

Message Twelve  
**Living a Life of Enjoying Christ as the Good Land  
with the Temple, the Dwelling Place of God,  
and the City, the Kingdom of God, as Its Issue**

*MC Hymns: 497, 542*

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 13:14; 1:12; 4:15; 6:1; 8:1, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9

- 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 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
- 2 Cor 4:15 For all things are for your sakes that the grace which has abounded through the greater number may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.
- 2 Cor 6:1 And working together with Him, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;
- 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 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor in order that you, because of His poverty, might become rich.
- 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;
- 2 Cor 9:14 While in petition on your behalf they also long after you on account of the surpassing grace of God upon you.
- 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.

**I. First Corinthians takes the history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament as a type of the New Testament believers (5:7-8; 10:1-13), but there is no reference to the good land in 1 Corinthians, because, spiritually speaking, the reality of the good land is in 2 Corinthians:**

- 2 Cor 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by appearance)-
- 2 Cor 5:8 We are of good courage then and are well pleased rather to be abroad from the body and at home with the Lord.
- 2 Cor 10:1 But I myself, Paul, entreat you through the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who (as you say) in person am base among you, but while absent am bold toward you,
- 2 Cor 10:2 I beseech you that when present I would not have to be bold in the confidence with which I count myself, to dare do to some who count us as ones who are walking according to flesh.
- 2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in flesh, we do not war according to flesh;
- 2 Cor 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds,
- 2 Cor 10:5 As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.
- 2 Cor 10:6 And we are ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
- 2 Cor 10:7 You look at things according to their appearance. If someone has confidence in himself to be of Christ, let him take account of this again concerning himself, that even as he is of Christ, so also are we.
- 2 Cor 10:8 For even if I should boast somewhat more abundantly concerning our authority, which the Lord has given for building you up and not for overthrowing you, I will not be put to shame.
- 2 Cor 10:9 I say this so as not to seem as if I am terrifying you through my letters,
- 2 Cor 10:10 Because while his letters, someone says, are weighty and strong, his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible.
- 2 Cor 10:11 Let such a one take account of this, that such as we are in word by letters when absent, such also we are in deed when present.

- 2 Cor 10:12 For we do not dare to class or compare ourselves with any of those who commend themselves; but they, measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding.
- 2 Cor 10:13 But we will not boast beyond our measure but according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.
- A. The reality of the good land in 2 Corinthians is Christ Himself as the divine grace; the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is the central thought and the subject of 2 Corinthians—13:14; 1:12; 4:15; 6:1; 8:1, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9.
- 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 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
- 2 Cor 4:15 For all things are for your sakes that the grace which has abounded through the greater number may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.
- 2 Cor 6:1 And working together with Him, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;
- 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 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor in order that you, because of His poverty, might become rich.
- 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;
- 2 Cor 9:14 While in petition on your behalf they also long after you on account of the surpassing grace of God upon you.
- 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.
- B. *Not I but the grace of God* in 1 Corinthians 15:10 equals *no longer I...but...Christ* in Galatians 2:20; the grace that motivated the apostle and operated in him was not some matter or some thing but a living person (John 1:16-17), the resurrected Christ, the embodiment of God the Father (Col. 2:9; John 14:7-11) who became the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17), who dwelt in the apostle for his empowering enjoyment (2 Tim. 4:22; 2:1).
- 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.
- 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.
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- John 14:7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and henceforth you know Him and have seen Him.
- John 14:8 Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father and it is sufficient for us.
- John 14:9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how is it that you say, Show us 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.
- John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... 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.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- 2 Tim 2:1 You therefore, my child, be empowered in the grace which is in Christ Jesus;

- C. Grace is God in Christ as the Spirit given to us for our enjoyment, energizing us, enabling us, supporting us, and strengthening us to face any kind of trouble, to fit all situations, to endure any kind of treatment, to accept any kind of environment, to work under any kind of condition, and to take any kind of opportunity so that we may be good stewards to dispense the varied grace of God into others for the building up of the church as the house of God and the kingdom of God—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:3-12; 12:7-9; 1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 3:2.

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.

2 Cor 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassions and God of all comfort,

2 Cor 1:4 Who comforts us in all our affliction that we may be able to comfort those who are in every affliction through the comforting with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Cor 1:5 For even as the sufferings of the Christ abound unto us, so through the Christ our comfort also abounds.

2 Cor 1:6 But whether we are afflicted, it is for your comforting and salvation; or whether we are comforted, it is for your comforting, which operates in the endurance of the same sufferings which we also suffer.

2 Cor 1:7 And our hope for you is firm, knowing that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you are of the comfort.

2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.

2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

2 Cor 1:10 Who has delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver us; in whom we have hoped that He will also yet deliver us,

2 Cor 1:11 If you also help in this by petition on our behalf, that for the gift to us through many, thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf.

2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

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.

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,

## II. We need to see how to live a life in the eyes of God that will enable us to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ typified by the good land—Col. 1:12; 2:6-7a:

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Col 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

Col 2:7a Having been rooted and being built up in Him, ...

- A. We need to live a life of laboring upon Christ, a life of enjoying Christ personally so that we may enjoy Him together collectively for the building up of the Body of Christ as the temple, the house, of the living God—1 Cor. 3:17; 1 Tim. 3:15.

1 Cor 3:17 If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, and such are you.

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

B. God's will is for us to enjoy Christ (Heb. 10:5-10; 1 Cor. 1:9); we need to seek to enjoy Christ and experience Him in every situation (Phil. 3:7-14).

- Heb 10:5 Therefore, coming into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.
- Heb 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not delight.
- Heb 10:7 Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me) to do Your will, O God."
- Heb 10:8 Saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not desire nor delight in" (which are offered according to the law),
- Heb 10:9 He then has said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first that He may establish the second,
- Heb 10:10 By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Phil 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
- 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 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

C. Christ is rich beyond measure, but the church today is groveling in poverty because the Lord's children are indolent—Prov. 6:6-11; 24:30-34; 26:14; Matt. 25:26, 30.

- Prov 6:6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; / Consider its ways, and be wise,
- Prov 6:7 Which, having no chief, / Officer, or ruler,
- Prov 6:8 Prepares its food in summer / And gathers its sustenance in the harvest.
- Prov 6:9 How long, sluggard, will you lie there? / When will you arise from your sleep?
- Prov 6:10 A little sleep, a little slumber, / A little folding of the hands to rest,
- Prov 6:11 And your poverty will come upon you like a robber, / And your want, like an armed man.
- Prov 24:30 I passed by the field of the sluggard, / And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense;
- Prov 24:31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; / Its surface was covered with nettles, / And its stone wall was broken down.
- Prov 24:32 When I looked, I considered it; / I saw it and received instruction:
- Prov 24:33 A little sleep, a little slumber, / A little folding of the hands to rest,
- Prov 24:34 And your poverty will come upon you like a robber, / And your want, like an armed man.
- Prov 26:14 As the door turns upon its hinges, / So does the sluggard upon his bed.
- Matt 25:26 And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow.
- Matt 25:30 And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

D. When we come to the meetings to worship the Lord, we should not come with our hands empty; our hands must be full of the produce of Christ—Deut. 16:15-16:

- Deut 16:15 You shall keep the feast to Jehovah your God for seven days in the place which Jehovah will choose, for Jehovah your God will bless you in all your produce and in all your undertakings; therefore you shall be nothing but joyful.

- 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;
1. We must produce enough of Him so that there will be a surplus remaining for the poor and the needy, for the priests and the Levites, and with the best for the Lord Himself— 15:11; 18:3-4; 12:11.
    - Deut 15:11 For the needy will not cease being in the land; therefore I am commanding you, saying, You must open your hand to your brother, to the poor one with you and to the needy one with you in your land.
    - Deut 18:3 And this shall be the priests' rightful due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep: They shall give the priest the shoulder, the two cheeks, and the stomach.
    - Deut 18:4 You shall give him the firstfruits of your grain, of your new wine, and of your fresh oil, and the first shearing of your sheep;
    - 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.
  2. To worship God with Christ is to worship Him collectively with all the children of God by enjoying Christ with one another and with God—1 Cor. 14:26.
    - 1 Cor 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- E. If we want to be overcomers, we need to labor on Christ as our good land, to gain Christ as our enjoyment:
1. Every morning we must consecrate ourselves sincerely to the Lord for the simple purpose of enjoying and experiencing Him—cf. Phil. 3:13-14.
    - Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
    - Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.
  2. Every day we need to spend time to be with the Lord privately and secretly to have intimate fellowship with Him—Matt. 14:22-23; 6:6; Exo. 33:11a.
    - Matt 14:22 And immediately He compelled the disciples to step into the boat and to go before Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.
    - Matt 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.
    - 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.
    - Exo 33:11a And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. ...
  3. We need to enjoy the Lord in the Word every day early in the morning to have a new start of each day—Psa. 119:147-148.
    - Psa 119:147 I anticipated the dawn and cried out; / I hoped in Your words.
    - Psa 119:148 My eyes anticipated the night watches, / That I might muse upon Your word.
  4. We need to deal with sins thoroughly so that there is nothing between us and the Lord— 1 John 1:7, 9; cf. Ezek. 1:22, 26.
    - 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
    - 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
    - Ezek 1:22 And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

- Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.
5. We need to maintain our fellowship with the Lord moment by moment, living a life of prayer—2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 4:6-7; Lam. 3:55-56; cf. Matt. 11:25-26.
- 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.
- 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.
- Lam 3:55 I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, / From the lowest pit.
- Lam 3:56 You have heard my voice; do not hide / Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.
- Matt 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I extol You, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.
- Matt 11:26 Yes, Father, for thus it has been well-pleasing in Your sight.
6. We need to redeem our time and spend our energy to be saturated and soaked with God's holy Word—2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 3:16.
- 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.
- 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.
7. We should redeem the time to be filled in spirit by rejoicing always, praying unceasingly, and giving thanks in everything—Eph. 5:18; 1 Thes. 5:16-19.
- Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,
- 1 Thes 5:16 Always rejoice,
- 1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
- 1 Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- 1 Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;
8. In order to experience the riches of Christ as the good land, we must be dominated, governed, directed, moved, and led by our spirit—2 Cor. 2:13.
- 2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
9. In order to experience the riches of Christ as the good land, we must live in the person, the presence, the face, of Christ—v. 10; 4:6-7; 3:16-18; 12:2a:
- 2 Cor 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;
- 2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- 2 Cor 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
- 2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- 2 Cor 12:2a I know a man in Christ, ...
- a. In order to possess Christ as the all-inclusive land, we must be governed by His person, His presence—Exo. 33:14.
- Exo 33:14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

- b. Because Paul lived in the person of Christ, he experienced Christ as changelessness (2 Cor. 1:17-20), as meekness and gentleness (10:1), as truthfulness (11:10), as power (12:10; 13:4), as grace (v. 14), and as the One speaking in him (v. 3; cf. 2:17).

2 Cor 1:17 This therefore intending, did I then use fickleness? Or the things which I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, so that with me there should be Yes, yes and No, no?

2 Cor 1:18 But as God is faithful, our word toward you is not yes and no.

2 Cor 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you through us, through me and Silvanus and Timothy, did not become yes and no, but our word has become yes in Him.

2 Cor 1:20 For as many promises of God as there are, in Him is the Yes; therefore also through Him is the Amen to God, for glory through us to God.

2 Cor 10:1 But I myself, Paul, entreat you through the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who (as you say) in person am base among you, but while absent am bold toward you,

2 Cor 11:10 The truthfulness of Christ is in me, that this boasting shall not be stopped as it regards me in the regions of Achaia.

2 Cor 12:10 Therefore I am well pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions and distresses, on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.

2 Cor 13:4 For indeed He was crucified out of weakness, but He lives by the power of God. For indeed we are weak in Him, but we will live together with Him by the power of God directed toward you.

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 Cor 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.

2 Cor 2:17 For we are not like the many, adulterating the word of God for profit; but as out of sincerity, but as out of God, before God we speak in Christ.

10. We receive Christ as grace, the reality of the good land, through the breaking and constituting work of the Holy Spirit, whereby our inner being is rebuilt with the Divine Trinity—12:7-10; 13:14.

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.

2 Cor 12:10 Therefore I am well pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions and distresses, on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.

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.

### **III. We must meet together to have an exhibition of the Christ upon whom we have labored, the Christ whom we have enjoyed and experienced—Deut. 14:22-23:**

Deut 14:22 You must give a tenth of all the produce of your seed, which the field brings forth, year by year.

Deut 14:23 And you shall eat before Jehovah your God, in the place where He will choose to cause His name to dwell, the tithe of your grain, of your new wine, and of your fresh oil and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear Jehovah your God always.

- A. When we enjoy Christ personally in our daily life for our collective enjoyment of Him in our meeting life, God is among us, and we are His dwelling place and His kingdom.

- B. When we enjoy Christ to such an extent, the church meeting will be filled with God, and all its activities will convey and transmit God to people that they may be infused with God—1 Cor. 14:25.  
 1 Cor 14:25 The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.
- C. The true worship of God by His people is when everyone is full of Christ, radiant with Christ, and exhibiting the Christ upon whom they have labored.
- D. We should always have something to speak in all the meetings as a freewill offering to God and to the attendants—v. 26:  
 1 Cor 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
1. Before coming to the meeting, we should prepare ourselves for the meeting with something of the Lord, either through our experience of Him or through our enjoyment of His word and fellowship with Him in prayer.
  2. After coming into the meeting, we should not wait for inspiration; we should exercise our spirit and use our trained mind to function in presenting what we have prepared to the Lord for His glory and satisfaction and to the attendants for their benefit—their enlightenment, nourishment, and building up—vv. 31-32.  
 1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.  
 1 Cor 14:32 And the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;

**IV. We must meet with the Lord’s children for corporate worship at the place that the Lord has chosen—in our spirit and on the unique ground of oneness—  
 Deut. 12:5, 11, 13-14, 18; 16:16; John 4:24:**

- 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 12:11 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 12:13 Be careful that you do not offer up your burnt offerings in every place that you see;
- 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 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;
- John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
- A. First, God’s sanctuary, His habitation, is in our spirit (Eph. 2:22), and second, it is the church (1 Tim. 3:15); thus, to go into the sanctuary of God, we need to turn to our spirit and go to the meetings of the church; in our spirit and in the church we receive divine revelation and the explanation to all our problems (Psa. 73:16-28).  
 Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.  
 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.  
 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.  
 Psa 73:18 Surely You set them in slippery places; / You cast them down into ruins.  
 Psa 73:19 How they are made desolate in a moment! / They are utterly consumed by terrors.



- Psa 73:20 Like a dream, when one awakes, You, O Lord, / Upon arising, will despise their image.
- Psa 73:21 When my heart was embittered, / And inwardly I was pricked;
- Psa 73:22 I was brutish and knew nothing; / I was like a beast before You.
- Psa 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; / You have taken hold of my right hand.
- Psa 73:24 You will guide me with Your counsel, / And afterward You will receive me in glory.
- Psa 73:25 Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth.
- Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail, / But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.
- Psa 73:27 For behold, those who are far from You will perish; / You destroy all who go about as harlots away from You.
- Psa 73:28 But as for me, drawing near to God is good for me; / I have made the Lord Jehovah my refuge, / That I may declare all Your works.

- B. We must keep the unique oneness of the Body of Christ on the genuine ground of oneness:
1. The practice of the church life is the practice of having one church for one city, one city with only one church—Acts 8:1; 13:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; Rev. 1:11.
    - 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.
    - 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:
    - 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.
  2. On the genuine ground of oneness, we enjoy the Lord as the anointing oil, the refreshing dew, and the commanded blessing of life—Psa. 133.
    - 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.
- C. There are four characteristics of the place the Lord has chosen:
1. The place chosen by the Lord must not have any name other than the name of Christ— Deut. 12:5; Rev. 3:8.
    - 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.
    - Rev 3:8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.
  2. The place chosen by the Lord is full of the exercise of the spirit—Eph. 2:22; John 4:24; 1 Tim. 4:7; 1 Cor. 14:32.
    - Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
    - John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
    - 1 Tim 4:7 But the profane and old-womanish myths refuse, and exercise yourself unto godliness.
    - 1 Cor 14:32 And the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;
  3. The place chosen by the Lord is a place of the enjoyment of the riches of Christ— Deut. 12:7, 18; Psa. 36:8-9.
    - 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 12:18 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.
- Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
4. The place chosen by the Lord is a place of rejoicing—Deut. 12:7, 12, 18; Psa. 42:4; 122:1.
- 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 12:12 And you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God, you and your sons and daughters, and your male servants and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no portion nor inheritance with 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.
- Psa 42:4 These things I remember, / And I pour out my soul within me: / That I passed through with the throng; / I led them to the house of God / With the voice of a joyous shout and praise, / The festal multitude.
- Psa 122:1 I rejoiced when they said to me, / Let us go to the house of Jehovah.

**V. The issue of our enjoyment of the all-inclusive riches of Christ as the good land is the church as the temple, the dwelling place of God, and as the city, the kingdom of God—Eph. 2:21-22:**

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.

- A. The land with its temple and city is the center of God's plan—1 Kings 8:48 and footnote 1:  
 1 Kings 8:48 And if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who have carried them captive, and they pray to You toward their <sup>1</sup>land that You have given to their fathers, the <sup>1</sup>city that You have chosen, and the <sup>1</sup>house that I have built for Your name;

note 1 Verses 31-48 mention seven conditions concerning God's listening to the prayers of His elect. In this, the last, condition three things are stressed (v. 48): the Holy Land, typifying Christ as the portion allotted by God to the believers (see note 71 in Deut. 8); the holy city, signifying the kingdom of God in Christ (Psa. 48:1-2); and the holy temple, signifying God's house, the church, on the earth (Eph. 2:21; 1 Tim. 3:15). These are the three crucial things regarding God's economy. During the Babylonian captivity Daniel prayed toward the Holy Land, the holy city, and the holy temple three times a day by opening his window toward Jerusalem (Dan. 6:10). This indicates that God will listen to our prayer when our prayer to God is toward Christ, the kingdom of God, and the house of God as the goal in God's eternal economy. This means that no matter for whom we are praying, our prayers should be aimed at the interests of God, i.e., at Christ and the church as God's interests on earth, for the fulfilling of God's economy.

1. The land is Christ Himself, and the temple and the city are the fullness of Christ, the church, which is His Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22.
- 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 2:21 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.
2. The temple is for the expression of God, and the city is for the dominion of God; this fulfills God's eternal purpose—Gen. 1:26.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and

let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

B. The main aspects of God's house, His dwelling place for His expression, speak of God's presence:

1. God's house is the place of God's presence, which is God's glory (Psa. 26:8; 29:9), God's beauty (27:4, 8), and God's riches (36:8-9).

Psa 26:8 O Jehovah, I love the habitation of Your house, / And the place where Your glory abides.

Psa 29:9 The voice of Jehovah causes the hinds to calve / And strips the forests bare; / And in His temple all say, Glory!

Psa 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.

Psa 27:8 When You say, Seek My face, / To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.

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

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

2. God's house is the place of revelation and God's answer—73:16-17; 3:4; 18:6.

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.

Psa 3:4 With my voice I call out to Jehovah, / And He answers me from His holy mountain. Selah.

Psa 18:6 In my distress I called upon Jehovah / And cried out to my God. / He heard my voice from His temple, / And my cry before Him came to His ears.

3. God's house is our hiding place—27:5; cf. 31:20; 84:3.

Psa 27:5 For He will conceal me in His shelter / In the day of trouble; / He will hide me in the hiding place of His tent; / He will raise me up upon a rock.

Psa 31:20 You hide them in the hiding place of Your presence / Apart from the conspiracies of men; / You lay them away secretly in a shelter / Apart from the contention of tongues.

Psa 84:3 At Your two altars even the sparrow has found a home; / And the swallow, a nest for herself, / Where she may lay her young, / O Jehovah of hosts, my King and my God.

4. God's house is the place where we may be planted, flourish, and bear fruit—92:13-14.

Psa 92:13 Planted in the house of Jehovah, / They will flourish in the courts of our God.

Psa 92:14 They will still bring forth fruit in old age; / They will be full of sap and green;

5. God's house is the place of springs—87:7.

Psa 87:7 Then singing as well as dancing, they will say, / All my springs are in you.

6. God's house is the place where we are strengthened—68:35; 96:6.

Psa 68:35 You are awesome, O God, from Your sanctuaries. / The God of Israel, He gives strength and power to the people. / Blessed be God!

Psa 96:6 Majesty and splendor are before Him; / Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

7. God's house is the place where we are mingled with God—92:10.

Psa 92:10 But You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; / I am anointed with fresh oil.

8. God's house is the place where God is our portion—73:26.

Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail, / But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

C. The main aspects of God's city, His kingdom for His dominion, speak of God's authority:

1. God's city is a strong city, the city of the great King—31:21; 48:2.

Psa 31:21 Blessed be Jehovah, / For He displayed His lovingkindness wondrously / To me in a fortified city.

- Psa 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.
2. There is a river with gladdening streams in God's city—46:4-5.  
 Psa 46:4 There is a river whose streams gladden the city of God, / The holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.  
 Psa 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she will not be moved; / God helps her at the dawn of the morning.
  3. God is known in her and is a high retreat in her—48:3.  
 Psa 48:3 God has made Himself known / In her palaces as a high retreat.
  4. She is a terror to the enemy—vv. 3-6; 76:2-3.  
 Psa 48:3 God has made Himself known / In her palaces as a high retreat.  
 Psa 48:4 For, behold, the kings have assembled themselves; / They passed by together.  
 Psa 48:5 They saw; therefore they were astounded. / They were dismayed; they hurried off in alarm.  
 Psa 48:6 Trembling seized them there; / Writhing, like that of a woman in labor;  
 Psa 76:2 And in Salem is His tabernacle, / And His dwelling place, in Zion.  
 Psa 76:3 There He broke the flashing arrows of the bow, / The shield and the sword and the battle. Selah.
  5. She is the perfection of beauty—50:2.  
 Psa 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.
  6. She is the goal of God's good pleasure—51:18.  
 Psa 51:18 Do good in Your good pleasure unto Zion; / Build the walls of Jerusalem.
  7. The thrones of judgment are set in God's city—122:5.  
 Psa 122:5 For there thrones are set for judgment, / Thrones of the house of David.
  8. The Lord blesses others out of her and is blessed out of her—134:3; 135:21.  
 Psa 134:3 May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion.  
 Psa 135:21 Blessed be Jehovah from Zion, / Who dwells in Jerusalem. / Hallelujah.

**VI. The ultimate issue of our enjoyment of Christ as the good land is the divine-human incorporation of the processed Triune God with His regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite people as the eternal dwelling place and the kingdom of God— Rev. 21:3, 22; 22:5.**

- 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.
- Rev 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.