

Message Four

Experiencing Christ as Our Life, Our Person, for the One New Man

Various *Hymns*: 474

Scripture Reading: Col. 3:1-4, 10-11

- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.
- Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

I. In order to experience Christ as our life, our person, we need to see that we have one position, one life, one living, one destiny, and one glory with Christ—Col. 3:1-4; cf. 1 Cor. 6:17:

- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.
- Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- A. Our position is that we are in Christ; because we are in Him, we are where He is—sitting at the right hand of God—Col. 3:1; John 17:24; Eph. 2:6:
- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
1. The Son's position is in the Father (John 10:38; 14:10); we are in the Son (1 Cor. 1:30a), so we are in the Father (John 14:20; 1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1).

John 10:38 But if I do them, even if you do not believe Me, believe the works so that you may come to know and continue to know that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

1 Cor 1:30a But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: ...

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

1 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
 2. It is when we are in the spirit that we are in Christ, in the Father, and in heaven practically and experientially:
 - a. There is a transmission taking place from Christ in heaven to us on earth by means of the all-inclusive Spirit in our spirit—Eph. 1:19, 22-23; 2:22.

Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- b. The very Christ who is sitting on the throne in heaven (Rom. 8:34) is also now in us (v. 10), that is, in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22), where the habitation of God is (Eph. 2:22).
- Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- c. Since today our spirit is the place of God's habitation, it is now the gate of heaven, where Christ is the ladder that joins us to heaven and brings heaven to us—v. 22; Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51.
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- Gen 28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
- Gen 28:13 And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed.
- Gen 28:14 And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.
- Gen 28:15 And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.
- Gen 28:16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.
- Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.
- John 1:51 And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.
- d. Whenever we turn to our spirit, we enter through the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder; our spirit is the receiving end of the divine transmission, whereas the throne of God is the transmitting end—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.
- B. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life—John 5:26; Col. 3:4:
- John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
1. For Christ to be our life means that He is subjective to us to the uttermost—John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...
- John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
2. It is impossible to separate a person from the life of that person, for a person's life is

the person himself; thus, to say that Christ is our life means that Christ has become us and that we have one life and living with Him—John 14:6a; Phil. 1:21a.

John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

3. With Christ as the believers' life, there are three characteristics that distinguish this life from the natural life:

a. This life is a crucified life—Gal. 2:20.

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.

b. This life is a resurrected life—John 11:25.

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;

c. This is a life hidden in God—Col. 3:3-4; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18.

Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Matt 6:1 But take care not to do your righteousness before men in order to be gazed at by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in the heavens.

Matt 6:2 Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full.

Matt 6:3 But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Matt 6:4 So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt 6:5 And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full.

Matt 6:6 But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt 6:16 And when you fast, do not be like the sullen-faced hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so that they may appear to men to be fasting. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full.

Matt 6:17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

Matt 6:18 So that you may not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

C. To seek the things which are above and set our mind on them is to join ourselves to the Lord in His heavenly ministry, His divine enterprise; this is to live Christ, to have a living that is one with Christ's living for the one new man—Col. 3:1-2, 10-11:

Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

1. In His heavenly ministry Christ today is living as the High Priest to intercede for the churches—Heb. 8:1; 4:14; 7:25; 4:16; Col. 4:2.

Heb 8:1 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 4:14 Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession.

Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

- 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.
- Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,
2. In His heavenly ministry Christ today is living as the heavenly Minister to supply the saints with the riches of Christ—Heb. 8:1-2; Eph. 3:8.
- Heb 8:1 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
- Heb 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
3. In His heavenly ministry Christ today is living as the universal Administrator of God’s government for the accomplishment of God’s purpose—Rev. 4:1-2, 5; 5:6; 1:10-11:
- Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.
- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
- Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- Rev 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord’s Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
- 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.
- a. From the throne in the heavens, the divine transmission brings the things above into the local churches—Eph. 1:19, 22-23.
- Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- b. In Revelation 4 and 5 we have a vision of our central government, and in Revelation 1 through 3 we have a vision of the local churches as the “embassies”; through the seven Spirits what is in the heavenly headquarters is transmitted into the churches as the embassies.
- Rev 4,5,1-3 be omitted.
- c. What takes place in the local churches should be under the direction of the throne of God in heaven; in order for the recovery to be the *Lord’s* recovery, it must be under His direction—Col. 1:18; 2:19; Rev. 4:2-3.
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
- Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.
- D. Our destiny is glory; Christ is leading us into glory for us to be manifested with Him in glory—Heb. 2:10; Col. 3:4.
- Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

II. Our life is the Christ who dwells within us, and this life is hidden with Christ in God; the Christ hidden in God is typified by the manna hidden in the golden pot—vv. 3-4; Exo. 16:32-34; Rev. 2:17:

- Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
Exo 16:32 And Moses said, This is what Jehovah has commanded, Let an omerful of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out from the land of Egypt.
Exo 16:33 And Moses said to Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omerful of manna in it, and place it before Jehovah, to be kept throughout your generations.
Exo 16:34 As Jehovah commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony to be kept.
Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.
- A. Christ as the hidden manna is in God the Father as the golden pot; the Father is in Christ as the Ark with His two natures, divinity and humanity; and Christ as the indwelling Spirit lives in our regenerated spirit to be the reality of the Holy of Holies—cf. John 14:16-20; 2 Tim. 4:22.
John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- B. When we eat Christ as the hidden manna, we are incorporated into Him for the mutual abode of God and man—John 15:5, 7; 8:31; 6:57, 63; 14:23.
John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
John 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples;
John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
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.
John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

III. That Christ is our life is a strong indication that we are to take Him as life and live by Him, that we are to live Him in our daily life—Col. 3:4a:

- Col 3:4a When Christ our life is manifested, ...
- A. Christ must be our life in a practical and experiential way; day by day we need to be saved in His life—v. 4a; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 5:10:
Col 3:4a When Christ our life is manifested, ...
1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
1. To be saved in the divine life from the slavery of sin, the law of sin, is by the release of the law of the consummated Spirit—8:2.
Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

2. To be saved in the divine life from the present age of the world is by the sanctification of the consummated Spirit—12:2a; 6:19b, 22b.
Rom 12:2a And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind ...
Rom 6:19b ... For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.
Rom 6:22b ... you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.
 3. To be saved in the divine life from our natural being is by the transformation of the life-giving Spirit—12:2b.
Rom 12:2b And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind ...
 4. To be saved in the divine life from individualism is by being built up in the Body of Christ—v. 5.
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
 5. To be saved in the divine life from self-likeness is by the conformation of the life-imparting Spirit—8:29.
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
 6. To be saved in the divine life from our body of humiliation is by the transfiguration in the virtue of the divine life—v. 30; Phil. 3:21; Rom. 8:11.
Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
Phil 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
 7. To be saved in the divine life is to reign in the divine life—5:17.
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.
 8. To be saved in the divine life will result in the victory over Satan—16:20.
Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- B. The new man is the spontaneous issue of our taking Christ as our life and living Him—Col. 3:3-4, 10-11.
Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.