

**Outlines of the Messages
for the International Chinese-speaking Conference
February 14-16, 2025**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
CHAPTERS 5 THROUGH 8 OF ROMANS—
THE KERNEL OF THE BIBLE**

**Message One
The Line of Life and the Line of Death
in Chapters 5 through 8 of Romans**

MC Hymns: 733

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:10, 12, 14, 17-18, 21; 6:4, 9, 16, 21-23;
7:5, 10, 13, 24; 8:2, 6, 10-11, 38

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:12 Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned-
- Rom 5:14 But death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a type of Him who was to come.
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more; death lords it over Him no more.
- Rom 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, his slaves you are whom you obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?
- Rom 6:21 What fruit then did you have at that time? Things of which you are now ashamed, for the end of those things is death.
- Rom 6:22 But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.
- Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Rom 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the passions for sins, which acted through the law, operated in our members to bear fruit to death.
- Rom 7:10 And the commandment, which was unto life, this very commandment was found to me to be unto death.
- Rom 7:13 Did then that which is good become death to me? Absolutely not! But sin did, that it might be shown to be sin by working out death in me through that which is good, that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.
- Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers

I. Chapters 5 through 8 of Romans can be called the kernel of the Bible, showing its

entire theme in a concrete and detailed way:

Rom 5~8 be omitted.

- A. These two key words—*life* and *death*—are mentioned repeatedly in Romans 5 through 8; life (5:10, 17-18, 21; 6:4, 22-23; 7:10; 8:2, 6, 10-11, 38) and death (5:12, 14, 17, 21; 6:9, 16, 21, 23; 7:5, 10, 13, 24; 8:2, 6, 10-11, 38) form two contrasting lines through chapters 5—8, the line of life and the line of death, showing that man is in a triangular situation between God and Satan, life and death.

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Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 7:10 And the commandment, which was unto life, this very commandment was found to me to be unto death.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers

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Rom 5:14 But death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a type of Him who was to come.

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- Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers
- B. The tree of life and the tree of knowledge (the tree of death) issue in two lines—the line of life and the line of death—that run through the entire Bible and end in the book of Revelation; life begins with the tree of life (Gen. 2:9) and ends with the New Jerusalem as the city of water of life with the tree of life (Rev. 22:1-2), the light of life (21:23; 22:5), and the glory of life (21:10-11, 23); death begins with the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:17) and ends with the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10, 14).
- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- Rev 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where also the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- Rev 20:14 And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- C. Eating the tree of life, that is, enjoying Christ as our life supply, should be the primary matter in the church life (Gen. 2:9, 16; Rev. 2:7); the content of the church life depends on the enjoyment of Christ; the more we enjoy Him, the richer the content will be.
- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- D. But to enjoy Christ requires us to love Him with the first love; if we leave our first love toward the Lord, we will miss the enjoyment of Christ and lose the testimony of Jesus; consequently, the lampstand will be removed from us—vv. 4-7.
- Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.
- Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.
- Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who

- overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- E. To recover the first love is to consider the Lord Jesus as the first in everything; if we make Christ everything in our life, this means that we have overcome the loss of the first love—Col. 1:18b; John 14:21, 23; Psalms 90:1; 91:1; Phil. 3:13-14.
- Col 1:18b ... He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- Psa 90:1 O Lord, You have been our dwelling place / In all generations.
- Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.
- F. The Lord's speaking to the church in Ephesus can be summarized with four crucial words that begin with the letter *l*—*love, life, light, and lampstand*; we must give the Lord Jesus the preeminence in every way and in everything to recover the first love; then we will enjoy Him as the tree of life, and this life right away becomes the light of life (John 8:12); then we will be shining in our daily life and corporately as the lampstand (Rev. 2:1-7).
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- Rev 2:1 To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
- Rev 2:2 I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false;
- Rev 2:3 And you have endurance and have borne all things because of My name and have not grown weary.
- Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.
- Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.
- Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- G. The evil condition of the wicked is that they do not come to the Lord to eat and enjoy the Lord (cf. Isa. 55:1-2, 6-7; 57:20-21); they do many things, but they do not come to contact the Lord, to take Him, to receive Him, to taste Him, and to enjoy Him; in the sight of God, nothing is more evil than this (Jer. 2:13).
- Isa 55:1 Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, / And you who have no money; / Come, buy and eat; / Yes, come, buy wine and milk / Without money and without price.
- Isa 55:2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, / And the result of your labor for what does not satisfy? / Hear Me attentively, and eat what is good, / And let your soul delight itself in fatness.
- Isa 55:6 Seek Jehovah while He may be found; / Call upon Him while He is near.
- Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, / And the evildoer, his thoughts; / And let him return to Jehovah, and He will have compassion on him; / And to our God, for He will pardon abundantly.
- Isa 57:20 But the wicked are like the tossed sea, / For it cannot be calm, / And its waters toss up mire and mud.
- Isa 57:21 There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.
- Jer 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of

living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.

II. Today the believer is a miniature garden of Eden—God as the tree of life is in his spirit, Satan as the tree of knowledge is in his flesh, and his mind is in between; we are either in the spirit or in the flesh; there is no third place for us to be; this is why we must set our mind on the spirit—Rom. 8:6:

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

A. Man's body was originally pure, but through man's fall Satan injected himself into man, and man's body has become the flesh—Gen. 3:6; Rom. 7:18a:

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.

Rom 7:18a For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; ...

1. Our body is "the body of sin" (6:6) and "the body of this death" (7:24); the body of sin is very active and full of strength in sinning against God, but the body of this death is weak and powerless in acting to please God (v. 18).

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.

2. As long as we are still living, until the day of our redemption, the body of sin and death is always with us—cf. 8:23.

Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

3. The flesh is the "meeting hall" and the compound of sin, death, and Satan; the flesh is a hopeless case and can never be improved—7:17-18, 21; cf. John 17:15.

Rom 7:17 Now then it is no longer I that work it out, but sin that dwells in me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.

Rom 7:21 I find then the law with me who wills to do the good, that is, the evil is present with me.

John 17:15 I do not ask that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them out of the hands of the evil one.

B. For the sake of His economy, God in His wisdom and sovereignty uses our sinful, ugly flesh to force us to turn to our spirit so that we may gain more of the Spirit for His building by the growth of God in us—Col. 2:19; Zech. 4:6:

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Zech 4:6 And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts.

1. Judicially speaking, both Satan and our flesh were condemned once for all on the cross (Rom. 8:3; John 3:14; Heb. 2:14; 2 Cor. 5:21), but God allowed the flesh to remain with us to help us and force us to turn to Christ in our spirit and have no more confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3).

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who

- has the might of death, that is, the devil,
 2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,
2. Without the help rendered by the sinful, ugly flesh, we would not be as desperate to gain the Lord or to have Him wrought into us—Rom. 7:24-25; 8:2, 6, 13.
 Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?
 Rom 7:25 Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.
 Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
 Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.
 3. Our goal may be holiness or spirituality or victory, but God's goal is to work Himself into us to make us glorious; often when we are in a difficult situation, we are more open to the Lord and more willing to turn to Him and allow Him to work Himself into us—vv. 28-29; Eph. 5:27.
 Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
 Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
 4. If we seek Him, even the sinful compound of the flesh will become a help to us in gaining the Lord; because we fail so often, we are desperate to turn to the spirit, and in this way we gain more of the Spirit—cf. Exo. 23:23, 29-30; Judg. 2:21—3:4.
 Exo 23:23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.
 Exo 23:29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the animals of the field multiply against you.
 Exo 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have become fruitful and inherit the land.
 Judg 2:21 I for My part will no longer dispossess from before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died,
 Judg 2:22 In order to test Israel through them as to whether or not they will keep the way of Jehovah by walking in it, as their fathers kept it.
 Judg 2:23 So Jehovah left these nations, not dispossessing them quickly, and did not deliver them into the hand of Joshua.
 Judg 3:1 And these are the nations that Jehovah left in order that through them He might test Israel (that is, all who had not known all the battles of Canaan)
 Judg 3:2 But only so that the generations of the children of Israel might learn to know war, at least those who had not previously known the battles:
 Judg 3:3 The five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who dwelt on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon to the entrance of Hamath.
 Judg 3:4 And they were for the testing of Israel, to know whether they would listen to the commandments of Jehovah, which He commanded their fathers through Moses.
 5. Our hardships, defeats, failures, and disappointments force us to realize that there is no hope in the flesh; the flesh is good only to force us to turn to Christ in our spirit, to press us into the spirit, to make us desperate to get into the spirit, and to keep us watchful to stay in the spirit— Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:17-18.

- Matt 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
6. The Lord does not care for whether or not we have a victory; the Lord cares for only one thing—that we gain Christ as the Spirit by setting our mind on the spirit—Phil. 3:8; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; Rom. 8:6.
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- 2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

III. In Romans 5 we are in Adam, in Romans 6 we are in Christ, in Romans 7 we are in the flesh, and in Romans 8 we are in the spirit; the Adam in chapter 5 is experienced in the flesh in chapter 7, and the Christ in chapter 6 is experienced in the spirit in chapter 8:

Rom 5~8 be omitted.

- A. We believers in Christ have a factual and positional transfer out of Adam through Christ's death and into Christ through His resurrection—6:3-8:
- Rom 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
- Rom 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- Rom 6:5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,
- Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
- Rom 6:7 For he who has died is justified from sin.
- Rom 6:8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him,
1. In Adam we inherited sin that constitutes us sinners (5:12a, 19a); we inherited death that, on the one hand, weakens us, disabling us to do things pleasing God, and that, on the other hand, reigns over us (vv. 12b, 14a, 17a); and we inherited condemnation under the law unto death (v. 16a).
- Rom 5:12a Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; ...
- Rom 5:19a For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were constituted sinners, ...
- Rom 5:12b ... and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned-
- Rom 5:14a But death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, ...
- Rom 5:17a For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, ...
- Rom 5:16a And it is not that as through one who sinned, so also the free gift is; ...
2. In Christ we have been gifted with righteousness, life, and justification under grace unto life, in which we reign with grace over all things—vv. 17b, 18b, 21.
- Rom 5:17b ... much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:18b ... so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through

righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- B. We believers in Christ have a practical and experiential transfer out of the flesh (the practical and experiential Adam) through our being crucified with Christ (6:6; Gal. 2:20) and into the Spirit (the practical and experiential Christ) through our organic union with Christ as the law of the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2, 16a; 1 Cor. 6:17).

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:16a The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit ...

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

- C. Christ Himself is the life of God, the eternal life (John 14:6a; 11:25; 1 John 1:2); He came that we may have life and may have it abundantly (John 10:10b); He died a life-releasing death and entered into a life-dispensing resurrection (12:24) to become the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) as the law of the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2), giving life to our spirit, our mind, and our mortal bodies so that we might be those who are swallowed up by life to minister life to others (vv. 10, 6, 11; 2 Cor. 5:4; 1 John 5:16a; John 6:63; Acts 5:20).

John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

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 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

2 Cor 5:4 For also, we who are in this tabernacle groan, being burdened, in that we do not desire to be unclothed, but clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

1 John 5:16a If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. ...

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

IV. In order for us to stay on the line of life, we must take the way of enjoying Christ as the tree of life; see crucial fellowship from Brother Lee below:

TAKING THE WAY OF ENJOYING CHRIST AS THE TREE OF LIFE— CRUCIAL FELLOWSHIP FROM BROTHER LEE

“In May of 1943...I had contracted a serious case of tuberculosis ...I saw the tree of life during the two and a half years of my illness. During those two and a half years I saw that in the Lord’s recovery and in His work we lacked life. Every kind of problem, regardless of what it may be, is the

result of a shortage of life. When I saw this, I was extremely remorseful, I confessed much and had a thorough repentance before the Lord, and I also had many dealings before Him ...The messages on the tree of life saved many saints and also released many of the brothers and sisters in Nanking. Because of the four years of turmoil in the church in Shanghai, the saints had been disheartened and depressed for years and were unable to do anything. These messages released their spirit and enlightened their heart ...I thank the Lord that through the messages on the tree of life, the church in Shanghai was healed ...The messages on the tree of life laid a foundation for the revival of the church in Shanghai”—*The History and Revelation of the Lord's Recovery*, vol. 1, pp. 130, 133, 135, 138.

“If we want to take the way of enjoying God, we must have a change of concept...If we want to enter into the reality of the enjoyment of God, we must see a controlling vision ...It was not until I was forty years of age that the Lord revealed to me the way of enjoying Him. I was disappointed that for twenty years most of my time and energy had been wasted. Most of my prayers were of no value, and the time that I had spent reading the Bible and other spiritual books was also of no value. This is when I realized that our way of working was wrong and that our way of spiritual pursuit was also wrong.

“Because I suffered a great loss from taking the wrong way, I do not want others to repeat the same mistake. I hope that others can take the way of enjoying God. I implore the saints to no longer take the wrong way. We should consider our former way of pursuit. We must have a drastic change of concept. We need to have a controlling vision”—*The Vision of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, p. 51.