

Message Four

God's Words—the Divine Supply as Food

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Jer. 15:16; Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; John 5:39-40; 6:50-51, 57, 63; Col. 3:16

- Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.
- Deut. 8:3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you the manna, which you had never known nor your fathers had ever known, so that He might make you know that man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah.
- Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."
- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- John 6:50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
- 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.
- Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

OUTLINE

I. "Your words were found and I ate them"—Jer. 15:16a:

- Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.
- A. In the Bible we first have God, and then we have God's speaking, the word that proceeds out of His mouth—Gen. 1:1, 3; Matt. 4:4.
- Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Gen. 1:3 And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.
- Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."
- B. All Scripture is God-breathed; hence, the words in the Scriptures are the words that proceed out through the mouth of God—2 Tim. 3:16.
- 2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- C. The Bible as the Word of God is the embodiment of God, Christ, the Spirit, and life—John 1:1, 4; 6:63; 14:6, 17, 20; 15:7; 1 John 1:1; Rom. 8:2.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

- 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 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- 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 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- 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.
- 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life
- 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.
- D. The Bible as the Word of God is composed of three elements—Christ, the death of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ—Phil. 1:20-21; 2:16; 3:10-11; 4:13.
- Phil. 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
- Phil. 2:16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.
- Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil. 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- Phil. 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
- E. The words spoken by the Lord Jesus are spirit and life—John 6:63:
- 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.
1. The Lord's spoken words are the embodiment of the Spirit of life—Rom. 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. Christ is now the life-giving Spirit in resurrection, and the Spirit is embodied in His words—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 1:1, 4; 6:63.
- 1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 2 Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 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.
3. When we receive His words by exercising our spirit, we get the Spirit, who is life—5:39-40.
- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- F. God's word is the divine supply as food to nourish us—Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4:
- Deut. 8:3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you the manna, which you had never known nor your fathers had ever known, so that He might make you know that

man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

1. The divine concept concerning God's word is that it is food by which we are nourished—1 Cor. 3:1-2a; Heb. 5:12-14.

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.

1 Cor. 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. But neither yet now are you able,

Heb. 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.

Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

2. The word of God is God Himself as our food—John 1:1, 4, 14; 6:33, 51, 57.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.

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.

3. The Lord Jesus took the word of God in the Scriptures as His bread and lived by it—Matt. 4:4.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

4. Every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God is spiritual food to nourish us; this is the food by which we must live—John 6:51, 57.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.

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.

5. Through the word as our food, God dispenses His riches into our inner being so that we may be constituted with His element.

G. According to the entire revelation in the Holy Bible, God's words are good for us to eat, and we need to eat them—Psa. 119:103; Matt. 4:4; Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2-3:

Psa. 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste! / Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

- Heb. 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.
- Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;
- Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.
- 1 Pet. 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
- 1 Pet. 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1. God desires that man eat, digest, and assimilate Him—John 6:50-51, 57:

- John 6:50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
- 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.

a. To eat is to contact things outside of us and to receive them into us, with the result that they eventually become our constitution—Gen. 2:16-17.

- Gen. 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
- Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

b. To eat is to take food into us that it may be assimilated organically into our body—John 6:48, 50.

- John 6:48 I am the bread of life.
- John 6:50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die.

c. God's words as food eaten, digested, and assimilated by us actually become us; this is the word becoming our constitution—Matt. 4:4; Col. 3:16.

- Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."
- Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

2. Whenever we read the Bible, we must come to the Lord for life and eat the bread of life, which is Christ Himself—John 5:39-40; 6:48, 50-51, 57.

- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- John 6:48 I am the bread of life.
- John 6:50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.

- 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.
3. To eat the Lord as the word is to take Him in as our life supply; He is the bread of life for us to eat—vv. 48, 51.
- John 6:48 I am the bread of life.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
4. The way to eat the Lord is to pray the Word; to pray-read the Word of God is to exercise our spirit to eat the word—Eph. 6:17-18.
- Eph. 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph. 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
5. The more we eat God's words, the more we will be constituted and saturated with Christ—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17; Col. 3:4,10-11.
- Gal. 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- 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.
6. As we eat the Lord Jesus, we need to have proper spiritual digestion—Ezek. 2:8—3:3; Jer. 15:16; Rev. 10:9-10:
- Ezek. 2:8 But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I give you.
- Ezek. 2:9 And I looked, and there was a hand, put forth toward me; and in it there was a scroll book.
- Ezek. 2:10 And He spread it before me. And it was written on the front and back, and on it were written lamentations, mourning, and woe.
- Ezek. 3:1 Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
- Ezek. 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
- Ezek. 3:3 And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.
- Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.
- Rev. 10:9 And I went to the Angel and told Him to give me the little scroll. And He said to me, Take it and devour it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.
- Rev. 10:10 And I took the little scroll out of the hand of the Angel and devoured it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth; and when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
- a. If we have good digestion, there will be a thoroughfare for the food to get into every part

of our inward being—Eph. 3:16-17a.

Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

b. Indigestion means that there is no way for Christ as the spiritual food to get into our inward parts—Heb. 3:12-13, 15; 4:2.

Heb. 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

Heb. 3:13 But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin--

Heb. 3:15 While it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation."

Heb. 4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.

c. We need to keep our whole being with all our inward parts open to the Lord so that the spiritual food will have a thoroughfare within us; if we do this, we will have proper digestion and assimilation, we will absorb Christ as spiritual nourishment, and Christ will become our constituent—Col. 3:4, 10-11.

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.

7. Because we are what we eat, if we eat God as our food, we will be one with God and even become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead—John 1:1, 14; 6:32-33, 48, 51, 57.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 6:32 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread out of heaven.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.

John 6:48 I am the bread of life.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.

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.

II. “Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart”—Jer. 15:16b:

Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

A. Although Jeremiah suffered more than all the other prophets, he had gladness and joy in his heart whenever he found God’s words and ate them—v. 16.

Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

- B. The word became in verse 16 indicates that gladness and joy are an issue of God's words being eaten, digested, assimilated, and constituted into our inner being, causing the Lord's joy to become our joy—John 15:7, 10-11:

Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

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 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.

1. When we eat God's words, His word becomes our heart's gladness and joy—Jer. 15:16.

Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

2. After God's words are taken into us and are assimilated into our inward parts, these words become joy within and gladness without.

- C. God is a God of joy, and He wants us to enjoy Him—Neh. 8:10; Psa. 36:8:

Neh. 8:10 Then he said to them, Go your way; eat the fat, and drink the sweet wine, and send portions to him for whom nothing has been prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength.

Psa. 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.

1. A sweet thought revealed in the Word of God is that in Christ God has given Himself to us as grace to be our enjoyment—John 1:14, 16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

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.

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.

2. In the first reference in the Bible to God's relationship with man, God presented Himself to man as food; this shows that God's desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment—Gen. 2:7, 9; Psa. 16:11; Jer. 15:16.

Gen. 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Gen. 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Psa. 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; / In Your presence is fullness of joy; / At Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

- D. Romans 14:17 speaks of "joy in the Holy Spirit":

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1. This verse indicates that the Spirit is related to joy; joy is an attribute of the Spirit—cf. 1 Thes. 1:6.

1 Thes. 1:6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit,

2. Joy is also a fruit of the Spirit; the indwelling Spirit gives joy to the believers—Gal. 5:22.

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

3. When we are in the Spirit, we are joyful, so joyful that we may sing and shout praises to the Lord—cf. Acts 16:25.

Acts 16:25 And about midnight Paul and Silas, while praying, sang hymns of praise to God; and the prisoners were listening to them.

4. We may “exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory”—1 Pet. 1:8:

1 Pet. 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,

a. The joy full of glory is joy immersed in the Lord as glory; thus, it is full of the expression of God—Acts 7:2, 55; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:3.

Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

Acts 7:55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

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.

2 Pet. 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

b. We exult with a joy that is immersed in glory—1 Pet. 1:8.

1 Pet. 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,

III. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”—Col. 3:16:

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

A. The word of Christ is the word spoken by Christ—John 6:63:

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.

1. In His New Testament economy God speaks in the Son—Heb. 1:1-2.

Heb. 1:1 God, having spoken of old in many portions and in many ways to the fathers in the prophets,

Heb. 1:2 Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the universe;

2. The Son speaks not only by Himself in the Gospels but also through His members, the

apostles and prophets, in Acts, in the Epistles, and in Revelation; all these speakings can be considered His word.

3. The word of Christ includes the entire New Testament, and we need to be filled with this word—Col. 3:16.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

B. The word of Christ is actually the person of Christ—v. 16; John 15:4, 7:

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

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.

1. Paul almost personifies the word of Christ; he tells us to let this word dwell in us, as if it were a living person—Col. 3:16; cf. Eph. 3:17.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

2. First, we have Christ as our life; then we have His living word personified as His person dwelling in us—Col. 3:4, 16.

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

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

3. Since the word of Christ can dwell in us, it must be a living person; therefore, to let the word of Christ dwell in us indicates that we allow a living person—Christ Himself—to dwell in us—v. 16; 1:27.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

C. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly and have the first place in our being—3:16:

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

1. The word let is important; the word of Christ is already present, but we need to allow it to operate within us.

2. For the word of Christ to dwell in us richly means that it inhabits us, indwells us, in a rich way—v. 16.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

3. The Greek word rendered “dwell” literally means “to be in a house,” “to indwell,” “to inhabit”:

a. This indicates that we should allow the word of Christ to dwell in us, to inhabit us, to make home in us—v. 16.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

b. The word of the Lord must have adequate room within us so that it may operate and minister the riches of Christ into us—Eph. 3:8.

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

4. The word of Christ should be given the freedom to operate within us, inhabit us, and make home in us—Col. 3:16.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

D. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us so that we may experience the functions of the word of God operating within us, ministering the riches of Christ into our being—Eph. 3:8:

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

1. The word of God enlightens (Psa. 119:105, 130), nourishes (Matt. 4:4; 1 Tim. 4:6), and waters us to quench our thirst (Isa. 55:1, 8-11).

Psa. 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet / And a light to my path.

Psa. 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, / Imparting understanding to the simple.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

1 Tim. 4:6 If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.

Isa. 55:1 Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, / And you who have no money; / Come, buy and eat; / Yes, come, buy wine and milk / Without money and without price.

Isa. 55:8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, / And your ways are not My ways, declares Jehovah.

Isa. 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, / So My ways are higher than your ways, / And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Isa. 55:10 For just as the rain comes down / And the snow from heaven, / And does not return there, / Until it waters the earth / And makes it bear and sprout forth, / That it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

Isa. 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; / It will not return to Me vainly, / But it will accomplish what I delight in, / And it will prosper in the matter to which I have sent it.

2. The word of God strengthens (1 John 2:14; Prov. 4:20-22), washes (Eph. 5:26), and builds us up (Acts 20:32).

- 1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.
- Prov. 4:20 My son, be attentive to my words; / Incline your ear to my sayings.
- Prov. 4:21 Do not let them depart from your sight; / Keep them in the midst of your heart.
- Prov. 4:22 For they are life to those who find them, / And healing to all their flesh.
- Eph. 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- 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.
3. The word of God completes, perfects (2 Tim. 3:15-17), and edifies us by sanctifying us (John 17:17).
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- 2 Tim. 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- 2 Tim. 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.
4. By allowing the word of Christ to inhabit us, we can become a God-man filled with Christ as the reality of the attributes of God—Col. 3:16-25; Phil. 4:5-8.
- Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.
- Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- Col. 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
- Col. 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter against them.
- Col. 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.
- Col. 3:21 Fathers, do not vex your children, that they may not be disheartened.
- Col. 3:22 Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord.
- Col. 3:23 Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men,
- Col. 3:24 Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as recompense. You serve the Lord Christ.
- Col. 3:25 For he who does unrighteously will receive what he unrighteously did, and there is no respect of persons.
- Phil. 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- Phil. 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
- Phil. 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.