

CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL FOR THE CHURCH AS THE NEW MAN

Message Four

Christ is the Way, the Reality, and the Life

Scripture Reading: John 14:6; 1:14, 29; 12:24; 7:39; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Tim. 4:22; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13; Eph. 3:16-17a; 1 Cor. 1:22-24; Matt. 3:13; Heb. 10:19-20

I. "Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."—John 14:6.

II. Christ is the life:

- A. Christ is the Lamb of God for redemption and the grain of wheat for reproduction—John 1:14, 29; 12:24.
- B. Christ becoming the Spirit:
 - 1. The Spirit of reality—14:16-17.
 - 2. The life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - 3. The Spirit—John 7:39.
 - 4. The compound Spirit—Exo. 30:23-31.
- C. Our experience of Christ as the Spirit:
 - 1. The Lord is with our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22.
 - 2. We are one spirit with the Lord—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 3. Christ making His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:16-17a.
- D. The Body of Christ is the corporate Christ—1 Cor. 12:12-13.

III. Christ is the reality:

- A. In 1 Corinthians, Christ as the reality is revealed in many items:
 - 1. Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God—1:22-24.
 - 2. Christ is righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—v. 30.
 - 3. Christ is the depths of God—2:9-10.
 - 4. Christ is the foundation—3:11.
 - 5. Christ is our Passover and our Feast of Unleavened Bread—5:7-8.
 - 6. Christ is the spiritual food, the spiritual drink, and the spiritual rock—10:3-4.
 - 7. Christ is the Head and the Body—11:3; 12:12.
 - 8. Christ is the Firstfruits, the second man, the last Adam, and the life-giving Spirit—15:20, 47, 45.
- B. The way to experience and enjoy Christ as the life-giving Spirit is by remaining one spirit with the Lord—6:17.

IV. Christ is the way:

- A. Christ must first become life to us, and then He becomes our reality and our way.
- B. The crucified Christ is our way:
 - 1. The proper way to preach the gospel and minister life to people is the crucified way—the way that puts us to death. This way is a person—the crucified Christ—1:22-24; 2:1-4.
 - 2. The Lord Jesus began His ministry by being buried through baptism—Matt. 3:13.
 - 3. The four gospels reveal that He continued to live and walk to carry out His ministry by remaining under death.
 - 4. Christ was dying to live from His baptism all the way to Calvary.

- C. The Spirit of God, after Christ's death and resurrection, has been compounded with Christ's death (myrrh), the sweetness of His death (cinnamon), His resurrection (calamus), and the power of His resurrection (cassia) to become the life-giving Spirit—Exo. 30:22-33; John 7:39; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
- D. The crucified Christ is a new and living way for us to draw near to God—Heb. 10:19-20:
 - 1. The way to shepherd the saints or to be a good elder, brother, sister, husband, wife, father, or mother is simply to die with Christ, taking the crucified Christ as the way.
 - 2. Christ crucified is the way of carrying out the ministry.
 - 3. The crucified Christ is the prevailing way for us to have our daily Christian walk and do everything in the Christian life—2 Cor. 4:10-12.
- E. The arrangement of the tabernacle reveals the way of the cross:
 - 1. The burnt offering altar—washing away of our sins.
 - 2. The laver—washing away the dirt of the world.
 - 3. The table of the bread of the Presence—receiving life supply and nourishment.
 - 4. The lampstand—receiving light and enlightenment.
 - 5. The incense altar—offering prayers as a sweet-smelling savor to God.
 - 6. The Ark of the testimony—God meeting and speaking with His people at the throne of grace (the expiation cover).
- F. The way of the cross is the way to the Father, the way to the enjoyment of the presence of God, the way to live our Christian life, family life, and church life. The crucified Christ is our way in everything.
- G. **“We were baptized into the death of Christ once for all at the beginning of our Christian life (Rom. 6:3). Now we are continuously being conformed to His death (Phil. 3:10); this is the continuation of the Christian life. According to the arrangement of the tabernacle, as soon as we enter into the realm of the Christian life, we are being conformed to the cross. Our entire Christian life is the way to Calvary. When we are on this way, we are being conformed to Christ's death. This is what it means for Christ to be our way. “ —CWWL 1978 Vol. 3 ‘The Recovery of Christ as Everything in the Church’ Chapter 4.**