

## Message Two

### **Christ is the Meaning of Human Life**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26; 2:9; Matt. 3:2; 6:31-33; 1 John 5:12; Col. 3:4; John 15:4a

#### **I. In His creation, God made man in His image and entrusted man with His dominion—Gen. 1:26-28:**

- A. To express God in His image, we need the divine life and to represent God with His dominion, we need the divine authority—2:8-9.
- B. What God wants is not materialistic, moral, religious, or even so-called spiritual people; God wants a group of people who express God and who return to His dominion—Matt. 6:31-32a; John 3:1-2; Matt. 3:7:
  - 1. Because we have fallen from the dominion of God, we need to repent—3:2; 4:17.
  - 2. If we return to God's dominion, we will have His image again.
- C. We should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness—6:31-33:
  - 1. Here the kingdom of God equals God's dominion and righteousness equals God's image—Mark 1:15; Matt. 12:28.
  - 2. First, we need to seek the kingdom, and then spontaneously we will have righteousness:
    - a. If we are poor in spirit, the kingdom of the heavens is ours—5:3.
    - b. To be righteous is to be right with God and to be right according to what God is—3:15-17; 1 John 4:8; 1 Cor. 1:9a.
    - c. If we want to be right according to God, we will be persecuted, because the whole world, which lies in the evil one (1 John 5:19) and is filled with unrighteousness, will rise up against us—Matt. 5:10; Acts 17:6.
  - 3. If we seek the kingdom of God and the righteousness of God, He will give us His kingdom, His righteousness and all of the things that we need—Matt. 6:9-11, 25, 31-32.

#### **II. Christ is the meaning of human life—John 7:37-38; 6:35:**

- A. Human life apart from Christ is without God and therefore without hope and a goal—Eccl. 1:2; Eph. 2:12.
- B. The human life is not capable of expressing God and not good for exercising God's authority; but the human life is good for one thing, that is, for receiving the life which is capable—the eternal life of God—1 John 1:2; 5:12; cf. Phil. 3:4-9.
- C. We need to take Christ as our life by breathing in Christ, drinking Christ and taking Christ in as our food—John 20:22; 4:14; 7:37; 6:35, 51, 57:
  - 1. Christ wants to be man's life so that the human life can be enriched and become meaningful—14:6; 10:10.
  - 2. God created us with a human spirit as the receiving organ to receive God Himself into us as our very life—Rom. 8:10; Col. 3:4.
  - 3. We all have to practice one thing, that is, not to live by ourselves but to always live by Christ—Phil. 1:21.

4. We need to open up ourselves all the time and call on His name, then we will see that He is the instant, present, up-to-date, moment-by-moment Christ—Rom. 10:12; Lam. 3:55-56.
- D. We need to take Christ as our person by abiding in Him, living Him, and loving Him; if we take Christ as our person, we will spontaneously express God and represent God—John 15:4a; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:20b-21; John 14:23.

***Focus: We need to repent of falling away from the dominion of God and return to God by seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; as we daily open to take Christ as our life and learn to live by Him as our person, Christ will become the meaning and reality of our human life.***

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## Ministry Excerpts

### REPENTING FOR THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS

We all know it is not a small thing to have Christ come into us. However, there is something deeper than this. The opening word of the gospel of the kingdom is repent. We need to repent for the kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 3:2) because we have fallen from the dominion of God. Therefore, we need to come back. We need to have a real turn from the fallen state to the original state. We have to leave the fallen situation and turn to God's dominion again. This dominion is simply the kingdom of the heavens.

### SEEKING FIRST GOD'S KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

In Matthew 6:31-33 the Lord said, "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." If you are always thinking about the matters of eating, drinking, and clothing, you are materialistic. The Lord told us to forget about these material things, which the Gentiles seek after all the time. Rather, we should seek first the kingdom of God and the righteousness of God.

We have seen that the kingdom of God is the dominion of God, but what is the righteousness of God? To be righteous is to be right with God and to be right according to what God is. God is love, yet you hate others. This is wrong. Since God is love, you also should love others. This is right. God is faithful, yet you are unfaithful. This is wrong. Since God is faithful, so you also should be faithful. Then you are right. God is honest, yet you are dishonest. This is not right. To be honest is to be right according to what God is. Therefore, we can see that to be righteous simply means to be right according to God, not according to our concept. To be right according to God is to be completely agreeable with God.

The young people should consider what they are seeking today. They should be seeking to be brought back to God's dominion, God's ruling. Day by day you should be brought under God's ruling. Furthermore, while you are seeking God's kingdom, you should also seek His righteousness. This simply means that you have to return to God's dominion and to get yourself completely agreeable

with God. If we want to be agreeable with God, we need to be born of God. We need to have His life and become His children.

Therefore, do not be deceived any longer by material things. Surely you need to study to get an education or learn a trade. But you should not be deceived by these things. We should not be preoccupied by these things. We do not seek these things first. We first seek the kingdom, the dominion, of God. We also seek to have His righteousness, to be right with Him, to be agreeable with Him. We desire to be perfect as He is perfect. We desire to bear His image and be under His authority all the time. We are not here to be moral, religious, or spiritual. We care only for one thing, that is, to be under His authority and to be agreeable with Him all the time.

### **OUR NEED FOR CHRIST AS LIFE**

Do you think you can express God? Do you think you can exercise God's authority? You need a higher life, even the highest life. You need Christ. Christ is the life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4), not the teaching. No teaching can make you turn your other cheek to your striker. But there is One who is the life and who is able to do it in you. This One is Christ. "Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Once we have been born again and have Christ as life, we see the kingdom, the dominion, the authority, of God. Spontaneously, whatever we are, do, and say expresses God.

In conclusion, we need to keep in mind that for us to express God and to exercise His authority, we need Christ as life. We also need to realize that Christ today is the life-giving Spirit. He is the living Spirit who is with us all the time. He is present, prevailing, available, and instant. No matter where you are, no matter what situation you are in, whether you are dealing with someone or you are being dealt with by someone, forget about yourself and your reasonings; simply open to Him and call, "O Lord Jesus." Just enjoy Him. He is your life and your content. He is the meaning of your human life.

### **TAKING CHRIST AS OUR PERSON**

For the past years we have been stressing Christ as our life, but in recent days the Lord has shown us that He is also a person. In John 15:4a He says, "Abide in Me and I in you." You as a person abide in Christ, and He as a person abides in you. Christ is a person. He is not merely power, strength, might, or life, but a person. Within a tree there is life, but the tree is not a person. Within a motor there is power, but the motor is not a person. But within a man, there is life and power, and even the more, he is a person. Christ to us is not only life and power but also a person abiding in us (John 15:4a, 5a; 14:23).

Likewise, we need to give up our person and take Christ as our person. When we are willing to forget about ourselves and take Christ as our person, we will be rooted and grounded in love (Eph. 3:17b). We will say to the Lord, "O Lord Jesus, I just love You! You are so wonderful, good, nice, capable, and qualified. O Lord, You are so sweet and tender. I want to forget about myself and take You as my person!"

Just be simple. Learn to practice taking Christ as your person in all the things in your daily walk. In every-thing learn to take Christ as your person. Do not take this as a doctrine. Take this word and put it into practice in your daily living. Then you will see how prevailing it is. If you take Christ as your person, you will spontaneously express God and represent God. All day long the enemy

will be under your feet. You will have a subduing life instead of a subdued life. This means you will be victorious. (*The Life for the Preaching of the High Gospel*, chs. 2—4)

**References:** *The Life for the Preaching of the High Gospel*, chs.2—4; *The Mystery of the Universe and the Meaning of Human Life*, ch. 2