to conduct ourselves with fear and trembling, so that God can operate in us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure (2: 13).
"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."
 - B. We can shine as luminaries in the world and hold forth the word of life (2: 15-16).
"That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God *without* blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, holding forth the word of life" (RcV)
 - C. The apostles are able to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of our faith (2:17) and:
 - D. The joy of Christ becomes our mutual rejoicing. The apostles are able to rejoice, and rejoice with us. Furthermore, we rejoice and rejoice together with the apostles. What an organic union among Christ, the servants, and the saints. (2:17-18).
"I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all. And in like manner you also rejoice, and you rejoice together with me."