

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Six : Knowing and Experiencing the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ as Our Life
and as the Constituent of the New Man

I. Overview:

In order to experience Christ as our life, we need to see that we have one position, one life, one living, one destiny, and one glory with Christ. Our position is in Christ and the Son's position is in the Father; we are in the Son, so we are in the Father and in heaven. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life. With Christ as the believers' life there are three characteristics; this life is a crucified life, this life is a resurrected life, and this life is a life hidden in God. To seek the things which are above and set our mind on them is to join ourselves to the Lord in His heavenly ministry. Our destiny is glory; Christ is leading us into glory for us to be manifested with Him in glory. When we eat Christ as the hidden manna, we are incorporated into Him for the mutual abode of God and man, living Christ as the constituent of the new man. We need to allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts to dissolve our complaint against anyone and to keep us in a situation full of oneness and harmony, we become the place of God's speaking, His oracle. Let the Lord's word have the first place in us to experience the functions of the word of God operating within us so that we may become God-man, living out the reality of the new man.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound what Colossians 3:1-4 implies.

With Christ we have one position, one life, one living, one destiny, and one glory. Because we and Christ have one position, we are where He is. We and Christ also have the same life, even our living is His living. Eventually, we have the same destiny and glory with Him.

B. Explain we having the same one position with Christ.

Our position is that we are in Christ. Because we are in Him, who is at the right hand of God, we are also at right hand of God. In the Gospel of John we are told clearly that the Son is in the Father. This means that the Son's position is in the Father. Since our position today is that we are in the Son, in Christ, we also are in the Father. The Father, of course, is in heaven. Hence, our position also is that we are in heaven.

Day 2 —

A. What is the meaning of Colossians 3:3 and 4 Paul twice speaks of life?

Paul's use of the expression our life indicates that we and Christ have one life. According to our experience and according to the Word, life here is Christ's life becoming our life. The only life that can be hidden with Christ in God is the divine life, the very life of Christ. It is this life which has become our life.

B. State Christ as the believers' life there being three characteristics.

First, this life is a crucified life. If we truly experience Christ as our life, we also shall live a crucified life. The second characteristic of Christ as our life is that this life is a resurrected life. Nothing, including death, can suppress it. Finally, this is a life hidden in God. If we experience Christ as our life, what we do in the church will not be done in a showy way but rather be done by a life hidden in God.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that we have the one living with Him.

To seek the things which are above and to set our mind on them is to join ourselves to the Lord in His ministry in heaven. We need to join ourselves to the very One who is interceding, ministering, and executing God's administration. Our living should be a kind of living in which we seek these heavenly things and set our mind on them. We need to join Him in His living and have one living with Him.

B. Expound Christ in heaven being very active, even more busy than being on earth.

He is interceding for us, shepherding all His churches, and ministering on behalf of millions of saints. As the High Priest in heaven, He is interceding for us. As He intercedes for us, Christ is ministering the heavenly life supply into us. He is the heavenly Minister ministering in the heavens. According to Revelation 5:6, as the Lamb on the throne, Christ is executing God's universal administration.

Day 4 —

A. Explain our destiny being glory.

Today we are hidden in God, but when Christ is manifested, we shall be manifested with Him in glory. Today we should not make a show, but should remain hidden in God, waiting for the time when we shall arrive at our destination and enter into glory with Christ. Then, at the appointed time, the time for a divinely-ordained display, there will be the manifestation of the sons of God in glory.

B. Why can we preserve Christ as our hidden manna only in the divine nature?

We cannot preserve Christ in our mind or emotion. We can preserve Him only in the divine nature which we have within us through regeneration. The manna in the golden pot indicates that the very Christ whom we enjoy as our life supply is preserved in the divine nature which is now in our inmost being.

Day 5 —

A. State what the revelation of the significance for “arbitrate” in Colossians 3:15 has.

The word of “arbitrate” in Colossians 3:15 can also be rendered “umpire, preside,” or “be enthroned as a ruler and decider of everything.” The arbitrating peace of Christ in our hearts dissolves the complaint mentioned in verse 13. For the proper Body life we need the peace of Christ to arbitrate, to adjust, to decide all things in our heart in the relationships between the members of His Body.

B. Testify the peace of Christ being the umpire within us, we shall have peace with two sides.

When the peace of Christ is enthroned in our hearts to be the unique umpire within us, we shall have peace with God vertically and with the saints horizontally. As the peace of Christ presides in our hearts, the renewing of the new man takes place continually. If we stay under the ruling of the enthroned peace of Christ, we shall not offend others or damage them. Rather, by the Lord’s grace and with His peace, we shall minister life to others.

Day 6 —

A. Expound why Paul mentions the peace of Christ before the word of Christ.

The answer to this question is related to the basic principle revealed in the Bible that God’s speaking requires oneness. Whenever God’s people are divided, His word becomes rare. God does not speak where there is division. Division causes God’s speaking to diminish, even to cease altogether. When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, God spoke in the Tent of Meeting. The Tent of Meeting was a sign of the oneness of God’s people.

B. Explain giving the first place to the word of God, we will experience the functions of His Word.

If we give the first place to the word of God, we shall experience the functions of His word; enlightening, nourishing, quenching our thirst, strengthening, washing, building, perfecting, and edifying. What benefit we receive from the word of God! First, the word of God enlightens us. Second, the word of God is food, full of nourishment. The word of God also completes and perfects man.

III. Conclusion:

To seek the things which are above and to set our mind on the things which are above is to join ourselves to the Lord in His heavenly ministry. We need to join ourselves to the very One who is interceding, ministering, and executing God’s administration. Our living should be a kind of living in which we seek these heavenly things and set our mind on them. This means that we live in such a way as to join our heavenly Christ in His priesthood, ministry, and administration. If we all live in this way, the church life will be greatly uplifted. Here we are living on the earth, but are not to seek earthly things for profession, education, family life or health. We do live for God’s economy, purpose, and administration. We are one with Him in Christ’s heavenly priesthood, and therefore have one living with Him. If we really have this one living with Christ, all negative things will be under our feet.