

Message Five

A Land of Vines

RM Hymns: 1164, 445

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:17; Gen. 35:14; 2 Tim. 4:6

- Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
- Gen 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it.
- 2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I. The vine typifies the sacrificing Christ, the Christ who sacrificed everything of Himself, and out of His sacrifice He produced new wine to cheer God and man—Deut. 8:8; Judg. 9:13; Psa. 104:15a:

Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;

Judg 9:13 But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?

Psa 104:15a Even wine that cheers man's heart, ...

A. Christ is the wine producer, sacrificing Himself to produce wine to cheer God and others.

B. As the vine, Christ produces happiness for God and happiness for others.

II. If we contact the Christ typified by the vine and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize us to live a life of sacrifice, producing wine to make others and God happy—Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2; 2 Cor. 1:24:

Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

2 Cor 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers with you for your joy; for by faith you stand.

A. Under the Lord's sovereignty, we may be put into situations where we need to sacrifice ourselves to make others happy—Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2:

Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

1. If in the midst of such a situation we contact the Lord, we will experience Him as the wine-producing vine, as the One who gives cheer to God and to others—Phil. 3:1a.

Phil 3:1a Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord...

2. The issue of experiencing Christ as the vine is that in Him, by Him, with Him, and through Him we become a vine that produces something to cheer God and man.

B. If we experience Christ in this aspect of His all-inclusiveness, we will have much wine to drink, and we will be “drunken” and “mad” with Christ, filled with joy in the Lord—John 15:11; Acts 5:41; 13:52; Phil. 3:1a; 4:4.

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.

Acts 5:41 So they went from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be dishonored on behalf of the Name.

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Phil 3:1a Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. ...

Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

C. In ourselves we are not able to live a life of sacrifice, for our life is a natural life, a selfish

life— Job 2:4; Matt. 16:25:

Job 2:4 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Skin for skin! Indeed all that a man has he will give for the sake of his life.

Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

1. Only the life of Christ is a life of sacrifice.
2. Christ as the sacrificing Lamb lives in us, energizing us to sacrifice ourselves for others to bring them cheer and to make them happy—2 Cor. 4:12; Eph. 5:2.
2 Cor 4:12 So then death operates in us, but life in you.
Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.
3. If we contact the Lord and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize and strengthen us to sacrifice for God and for others— John 1:29; 20:22; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; Phil. 4:13; Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2:
John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.
 - a. The more we experience Christ as the vine with His sacrificing life, the more we will be energized to sacrifice ourselves to make God and others happy.
 - b. We will be “drunken” with happiness, realizing that the happiest person is the one who is the most unselfish.
 - c. We will bring happiness to those who contact us, and we will bring cheer to God—2 Cor. 1:24; 5:13a.
2 Cor 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers with you for your joy; for by faith you stand.
2 Cor 5:13a For whether we were beside ourselves, it was to God; ...

III. By experiencing Christ as the wine-producing vine and by being filled with Him as the new wine, we may become a drink offering in Him and with Him— Gen. 35:14; Exo. 29:40-41; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6:

Gen 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it.

Exo 29:40 And with the one lamb a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.

Exo 29:41 And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering as in the morning, for a satisfying fragrance, an offering by fire to Jehovah.

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.

- A. The drink offering typifies Christ as the One poured out as the real wine before God for His satisfaction—Exo. 29:40-41:

Exo 29:40 And with the one lamb a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.

Exo 29:41 And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering as in the morning, for a satisfying fragrance, an offering by fire to Jehovah.

1. The drink offering was in addition to the basic offerings, and it was poured out on one of the basic offerings—Num. 15:1-10; 28:7-10.
 - Num 15:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
 - Num 15:2 Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that you are to inhabit, which I am giving you,
 - Num 15:3 And you make an offering by fire to Jehovah, a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to make a special vow or as a freewill offering or at your appointed feasts, to make a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah, from the herd or from the flock,
 - Num 15:4 The one who presents his offering shall present to Jehovah a meal offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of oil.
 - Num 15:5 And you shall prepare wine for the drink offering, a fourth of a hin, with the burnt offering or for the sacrifice, for each lamb.
 - Num 15:6 Or for a ram you shall prepare as a meal offering two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a third of a hin of oil;
 - Num 15:7 And for the drink offering you shall present a third of a hin of wine, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
 - Num 15:8 And when you prepare a herd animal for a burnt offering or for a sacrifice, to make a special vow or for peace offerings to Jehovah,
 - Num 15:9 Then you shall offer with the herd animal a meal offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mingled with half a hin of oil;
 - Num 15:10 And you shall present for the drink offering half a hin of wine, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
 - Num 28:7 And its drink offering shall be the fourth of a hin for the one lamb; in the sanctuary you shall pour out a drink offering of strong drink to Jehovah.
 - Num 28:8 And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering as in the morning, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
 - Num 28:9 And on the Sabbath day two male lambs a year old without blemish, and two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a meal offering, mingled with oil, and its drink offering -
 - Num 28:10 This is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, besides the continual burnt offering and its drink offering.
 2. The wine of the drink offering was poured out for God's satisfaction; it was poured out for God to drink—Exo. 29:40-41:
 - Exo 29:40 And with the one lamb a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.
 - Exo 29:41 And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering as in the morning, for a satisfying fragrance, an offering by fire to Jehovah.
 - a. Christ poured out His being unto God—Isa. 53:12.
 - Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide to Him a portion with the Great, / And He will divide the spoil with the Strong; / Because He poured out His life unto death / And was numbered with the transgressors, / Yet He alone bore the sin of many / And interceded for the transgressors.
 - b. Christ is the heavenly, spiritual wine poured out to God for His pleasure; He poured Himself out as wine to make God happy.
- B. The drink offering typifies not only Christ Himself but also the Christ who saturates us with Himself as heavenly wine until He and we become one to be poured out for God's enjoyment and satisfaction and for God's building—Matt. 9:17; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6:
- Matt 9:17 Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.
 - Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
 - 2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.
1. The drink offering is a type of Christ as the heavenly wine who is enjoyed by the offerer, filling him and causing him to become wine to God—Phil. 2:17:

- Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
- a. By experiencing Christ as the offerings, we become persons who are filled and saturated with Christ—Eph. 3:17; Gal. 4:19.

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

Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
 - b. The Christ whom we experience subjectively as the offerings becomes wine in us, causing us to be ecstatically happy and joyful—Matt. 9:17; 2 Cor. 5:13a.

Matt 9:17 Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

2 Cor 5:13a For whether we were beside ourselves, it was to God; ...
 - c. Eventually, we are saturated with Christ as the heavenly wine and are one with the wine and even become wine; in this way we are qualified to be a drink offering—Matt. 9:17; 2 Cor. 5:13a; Eph. 5:2; Phil. 2:17.

Matt 9:17 Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

2 Cor 5:13a For whether we were beside ourselves, it was to God; ...

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
2. Jacob poured out a drink offering on the pillar at Bethel, indicating that the drink offering is for God’s building—Gen. 35:14:

Gen 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it.

 - a. The wine poured out at Bethel is not the direct wine from the winepress; it is the indirect wine from those who enjoy Christ as wine and who are saturated with Christ as wine.
 - b. In Bethel, in God’s house, the church as the Body of Christ, we eventually need to be poured out as a drink offering—2 Cor. 12:15a.

2 Cor 12:15a But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. ...

IV. The apostle Paul became a drink offering that was poured out upon the sacrifice and service of the saints’ faith—Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6:

- Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
- 2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.
- A. The wine of the drink offering in Philippians 2:17 and 2 Timothy 4:6 is the Christ (wine) of Matthew 9:17 who had saturated Paul and had made him wine.

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Matt 9:17 Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.
 - B. Paul became a drink offering for the church; this indicates that the drink offering is not only for the worship of God but especially for God’s building.
 - C. Based upon the principle that the drink offering required a basic offering, Paul regarded the sacrifice and service of the believers’ faith as the basic offering upon which he could pour

out himself as a drink offering—Phil. 2:17:

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

1. Faith here includes all that the believers have experienced and enjoyed of Christ; ultimately, it includes what the believers themselves are.
2. The basic offering upon which Paul could pour himself out as a drink offering was the faith of the believers in Philippi:
 - a. It is the believers' faith, not the believers themselves, that is a sacrifice.
 - b. Faith, the word, and the Spirit are one—Rom. 10:17; 8:9.
Rom 10:17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
3. Faith in Philippians 2:17 is the sum total of our experience, enjoyment, and gain of Christ:

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

 - a. Our experience, enjoyment, and gain of Christ become a sweet sacrifice offered to God.
 - b. Through the enjoyment of Christ, we experience Christ, gain Christ, and possess Christ, and our being is constituted of Christ; in this way our faith becomes a sacrifice, which can be offered to God and upon which the drink offering can be poured.