

Message Three

The Indwelling Christ

Scripture Reading: John 14:16-18, 20; Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 4:7; Col. 1:27; Eph. 3:17a

I. The most precious result of our faith in Christ is that we receive Him into us—John 1:12-13; 3:15; Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:27:

- A. Although this is the pure and unadulterated yet mystical truth, it has been neglected by most Christians.
- B. Christ has ascended to heaven, but He is also dwelling in us—3:1; 1:27:
 - 1. On the one hand, He is in heaven interceding for us as our great High Priest, our Advocate, to carry out God's economy—Heb. 7:25-26; 1 John 2:1; Rom. 8:34.
 - 2. On the other hand, He is the all-inclusive Christ dwelling in us—v. 10.

II. Christ dwells in the believers as the life-giving Spirit in resurrection—John 14:16-18, 20; 1 Cor. 15:45b:

- A. The Christ who was the Comforter outside the disciples while He was on earth has become, through His death and resurrection, another Comforter, the Spirit of reality, inside the disciples—John 14:16-18, 20.
- B. Christ's resurrection was His transfiguration into the life-giving Spirit in order to enter into the believers—1 Cor. 15:45b; John 14:17.
- C. As another Comforter, the Spirit of reality, inside of us, the indwelling Christ is our life, our supply, and our person—Col. 3:4; Eph. 3:17a.

III. The gospel of God, as the subject of the book of Romans, concerns Christ as the Spirit living within the believers after His resurrection—1:3-4; 8:10:

- A. Romans reveals that Christ has resurrected and has become the life-giving Spirit; He is no longer merely the Christ outside of us—He is now the Christ within us—vv. 9-10, 34.
- B. The gospel in Romans is the gospel of the One who is now indwelling the believers as their subjective Savior—v. 10.

IV. The indwelling Christ is the secret of the Christian life—Col. 1:27; Phil. 4:12:

- A. The most crucial point in our enjoyment of Christ's salvation is the indwelling Christ—2 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 1:19; 2:12-13.
- B. Christ is subjective to us; He is not only near us but also within us, in the depths of our being.
- C. Christ in us is the heart of the Bible and the heart of our being—Eph. 3:17a.

V. The indwelling Christ is the treasure in earthen vessels—2 Cor. 4:7:

- A. God's shining in our hearts brings into us a treasure, the indwelling Christ of glory, who is the embodiment of the Triune God to be our life and our everything—v. 6.
- B. This treasure, the indwelling Christ, is the divine source of the supply for the Christian life—v. 7.

- C. If we learn to take Christ as our person by looking at the index of His eyes and enjoying His presence, we will have a sweet sense of the preciousness of the indwelling Christ—2:10; 3:18; 4:6-7.

VI. We worship the enthroned Christ in the heavens, but we experience, enjoy, and partake of the indwelling Christ in our spirit; we are one with Him in a very subjective way—Col. 3:1; 1:27; 1 Cor. 6:17:

- A. Christ, who dwells in our spirit, is our hope of glory; the indwelling Christ will saturate our entire being so that our physical body may be transfigured and conformed to the body of His glory—Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:21.
- B. The Christ who indwells us is not a small, limited Christ but the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ—Col. 1:15-16, 18-19.
- C. We need to be infused, saturated, and permeated with the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ until in our experience He is everything to us—2:16-17; 3:4, 10-11.
- D. The indwelling Christ is our life; universally, Christ is extensive, but in our experience He is our life, our being—v. 4.
- E. We need to allow the peace of the indwelling Christ to arbitrate in our hearts; the arbitrating of the peace of Christ is Christ working within us to exercise His rule over us, to speak the last word, and to make the final decision—v. 15.
- F. We need to let the word of the indwelling Christ dwell in us richly so that He may exercise His headship and minister His riches to us—v. 17; 1:18; 2:19.

VII. Paul prayed that we would be strengthened into the inner man so that Christ may make His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:17a:

- A. Our heart is the totality of our inward parts, the center of our inward being, and our representative with regard to our inclination, affection, delight, and desire; thus, when Christ makes His home in our hearts, He controls our entire inward being and supplies and strengthens every inward part with Himself.
- B. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in us, occupying every part of our inner being, possessing all these parts, and saturating them with Himself.
- C. As Christ makes His home in our hearts, He becomes us and causes us to become Him—v. 17a; Gal. 4:19; Phil. 1:21a.
- D. When Christ spreads into our hearts, He becomes our person; the only way for Christ to be our person is for Him to make His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:17a.
- E. The Christ who is making His home in our hearts is an unlimited, immeasurable Christ—v. 18.
- F. When Christ makes His home in our hearts, we will be filled unto all the fullness of God; the fullness of God is the Body of Christ as the expression of the Triune God to the uttermost, the ultimate consummation of the corporate expression of the Triune God—v. 19.
- G. The genuine church life is the issue of the unlimited and immeasurable Christ personally making His home in our hearts; the content of the church is the Christ whom we take as our person, the Christ who is wrought into our being—v. 17a; 4:16.