

# WEEK 3 — OUTLINE

## The Supreme Preciousness of the All-inclusive Christ

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:7, 19; 2:4, 6-7; 3:4; 2 Pet. 1:1, 4; Phil. 3:8-9

### « DAY 1 »

#### I. The believers in Christ should have a change in their concept of value (Matt. 23:16-26; 1 Sam. 16:7; Luke 16:15; 9:54-56; 1 Pet. 3:4):

A. The proper concept of value for the believers can be seen in their estimation and assessment of the following aspects of Christ and His full salvation:

1. Their valuation of the Lord Jesus (Psa. 118:22; 1 Pet. 2:7).
2. Their valuation of the word of the cross (1 Cor. 1:18; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18).
3. Their valuation of God's kingdom and righteousness in comparison to a man's daily necessities (Matt. 6:32-33; 2 Pet. 1:1, 11; 2:5; 3:13).

### « DAY 2 »

4. Their valuation of the Lord Jesus in comparison to their relatives (Matt. 10:37-38; Luke 18:26-30; 1 Pet. 1:1, 17; 2:11a).
5. Their valuation of a man's soul in comparison to the whole world (Matt. 16:26; 4:8-11; Rev. 18:13; 1 Pet. 4:19).
6. Their valuation of their body in comparison to the seriousness and consequence of sin (Matt. 18:8-9; 2 Pet. 3:10-13).
7. Their valuation of hierarchical position in comparison to being slaves of the Lord and to one another (Matt. 20:25-27; 1 Pet. 2:16; 2 Pet. 1:1).
8. Their valuation of Christ as the treasure of justice in comparison to earthly treasure (Job 22:23-28; Matt. 12:18-21; Isa. 42:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:18-20).
9. Their valuation of the enjoyment of sin in comparison to the unseen reward (Heb. 11:24-27; 1 Pet. 1:8-12; 2 Pet. 1:8-11; 2:20-22).
10. Their valuation of the knowledge of Christ in comparison to all things (Phil. 3:7-8; 1 Pet. 1:8; 2 Pet. 1:2-3, 8; 2:20; 3:18).

### « DAY 3 »

B. We need to ask the Lord to grant us the light to have a thorough change in our concept of value so that we will continually choose Christ and all that He is as our super-excelling portion (Mark 9:7-8; 2 Cor. 2:10; 4:7; 1 Pet. 1:8).

C. "If you bring out the precious from the worthless, / You will be as My

mouth” (Jer. 15:19; cf. v. 16):

1. We must treasure the Lord’s words more than our apportioned food, tasting the Lord in His word as the reality of the good land flowing with nourishing milk and fresh honey for us to dispense to God’s people for their full salvation (Job 23:12; 1 Pet. 2:2-5; Psa. 119:103; Exo. 3:8; Deut. 8:8; S.S. 4:11a).
2. We must treasure the Lord’s words more than all earthly riches so that we can speak oracles of God to dispense the unsearchable riches of Christ as the varied grace of God (Psa. 119:72, 9-16; Eph. 3:8; 2 Cor. 6:10; 1 Pet. 4:10-11).

## **II. Christ Himself is the preciousness to His believers (2:7; Phil. 3:8-9):**

- A. Peter was charmed (attracted and captivated) by the Lord to such an extent that even though he was rebuked by the Lord many times and failed miserably, he still followed the Lord as his Shepherd unto his martyrdom (Luke 5:8-11; Mark 14:67-72; 16:7; John 21:15-22; 2 Pet. 1:14-15).
- B. Peter realized that he, James, and John had been admitted into the highest degree of initiation at the Lord’s transfiguration, admitted to be the initiated spectators of His majesty (vv. 16-18; cf. 1 Pet. 5:1).
- C. In His ascension Christ is “the Majestic” (Isa. 33:21)—He is our God and Savior (2 Pet. 1:1) and the Lord of all (1 Pet. 3:22; Acts 2:36) as our Judge, our Lawmaker, and our King in God’s government (Isa. 33:22) in order to dispense Himself into us to be our enjoyment for our full salvation (Rev. 22:1).

### **<< DAY 4 >>**

## **III. The precious stone for God’s building is Christ Himself (1 Pet. 2:4, 6-8):**

- A. In God’s New Testament economy, Christ as God’s chosen and precious cornerstone saves us to make us living stones and transforms us for the building up of God’s spiritual house, His dwelling place (Acts 4:11-12; Eph. 2:20-22).
- B. As the all-inclusive living and precious stone, Christ is the centrality and universality of God’s move for the building up of His eternal habitation (Matt. 21:42, 44; Acts 4:10-12; Isa. 28:16; Eph. 2:19-22; Zech. 3:9; 4:6-7; Dan. 2:34-35).

### **<< DAY 5 >>**

## **IV. The precious blood of Christ has redeemed us from our vain manner of life (1 Pet. 1:15, 18-19):**

- A. Christ’s redeeming blood is the blood of the covenant that ushers us into

God's presence, into God Himself, and into the full of enjoyment of God in His holy nature so that we might be holy in all our manner of life to become His holy priesthood and holy city (vv. 2, 15-17; Eph. 1:4; Rev. 21:2, 16).

- B. If we see that we have been redeemed, bought, purchased, with the high price of Christ's precious blood, this realization will cause us to have a holy manner of life with a holy fear (1 Pet. 1:15-19; Acts 20:28; cf. Isa. 11:2).

#### **V. The precious and exceedingly great promises have been granted to us by our God and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:1, 4; cf. Isa. 42:6; Heb. 8:8-12):**

- A. By calling on the precious name of the Lord, we drink of Him as the cup of salvation, enjoying Him as the reality of all the precious and exceedingly great promises of God for the goal of God's building (Acts 4:10-12; Psa. 116:12-13).
- B. These precious promises are embodied in the word of God; by pray-reading the promises, we partake of and enjoy the divine nature so that we may grow and develop in life unto the maturity of life to enjoy a rich entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:4-11).

### **<< DAY 6 >>**

#### **VI. God has allotted to all the believers equally precious faith (v. 1):**

- A. Just as the children of Israel were allotted a piece of the good land, God has allotted Christ as faith to us, making our regenerated spirit, the hidden man of our heart, a spirit of faith (Josh. 13:6; Col. 1:12; 1 Pet. 3:4; 2 Cor. 4:13).
- B. We all have the same precious faith in quality, but the quantity of faith we have depends upon how much we contact the living God so that we may have Him increased in us (Rom. 12:3; Heb. 11:1, 5-6, 27; Col. 2:19).

#### **VII. The precious proving of our faith is by various trials that come through sufferings (1 Pet. 1:7):**

- A. We need to pay the price to gain more of Christ as the golden faith through the fiery trials so that the proving of our faith may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of the Lord (v. 7; Rev. 3:18a).
- B. The believers who live an overcoming life by faith will be found by Christ at His return as the treasures ready to receive the salvation of their souls as the end (result) of their faith (1 Pet. 1:8-9).

**VIII. We must redeem the time to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ as the supreme preciousness of God so that we can be constituted with Him to be men of preciousness as His personal treasure; as we live in His precious presence, enjoying Him as our portion, even as He enjoys us as His treasure, He builds Himself into us to make us His spiritual house and His holy and royal priesthood for the accomplishment of His heart's desire (2:7; 3:4; Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19; 2 Cor. 2:10; Psa. 16:5; Exo. 19:4-6; 1 Pet. 2:1-9; 2 Pet. 3:8, 11-12).**

## << WEEK 3 – DAY 1 >>

### Morning Nourishment

**Psa. 118:22** The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.

**1 Pet. 2:4** Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious.

A person often measures the value of something according to the amount of knowledge he has of it. In Matthew 23:16-26 we find some people whose eyes were on the splendor of the temple and how it was built mostly with gold. They considered the temple to be most valuable. Some saw the altar and compared it with the oxen, lambs, and turtledoves offered on it. They reckoned the altar to be of little value but the oxen and lambs and turtledoves to be of much value. Some offered a tenth of the mint, anise, and cummin, yet they neglected the weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness. Some were very careful about everything. They strained out the gnat, but they swallowed the camel. Some were in a hurry to use the cup and the dish. They cleansed the outside of them, but inwardly there was filth....In Matthew 23:16-26 the Lord Jesus called these people fools, blind men, and hypocrites because they did not know the true concept of value. Their concept of value was all wrong. (CWWN, vol. 60, p. 387)

### Today's Reading

Once a person is saved, his concept of value changes. He no longer cherishes what he once cherished, and he treasures what he once despised. This is a change in his concept of value. Anyone who has not witnessed such a change in concept is not a genuine Christian.

The Bible has much to say concerning a change in one's concept of value. Such passages on this change can shed light to the new believers. These passages show us the proper concept of value for a Christian. Let us consider a few examples to prove our point.

Psalms 118:22 says, "The stone which the builders rejected / Has become the head of the corner." This is a change in valuation. In the eyes of the builders, they rejected what they considered to be a useless stone. In the eyes of the Jewish leaders, Christ was something redundant, and they wanted to get rid of Him. Yet this rejected stone was chosen to be the cornerstone of the newly enacted salvation....God treasured the cornerstone that was rejected by the Jewish builders and used it for the building of His salvation. How different are these two kinds of valuation! We have to bring new believers to such a change in valuation. We have to ask how they viewed Christ before and how they view Christ now. We have to show them that what was once worthless is now priceless. What was once untrustworthy is now trustworthy. Others have rejected Christ, but we treasure Him.

First Corinthians 1:18 says, "For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." The cross is despised by those who are perishing; it is considered foolishness by them....Before a person is saved, he considers the cross useless. After he is saved, he sees it as the power of God, something precious and valuable. Once a person believes in the Lord, his concept of value changes immediately. The salvation of the cross becomes something very precious.

Matthew 6:32-33 says, "For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Before a person believes in the Lord (this is especially true with poor people), the daily thoughts that plague him are for his daily necessities. Things pertaining to food and clothing are the greatest concerns of the human life....As believers, we have to realize that nothing in this life is more precious than the kingdom of God. Matthew 13:44 says that the kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure hidden in the field. When a man finds it, he hides it and in his joy sells all that he has to buy that field. This refers to the Lord's discovering the treasure of the kingdom of the heavens and giving up Himself and all He has to buy the treasure. The Lord considers the kingdom of the heavens as something precious. (CWWN, vol. 60, pp. 387-389)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 60, ch. 45

## « WEEK 3 — DAY 2 »

### Morning Nourishment

**Matt. 10:37-38** He who loves father or mother above Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter above Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

**16:26** For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

A father, mother, wife, and children are the most precious things to a man. They are the most important things a man has in this life. When these are not compared with the Lord, there is nothing wrong in loving them. But when a situation arises where we have to choose between the two, which one will we choose?...Our own kin are precious, but they are no comparison to the Lord. Our Lord is more precious than any of our kin.

[In Matthew 16:26] a comparison is made between man's soul and the whole world. Is the soul more precious or the world more precious? Many people see the preciousness of the world, but they do not see the preciousness of the soul. (CWWN, vol. 60, p. 390)

### Today's Reading

Today Satan is trying to buy man's soul, but many people are giving away their soul for free. This is because they do not believe their soul is worth anything. The prodigal son in Luke 15 did not leave his father's house because of the enticement of a grand feast; he succumbed to mere carob pods. How worthless is the soul in the eyes of an unbeliever! Yet the Lord says that the whole world put together cannot be exchanged for a soul. Satan offered a high price when he took the Lord to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. In exchange for His worship, the Lord would have been given all these things by Satan. This is the only instance in the Bible where Satan offered a high price for man's soul. Of course, he did not succeed. Suppose Satan did the same thing again and offered the whole world to any man who would worship him. What would anyone choose? This is altogether a matter of valuation. Should a man give up his soul to gain the world, or should he give up the world to gain his soul? Today Satan is not offering to exchange the whole world for our soul. He does not think that our life is worth that much. He is enticing us with small benefits and small gains...[Balaam] degraded himself for profit to curse God's people. We have to show the new ones that honesty is worth more than gold, rice, or the whole world. In order to preserve the purity of our soul, we should be willing to forsake anything.

Matthew 20:25-27 says, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave." The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great exercise authority over them. This is something that is practiced among the unbelievers. Among believers, however, this practice should not be allowed. Whoever wants to become great should be a servant, and whoever wants to be first should be a slave. This is a change in valuation, a change in one's view concerning position...[We] should despise the position of lords and masters. We should have a change in our concept of position. We should treasure servants and slaves.

Philippians 3:7-8 says, "But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ. But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ." Here we see that Paul also had a change in his concept of value. What things were gains to him, these he counted as loss on account of Christ,...the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. (CWWN, vol. 60, pp. 390-395)

Further Reading: Christ in His Excellency, chs. 1-2

## « WEEK 3 — DAY 3 »

### Morning Nourishment

Jer. 15:19 Therefore thus says Jehovah, If you return, I will restore you; you will stand before Me; and if you bring out the precious from the worthless, you will be as My mouth; they will turn to you, but you will not turn to them.

Mark 16:7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee. There you will see Him, even as He told you.

[Jeremiah 15:19 tells] us that if we bring out the precious from the worthless, we will be as God's mouth....He requires that we bring out the precious from the worthless so that we can be His mouth. We have to see the importance of such a change in concept of value. May the Lord grant us the light to have a thorough change in our concept of value so that we will know to choose the most excellent portion. (CWWN, vol. 60, p. 395)

### Today's Reading

Peter was charmed by the Lord to such an extent that although he was rebuked by the Lord frequently, he still determined to follow Him. The Lord's frequent rebuking could not make him go away. Today I dare not speak strong words to the co-workers and elders. If my rebuke is strong, I am afraid that they will not be able to take it and will quit. However, Peter was thick-skinned. He had been rebuked by the Lord many times, but he still followed Him. On the night of His betrayal, the Lord said to the disciples, "You will all be stumbled because of Me this night." Then Peter answered and said to Him, "If all will be stumbled because of You, I will never be stumbled" (Matt. 26:31-33). And the Lord said to him, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has asked to have you all to sift you as wheat. But I have made petition concerning you that your faith would not fail." Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death." But the Lord said, "I tell you, Peter, a rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know Me" (Luke 22:31-34). Not only did Peter disbelieve this word, but he even said, "Even if I must die with You, I will by no means deny You" (Matt. 26:35). Later, while Peter was sitting in the courtyard of the high priest, a little servant girl came to question him. Because of her questioning, Peter denied the Lord. At that time the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter, remembering the Lord's word to him, went outside and wept bitterly (Luke 22:54-62).

After Peter denied the Lord, the Lord could have forgotten about him. However, the Lord did not forget him. On the morning of the Lord's resurrection, an angel said to several women, "Go, tell His disciples and Peter..." (Mark 16:7). Also, the Lord personally told Mary the Magdalene, "Go to My brothers..." (John 20:17). The Lord called His disciples "brothers" and particularly mentioned Peter's name. In this way He captivated Peter. (How to Be a Co-worker and an Elder and How to Fulfill Their Obligations, p. 19)

Isaiah 33:22 says that He is our Judge, our Lawmaker, and our King to save us. In His divine government, He is such a person of three aspects. The United States government is divided into three sections in a similar way. This government has three branches: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. In the past I thought that the United States invented such a marvelous government with the balance of powers. Eventually, I found out that according to Isaiah 33:22, God had already practiced this. Christ as the King is the executive branch of the divine government. He is also the Lawmaker, the Legislator, as the legislative branch. Finally, He is our Judge as the judicial branch. He is in these three aspects to exercise His divine government in saving His people. In the United States government these three branches are always balancing one another, but many times they fight against one another. The Lord Jesus in His divine government, however, is perfectly balanced in every way. The three sections of the divine government are one person. Our Jesus is the executive, legislative, and judicial branches in His divine government. (Life-study of Isaiah, p. 307)

Further Reading: How to Be a Co-worker and an Elder and How to Fulfill Their Obligations, ch. 1; Life-study of Isaiah, msg. 43

## << WEEK 3 — DAY 4 >>

### Morning Nourishment

1 Pet. 2:5-7 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood....For it is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame.” To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, “The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner.”

In his two Epistles Peter presents to us five precious things: (1) the precious stone, which is the Lord Himself (1 Pet. 2:4, 6-7); (2) the precious blood (1:19); (3) the precious promises (2 Pet. 1:4); (4) the precious faith (1:1); and (5) the precious proving (1 Pet. 1:7). (1 Pet. 1:7, footnote 3)

A living stone is one that not only possesses life but also grows in life. This is Christ for God’s building. Here [in 1 Peter 2:4] Peter changed his metaphor from a seed, which is of the vegetable life (1:23-24), to a stone, which is of the minerals. The seed is for life-planting; the stone is for building (2:5). Peter’s thought went on from life-planting to God’s building. As life to us, Christ is the seed; for God’s building, He is the stone. After receiving Him as the seed of life, we need to grow that we may experience Him as the stone living in us. Thus He will make us also living stones, transformed with His stone nature, that we may be built together with others as a spiritual house upon Him as both the foundation and the cornerstone (Isa. 28:16). (1 Pet. 2:4, footnote 1)

### Today’s Reading

Isaiah 28:16 says, “Therefore thus says / The Lord Jehovah: / Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a foundation, / A tested stone, / A precious cornerstone as a foundation firmly established....” Christ, who is our glory and our beauty, is also a stone in many aspects. He is a stone laid by God in Zion.

This stone is a foundation firmly established for God’s building in Israel....Christ is a tested stone which has been tried and which is trustworthy. Christ as a stone was tested during the thirty-three and a half years of His human life. From the time that He became a man, He was tested every day of His earthly life, and He had no failure. He is perfect, complete, solid, and strong.

We should not forget that we are believers in Christ. Christ is our foundation, and this foundation has been tested. He is trustworthy, so we should put our trust in Him. We should not be in haste, in panic. In my study of this portion of the Word, one reference book quoted a proverb which said that haste is of the devil. When we are in haste, in panic, we should not forget that this is of the devil. We do not have to be in haste because we have Christ as a tested stone to be our foundation.

This stone is also a precious cornerstone for the joint of God’s building. Whereas the foundation stone holds the entire building, the cornerstone joins two parts of the building. The New Testament tells us, based upon Psalm 118:22-24, that Christ is the chief cornerstone (Rom. 9:33; Matt. 21:42; Acts 4:11-12; Eph. 2:20). According to the New Testament, Christ as the cornerstone joins together the two walls, one of the Jewish believers and the other of the Gentile believers. Because Christ took the lead to join together the Jews and the Gentiles, He is the first cornerstone. Even today we are not only held by Him as our foundation stone but also joined together by Him as our cornerstone....We need to experience Christ as the tested, trustworthy stone to be the firmly established foundation holding us and the cornerstone joining us together. This issues in God’s building, the Body of Christ.

In Acts 4:11 [Peter] mentioned Christ as the cornerstone, and in verse 12 he indicated that today this cornerstone is our Savior. Very few Christians know that Jesus Christ, their Savior, is the cornerstone. Our Savior, Jesus, saves us into God’s building and joins us to God’s building. (Life-study of Isaiah, pp. 301-305)

Further Reading: Life-study of Isaiah, msg. 43; Life-study of the Psalms, msg. 39; Life-study of 1 Peter, msgs. 16-17; The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity, ch. 9; Life-study of Acts, msg. 54

## « WEEK 3 — DAY 5 »

### Morning Nourishment

1 Pet. 1:18-19 Knowing that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, the blood of Christ.

2 Pet. 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature...

The blood of Christ, by which we are sprinkled and thus marked out from the common people, is more precious than silver and gold. The highest price was paid for our redemption that we might be redeemed from a vain manner of life to a holy life (1 Pet. 1:18, 15). For this we should have a holy fear, a healthy, serious caution before God, so that, as God's elect, redeemed with such a high price, we will not miss the purpose of this most high redemption of Christ. (1 Pet. 1:19, footnote 1)

### Today's Reading

The blood that redeemed us was an extraordinary kind of blood—the blood of the God-man, Jesus Christ, the Man whose life reached the highest standard. The Lord Jesus is a Man mingled with God. Therefore, when this Man died on the cross, God also passed through death. No human words are adequate to explain this.

Only the blood of Christ was qualified and sufficient to redeem us, to purchase us. We had been put on sale by the enemy Satan, our usurper. But Christ, our Redeemer, paid the highest price to purchase us. First Peter 1 speaks of this in verses 18 and 19.

In verse 18 Peter says that we were redeemed “not with corruptible things.” The blood of Christ is a material substance, yet its effectiveness, function, worth, power, and authority are eternal and incorruptible.

In verses 18 and 19 we have a comparison between gold or silver and a lamb. Gold and silver are valuable, but they are lifeless. They are not organic, but a lamb is living and organic. Through this comparison, Peter indicates that the price paid for us by Christ was related to something of life and to something organic.

I would encourage you to spend an hour alone with the Lord to consider the precious blood of Christ shed for you on the cross. This will give you the desire to have a holy manner of life in fear. You will want to become holy in all your manner of life and to pass the remaining time of your sojourn in fear. If we would live in this way, we need to realize that we have been redeemed, bought, purchased, with the high price of Christ's precious blood. This realization will cause us to have a living in a holy manner of life, for we shall realize that Christ's precious blood has redeemed us from the vain manner of life. No longer will we want to live in a way that is vain,...having no goal, aim, or purpose. (Life-study of 1 Peter, pp. 99, 103)

We must be diligent to develop the seed of faith by taking the promises, by picking up His word. The best way to pick up His word is to pray-read the word. The more we pray-read all the promises, the more we enjoy the divine nature. As we enjoy this divine nature, we have the growth in life, the maturity in life, and the harvest of life. This maturity is the entrance into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus. We all need to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need to develop the seed by taking His promises, by pray-reading the word of His promises, that we may enjoy His divine nature. By this we will be developed and grow step by step until we reach maturity. Then we will enjoy a rich entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (CWWL, 1969, vol. 2, “The Crucial Revelation of Life in the Scriptures,” pp. 517-518)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 42, ch. 52; Life-study of 1 Peter, msg. 12; Life-study of 2 Peter, msg. 5; CWWL, 1969, vol. 2, “The Crucial Revelation of Life in the Scriptures,” ch. 16

## « WEEK 3 — DAY 6 »

### Morning Nourishment

2 Pet. 1:1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

1 Pet. 1:7 So that the proving of your faith, much more precious than of gold which perishes though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

In 2 Peter 1:1, Peter speaks of those “who have been allotted faith equally precious.” As the children of Israel were allotted a piece of the good land (Josh. 14:1-5), we have been allotted equally precious faith. This implies that all the things which relate to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3), including the divine nature (v. 4) partaken of by the believers through the equally precious faith according to the precious and exceedingly great promises, are the real inheritance given to the believers by God in the New Testament. (Life-study of 2 Peter, p. 2)

### Today's Reading

We need to grow in life...by faith linking us to Christ. We can have the linking faith not just by hearing the word but by contacting the very Triune God who is faith to us. This faith is not the faith in the initial stage but the faith in the second, linking stage. Today's revival and the new revival is just to stir people up to contact the Triune God so that this faith in the second stage may work in the linking way. When you contact the living God, right away you are revived. This is the effectiveness of the linking faith.

God has allotted to us equally precious faith. It is equally precious to all the believers. Let us...use the illustration of electricity. Electricity is allotted to this building, and it links all the lamps together. This electricity in all the lamps is the same in quality and in quantity because the size of the lamps is the same. But the very faith in us, while being the same in quality, is not the same in quantity. We cannot compare with the apostle Paul. His linking faith may be like a big mountain, while ours may be like a small stone. But you have to realize that the stone grows! In the Bible the stones are living (1 Pet. 2:5). If you contact God, faith grows in you. This means that God increases in you. When God increases in you, faith in the second stage grows in you to get bigger and bigger. We all have the same faith in quality, but the quantity of faith we have depends upon how much we contact the living God so that we may have Him increased in us. When God increases in you, this faith in the second stage also grows in you. (Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, p. 109)

In 1 Peter 1:7 Peter indicates that the proving of our faith “may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” The various trials in verse 6 are that the proving of our faith may result in praise, glory, and honor at the unveiling of the Lord. (Life-study of 1 Peter, p. 46)

When the Lord comes back, He is expecting to find such people. Christ expects to find, at His coming back, the ones who live by the linking faith. Christ expects to find us as His hidden overcomers.

The believers who live an overcoming and exulting life by the linking faith will be found by Christ at His return as the treasures ready to receive the salvation of their souls as the end (result) of their faith (1 Pet. 1:8-9). In a sense, we do not know anything or do anything. We only know how to overcome and how to exult by the linking faith. Those who live by faith today will eventually receive the end of their faith, that is, the salvation of their souls. We have received a salvation, but this is just the initial salvation. The progressing stage of salvation is the stage of transformation. The completing stage of salvation is the stage of glorification. If we live by the linking faith in the progressing stage to be transformed, we will be kings with Christ in the millennial kingdom. (Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, p. 122)

Further Reading: Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, msgs. 10-11; Life-study of 1 Peter, msgs. 6, 22; Life-study of 2 Peter, msgs. 1-4; CWWL, 1979, vol. 1, “Basic Lessons on Life,” pp. 607-609

## << WEEK 3 — HYMN

### Hymns, #541

1

Not the law of letters,  
But the Christ of life  
God desires to give us,  
Saving us from strife;  
It is not some doctrine,  
But 'tis Christ Himself  
Who alone releases  
From our sinful self.

2

Any kind of teaching,  
Any kind of form,  
Cannot quicken spirits  
Or our souls transform;  
It is Christ as Spirit  
Gives us life divine,  
Thus thru us to live the  
Life of God's design.

3

Not philosophy nor  
Any element  
Can to Christ conform us  
As His complement;  
But 'tis Christ Himself who  
All our nature takes  
And in resurrection  
Us His members makes.

4

Not religion, even  
Christianity,  
Can fulfill God's purpose  
Or economy;  
But 'tis Christ within us  
As our all in all  
Satisfies God's wishes,  
And His plan withal.

5

All the gifts we're given  
By the Lord in grace,  
All the different functions  
Cannot Christ replace.  
Only Christ Himself must  
Be our all in all!  
Only Christ Himself in  
All things, great or small!