

Banners for 2013 Thanksgiving Conference

The central requirement for the building up of the church today
is the mending ministry of life—
a ministry through which the broken spiritual net is
restored, perfected, and made stronger
and in which we experience Christ as our life
and become the dwelling place of God.

Christ is the good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep so that,
in the divine life, there will be one flock and one Shepherd,
and now He is shepherding us in life
for the Father's house—the divine and human incorporation
of the processed and consummated Triune God
with His redeemed, regenerated, and transformed elect.

Christ as the Son of Man is the High Priest,
clothed with a garment reaching to the feet
and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle,
to cherish the churches in His humanity
and nourish them in His divinity.

While the Lord Jesus is arranging the world situation
so that God's people may go on,
He is also exercising His heavenly ministry
to especially supply God's lovers and seekers
with the heavenly riches, the divine element,
so that they may be kept at an overcoming level
and transformed into precious stones
for the building of God's dwelling place.

Outline of the Messages for the Thanksgiving Conference

November 28—December 1, 2013

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE MENDING MINISTRY OF JOHN

Message One

The Mending Ministry of Life

Scripture Reading: Matt. 4:21; John 21:11; 12:24; 1 John 1:1-2; 5:11-13, 16

- Matt 4:21 And going on from there, He saw another two brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.
- John 21:11 Simon Peter therefore went up and hauled the net to the land full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.
- John 12:24 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.
- 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life
- 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);
- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
- 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- 1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.
- 1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

I. The ministry of the apostle John was a mending ministry, a ministry of mending, or restoring, what had been damaged after the time of Paul's completing ministry; John mended the broken spiritual net, perfecting it and making it stronger—John 21:11; 1 John 1:1-2; 2:7-8:

- John 21:11 Simon Peter therefore went up and hauled the net to the land full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.
- 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life
- 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);
- 1 John 2:7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you heard.
- 1 John 2:8 Yet again a new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.
- A. John's ministry was to mend the damage that had been done to Paul's completing ministry—2 Tim. 1:15.
- 2 Tim 1:15 This you know, that all who are in Asia turned away from me, of whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- B. After the death of Paul, Satan insidiously brought in heresies concerning the person of Christ and false teachings that damaged the church—1 John 2:18-19.
- 1 John 2:18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.
- 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out that they might be manifested that they all are not of us.
- C. Because of the damage that had been done, there was the need for a mending ministry; John was mending what was damaged, and his writings repaired the torn fabric of the church—

1:1-2; 2:20-25.

- 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life
- 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);
- 1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.
- 1 John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and because no lie is of the truth.
- 1 John 2:22 Who is the liar if not he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.
- 1 John 2:23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who confesses the Son has the Father also.
- 1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- 1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us, the eternal life.

II. When the Lord appeared to James and John and called them, they were “mending their nets”—Matt. 4:21:

- Matt 4:21 And going on from there, He saw another two brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.
- A. The Greek word for *mending* in this verse is used in 1 Corinthians 1:10 (“attuned”), Galatians 6:1 (“restore”), Ephesians 4:12 (“perfecting”), and 1 Thessalonians 3:10 (“complete”).
- 1 Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.
- Gal 6:1 Brothers, even if a man is overtaken in some offense, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, looking to yourself lest you also be tempted.
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- 1 Thes 3:10 Night and day petitioning exceedingly so that we may see your face and complete the things that are lacking in your faith?
- B. The mending ministry includes restoring, fixing, equipping, perfecting, completing, and framing together.
- C. James and John were mending their nets not necessarily because they were broken; they were perfecting the nets, equipping them, and adding something to make the nets stronger and more complete.
- D. The mending ministry is to fix, restore, perfect, prepare, complete, add to, adjust, equip, make suitable, and attune us so that we might be built up together with others—1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:9; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thes. 3:10.
- 1 Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.
- 2 Cor 13:9 For we rejoice whenever we are weak and you are powerful; this also we pray for, your perfecting.
- Gal 6:1 Brothers, even if a man is overtaken in some offense, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, looking to yourself lest you also be tempted.
- 1 Thes 3:10 Night and day petitioning exceedingly so that we may see your face and complete the things that are lacking in your faith?
- E. Without the mending, a lot of materials may be brought into the church, but there will be no building; to pile material up requires no mending, but to build up that material requires much mending, perfecting, equipping, and attuning.

III. The ministry of the apostle John was a mending ministry of life—John 1:4;

10:10; 11:25; 1 John 1:1-2; 5:11-13, 16:

- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 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.
- 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;
- 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life
- 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);
- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
- 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- 1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.
- 1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

A. The Gospel of John is a book of life—1:4; 3:15-16, 36; 5:24; 11:25; 14:6; 20:31:

- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
- John 3:36 He who believes into the Son has eternal life; but he who disobeys the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides upon him.
- John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.
- 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;
- 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 20:31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

1. The life John speaks of is the eternal, uncreated life; this life is actually the Triune God Himself—5:26; 11:25; 6:63.

- John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;
- 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;
- John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

2. The Lord Jesus came that we may have life abundantly; through His death and resurrection He released this life and imparted it into us—10:10; 12:24; 19:34; 20:17, 31.

- 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.
- John 12:24 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.
- John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.
- John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.
- John 20:31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

B. This life is a wonderful person, indescribable in human language; when John referred to Him in 1 John 1:1, he could only say “that which was from the beginning,” speaking of the

One who was with the Father from eternity and was manifested to the apostles, who declared Him as life—vv. 2-3.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life

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);

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

C. Today's broken situation among the believers and in the churches can be mended only by the life-giving mending ministry; only life can mend—5:16:

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

1. There are "holes" in us and many broken things that need to be mended.

2. The holes and breaks must be mended by life in love; we can be mended only by the ministry of life—2:25; 3:16.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us, the eternal life.

1 John 3:16 In this we know love, that He laid down His life on our behalf, and we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers.

D. The central requirement for the building up of the church today is the mending ministry of life; it is in this ministry that we experience Christ as our life and become the dwelling place of God—John 2:19-22; 11:25; 14:2-3.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:20 Then the Jews said, This temple was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days?

John 2:21 But He spoke of the temple of His body.

John 2:22 When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

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;

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.

IV. In 1 John we see the basic and substantial element of John's mending ministry—1:1-3, 7; 5:11-13:

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life

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);

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

A. The center of the revelation in 1 John is the divine fellowship of the divine life—1:3, 7:

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son

Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1. To enjoy the divine life, we need to abide in its fellowship according to the divine anointing, based upon the divine birth with the divine seed for its development—2:12—3:10.

1 John 2:12 I write to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you because of His name.

1 John 2:13 I write to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, young children, because you know the Father.

1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him;

1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.

1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out that they might be manifested that they all are not of us.

1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.

1 John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and because no lie is of the truth.

1 John 2:22 Who is the liar if not he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 2:23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us, the eternal life.

1 John 2:26 These things I have written to you concerning those who lead you astray.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that if He is manifested, we may have boldness and not be put to shame from Him at His coming.

1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness also has been begotten of Him.

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, even as He is pure.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness also, and sin is lawlessness.

1 John 3:5 And you know that He was manifested that He might take away sins; and sin is not in Him.

1 John 3:6 Everyone who abides in Him does not sin; everyone who sins has not seen Him

- or known Him.
- 1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one lead you astray; he who practices righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous;
- 1 John 3:8 He who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- 1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God.
- 1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest. Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, neither he who does not love his brother.
2. By the terminating water, the redeeming blood, and the germinating Spirit, we have been born of God to be His children, possessing His divine life and partaking of His divine nature—2:29—3:1; 5:1-13.
- 1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness also has been begotten of Him.
- 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- 1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.
- 1 John 5:2 In this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do His commandments.
- 1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
- 1 John 5:4 For everything that has been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory which has overcome the world—our faith.
- 1 John 5:5 And who is he who overcomes the world except he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- 1 John 5:7 For there are three who testify,
- 1 John 5:8 The Spirit and the water and the blood, and the three are unto the one thing.
- 1 John 5:9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, because this is the testimony of God that He has testified concerning His Son.
- 1 John 5:10 He who believes into the Son of God has the testimony in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar because he has not believed in the testimony which God has testified concerning His Son.
- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
- 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- 1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.
3. Christ is now indwelling us through His Spirit to be our life and life supply so that we may grow with His divine element unto His likeness at His manifestation—3:1-2, 24; 4:4, 14-15.
- 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
- 1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.
- 1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children; and you have overcome them because greater is

- He who is in you than he who is in the world.
- 1 John 4:14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.
- 1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.
- B. To abide in the divine fellowship of the divine life is to enjoy the divine riches—2:6; 3:6:
- 1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.
- 1 John 3:6 Everyone who abides in Him does not sin; everyone who sins has not seen Him or known Him.
1. By such abiding, we walk in the divine light—1:5-7.

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
 2. By such abiding, we practice the truth, righteousness, love, the will of God, and His commandments—v. 6; 2:5, 17, 29; 3:9-11; 4:7; 5:2.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

1 John 2:5 But whoever keeps His word, truly in this one the love of God has been perfected. In this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness also has been begotten of Him.

1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest. Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, neither he who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message which you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God.

1 John 5:2 In this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do His commandments.
- C. To preserve this abiding in the divine fellowship, three main negative things need to be dealt with—sin, the world, and idols—1:7, 9; 2:15-17; 5:21:
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- 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.
- 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him;
- 1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.
- 1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.
- 1 John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.
1. The safeguard against these negative things is our divine birth with the divine life and the word of God that abides in us—v. 18; 2:14.

1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who is begotten of God does not sin, but he who has been begotten of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him.

1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.

2. In virtue of our divine birth, we also overcome Satan's evil world by our faith in the Son of God—5:4-5.
 - 1 John 5:4 For everything that has been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory which has overcome the world—our faith.
 - 1 John 5:5 And who is he who overcomes the world except he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
3. Our divine birth with the divine seed sown into our inner being enables us to not live habitually in sin—3:5, 9; 5:18.
 - 1 John 3:5 And you know that He was manifested that He might take away sins; and sin is not in Him.
 - 1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God.
 - 1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who is begotten of God does not sin, but he who has been begotten of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him.
4. In case we sin occasionally, we have our Paraclete as our propitiation to care for our case before our Father God, and the Son's everlasting, efficacious blood cleanses us—2:1-2; 1:7.
 - 1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous;
 - 1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for those of the whole world.
 - 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

V. The revelation of Christ as the one grain producing many grains in His resurrection is overlooked by the vast majority of Christians—John 12:24:

John 12:24 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.

- A. Christ as the one grain of wheat is the divine seed to produce many grains to be the many members of His organic Body, which consummates in the New Jerusalem—Rom. 12:3-4; Rev. 21:2, 10-11.
 - Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.
 - Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
 - Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - Rev 21:10 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,
 - Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- B. According to typology, the many grains are for the making of a loaf of bread; by the blending together of the grains into one loaf, the church as the Body of Christ was produced for His corporate expression—1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12, 27.
 - 1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.
 - 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
 - 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.