

THE RECOVERY OF THE CHURCH

(Friday—Evening Session)

Message Six

Jehovah's Commanded Blessing of Life on Brothers Who Dwell Together in Oneness

Scripture Reading: Psa. 133—134

Psa 133	A Song of Ascents. Of David
Psa 133:1	Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
Psa 133:2	It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;
Psa 133:3	Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
Psa 134	A Song of Ascents
Psa 134:1	Bless Jehovah now, / All you servants of Jehovah / Who stand by night in the house of Jehovah.
Psa 134:2	Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, / And bless Jehovah.
Psa 134:3	May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion.

I. The unique ground of Jerusalem, the place where the temple as God's dwelling place was built on Mount Zion, typifies the unique ground of God's choice, the ground of oneness—Deut. 12:5; 2 Chron. 6:5-6; Ezra 1:2-3:

- Deut 12:5 But to the place which Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, to His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go.
- 2 Chron 6:5 Since the day when I brought My people out from the land of Egypt, I have not chosen a city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house for My name that it might be there; nor did I choose a man to be a ruler over My people Israel;
- 2 Chron 6:6 But I have chosen Jerusalem that My name might be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.
- Ezra 1:2 Thus says Cyrus the king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth has Jehovah the God of heaven given to me; and He has charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
- Ezra 1:3 Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him; and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and let him build the house of Jehovah the God of Israel—He is God—who is in Jerusalem.

A. In the ancient time all the Israelites came together three times a year at Jerusalem; it was by this unique place of worship to God, Jerusalem, that the oneness of His people was kept for generations—Deut. 12:5; 16:16.

- Deut 12:5 But to the place which Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, to His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go.
- Deut 16:16 Three times a year all your males shall appear before Jehovah your God in the place which He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before Jehovah empty-handed;

B. In the New Testament the proper ground of oneness ordained by God is the unique ground of one church for one locality—Rev. 1:11:

- Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

1. The church is constituted of the universal God, but it exists on earth in many localities; in nature the church is universal in God, but in practice the church is local in a definite place, such as “the church of God which is in Corinth”—1 Cor. 1:2:

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

- a. “The church of God” means that the church is not only possessed by God but has God as its nature and essence, which are divine, general, universal, and eternal—v. 2.

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

- b. The church “which is in Corinth” refers to a church in a city, remaining in a definite locality and taking it as its standing, ground, and jurisdiction for its administration in business affairs, which is physical, particular, local, and temporal in time—v. 2.

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

2. Without the universal aspect, the church is void of content; without the local aspect, it is impossible for the church to have any expression and practice; the record concerning the establishment of the church in its locality is consistent throughout the New Testament—Acts 8:1; 13:1; 14:23; Rom. 16:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 8:1; Gal. 1:2; Rev. 1:4, 11.

Acts 8:1 And Saul approved of his killing. And there occurred in that day a great persecution against the church which was in Jerusalem; and all were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church and had prayed with fastings, they committed them to the Lord into whom they had believed.

Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

2 Cor 8:1 Furthermore we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

Gal 1:2 And all the brothers who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who

Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

II. Psalm 133 is the praise of a saint, in his going up to Zion, concerning Jehovah’s commanded blessing of life on brothers who dwell together in oneness; the blessing that is commanded whenever brothers are united under the anointing is a “life forever,” a full, free, unceasing stream of life:

Psa 133 A Song of Ascents. Of David

Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
 Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;
 Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

A. The brothers' dwelling together in oneness is likened to the inestimable goodness of the precious ointment on the head of Aaron and to the incalculable pleasantness of the dew of Hermon on the mountains of Zion—vv. 1-3:

Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
 Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;
 Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

1. As a person typified by Aaron, the church as the one new man includes the Head with the Body as the corporate Christ, the corporate priesthood—Eph. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:5.

Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2. As a place typified by Zion, the church is the dwelling place of God—Deut. 12:5-7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 26; Eph. 2:21-22; Rev. 21:3, 22.

Deut 12:5 But to the place which Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, to His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go.
 Deut 12:6 And there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and your vows and your freewill offerings and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock;
 Deut 12:7 And there you shall eat before Jehovah your God, and you and your households shall rejoice in all your undertakings, in which Jehovah your God has blessed you.
 Deut 12:11 Then to the place where Jehovah your God will choose to cause His name to dwell, there you shall bring all that I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and all your choice vows which you vow to Jehovah.
 Deut 12:14 But in the place which Jehovah will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer up your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you.
 Deut 12:18 But you shall eat them before Jehovah your God in the place which Jehovah your God will choose, you and your son and daughter, and your male servant and female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God in all your undertakings.
 Deut 12:21 If the place where Jehovah your God will choose to put His name is too far away from you, you may slaughter from your herd and from your flock, which Jehovah has given you, as I have commanded you; and you may eat within your gates according to all that your soul desires;
 Deut 12:26 But you shall take your holy things which you have and your vows, and go to the place which Jehovah will choose;
 Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
 Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

- Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

B. The genuine oneness is constituted of the spreading ointment and the descending dew for the gradual building up of Christ's Body in the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity:

1. Psalm 133 is equivalent to Ephesians 4; when we are in the Body and are diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit, we have the anointing of the Spirit (vv. 3-6); the anointing oil as the compound ointment is a type of the processed Triune God, the all-inclusive compound Spirit (Exo. 30:23-25):

- Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
 Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
 Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
 Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
 Exo 30:23 You also take the finest spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred fifty shekels, and of fragrant calamus two hundred fifty shekels,
 Exo 30:24 And of cassia five hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.
 Exo 30:25 And you shall make it a holy anointing oil, a fragrant ointment compounded according to the work of a compounder; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

a. The compound Spirit is the ultimate consummation of the processed Triune God with the divine attributes, the human virtues, Christ's death with its effectiveness, and Christ's resurrection with its power—Phil. 1:19.

- Phil 1:19 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,

b. We are in the oneness that is the processed Triune God anointed, or "painted," into our being—2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20, 27.

- 2 Cor 1:21 But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God,
 2 Cor 1:22 He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
 1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.
 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.

c. Day by day in the church life, all the ingredients of the divine and mystical compound ointment are being wrought into us; through the application of these ingredients to our inward being, we are spontaneously in the oneness—Eph. 4:3-4.

- Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
 Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

d. The ground of oneness is simply the processed Triune God applied to our being; the anointing of the compound, all-inclusive life-giving Spirit is the element of our oneness—v. 4; cf. John 4:24:

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

1) If we act apart from the Spirit, who is in our spirit, we are divisive and lose the oneness—Eph. 4:3; cf. 1 Cor. 1:10; 2:14-15; 3:1.

Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

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.

1 Cor 2:14 But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know them because they are discerned spiritually.

1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.

1 Cor 3:1 And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshy, as to infants in Christ.

2) If we stay in the life-giving Spirit, we keep the oneness of the Spirit—cf. John 4:24; 1 Cor. 6:17.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

e. The compound Spirit is not for those who are individualistic; He is in and for the Body and for the priestly service that builds up the Body—Psa. 133:2; Exo. 30:26-31; Phil. 1:19; Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.

Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;

Exo 30:26 And with it you shall anoint the Tent of Meeting and the Ark of the Testimony,

Exo 30:27 And the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense,

Exo 30:28 And the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base.

Exo 30:29 Thus you shall sanctify them that they may be most holy; whatever touches them shall be holy.

Exo 30:30 And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons and sanctify them that they may serve Me as priests.

Exo 30:31 And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying, This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations.

Phil 1:19 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,

Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

f. We receive the supply of the Spirit, the supply of the Body, by the intercession and fellowship of the members:

1) When we are dry and have no way to go on, we need other brothers and sisters to intercede for us before we can get through—Phil. 1:19; 1 Thes. 5:25; Job 42:8-10.

- Phil 1:19 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,
- 1 Thes 5:25 Brothers, pray also for us.
- Job 42:8 Now therefore take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer them as a burnt offering for yourselves. And My servant Job will pray for you; for I will accept him, so that I do not deal with you according to your folly; for you have not spoken concerning Me that which is right, as My servant Job has.
- Job 42:9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as Jehovah told them; and Jehovah accepted Job.
- Job 42:10 And Jehovah turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends, and Jehovah gave Job twice as much as he had before.
- 2) We cannot live without the supply of the Body; therefore, we must constantly avail ourselves of the fellowship of the Body—1 Thes. 3:8; 1 Cor. 10:16b; 1 John 1:3.
- 1 Thes 3:8 Because now we live if you stand firm in the Lord.
- 1 Cor 10:16b ...The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ?
- 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.
- 3) If a man wants to see light, he has to enter the church, the sanctuary—Psa. 73:16-17; Matt. 5:14; Rev. 1:20.
- Psa 73:16 When I considered this in order to understand it, / It was a troublesome task in my sight,
- Psa 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end.
- Matt 5:14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.
- Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

2. The dew of Hermon descending on the mountains of Zion signifies the descending, refreshing, watering, and saturating grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7), the Triune God as our life supply for our enjoyment (2 Cor. 13:14):

- 1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, in like manner dwell together with them according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to them as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

a. In typology Hermon signifies the heavens, the highest place in the universe—cf. Eph. 1:3; Matt. 17:1-2.

- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Matt 17:1 And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain privately.
- Matt 17:2 And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.

b. The mountains of Zion typify the local churches; there is one Zion, one church as one Body, but many mountains, many local churches—Rev. 1:11-12.

- Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,

- c. Grace is God in Christ as the Spirit experienced, received, enjoyed, and gained by us—John 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 5:2, 17, 21.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Rom 5:2 Through whom also we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and boast because of the hope of the glory of God.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- d. By remaining in the church life, we are preserved in the Lord's grace—Acts 4:33; 11:23.

Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 11:23 Who, when he arrived and saw the grace of God, rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart;

- e. By the grace we receive on the mountains of Zion, we can live a life that is impossible for people in the world to live—20:32; 2 Cor. 12:7-9.

Acts 20:32 And now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.

2 Cor 12:7 And because of the transcendence of the revelations, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up.

2 Cor 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

- f. The Christian living must be the living of grace, the experience of grace—v. 9; 2 Tim. 4:22:

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

- 1) We have faith and love through the Lord's superabounding grace—1 Tim. 1:14.

1 Tim 1:14 And the grace of our Lord superabounded with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

- 2) By grace we receive the salvation in life through Christ's resurrection and ascension—Eph. 2:5-8.

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the
heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
- Eph 2:7 That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it
is the gift of God;
- 3) We have obtained access into and stand in God's abounding grace—Rom. 5:2.
Rom 5:2 Through whom also we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which
we stand and boast because of the hope of the glory of God.
- 4) In this grace we can enjoy God's eternal comfort and good hope—2 Thes. 2:16.
2 Thes 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us
and given us eternal comfort and good hope in grace,
- 5) We can come forward with boldness to the throne of grace to find grace for timely
help—Heb. 4:16.
Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we
may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
- 6) We can receive God's abounding supply of grace—2 Cor. 9:8.
2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound unto you, that, in everything
always having all sufficiency, you may abound unto every good work;
- 7) We can constantly enjoy God's multiplying grace—1 Pet. 1:2b; 2 Pet. 1:2; Rev.
22:21.
1 Pet 1:2b ...Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
2 Pet 1:2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of
Jesus our Lord;
Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.
- 8) We can enjoy God's greater grace through humility—James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5.
James 4:6 But He gives greater grace; therefore it says, "God resists the proud but gives
grace to the humble."
1 Pet 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird
yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud
but gives grace to the humble.
- 9) In our experience of the grace in God's economy, we enjoy the Lord's presence in
our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22; cf. Luke 1:28, 30.
2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
Luke 1:28 And he came to her and said, Rejoice, you who have been graced! The Lord is
with you.
Luke 1:30 And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace
with God.
- 10) We need to live out Christ as God's righteousness by the grace of God—Gal. 2:20-
21.
Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who
lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith
in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
Gal 2:21 I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness is through law, then
Christ has died for nothing.
- 11) We need to experience the perfecting of the Lord's sufficient grace, Christ's
overshadowing power, in our weakness—2 Cor. 12:9.
2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is
perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my
weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- 12) By grace we can overcome the usurpation of temporal and uncertain riches and
become generous in ministering to the needy saints—8:1-2.

2 Cor 8:1 Furthermore we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,
2 Cor 8:2 That in much proving of affliction the abundance of their joy and the depth of their poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality;

13) The God of all grace perfects, establishes, strengthens, and grounds us through our sufferings—1 Pet. 5:10.

1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

14) We need to be good stewards of the varied grace of God—4:10; Eph. 3:2.

1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

15) Our word should convey Christ as grace to others—4:29-30.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

16) We need to experience Christ as grace to be a surpassing one and to labor abundantly for the Lord—1 Cor. 15:10.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

17) We need to receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness to reign in life—Rom. 5:17, 21.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

g. The grace given to the local churches in the dark age of the church's degradation is for the believers who seek to answer the Lord's calling to be His overcomers—Rev. 1:4.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

h. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ dispensed to His believers throughout the New Testament age consummates in the New Jerusalem as the consummation of God's good pleasure in joining and mingling Himself with man for His enlargement and eternal expression—22:21.

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

3. In the church life we are daily anointed and graced; the anointing of the Spirit and the supply of grace make it possible for us to live in oneness—Eph. 1:13, 6.

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

4. The more we experience Christ as the life-giving Spirit, the more our natural constitution and disposition are reduced; as they are reduced through our experience of the Triune God

with His divine attributes, we are perfected into one—John 17:23; Eph. 4:1-3.

John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

Eph 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

III. As the conclusion to Psalm 133 and as the last of the Songs of Ascents, Psalm 134 is the praise of a saint, in his going up to Zion, concerning the charge and the blessing of the children of Israel to the serving priests in the house of God:

Psa 133 A Song of Ascents. Of David

Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!

Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;

Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

Psa 134 A Song of Ascents

Psa 134:1 Bless Jehovah now, / All you servants of Jehovah / Who stand by night in the house of Jehovah.

Psa 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, / And bless Jehovah.

Psa 134:3 May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion.

A. This psalm indicates that the highest people, those who are in Zion, can bless everyone and teach everyone—vv. 1-2; cf. Gen. 47:10; 48:20; 49:28.

Psa 134:1 Bless Jehovah now, / All you servants of Jehovah / Who stand by night in the house of Jehovah.

Psa 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, / And bless Jehovah.

Gen 47:10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went forth from Pharaoh's presence.

Gen 48:20 And he blessed them that day, saying, By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, / God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh. Thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Gen 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them when he blessed them; he blessed them, each one according to his blessing.

B. The blessing comes from Zion, from the highest peak, from the ones who have attained to the top, to the position of the overcomers; in every age and century God's blessing has come to the church because of the overcomers—Psa. 134:3; cf. Rev. 2:7.

Psa 134:3 May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.