

Message Three

Living the Christian Life by Enjoying the Flow of Life with the Ministry of Life out of and for the Magnificent House of God

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 47:1-12

I. In order to live the Christian life, we need to enjoy the flow of life out of the house of God—Ezek. 47:1-12:

- A. God's ultimate move is His move in man to deify man by saturating man with all that He is in His life, nature, element, and essence for the glory, the expression, of God—2 Cor. 3:18; 1 John 3:2.
- B. The water flows out from under the threshold—Ezek. 47:1:
 - 1. In order for the water to flow, there must be a threshold, an opening—cf. Psa. 81:10.
 - 2. If we draw closer to the Lord and have more contact with Him, there will be an opening that will allow the living water to flow out from the church—*Hymns*, #846.
- C. The flow is toward the east—Ezek. 47:1:
 - 1. The river of God flows in the direction of God's glory—cf. Num. 2:3; Ezek. 43:2.
 - 2. If everyone in the church seeks and cares for God's glory, the living water will flow out from the church—John 7:18; 1 Cor. 10:31.
- D. The water flows out from the right side of the house—Ezek. 47:1:
 - 1. In the Bible the right side is the highest position, the first place—cf. Heb. 1:3.
 - 2. The flow of life must have the preeminence within us, becoming the controlling factor in our living and work—Rev. 22:1; Col. 1:18b.
- E. The flowing is by the side of the altar, showing that we need the dealing of the cross and a full consecration to enjoy the flow of life—Ezek. 47:1.
- F. For the increase of the flow of life, we need to be measured by the Lord as the man of bronze—40:3; 47:2-5; Rev. 1:15; cf. John 7:37-39:
 - 1. To measure is to examine, test, judge, and possess; the four measurings of a thousand cubits, which is a complete unit (cf. Psa. 84:10), indicate that as creatures, we need to be thoroughly measured by the Lord so that He may take over and thoroughly possess our entire being (Isa. 6:1-8).
 - 2. The more we allow the Lord to examine, test, and judge us to possess us, the deeper the flow becomes; the depth of the flow depends on how much we have been measured by the Lord—cf. 1 John 1:5, 7.
 - 3. The more we are measured by the Lord, the more we are restricted and limited by the flowing of the grace of life until eventually we are lost in and carried along by the flowing Triune God as a river in which to swim; in one sense we lose all our freedom, but in another sense we are really free—Ezek. 47:4-6.
- G. The river causes everything to live; the flow of the river produces trees, fish, and cattle—vv. 7, 9-10, 12.
- H. The river waters the dry, parched land and heals the death waters; this watering and healing are for the purpose of producing life—v. 8:
 - 1. The river is unable to heal the swamps and marshes; a swamp or marsh is a neutral place, a halfway place, a place of compromise and lukewarmness—v. 11; cf. Rev. 3:15-16.
 - 2. For the flow of life and for the church life, the Lord Jesus desires and requires absoluteness; by being absolute we will be in the flow, and the flow will not be a trickle but a river to swim in; then everything shall live wherever the river comes.

II. Our enjoyment of Christ as the flow of life is for us to be sowers, planters, waterers, begetters, feeders, and builders with the ministry of life for the marvelous organic building of God, the magnificent house of God—2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Cor. 9:11; 3:6, 9; 4:15; 3:2, 12.