

Message Four

Christ Becoming Our Redemption

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 8:21-23; 1 Cor. 15:50-54; Phil. 3:21; 2 Cor. 4:17; 3:18; Rev. 21:10-11

I. First Corinthians 1:30 indicates that in God's full salvation Christ is righteousness (for our past), by which we have been justified by God so that we may be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life (Rom. 5:18). Then He is sanctification (for our present), by which we are being sanctified in our soul, that is, transformed in our mind, emotion, and will, with His divine life (6:19, 22). Eventually, Christ will become our redemption (for our future), that is, the redemption of our body, by which we will be transfigured in our body with His divine life to have His glorious likeness (Phil. 3:21):

- A. To be redeemed in our body is to be glorified which is the ultimate consummation of God's salvation.
- B. Glorification and the redemption of our body are synonymous.

II. Christ is not only our Redeemer, but also our redemption:

- A. This means that when we are redeemed, we are not only joined to a thing, but to a person. When we are redeemed, the Lord Jesus becomes one with us; the two become one.
- B. Christ is not only our redemption before God; He is also redemption within us. Christ as our redemption within is particularly related to our body.
- C. Christ as our redemption affords us a great hope, which is "the redemption of our body"—Rom. 8:21-23; 1 Cor. 15:50-54; Phil. 3:21.

III. The redemption of our body (glorification) has an objective aspect and a subjective aspect:

- A. Objectively, glorification being that the redeemed believers will be brought into the glory of God to participate in the glory of God—Heb. 2:10a; 1 Pet. 5:10a:
 - 1. One day our body will be redeemed and will put off corruption to put on incorruption; we will no longer be under the bondage of corruption, and we will enter into the liberty of glory—Rom. 8:19-21, 23.
 - 2. The dead will rise up, and we will be changed. Our body of humiliation will be transfigured to be conformed to the body of His glory. Then we will see that our redemption is Christ—1 Cor. 15:42-44, 52.
- B. Subjectively, glorification being that the matured believers will manifest from within them, by their maturity in life, the glory of God as the element of their maturity in life—Rom. 8:17-18, 21; 2 Cor. 4:17:
 - 1. After Christ passed through death and resurrection, His life in glory is dispensed into those who believe in Him and becomes related to His believers in a subjective way.
 - 2. Through years of obedience to and cooperation with Him and by the permeation and saturation of His life, the attributes of His glorious life will be constituted into our soul-life, and subconsciously, a second character develops in us.
 - 3. Thus, we are changed constitutionally. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in making us precious stones. It is also the progressing from glory to glory—the Lord's glory in which all the parts of our soul become glorified—2 Cor. 3:18.

IV. The reality of the believers' glorification:

- A. The believers' glorification being their gaining of God Himself.
- B. The believers' entering into the glory of God to participate in the glory of God being their entering into God Himself to enjoy God Himself.
- C. The believers' transformation in the divine life today being God expressed in the believers as glory; hence, this daily transformation being from glory to glory—2 Cor. 3:18b.

- D. The consummation of glory into which the believers will enter by their transformation in life being that the believers will be glorified—their body being redeemed and thereby entering into the glory of God to fully enjoy God as glory—Rom. 8:21, 23, 30.

V. Christ as our redemption (glorification) can be seen in the type of the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle:

- A. Since God dwells in the Holy of Holies, to come into the Holy of Holies is to come into God and to mingle with God completely—Exo. 29:42; 30:6; Num. 17:4.
- B. To enter into God, we must put off our flesh (the veil) which is contrary to God's glory—cf. Isa. 6:3, 5.
- C. In the Holy of Holies, there is only one piece of furniture—the ark of the testimony with the cherubim of glory above it overshadowing the propitiatory cover—Heb. 9:5; cf. Rom. 3:25.
- D. The blood of the sin offering sprinkled on the lid of the ark signifies the redeeming blood, the precious blood, of Christ fulfilling the requirements of God's nature and of God's glory (3:24-25). Therefore, God can meet with man here and give him grace—Exo. 25:22.
- E. Hidden within the ark, as a type of Christ, are three items—Heb. 9:4:
 - 1. The hidden manna in the gold pot (corresponds to the bread of the Presence in the Holy Place).
 - 2. The tablets of the testimony (corresponds to the lampstand in the Holy Place).
 - 3. Aaron's budding rod (corresponds to the golden incense altar in the Holy Place).
- F. It is here in the deepest part that we experience Christ as life, signified by the hidden manna; Christ as the law of life, the light of life, signified by the tablets of the Testimony; and Christ as our acceptance to God, signified by the budding rod. When we enter into the Holy of Holies, we enter completely into the deepest part.
- G. It is here that our flesh, as the veil, is removed. The barrier of our self is put off, broken, and torn down so that we can become fully one with God. We will have the same living, same life, same will, same mind, same feeling, same inclination, and same interest with God.
- H. This is the third aspect of the believers' oneness, the oneness in the divine glory for the corporate expression of God, as expressed in Christ's prayer in John 17—v. 22-23.
- I. By coming forward to the throne of grace in the Holy of Holies with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, we are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory—Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor. 3:18.

VI. Glorification being the ultimate consummation of God's salvation in life:

- A. The believers' arriving at glorification is the climax of their maturity in the life of God.
- B. The believers' reaching the peak of glorification is their reaching the climax of God's salvation in life.

VII. The believers' glorification being the accomplishment of God's economy for the satisfaction of God's desire:

- A. The full expression of the believers' glorification being the New Jerusalem, which will be manifested in glory—Rev. 21:10-11.
- B. This being the full expression in eternity of God's becoming a man in humanity and man's being conformed to God in divinity.
- C. This being what God desires, His heart's delight, and also what God is waiting for in His good pleasure.