

I. Christ as the preeminent and all-inclusive One is the allotted portion of the saints—Col. 1:12:

- A. *The allotted portion* refers to the lot of the inheritance, as illustrated by the allotment of the good land of Canaan given to the children of Israel for their inheritance—Josh. 14:1.
- B. The New Testament believers' allotted portion is not a physical land; it is the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit—Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 3:14:
 - The riches of the good land typify the unsearchable riches of Christ in different aspects as the bountiful supply to His believers in His Spirit—Deut. 8:7-10; Eph. 3:8; Phil. 1:19.
 - By enjoying the riches of the land, the believers in Christ are built up to be His Body as the house of God and the kingdom of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17.

II. The purpose of God's calling is to bring God's chosen people into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, typified by the good land flowing with milk and honey—Exo. 3:8; cf. 1 Cor. 1:9:

- A. Milk and honey, which are the mingling of both the animal life and the vegetable life, are two aspects of the life of Christ—the redeeming aspect and the generating aspect—Deut. 8:8; 26:9; cf. John 1:29; 12:24:
 - The redeeming aspect of Christ's life is for our judicial redemption, and the generating aspect of Christ's life is for our organic salvation—John 1:29; 12:24; Rev. 2:7; Rom. 5:10.
 - The symbols of the Lord's table signify the redeeming and generating aspects of Christ's life for God's complete salvation; thus, the good land has become a table, a feast, for our enjoyment—Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:17.
- B. We must be *in the light* in order to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ as the good land in His redeeming and generating aspects—Col. 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:9; Isa. 2:5:
 - God is light—1 John 1:5.
 - The word of God is light—Psa. 119:105, 130.
 - Christ is light—John 8:12; 9:5.
 - The life of Christ is light—John 1:4.
 - The believers are light—Matt. 5:14; Phil. 2:15.
 - The church is a lampstand shining with light—Rev. 1:20; Psa. 73:16-17.
- C. We must eat God's words to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ as the good land in His redeeming and generating aspects; God's word is milk for us to drink and honey for us to eat—John 6:57, 63, 68; 1 Pet. 2:2; Psa. 119:103; Ezek. 3:3.
- D. By enjoying Christ as the land of milk and honey, we will be constituted with Him as milk and honey—"Your lips drip fresh honey, my bride; / Honey and milk are under your tongue"—S. S. 4:11a:
 - Honey restores the stricken ones, whereas milk feeds the new ones.
 - The seeker has stored so many riches within her that food is under her tongue, and she can dispense the riches of Christ to the needy ones at any time—Isa. 50:4; Matt. 12:35-36; Luke 4:22; Eph. 4:29-30.
 - This sweetness is not produced overnight but comes from a long period of gathering, inward activity, and careful storage—S. S. 4:16; 2 Cor. 12:7-9.

III. **We can walk in Christ as our living land and absorb Christ as our rich soil, in which we have been rooted, so that we may grow with the elements that we absorb from the soil**—Col. 2:6-7; cf. 1 Cor. 3:6, 9; Col. 2:19:

- A. Colossians 2:8-15 presents a full description and definition of Christ as the soil, in which we do not lack anything; as we take time to absorb Him as the all-inclusive land, the facts in these verses become our experience:
- Christ as the soil is the One in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily—Col. 2:9:
 - *Fullness* refers not to the riches of God but to the expression of the riches of God; what dwells in Christ is not only the riches of the Godhead but the expression of the riches of what God is—Col. 2:9; 1:15, 19; 3:10-11.
 - When we are rooted in Christ as the soil, we are made full in Him; we are filled up with all the divine riches to become His expression—Eph. 3:8, 19.
 - In Christ as the soil we are filled, completed, perfected, satisfied, and thoroughly supplied; we do not lack anything—cf. Phil. 1:19.
 - Christ as the soil is the history and mystery of God with all the riches of His person and processes—Col. 2:2.
 - Christ as the soil is the Head of all rule and authority—Col. 2:10.
 - In Christ as the soil there is an element with the killing power that puts the flesh to death—Col. 2:11.
 - In Christ as the soil there is an element that causes us to be buried—Col. 2:12a.
 - In Christ as the soil there is an element that causes us to be raised up—Col. 2:12b.
 - In Christ as the soil there is an element that vivifies us—Col. 2:13.
 - In Christ as the soil there is an element that wipes out the handwriting in ordinances—Col. 2:14.
 - In Christ as the soil there is an element that is victorious over the evil spirits in the atmosphere—Col. 2:15.
- B. We must take time to enjoy the Lord as the all-inclusive land so that all the elements of Christ as the rich soil may be absorbed into us for us to be made full in Him in our experience—Col. 2:10a; 4:2:
- If we would absorb the riches of Christ as the soil, we need to have tender, new roots—cf. 2 Cor. 4:16.
 - We need to forget our situation, our condition, our failures, and our weaknesses and simply take time to absorb the Lord; as we take time to absorb Him, we grow with the growth of God in us for the building up of the Body of Christ—Luke 8:13; Matt. 14:22-23; 6:6; Col. 2:7a, 19.

I. Christ as the preeminent and all-inclusive One is the allotted portion of the saints

- Unlike the children of Israel who were allotted the physical good land of Canaan as their portion of inheritance, the New Testament believers' allotted portion is the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit. By enjoying the riches of the good land that typify the unsearchable riches of Christ in different aspects as the bountiful supply to His believers in His Spirit, they are built up to be His Body as the house of God and the kingdom of God.

[Col. 1:12] Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light; [Gal. 3:14] In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

II. The purpose of God's calling is to bring God's chosen people into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, typified by the good land flowing with milk and honey

- Milk and honey, which are the mingling of both the animal life and the vegetable life, are two aspects of the life of Christ—the redeeming aspect, for our judicial redemption, and the generating aspect, for our organic salvation. The symbols of the Lord's table signify the redeeming and generating aspects of Christ's life for God's complete salvation; thus, the good land has become a table, a feast, for our enjoyment. In order to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ as the good land in His redeeming and generating aspects, we must: ① be in the light—God is light; the word of God is light; Christ is light; the life of Christ is light; the believers are light; and the church is a lampstand shining with light; ② eat God's words—God's word is milk for us to drink and honey for us to eat, by enjoying Christ as the land of milk and honey, we will be constituted with Him as milk and honey. Honey restores the stricken ones, whereas milk feeds the new ones. The sweetness is not produced overnight but comes from a long period of gathering, inward activity, and careful storage. In S. S. 4:11a, the seeker has stored so many riches within her that food is under her tongue, and she can dispense the riches of Christ to the needy ones at any time. [Exo. 3:8] And I have come down to deliver them,...to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey. [John 1:29] ...Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! [John 12:24] Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. [1 John 1:5] ... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. [Psa. 119:105] Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. [Psa. 73:17] Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end. [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. [John 6:63] It is the Spirit who gives life; ... the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. [1 Pet 2:2] As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation, [S.S. 4:11a] Your lips drip fresh honey, my bride; Honey and milk are under your tongue.

III. We can walk in Christ as our living land and absorb Christ as our rich soil, in which we have been rooted, so that we may grow with the elements that we absorb from the soil

- Colossians 2:8-15 fully describes and defines Christ as the soil, in which we do not lack anything. As we take time to absorb Him as the all-inclusive land, we would experience Christ as the soil: ① is the One in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily and is the expression of the riches of what God is, that when we are rooted in Christ as the soil, we are made full in Him; that we are filled, completed, perfected, satisfied, and thoroughly supplied with all the divine riches, the history and mystery of God with all the riches of His person and processes to become His expression; ② is the Head of all rule and authority; ③ has elements that: a) is with the killing power that puts the flesh to death; b) causes us to be buried; c) causes us to be raised up; d) vivifies us; e) wipes out the handwriting in ordinances; f) is victorious over the evil spirits in the atmosphere. We need to forget our situation, our condition, our failures, and our weaknesses but simply take time to enjoy the Lord as the all-inclusive land with tender, new roots so that all the elements of Christ as the rich soil may be absorbed into us for us to be made full in Him in our experience, that we grow with the growth of God in us for the building up of the Body of Christ. [Col. 2:6-7] As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him, having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. [Col. 2:9-15] For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses; wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross. Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

In the morning many saints spend time with the Lord. However, even though they spend a certain amount of time with Him, they may not absorb much of His riches. The reason is that they are in too much of a hurry. If we would absorb the riches of Christ into us as our nourishment, we should not be rushed. We cannot absorb anything if we are in a hurry.

We should not only absorb the Lord in the morning, but we should be like trees continually absorbing the riches of the soil. This means that we must learn to practice the continual enjoyment of Christ. We should let every physical thing be a reminder of Christ, for all these things are shadows of which Christ is the substance. The clothing we put on each day should remind us of Christ. We should put Him on in our spirit and by our spirit. Drinking a glass of water should remind us to drink Christ by the exercise of our spirit. To follow this practice is to be rooted in Christ and to absorb His riches.

<Excerpts from "Life-study of Colossians", Message 55, "Not defrauded of your prize of the enjoyment of Christ">

If we would absorb the riches of Christ as the soil, we need to have tender, new roots. Do not let yourself get old, but be fresh and renewed day by day. Pray to the Lord, "Lord, I want my consecration to be fresh, and I want to open to You anew. I want my roots to be tender that I may absorb Your riches. Lord, don't let my roots get old." If our roots are tender and new to absorb the riches of Christ, we shall grow automatically with the riches we assimilate. This is to enjoy Christ and to experience Him subjectively daily and hourly. This will keep us from being defrauded of our prize. But if we do not remain rooted in Him to absorb His riches, in a subtle way the enemy will defraud us of the practical and continual enjoyment of Christ.

<Excerpts from "Life-study of Colossians", Message 55, "Not defrauded of your prize of the enjoyment of Christ">