



CHOOSE GOD!

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CHOOSE GOD!

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CHOOSE GOD!

Message One

Ruth—Choosing for Her Goal and Exercising Her Right

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:8-18; 2:1-3, 15-23; Eph. 2:12

- I. Chapter 1 of the book of Ruth speaks of Elimelech’s swerving from the rest in the good land (vv. 1-2), Naomi’s returning to the rest in the good land (vv. 3-7, 19-22), and Ruth’s choosing for her goal (vv. 8-18).**
- II. Ruth chose the goal of participating with God’s elect in the enjoyment of Christ—vv. 16-18; cf. Deut. 30:19:**
 - A. Although, as a Moabitess, Ruth was not allowed to enter the congregation of the Lord, she sought God and God’s people—Ruth 1:15-17; 2:11-12:
 1. However, Ruth not only was accepted by the Lord but also became one of the most important ancestors of Christ because she sought God and God’s people—Matt. 1:5-6; Ruth 1:16-18; 2:11-12.
 2. In the case of Ruth, we see the far-reaching and unsearchable mercy of God—Eph. 2:4.
 - B. Regardless of who we are and what our background is, we are in a position to be accepted into the birthright of Christ as long as we have a heart that seeks God and His people—Heb. 11:6.
- III. Chapter 2 of the book of Ruth speaks of Ruth exercising her right to partake of the rich produce of the inheritance of God’s elect:**
 - A. Ruth came to the good land, and according to her threefold status as a sojourner, a poor one, and a widow, she exercised her right to glean the harvest—v. 2; Lev. 23:22; Deut. 24:19.
 - B. Just as Ruth had the right to enjoy the produce of the good land after coming into the land, so we have the right to enjoy Christ as our good land after believing into Him—Col. 1:12:
 1. According to God’s ordination, we who have believed into Christ have been qualified and positioned to claim our right to enjoy Christ—Rev. 2:7; 22:14.
 2. After believing into Christ and being organically joined to Him in our “joined” spirit, we must begin to pursue Christ in order to gain, possess, experience, and enjoy Him—Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 3:7-16.

Message One Verses

Ruth 1:1-2

1 Now in the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. And a man from Bethlehem in Judah went down to dwell as a sojourner in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

2 And the man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

Ruth 1:3-7

3 And Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons.

4 And they took wives for themselves from among the Moabite women. One's name was Orpah, and the second's name was Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

5 And both Mahlon and Chilion died, and the woman was left without her two children and her husband.

6 Then she rose up with her daughters-in-law in order to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that Jehovah had visited His people by giving them food.

7 So she went forth from the place where she had been, along with her two daughters-in-law; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

Ruth 1:19-22

19 So the two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them; and *the women* said, Is this Naomi?

20 And she said to them, Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara; for the All-sufficient One has dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, but Jehovah has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, when Jehovah has afflicted me and the All-sufficient One has dealt harshly with me?

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Ruth 1:8-18

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go and return, each of you, to your mother's house. May Jehovah deal kindly with you, just as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 May Jehovah grant you to find rest, each of you in the house of your husband. Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice and wept.

10 And they said to her, No, we will return with you to your people.

11 And Naomi said, Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Return, my daughters, go; for I am too old to have a husband. If I said, I have hope; even if I had a husband tonight and even bore sons;

13 Would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters; it has been far more bitter for me than *it should be* for you, for the hand of Jehovah has gone forth against me.

14 And they lifted up their voice and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she said, Your sister-in-law has now returned to her people and to her gods; return with your sister-in-law.

16 But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

17 Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you.

18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she ceased speaking to her *about it*.

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live.

Ruth 1:15-17

15 And she said, Your sister-in-law has now returned to her people and to her gods; return with your sister-in-law.

16 But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

17 Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you.

Ruth 2:11-12

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, as well as how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people whom you did not know before.

12 May Jehovah recompense your work, and may you have a full reward from Jehovah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

Matthew 1:5-6

5 And Salmon begot Boaz of Rahab, and Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, and Obed begot Jesse,

6 And Jesse begot David the king. And David begot Solomon of her who had been the wife of Uriah.

Ephesians 2:4

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing *to Him*, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Ruth 2:2

And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I find favor. And she said to her, Go, my daughter.

Leviticus 23:22

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not completely reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner; I am Jehovah your God.

Deuteronomy 24:19

When you reap your harvest in your field and you forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not turn back to gather it; it shall be for the sojourner, the orphan, and the widow, in order that Jehovah your God may bless you in all your undertakings.

Colossians 1:12

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light.

Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Philippians 3:7-16

7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

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

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,

10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

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.

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,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

16 Nevertheless whereunto we have attained, by the same rule let us walk.

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Message Two

Ruth—Seeking for Her Rest and Receiving a Reward

Scripture Reading: Ruth 3:1-15; 4:1-22

I. Chapter 3 of the book of Ruth speaks of Ruth's seeking for her rest:

- A. After coming to the good land and exercising her right to enjoy its rich produce, Ruth still needed a home so that she could have rest; this kind of rest could come only through marriage:
 - 1. Although we may be saved and love the Lord, in order to have a home for our rest we must marry the Lord Jesus, taking Him as our Husband, and live together with Him in the church as our home—Rom. 7:4; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27.
 - 2. Christ as our Husband and the church as our home are a complete unit for us to have a proper and adequate rest—v. 32.
- B. Naomi realized that the proper person to be Ruth's husband was Boaz; hence, Naomi acted as a "middleman" in order to prod Ruth to get married—Ruth 3:1:
 - 1. The genuine ministers of the New Testament are like Naomi in that they stir up the believers in Christ to love Him as their Bridegroom that they may take Him as their Husband—2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; 21:9-10.
 - 2. We must take Christ as our Husband, living in the closest and most intimate contact with Him—1 Cor. 2:9; cf. 16:22.
 - 3. If we marry Christ, taking Him as our Husband, our life will be changed; we will realize that we must have a wife's fidelity, and we will learn how to walk and behave in oneness with Him—2 Cor. 2:10.

II. Chapter 4 of the book of Ruth speaks of Ruth's receiving a reward for God's economy:

- A. As part of her reward for God's economy, Ruth gained a redeeming husband, who typifies Christ as the redeeming Husband of the believers—v. 10.
- B. Ruth was redeemed from the indebtedness of her dead husband; this typifies the believers being redeemed from the sin of their old man—vv. 1-9; Rom. 6:6; 7:2-4.
- C. Ruth became a crucial ancestor in the genealogy of Christ and she continued the line of the God-created humanity for the incarnation of Christ—Ruth 4:13b-22; Matt. 1:5-16:
 - 1. Every day of our Christian life should be a continuation of Christ's incarnation, with Christ being brought forth in order to be born into others through our ministering Christ as the Spirit into them—2 Cor. 3:6.
 - 2. In order for this to happen, we all need to speak for Christ, to speak forth Christ, and to speak Christ into others—v. 18; 4:1.

Message Two Verses

Romans 7:4

So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word,

27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:32

This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

Ruth 3:1

And Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, My daughter, I must seek some resting place for you, that it may go well with you.

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

Revelation 19:7

Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:9

And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:10

And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city,

Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Corinthians 16:22

If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed! The Lord comes!

2 Corinthians 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.

Ruth 4:10

Furthermore Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I acquire as my own wife so that I may raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance and the dead man's name may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today.

Ruth 4:1-9

1 Then Boaz went up to the gate and sat there. And just then the kinsman of whom Boaz had spoken came by. And Boaz said, Turn aside *and* sit here, friend. And he turned aside and sat down.

2 And he took ten men from among the elders of the city and said, Sit here. And they sat down.

3 And he said to the kinsman, Naomi, who has returned from the country of Moab, has put up for sale the portion of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

4 So I thought that I should disclose this to you and say, Buy it in the presence of those sitting *here* and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you can redeem *it*, redeem it; but if you cannot redeem *it*, tell me so that I will know; for there is no one to redeem it ahead of you, and I am after you. And he said, I will redeem it.

5 Then Boaz said, On the day you buy the field from Naomi's hand, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead man, in

order to raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance.

6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, or else I will mar my own inheritance. You redeem for yourself what I should redeem, for I cannot redeem it.

7 Now such was *the custom* formerly in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging that to establish any matter a man would draw off his sandal and give *it* to his neighbor; this was the way of attesting it in Israel.

8 So when the kinsman said to Boaz, Buy it for yourself, he drew off his sandal.

9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, You are witnesses today, that I buy from Naomi's hand all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's.

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.

Romans 7:2-4

2 For the married woman is bound by the law to her husband while he is living; but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law regarding the husband.

3 So then if, while the husband is living, she is joined to another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.

4 So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.

Ruth 4:13

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.

Matthew 1:5-16

5 And Salmon begot Boaz of Rahab, and Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, and Obed begot Jesse,

6 And Jesse begot David the king. And David begot Solomon of her who had been the wife of Uriah,

7 And Solomon begot Rehoboam, and Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa,

8 And Asa begot Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah,

9 And Uzziah begot Jotham, and Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah,

10 And Hezekiah begot Manasseh, and Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

11 And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Salathiel, and Salathiel begot Zerubbabel,

13 And Zerubbabel begot Abiud, and Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor,

14 And Azor begot Zadok, and Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud,

15 And Eliud begot Eleazar, and Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob,

16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:6

Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 4:1

Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart.

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Message Three

Boaz and Ruth Typifying Christ and the Church

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:16-17; 2:1-3, 13-16; 3:9, 12, 15; 4:1-17, 21-22

I. In the book of Ruth, Boaz typifies Christ in the following aspects:

- A. As a man, rich in wealth and generous in giving, Boaz typifies Christ, whose divine riches are unsearchable and who takes care of God's needy people with His bountiful supply—2:1, 14-16; 3:15; Eph. 3:8; Luke 10:33-35; Phil. 1:19.
- B. As the kinsman who redeemed the lost right to Mahlon's property and took Mahlon's widow, Ruth, as his wife for the producing of the needed heirs, Boaz typifies Christ, who redeemed the church and made the church His counterpart for His increase—Ruth 2:3; 3:9, 12; 4:9-10, 13; Eph. 5:23-32; John 3:29-30:
 - 1. Like Boaz, we should take care of others' birthright of Christ, not only our own birthright—Eph. 3:2; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Matt. 24:45-47.
 - 2. Suppose some become like Ruth, losing the enjoyment of their birthright, their enjoyment of Christ; we need to have a number of Boazes to bring these dear saints back into the enjoyment of Christ.
 - 3. Someone who is a real Boaz and is rich in the enjoyment of Christ will pay the price to bring such saints into the full enjoyment of Christ.
 - 4. By shepherding others in this way, he will have even more enjoyment of Christ—Prov. 11:25; Acts 20:35; 1 Pet. 5:1-4.

II. In this bright and aromatic story, Ruth typifies the church in the following ways:

- A. Ruth, being a woman in Adam in God's creation and a Moabitess (a sinner) in man's fall, typifies the church, before her salvation, as men in God's creation and sinners in man's fall—Rom. 6:6.
- B. Ruth, being the widow of the dead husband, redeemed by Boaz, typifies the church redeemed by Christ, who cleared away her old man's sin—Ruth 4:9-10; Rom. 7:4a; 6:6; John 1:29; Gen. 1:26; Isa. 54:5.
- C. Ruth, after being redeemed by Boaz, becoming a new wife to him, typifies the church becoming the counterpart of Christ—Ruth 4:13; John 3:6b, 29a; Rom. 7:4.
- D. Ruth being united to Boaz, typifies the Gentile sinners being attached to Christ that they may partake of the inheritance of God's promise—2 Cor. 1:21; Eph. 3:6.
- E. We may summarize our status as believers in Christ in four words: created, fallen, redeemed, and regenerated.

Message Three Verses

Ruth 2:1, 14-16

1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a man of great wealth, from Elimelech's family; and his name was Boaz.

14 And Boaz said to her at mealtime, Come here and eat some food; and dip your morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers, and he extended some parched grain to her. And she ate and was satisfied, and she had some left.

15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz charged his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her, and leave it for her to glean; and do not rebuke her.

Ruth 3:15

And he said, Bring the cloak that is on you, and hold it open. And she held it open, and he measured out six measures of barley and laid *it* on her. And he went into the city.

Ephesians 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

Luke 10:33-35

33 But a certain Samaritan, who was journeying, came upon him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion;

34 And he came to him and bound up his wounds and poured oil and wine on them. And placing him on his own beast, he brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, Take care of him; and whatever you spend in addition to this, when I return, I will repay you.

Philippians 1:19

For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Ruth 2:3; 3:9, 12; 4:9-10, 13

2:3 So she went. And she came and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to glean in a portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was from Elimelech's family.

3:9 And he said, Who are you? And she said, I am Ruth, your female servant. Spread your cloak over your female servant, for you are a kinsman.

3:12 And now it is true that I am a kinsman, yet there is a kinsman closer than I.

4:9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, You are witnesses today, that I buy from Naomi's hand all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's.

4:10 Furthermore Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I acquire as my own wife so that I may raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance and the dead man's name may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today.

4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.

Ephesians 5:23-32

23 For a husband is head of the wife as also Christ is Head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body.

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also *let* the wives *be subject* to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word,

27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

28 In the same way the husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself.

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,

30 Because we are members of His Body.

31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh.

32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

John 3:29-30

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

Ephesians 3:2

If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you.

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, as *speaking* oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as *ministering* out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 24:45-47

45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

47 Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions.

Proverbs 11:25

The blessing soul will prosper, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

Acts 20:35

In all things I have shown you by example that toiling in this way we ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

1 Peter 5:1-4

1 Therefore the elders among you I exhort, who am a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory to be revealed:

2 Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion but willingly, according to God; not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly;

3 Nor as lording it over your allotments but by becoming patterns of the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.

Ruth 4:9-10

9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, You are witnesses today, that I buy from Naomi's hand all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's.

10 Furthermore Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I acquire as my own wife so that I may raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance and the dead man's name may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today.

Romans 7:4

So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.

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!

Genesis 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.

Isaiah 54:5

For your Maker is your Husband; Jehovah of hosts is His name. And the Holy One of Israel is

your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.

Ruth 4:13

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.

John 3:6

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:29

He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears

him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.

2 Corinthians 1:21

But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God.

Ephesians 3:6

That in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel.

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Message Four

Taking the Way of Life

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:16-17, 20-21; 2:10-16; 3:1, 7-13; 4:9-15; Matt. 7:13-14

- I. **The book of Ruth is a book of life; the purpose of this book is not to tell us anything about power but to reveal the things of life to the uttermost, using Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz as examples:**
 - A. Naomi's returning to the Holy Land was a great thing, yet it was not accomplished by power—1:16-17, 20-21.
 - B. Ruth's reply to Naomi was full of life; she would go with Naomi forever, being with her in poverty—2:10-16.
 - C. Boaz was lawful in every way, and his being lawful was based not on power but on life:
 1. In his contact with Ruth at the threshing floor at night, he was absolutely restrained, not moved in his lust—3:1, 7-13.
 2. He was willing to bear his responsibility according to God's ordinance, yet he would not overstep the one who was ahead of him—4:9-15.
 - D. It is crucial for us to see that only life can bring forth Christ—Luke 1:35.
- II. **We need to know the significance of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and turn absolutely from this tree to the tree of life—Gen. 2:9, 16-17:**
 - A. The tree of life signifies the Triune God in Christ to dispense Himself into His chosen people as life in the form of food—v. 9.
 - B. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as the source of death to man—Heb. 2:14.
 - C. The tree of life issues in a principle of dependence, and the tree of knowledge issues in a principle of independence.
- III. **Christ is our life—Col. 3:4:**
 - A. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life—v. 4; John 5:26.
 - B. The truth that Christ is our life is a strong indication that we are to take Him as life and live Him in our daily life—Col. 3:4; John 6:57.
- IV. **We need to live by the sense of life—the feeling, the consciousness, of the divine life within us—Rom. 8:6; Eph. 4:18-19:**
 - A. The source of the sense of life is the divine life, the law of life, the Holy Spirit, Christ abiding in us, and God operating in us—Rom. 8:2, 10-11; Phil. 2:13.
 - B. The divine life is the highest life, with the richest, strongest, and keenest feeling; this feeling is the sense of life—Eph. 4:18.
 - C. The sense of life guides us, governs us, controls us, and directs us, causing us to know whether we are living in the divine life or in the natural life and whether we are living in the flesh or in the spirit—Rom. 8:6.

Message Four Verses

Ruth 1:16-17

16 But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

17 Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you.

Ruth 1:20-21

20 And she said to them, Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara; for the All-sufficient One has dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, but Jehovah has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, when Jehovah has afflicted me and the All-sufficient One has dealt harshly with me?

Ruth 2:10-16

10 And she fell upon her face and bowed herself to the ground, and she said to him, Why have I found favor in your sight that you regard me, though I am a foreigner?

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, as well as how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people whom you did not know before.

12 May Jehovah recompense your work, and may you have a full reward from Jehovah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

13 And she said, Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me and have spoken kindly to your servant girl, though I am not like *even* one of your servant girls.

14 And Boaz said to her at mealtime, Come here and eat some food; and dip your morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers, and he extended some parched grain to her. And she ate and was satisfied, and she had some left.

15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz charged his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her, and leave it for her to glean; and do not rebuke her.

Ruth 3:1, 7-13

1 And Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, My daughter, I must seek some resting place for you, that it may go well with you.

7 And Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was merry. And he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. And she came in secretly and uncovered his feet and lay down.

8 Then at midnight the man was startled; and he turned over, and a woman was there, lying at his feet.

9 And he said, Who are you? And she said, I am Ruth, your female servant. Spread your cloak over your female servant, for you are a kinsman.

10 And he said, Blessed be you of Jehovah, my daughter. You have shown your latter kindness to be better than your first by not going after the choice young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. All that you say, I will do for you; for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman.

12 And now it is true that I am a kinsman, yet there is a kinsman closer than I.

13 Stay for the night; and in the morning if he will do the kinsman's duty, fine; let him do it. But if he is not willing to do the kinsman's duty for you, I will do it for you, as Jehovah lives. Lie down until morning.

Ruth 4:9-15

9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, You are witnesses today, that I buy from Naomi's hand all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's.

10 Furthermore Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, I acquire as my own wife so that I may raise up the dead man's name upon his inheritance and the dead man's name may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today.

11 And all the people who were in the gate and the elders said, We are witnesses. May Jehovah make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, the two who built the house of Israel. And prosper in Ephrathah, and gain a name in Bethlehem.

12 And may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the seed that Jehovah gives you by this young woman.

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.

14 And the women said to Naomi, Blessed be Jehovah, who has not left you today without a kinsman; and may his name be famous in Israel.

15 And he will be to you as a restorer of life and a sustainer in your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you *and* is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.

Genesis 2:9, 16-17

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.

16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,

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.

Hebrews 2:14

Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

Colossians 3:4

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

John 5:26

For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself.

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.

Romans 8:6

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Ephesians 4:18-19

18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Romans 8:10-11

10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure.

Ephesians 4:18

Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.

Romans 8:6

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Song 1

1. Just taste and that the Lord is good;
Just taste and see that the Lord is good.
He's good for you, as He is for me;
So whatever you do, just taste and see.
2. Just call O Lord—He'll change your life;
Just call O Lord—He'll change your life.
Amazing grace He will afford;
If in every place you call O Lord.
3. You'll feel real love coming into your heart;
You'll feel real love coming into your heart.
You'll sense a flow from God above;
And you will know you've found real love.
4. So praise the Lord for His life in you;
Yes, praise the Lord for His life in you.
Something of Christ He has outpoured
Into your life; so praise the Lord!

Song 2

1. Fill my spirit up,
Fill my spirit up,
Till it overflows
Right out of my innermost being!

Fill my spirit up,
Fill my spirit up,
Till it overflows
Right out of my innermost being!

Fill me today,
Fill me, I pray!
Oh, Lord Jesus, flow as the living water!
Oh, Lord Jesus,
Gush up as the living spring!
Right out of my innermost being.

2. Break through every part,
Break through every part
Of my mind, emotion, will and heart!

Break through every part,
Break through every part
Of my mind, emotion, will and heart!

Break through today,
Break through, I pray!
Oh, Lord Jesus, flow as the living water!
Oh, Lord Jesus,
Gush up as the living spring!
Right out of my innermost being.

3. Flow that river out,
Flow that river out
Whether I might call, pray, sing or shout!

Flow that river out,
Flow that river out
Whether I might call, pray, sing or shout!

Flow out today,
Flow out, I pray!
Oh, Lord Jesus, flow as the living water!
Oh, Lord Jesus,
Gush up as the living spring!
Right out of my innermost being.

Song 3

1. Drink! A river pure and clear that's
 flowing from the throne;
Eat! The tree of life with fruits abundant,
 richly grown;
Look! No need of lamp nor sun nor moon to
 keep it bright, for
Here there is no night!

Do come, oh, do come,
Says Spirit and the Bride:
Do come, oh, do come,
Let him that heareth, cry.
Do come, oh, do come,
Let him who thirsts and will
Take freely the water of life!

2. Christ, our river, Christ, our water,
 springing from within;
Christ, our tree, and Christ, the fruits,
 to be enjoyed therein,
Christ, our day, and Christ, our light,
 and Christ, our morning star:
Christ, our everything!

3. We are washing all our robes
 the tree of life to eat;
"O Lord, Amen, Hallelujah!"—
 Jesus is so sweet!
We our spirits exercise,
 and thus experience Christ.
What a Christ have we!

4. Now we have a home so bright
 that outshines the sun,
Where the brothers all unite
 and truly are one.
Jesus gets us all together,
 Him we now display
In the local church.

Song 4

1. I have an excuse to praise my God and Father,
I have an excuse to give thanks to my Lord.
I have an excuse to give glory to my God,
Because I know that He is
And He's on the throne.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
I will bless the God and Father
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Of my Lord Jesus Christ
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
I will praise while I have breath
Because I know that He is
And I have breath now.

2. I have an excuse to praise my God and Father,
I have an excuse to give thanks to my Lord.
I have an excuse to give glory to my God,
Because I know that He is
And He's on the throne.

Hallelujah!
Praise You God and Father!
Hallelujah!
Praise You Lord Jesus Christ!
Hallelujah!
I will praise while I have breath
Because I know that He is
And He loves me so.

Song 5

1. Shout Hosanna, all ye people,
Christ defeated every evil;
We unite with one accord;
Praise Thee, ever conqu'ring Lord.

2. Nevermore we fear the devil,
Christ destroyed him on the cross,
Stripping off the authorities;
Now we live His victory.

God of peace now crushes Satan
Under overcoming feet;
Our rejoicing overthrows him,
Shaming every enemy.

3. All day long sing hallelujahs
In the train of vanquished foes;
Through our praise we never leave,
Seated with Him at the throne.

Never let the lies deceive you;
Christ has shut the serpent's mouth;
Claim the fact that we have seen him
In the lake of fire now.

4. Soon the earth cries out, exalting
Our returning, shining Lord;
Until then we praise and sing;
All the glory's to our King.

Consummated corporate warrior,
New Jerusalem are we,
One with our ascended Husband,
Lord of lords and King of kings.

5. Hallelujah, Christ the Conqueror,
Every day we're one with Him,
Walking in Him constantly,
Living Christ, our victory.

Song 6

1. Don't you want to know your God?
What's hidden in His heart for you?
How much He longs for you to come
And open up—
To let Him in to every part
Let Him reveal what's on His heart
What was the joy set before Him?

It was for her the church—His bride
It was for her, willingly He died
She is the joy deep in His heart
His masterpiece—
His counterpart.

2. The Lord chose you to be a part
Of His great plan, His work of art.
What wonder! What a privilege!
To satisfy
His yearning to share all He is—
Divine, unsearchable riches!
What wisdom, multifarious expressed!

3. As we enjoy and enter in
To all He is then we'll begin
To understand the feeling in
His heart toward us.
What love that motivated Him
To come to us, despite our sin
Why did He go and sell all that He had?

Song 7

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2. For my cleansing this I see—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
For my pardon this my plea—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
3. Nothing can my sin erase—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Naught of works, 'tis all of grace—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
4. This is all my hope and peace—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
This is all my righteousness—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Song 8

1. Jesus, Fountain of my days,
Well-spring of my heart's delight,
Brightness of my morning rays,
Solace of my hours of night;
When I see Thee, I arise
To the hope of cloudless skies.
2. Oh, how weary were the years
Ere Thy form to me was known;
Oh, how gloomy were the fears
When I seemed to be alone;
I despaired the storm to brave
Till Thy footprints touched the wave.

3. But Thy presence on the deep
Calmed the pulses of the sea
And the waters sank to sleep
In the rest of seeing Thee;
And my once rebellious will
Heard the mandate, Peace, be still!
4. Now Thy will and mine are one,
Heart in heart, and hand in hand;
All the clouds have touched the sun,
And the ships have reached the land;
For Thy love has said to me,
No more night! and No more sea!

Song 9

1. I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!
He loved me ere I knew Him;
He drew me with the cords of love,
And thus He bound me to Him.
And round my heart still closely twine
Those ties which naught can sever,
For I am His, and He is mine,
Forever and forever.
2. I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!
He bled, He died to save me;
And not alone the gift of life,
But His own self He gave me.
Naught that I have my own I call,
I hold it for the Giver;
My heart, my strength, my life, my all,
Are His, and His forever.
3. I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!
So kind, and true, and tender,
So wise a Counsellor and Guide,
So mighty a Defender!
From Him who loves me now so well,
What power my soul can sever?
Shall life or death, or earth or hell?
No, I am His forever.

Song 10

1. Lord Jesus, You're lovely.
You're more to be desired,
Than any earthly pleasure.
You're fine, beyond compare.
Lord Jesus, Your beauty
Does far exceed all others.
You're comely and You're tender.
You're radiant and You're fair.
2. When I behold You Jesus,
You draw my heart completely.
I cannot turn away Lord,
I rest in Your embrace;
And time is gone there's only
Your holy, matchless presence
Abiding in You, gazing
Upon Your glorious face.
3. I give my life to You, Lord,
For You alone are worthy.
There's nothing and there's no one
That I desire but You.
May all my days be Yours, Lord,
My heart be given to love You,
To treasure and to serve You
By Your sufficient grace.

Song 11

1. Nothing's quite so precious
As Jesus in my spirit.
He takes away the care
And fills me with His peace.
He never leaves me,
E'en as the days grow weary.
His presence goes with me.
My soul delights to hide in His arms.

I call His name, "Lord Jesus,
Help me in my weakness."
So faithfully each day in me
He proves His life is so sufficient.

2. Nothing's quite so precious
As Jesus in my spirit.
He turns my heart to Him,
To feast upon His life.
It's nothing I do—
His mercy's just upon me.
And God's free gift of grace
Becomes an endless joy to me.

Song 12

1. O Jesus, Jesus, dearest Lord!
Forgive me if I say,
For very love, Thy sacred name
A thousand times a day.

O Jesus, Lord, with me abide
I rest in Thee, whate'er betide;
Thy gracious smile is my reward;
I love, I love Thee, Lord!
2. I love Thee so I know not how
My transports to control;
Thy love is like a burning fire
Within my very soul.
3. For Thou to me art all in all;
My honor and my wealth;
My heart's desire, my body's strength,
My soul's eternal health.
4. Burn, burn, O love, within my heart,
Burn fiercely night and day,
Till all the dross of earthly loves
Is burned, and burned away.
5. O light in darkness, joy in grief,
O heaven's life on earth;
Jesus, my love, my treasure, who
Can tell what Thou art worth?
6. What limit is there to this love?
Thy flight, where wilt Thou stay?
On, on! our Lord is sweeter far
Today than yesterday.

Song 13

1. The gift of righteousness
Is measured in abundance,
The depth of His love
I'll never understand.
His love reaches me and you;
His mercy goes farther too.
The One on the throne of God
Is called the Lamb.

So, why not open up and call His name,
"Oh Lord!"
Find your spirit where His grace
has been outpoured.
Call His name, taste His grace,
exercise before His face.
He's longing and yearning.
He's hoping and waiting.
He's ever desiring for you...
To turn to Him.

2. He knows your deepest thought,
Your every situation.
He understands your heart,
He knows your history.
There's nothing in His way,
He's just waiting for you to say
"Lord Jesus, my wandering heart
I give to Thee."

Song 14

1. Jesus, O living Word of God,
Wash me and cleanse me with Your blood
So You can speak to me.
Just let me hear Your words of grace,
Just let me see Your radiant face,
Beholding constantly.

Jesus, living Word,
My heart thirsts for Thee;
Of Thee I'd eat and drink,
Enjoy Thee thoroughly.

2. Jesus, most precious One to me,
I want to seek You constantly
So you can spread through me.
I would just call upon Your name.
Open to you; I have no shame
Loving You, Jesus Lord.

Jesus, precious One,
Be so real to me.
You are all I want;
I open wide to Thee.

3. Jesus, Oh living One in me,
Open my eyes that I might see
All that You are to me.
Just let me enter in Your heart,
Never from You would I depart,
Loving You constantly.

Jesus, living One,
Flood me thoroughly;
Take my willing heart
And overcome in me.

4. Lord, I want You to have Your way,
Save me from being Satan's prey,
I am believing You.
All I can give to You, my Lord,
Is my whole being, love outpoured;
Lord, I belong to You.

Jesus, faithful God,
Gain us through and through;
Use us thoroughly
To see Your purpose through.

Song 15

1. As a lily growing out of a bramble bush;
As a bright star shining forth in the
darkest night;
Is a story excellent, bright and fragrant
Of Boaz and Ruth in a divine romance.
2. Ruth the Moabitess joined to God's holy elect;
Boaz took care of her and redeemed all her debt.
First she gleaned from his land,
Then got married to him.
This is how she was joined to God's eternal plan.

Lord, I love You and treasure You.
Lord, I choose You and respond to You.
You're my everything, You're above all,
You're my Husband, and my rest,
And my all in all.

3. The eternal God entered and stepped into time;
For this He needed persons to carry the line —
Those who fulfilled His plan, to bring God
into man
Bringing divinity into humanity.
4. In the universe this is the greatest event,
That is Christ's incarnation—
in His first advent.
Ruth became an ancestor in this mystery—
God and man to be mingled as one entity.

(Chorus)

5. God had promised the seed of a woman for man
That would crush Satan's head and redeem
fallen man;
To make God and man one, what a glory to Him!
We are qualified now to partake of Him.
6. We are Moabites too, constituted with sin;
We are under God's wrath and His
condemnation.
But through Christ's redemption, He's our
portion we claim;
In this organic union, we're married to Him.

(Chorus)

Song 16

1. Wherever you go, I will go,
Wherever you dwell, I will dwell;
Your people will be my people,
And your God will be my God.

Wherever you go, I will go,
Wherever you dwell, I will dwell;
Your people will be my people,
And your God will be my God.

Wherever you die, I will die;
And there will I be buried.
Jehovah do to me, and more as well,
If anything but death parts me from you.
Jehovah do to me, and more as well,
If anything but death parts me from you.