

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Propheying Message Nineteen : The all-inclusive Christ being the allotted portion of the saints, according to God's choice, as their divine inheritance for their enjoyment

I. Overview:

The all-inclusive Christ is typified by the good land, a land in which we will not lack anything. The good land today is Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit, who dwells in our spirit to be our enjoyment. Colossians 2:6-7 reveals that Christ as the good land is the rich soil in which we have been rooted so that we may grow with the elements that we absorb from the soil; every morning we need to take adequate time to absorb the Lord. The good land is surrounded by two seas and one river; this indicates that the enjoyment of Christ must be in the sphere of His death. The request by Reuben and Gad to receive the land that God had promised was not wrong; however, they were not right in wanting to receive this according to their choice; this indicates that, in type, it was outside the death of Christ. God has ordained Christ to be our portion, but we must cooperate with God's ordination by destroying all the idols within us; only then can we have the genuine enjoyment of Christ for the church as His building and His kingdom.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What conditions should we fulfill to enjoy Christ in the eternal economy of God?

In the eternal economy of God, the Father has allotted the Son to us as our eternal portion and has transferred us into Him that we may partake of Him. We need to stand on the proper ground of the oneness of the Body of Christ and keep the proper faith as Paul did. We also need to live and walk in Christ, then we will enjoy Christ as the good land.

B. How is the way for us to become deeply rooted in Christ?

The only way to become deeply rooted in Christ as the soil is to contact Him as the soil and to daily absorb the water in the Word. The more we contact the soil and absorb the water, the more we shall grow. First we grow downward, then upward. After we have grown downward for a period of time, we shall automatically cease to walk in things other than Christ.

Day 2 —

A. How should we walk in Christ?

As we have received Christ, we should walk in Him. We should walk, live, and act in Christ that we may enjoy His riches, just as the children of Israel lived in the good land, enjoying all its rich produce. The good land today is Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit, who dwells in our spirit to be our enjoyment.

B. Why do we every morning need to take an adequate amount of time to absorb the Lord?

If you spend thirty minutes to absorb the Lord and to enjoy Him in the morning, you will not be bothered by negative things during the day. However, we should spend time with the Lord not only in the morning but also throughout the day. If we have a good time with the Lord in the morning, afternoon, and evening, not only shall we be supplied with the most effective pest control, we shall also enjoy a feast.

Day 3 —

A. What does it mean in Colossians 2:7 that speaks of being built up in Christ?

Here the building up in 2:7 means that we ourselves need to become built up by growing. The building up of the Body depends upon the individual and personal building up of all the members. If a particular member has not been built up, it will not be possible for him to be built up in the Body. To be built up in the Body we first must be built up in ourselves. When we have become built-up members, we shall then be able to be built up with others in the Body.

B. Expound the meaning of In Colossians 2:19, "holding the Head, out from whom."

Holding the Head is equal to abiding in Christ. Of course, to hold the Head implies that we are not detached, or severed, from Him. The words "out from whom" indicate that something is coming out from the Head to cause the Body to grow. The growth of the Body depends on what comes out of Christ as the Head, just as the growth of a plant depends on what comes into the plant from the soil. Holding the Head is, therefore, equal to being rooted in Christ as the soil.

Day 4 —

A. What is a twofold significance to the arrangement concerning the land east of the Jordan?

On the positive side, the tribes of Reuben and Gad highly regarded the receiving of the God-promised inheritance. However, on the negative side, they made their choice before they reached God's goal, which was on the west side of the Jordan. When the boundaries of the good land are mentioned in Numbers 34, the land on the east of the Jordan is not included. The two and a half tribes chose and thus substituted the second best for the best.

B. Explain the enjoyment of Christ being closely related to His death.

The best portion of the good land was surrounded by two seas and one river. These three bodies of water signify Christ's death. Our enjoyment of Christ, therefore, must be in the sphere, the territory, of His death. The borders of the good land also indicate that it is an elevated, uplifted land. This signifies the ascended Christ, the heavenly Christ. The Christ whom we enjoy in His riches is a resurrected and ascended Christ.

Day 5 —

A. Discuss in spiritual matters it is terrible to do things according to our choice.

Whatever is according to our choice will not turn out to be profitable. We may think that our choice is the best, but it is actually the worst. We should not try to have our own choice in the church life or in the Lord's service. If you insist on having your own choice, be prepared to suffer as a result. Our choice is not the best selection.

B. Explain what the revelation we got from the choice of the two and a half tribes.

The land given to the two and a half tribes, the land which was according to their choice, could be reached without crossing the Jordan. If we do not pass through the death of Christ, we cannot enter into His resurrection and ascension. Whenever we have our choice, we are outside the death of Christ and, as a result, are not in the realm of His resurrection and ascension to enjoy Him as the heavenly, elevated One.

Day 6 —

A. Explain why Moses rebuked these two and a half tribes.

Moses rebuked the children of Reuben and Gad for not fighting with the Israelites to gain the land of Canaan. In response to Moses' rebuke, the people of the two tribes promised that they would willingly cross over the Jordan to fight and that they would not return to the east of the Jordan until their brothers had gained the land of Canaan as their possession. Today in the church many of the Lord's lovers and pursuers remain on the east of the Jordan; they only want to be under God's blessing and care.

B. How do we cooperate with God's ordination concerning our enjoyment of Christ today?

Today Christ has been given to us as our portion for our enjoyment; we must destroy all the idols within us. We must destroy any idols that may be in us and not leave any ground within us for the worship of idols. Without dealing with the idols in us, we cannot have the genuine enjoyment of Christ.

III. Conclusion:

According to the revelation from Paul in Colossians 2:7, Christ as the good land is the rich soil in which we have been rooted so that we may grow with the elements that we absorb from the soil. What we need is to spend time before the Lord in the morning to become deeply rooted and to contact His Word with much prayer being mingled with Him. We first grow downward and then bear fruit upward. Since absorbing the riches of Christ as the soil, we need to have tender, new roots; we should not let ourselves get old but be fresh and renewed every day. We would pray to the Lord, "Lord, I want my consecration to be fresh, and I want to open to You anew. I want my roots to be tender that I may absorb Your riches. Lord, don't let my roots get old." If our roots are tender and new to absorb the riches of Christ, we shall grow automatically with the riches we assimilate. This is to enjoy Christ and to experience Him subjectively daily and hourly; we shall spontaneously walk in Christ, that is, having our living, acting, moving, and being in Christ.