

# BANNERS FOR THE 2011 MEMORIAL DAY CONFERENCE

Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church  
are the crucial elements of the Bible, and  
a principle that we must apply in our interpretation of the Bible  
is Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church.

The Gospel of John reveals that Christ  
became flesh to be the Lamb of God to accomplish redemption and  
that in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit, another Comforter,  
to breathe Himself into the believers.

Through and in His resurrection  
Christ as the last Adam became the life-giving Spirit  
to enter into His believers to flow out as rivers of living water.

The Body of Christ as the axis of God's economy  
is not an organization manufactured by man  
but an organism produced by the Triune God as life.

# Outline of the Messages for the Memorial Day Conference May 27-30, 2011

## GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CRUCIAL ELEMENTS OF THE BIBLE

### Message One

## The Crucial Elements of the Bible— Christ, the Spirit, Life, and the Church

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:16, 18; John 3:15; Rom. 8:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4-6

- Matt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the <sup>1a</sup>Christ, the <sup>b</sup>Son of the <sup>2c</sup>living God.  
Matt 16:18 And I <sup>1</sup>also say to you that you are <sup>2a</sup>Peter, and upon <sup>3</sup>this <sup>b</sup>rock I will <sup>4c</sup>build My <sup>5d</sup>church, and the <sup>6e</sup>gates of <sup>f</sup>Hades shall not prevail <sup>a</sup>against it.
- John 3:15 That every one who believes into Him may have <sup>1</sup>eternal life.  
Rom 8:2 For the <sup>1a</sup>law of the <sup>2</sup>Spirit of <sup>3</sup>life has <sup>4</sup>freed <sup>5</sup>me in Christ Jesus from the <sup>6</sup>law of sin and of death.  
Eph 1:22 And He <sup>1a</sup>subjected all things under His feet and <sup>2</sup>gave Him <sup>3</sup>to be <sup>b</sup>Head over all things to the <sup>4c</sup>church,  
Eph 1:23 Which is His <sup>1a</sup>Body, the <sup>2b</sup>fullness of the One who <sup>3c</sup>fills all in all.  
Eph 4:4 <sup>1</sup>One <sup>a</sup>Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one <sup>2b</sup>hope of your <sup>c</sup>calling;  
Eph 4:5 One <sup>1a</sup>Lord, one <sup>2b</sup>faith, one <sup>c</sup>baptism;  
Eph 4:6 One <sup>1a</sup>God and <sup>b</sup>Father of <sup>2</sup>all, who is <sup>3</sup>over all and through all and in all.

### I. Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church are the crucial elements of the Bible— Matt. 16:16, 18; John 20:31; 7:39; Rom. 8:11; Col. 3:4; Eph. 1:22-23:

- Matt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the <sup>1a</sup>Christ, the <sup>b</sup>Son of the <sup>2c</sup>living God.  
Matt 16:18 And I <sup>1</sup>also say to you that you are <sup>2a</sup>Peter, and upon <sup>3</sup>this <sup>b</sup>rock I will <sup>4c</sup>build My <sup>5d</sup>church, and the <sup>6e</sup>gates of <sup>f</sup>Hades shall not prevail <sup>a</sup>against it.
- John 20:31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the <sup>1a</sup>Christ, the <sup>b</sup>Son of God, and that <sup>c</sup>believing, you may have life in His name.  
John 7:39 But this He said concerning the <sup>1a</sup>Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been <sup>b</sup>glorified.
- Rom 8:11 And if the <sup>1</sup>Spirit of <sup>2</sup>the One who raised Jesus from the dead <sup>3a</sup>dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also <sup>4b</sup>give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Col 3:4 When <sup>1</sup>Christ our <sup>2a</sup>life is <sup>b</sup>manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in <sup>c</sup>glory.  
Eph 1:22 And He <sup>1a</sup>subjected all things under His feet and <sup>2</sup>gave Him <sup>3</sup>to be <sup>b</sup>Head over all things to the <sup>4c</sup>church,  
Eph 1:23 Which is His <sup>1a</sup>Body, the <sup>2b</sup>fullness of the One who <sup>3c</sup>fills all in all.
- A. Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church are the contents of the Bible.  
B. A principle that we must apply in our interpretation of the Bible is Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church—Rom. 9:5; 8:2, 11; 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5, 16b.
- Rom 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and out of whom, as regards what is according to flesh, is the Christ, who is <sup>1a</sup>God <sup>b</sup>over all, <sup>c</sup>blessed forever. Amen.  
Rom 8:2 For the <sup>1a</sup>law of the <sup>2</sup>Spirit of <sup>3</sup>life has <sup>4</sup>freed <sup>5</sup>me in Christ Jesus from the <sup>6</sup>law of sin and of death.  
Rom 8:11 And if the <sup>1</sup>Spirit of <sup>2</sup>the One who raised Jesus from the dead <sup>3a</sup>dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also <sup>4b</sup>give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.  
Rom 12:4 For just as in <sup>a</sup>one body we have <sup>b</sup>many members, and all the members do not have the <sup>c</sup>same <sup>1</sup>function,  
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body <sup>1</sup>in Christ, and individually <sup>2a</sup>members one of another.  
Rom 16:1 I <sup>1</sup>commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a <sup>a</sup>deaconess of the <sup>2</sup>church which is in <sup>b</sup>Cenchrea,  
Rom 16:4 Who <sup>1</sup>risked their own necks for my <sup>2</sup>life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the <sup>3a</sup>churches of the Gentiles;

Rom 16:5 And greet the <sup>1a</sup>church, which is in their <sup>2</sup>house. Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

Rom 16:16b ... All the <sup>1a</sup>churches of Christ greet you.

## II. Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church are the extracts of the Bible:

A. With Christ the emphasis is that Christ is the believers' life and is united and mingled with the believers—Col. 3:4; John 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17:

Col 3:4 When <sup>1</sup>Christ our <sup>2a</sup>life is <sup>b</sup>manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in <sup>c</sup>glory.

John 15:4 <sup>a</sup>Abide <sup>b</sup>in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit <sup>1</sup>of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears <sup>a</sup>much fruit; for apart from Me you can do <sup>b</sup>nothing.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is <sup>1a</sup>joined to the Lord is <sup>2b</sup>one spirit.

1. In addition to knowing Christ as the Savior and the Redeemer, we need to know Him in a deeper way—that He is our life and that He is in us to be united and mingled with us—Col. 3:4; 1:27; John 15:4-5.

Col 3:4 When <sup>1</sup>Christ our <sup>2a</sup>life is <sup>b</sup>manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in <sup>c</sup>glory.

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the <sup>1a</sup>riches of the glory of this <sup>b</sup>mystery among the Gentiles, <sup>2</sup>which is <sup>3c</sup>Christ <sup>4</sup>in you, the <sup>d</sup>hope of <sup>5e</sup>glory,

John 15:4 <sup>a</sup>Abide <sup>b</sup>in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit <sup>1</sup>of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears <sup>a</sup>much fruit; for apart from Me you can do <sup>b</sup>nothing.

2. Because the Lord is the Spirit, we can abide in Him and the Lord can abide in us; we coinhere with the Lord; that is, we are in Him and He is in us—2 Cor. 3:17a; John 14:20; 17:21.

2 Cor 3:17a <sup>1</sup>And the <sup>2</sup>Lord is the <sup>3a</sup>Spirit; ...

John 14:20 In that <sup>1a</sup>day you will know that I am <sup>b</sup>in My Father, and you <sup>c</sup>in Me, and I <sup>d</sup>in you.

John 17:21 That they all may be <sup>1a</sup>one; even as You, Father, are <sup>b</sup>in Me and I <sup>c</sup>in You, that they also may be <sup>d</sup>in Us; that the <sup>e</sup>world may believe that You have <sup>f</sup>sent Me.

3. Our being united and mingled with the Lord can take place only in our regenerated spirit; hence, this mingling results in our being joined to the Lord as one spirit—1 Cor. 6:17.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is <sup>1a</sup>joined to the Lord is <sup>2b</sup>one spirit.

4. Christ is our life and our person, and He is united and mingled with us; He is also working in us to transform us until we are the same as He is in life, nature, and expression but not in the Godhead—2 Cor. 3:18.

2 Cor 3:18 <sup>1</sup>But <sup>2</sup>we all with <sup>3</sup>unveiled face, <sup>4a</sup>beholding and reflecting like a <sup>5b</sup>mirror the <sup>6c</sup>glory of the Lord, are <sup>7</sup>being <sup>d</sup>transformed into the <sup>8</sup>same <sup>e</sup>image <sup>9</sup>from glory to <sup>f</sup>glory, even as <sup>10</sup>from the <sup>11</sup>Lord Spirit.

5. He and we are one; He is the Head of the Body, and we are the members of the Body—1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23.

1 Cor 12:12 <sup>1</sup>For even as <sup>2</sup>the body is <sup>a</sup>one and has many <sup>b</sup>members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in <sup>1a</sup>one Spirit we were all <sup>b</sup>baptized into <sup>2c</sup>one Body, whether <sup>3d</sup>Jews or Greeks, whether <sup>4</sup>slaves or free, and were all given to <sup>5e</sup>drink one <sup>f</sup>Spirit.

Eph 1:22 And He <sup>1a</sup>subjected all things under His feet and <sup>2</sup>gave Him <sup>3</sup>to be <sup>b</sup>Head over all things to the <sup>4c</sup>church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His <sup>1a</sup>Body, the <sup>2b</sup>fullness of the One who <sup>3c</sup>fills all in all.

6. "O what a miracle, my Lord, / That I'm in Thee and Thou in me, / That Thou and I are really one; / O what a wondrous mystery!"—*Hymns*, #233.

B. With the Spirit the emphasis is that the Holy Spirit of God has been compounded with Christ's divinity, humanity, crucifixion, and resurrection to be the compound, life-giving,

indwelling, sanctifying, transforming, and sevenfold intensified Spirit—Exo. 30:23-25; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:11; 15:16b; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rev. 4:5:

Exo 30:23 You also take the finest spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred fifty shekels, and of fragrant calamus two hundred fifty shekels,

Exo 30:24 And of cassia five hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.

Exo 30:25 And you shall make it a holy anointing oil, a perfume compounded according to the perfumer's art; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a <sup>e</sup>life-giving Spirit.

Rom 8:11 And if the <sup>1</sup>Spirit of <sup>2</sup>the One who raised Jesus from the dead <sup>3a</sup>dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also <sup>4b</sup>give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 15:16b ... in order that the <sup>b</sup>offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been <sup>e</sup>sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor 3:18 <sup>1</sup>But <sup>2</sup>we all with <sup>3</sup>unveiled face, <sup>4a</sup>beholding and reflecting like a <sup>5b</sup>mirror the <sup>6c</sup>glory of the Lord, are <sup>7</sup>being <sup>d</sup>transformed into the <sup>8</sup>same <sup>e</sup>image <sup>9</sup>from glory to <sup>f</sup>glory, even as <sup>10</sup>from the <sup>11</sup>Lord Spirit.

Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth <sup>a</sup>lightnings and voices and thunders. And *there were* <sup>1b</sup>seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the <sup>2c</sup>seven Spirits of God;

1. The Spirit is the consummation of the Triune God after passing through various processes; in the Spirit there are the elements of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35; Heb. 9:14; Rom. 8:11.

Matt 1:18 Now the <sup>a</sup>origin of Jesus Christ was in this way: His mother, <sup>b</sup>Mary, after she had been engaged to Joseph, before they came together, was found to be with child <sup>1</sup>of the <sup>e</sup>Holy Spirit.

Matt 1:20 But while he pondered these things, behold, an <sup>a</sup>angel of the Lord appeared to him in a <sup>b</sup>dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for that which has been <sup>1</sup>begotten in her is <sup>2</sup>of the <sup>e</sup>Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The <sup>1</sup>Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the <sup>a</sup>Most High will <sup>2</sup>overshadow you; therefore also the <sup>3b</sup>holy thing which is born will be called the <sup>e</sup>Son of God.

Heb 9:14 How much more will the <sup>1a</sup>blood of Christ, who through the <sup>2</sup>eternal Spirit <sup>b</sup>offered Himself <sup>c</sup>without blemish to God, purify our <sup>3d</sup>conscience from <sup>4c</sup>dead works to <sup>f</sup>serve the <sup>5a</sup>living God?

Rom 8:11 And if the <sup>1</sup>Spirit of <sup>2</sup>the One who raised Jesus from the dead <sup>3a</sup>dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also <sup>4b</sup>give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

2. Today the Spirit is the compound Spirit (Exo. 30:23-25), compounded with the Spirit of God and Christ's two natures—the divine nature and the human nature—with His death and resurrection to be the compound, life-giving (1 Cor. 15:45b), indwelling (Rom. 8:11), sanctifying (15:16b), and transforming Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18).

Exo 30:23 You also take the finest spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred fifty shekels, and of fragrant calamus two hundred fifty shekels,

Exo 30:24 And of cassia five hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.

Exo 30:25 And you shall make it a holy anointing oil, a perfume compounded according to the perfumer's art; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a <sup>e</sup>life-giving Spirit.

Rom 8:11 And if the <sup>1</sup>Spirit of <sup>2</sup>the One who raised Jesus from the dead <sup>3a</sup>dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also <sup>4b</sup>give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 15:16b ... in order that the <sup>b</sup>offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been <sup>e</sup>sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor 3:18 <sup>1</sup>But <sup>2</sup>we all with <sup>3</sup>unveiled face, <sup>4a</sup>beholding and reflecting like a <sup>5b</sup>mirror the <sup>6c</sup>glory of the Lord, are <sup>7</sup>being <sup>d</sup>transformed into the <sup>8</sup>same <sup>e</sup>image <sup>9</sup>from glory to <sup>f</sup>glory, even as <sup>10</sup>from the <sup>11</sup>Lord Spirit.

3. Such a Spirit has the bountiful supply and even is the bountiful supply for our experience and enjoyment—Phil. 1:19.

Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to <sup>1a</sup>salvation through <sup>2</sup>your <sup>b</sup>petition and *the* <sup>3</sup>bountiful <sup>c</sup>supply of the <sup>4d</sup>Spirit of Jesus Christ,

4. Economically, the compound Spirit has become the seven Spirits of God to supply us in a sevenfold intensified way so that we may accomplish God's economy concerning the church in this age of degradation—Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.

Rev 1:4 John to the <sup>1a</sup>seven <sup>b</sup>churches which are in <sup>2</sup>Asia: <sup>c</sup>Grace to you and <sup>d</sup>peace from <sup>3e</sup>Him <sup>4</sup>who is and who was and who is coming, and from the <sup>5f</sup>seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 3:1 And to the messenger of the church in <sup>1</sup>Sardis write: These things says He who has the <sup>2a</sup>seven Spirits of God and the <sup>b</sup>seven stars: I <sup>c</sup>know your works, that you have a <sup>3</sup>name that you are <sup>d</sup>living, and yet you are <sup>e</sup>dead.

Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth <sup>a</sup>lightnings and voices and thunders. And *there were* <sup>1b</sup>seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the <sup>2c</sup>seven Spirits of God;

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a <sup>1a</sup>Lamb <sup>2</sup>standing as <sup>3</sup>having *just* been <sup>b</sup>slain, having <sup>4</sup>seven <sup>c</sup>horns and <sup>5d</sup>seven <sup>e</sup>eyes, <sup>6</sup>which are the <sup>f</sup>seven Spirits of God sent forth into <sup>g</sup>all the earth.

- C. With life the emphasis is that God in Christ as the Spirit of reality is the believers' life so that they may live Him out as the processed Triune God—1 Cor. 1:30; John 14:17; Phil. 1:19-21a:

1 Cor 1:30 But <sup>1a</sup>of Him you are <sup>b</sup>in Christ Jesus, who became <sup>c</sup>wisdom to us from God: both <sup>2d</sup>righteousness and <sup>e</sup>sanctification and <sup>f</sup>redemption,

John 14:17 *Even* the <sup>1a</sup>Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because <sup>2</sup>He abides with you and shall be <sup>3b</sup>in you.

Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to <sup>1a</sup>salvation through <sup>2</sup>your <sup>b</sup>petition and *the* <sup>3</sup>bountiful <sup>c</sup>supply of the <sup>4d</sup>Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to <sup>a</sup>shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be <sup>1</sup>magnified <sup>b</sup>in my body, whether through life or through <sup>c</sup>death.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to <sup>1a</sup>live is Christ ...

1. Life is the Spirit, who is the Triune God Himself, and life is Christ—Rom. 8:2; John 11:25; 14:6; Col. 3:4.

Rom 8:2 For the <sup>1a</sup>law of the <sup>2</sup>Spirit of <sup>3</sup>life has <sup>4</sup>freed <sup>5</sup>me in Christ Jesus from the <sup>6</sup>law of sin and of death.

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

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the <sup>1</sup>way and the <sup>2a</sup>reality and the <sup>b</sup>life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

Col 3:4 When <sup>1</sup>Christ our <sup>2a</sup>life is <sup>b</sup>manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in <sup>c</sup>glory.

2. God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son; if we have the Son, we have the life—1 John 5:11-12.

1 John 5:11 And this is the <sup>a</sup>testimony, that God <sup>1</sup>gave to us <sup>b</sup>eternal <sup>c</sup>life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who <sup>1</sup>has the Son has the <sup>a</sup>life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

3. God in Christ has passed through His various processes and was consummated as the Spirit; now as the Spirit of reality He is life to the believers so that they may live Him out as the processed Triune God—John 7:39; 14:17, 19b.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the <sup>1a</sup>Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been <sup>b</sup>glorified.

John 14:17 *Even* the <sup>1a</sup>Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because <sup>2</sup>He abides with you and shall be <sup>3b</sup>in you.

John 14:19b ... because I <sup>1b</sup>live, you also shall <sup>c</sup>live.

4. When we believed in Christ, the Son of God, He came into us to be our life and person and to live and move with us—3:15-16; Gal. 2:20.

John 3:15 That every one who believes into Him may have <sup>1</sup>eternal life.

John 3:16 For God so <sup>a</sup>loved the <sup>1</sup>world that He <sup>b</sup>gave His <sup>c</sup>only begotten Son, that every one who <sup>2d</sup>believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Gal 2:20 I am <sup>1a</sup>crucified with Christ; and *it is* <sup>2</sup>no longer I *who* live, but *it is* <sup>3b</sup>Christ *who* lives in me; and the <sup>4</sup>life which I now live in the flesh I <sup>e</sup>live in <sup>5</sup>faith, the <sup>d</sup>faith <sup>6</sup>of the <sup>7</sup>Son of God, who <sup>8e</sup>loved me and <sup>f</sup>gave Himself up for me.

- D. With the church the emphasis is that the believers are on the ground of oneness to be the testimony of the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:23; 4:1-6:

Eph 1:23 Which is His <sup>1a</sup>Body, the <sup>2b</sup>fullness of the One who <sup>3c</sup>fills all in all.

Eph 4:1 <sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, I, the <sup>2a</sup>prisoner <sup>b</sup>in the Lord, to <sup>3c</sup>walk worthily of the <sup>d</sup>calling with which you were <sup>e</sup>called,

Eph 4:2 With all <sup>1a</sup>lowliness and <sup>b</sup>meekness, with <sup>c</sup>long-suffering, bearing one another in <sup>d</sup>love,

Eph 4:3 Being diligent to <sup>1</sup>keep the <sup>2a</sup>oneness of the Spirit in the uniting <sup>3b</sup>bond of <sup>c</sup>peace:

Eph 4:4 <sup>1</sup>One <sup>a</sup>Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one <sup>2b</sup>hope of your <sup>c</sup>calling;

Eph 4:5 One <sup>1a</sup>Lord, one <sup>2b</sup>faith, one <sup>c</sup>baptism;

Eph 4:6 One <sup>1a</sup>God and <sup>b</sup>Father of <sup>2</sup>all, who is <sup>3</sup>over all and through all and in all.

1. The church is composed of a group of people who have been called out of the world by God; God has called us out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation and has gathered us together to be the church—Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Rev. 5:9; 7:9.

Matt 16:18 And I <sup>1</sup>also say to you that you are <sup>2a</sup>Peter, and upon <sup>3</sup>this <sup>b</sup>rock I will <sup>4c</sup>build My <sup>5d</sup>church, and the <sup>6e</sup>gates of <sup>f</sup>Hades shall not prevail <sup>g</sup>against it.

Matt 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, <sup>1</sup>tell *it* to the <sup>2a</sup>church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you <sup>3</sup>just like the <sup>b</sup>Gentile and the <sup>c</sup>tax collector.

Rev 5:9 And they sing a <sup>1a</sup>new song, saying: You are <sup>2b</sup>worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were <sup>c</sup>slain and have <sup>d</sup>purchased for God <sup>3b</sup>by Your <sup>e</sup>blood *men* out of <sup>f</sup>every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Rev 7:9 After these things I saw, and behold, *there was* a <sup>1</sup>great multitude which no one could number, out of <sup>a</sup>every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, <sup>2</sup>standing before the throne and before the <sup>b</sup>Lamb, clothed in <sup>3c</sup>white robes and <sup>4d</sup>palm branches in their hands.

2. As believers in Christ, we have been begotten of God with His life and we have the divine life within us; we have been regenerated to become people of the kingdom of the heavens and brothers and sisters in His universal family—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5, 15; Eph. 2:19.

John 1:12 But as many as <sup>1a</sup>received Him, to them He gave the authority to become <sup>2</sup>children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not <sup>1</sup>of <sup>2</sup>blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is <sup>1a</sup>born anew, he cannot <sup>2</sup>see the <sup>3b</sup>kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is <sup>a</sup>born <sup>1</sup>of <sup>2</sup>water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:15 That every one who believes into Him may have <sup>1</sup>eternal life.

Eph 2:19 So then <sup>1</sup>you are no longer <sup>2a</sup>strangers and sojourners, but you are <sup>3b</sup>fellow citizens with the saints and <sup>4</sup>members of the <sup>e</sup>household of God,

3. The church is an entity of life, an organism, with a life and person; this life and person are the Triune God Himself, who is the element of the oneness of the church—4:3-6.

Eph 4:3 Being diligent to <sup>1</sup>keep the <sup>2a</sup>oneness of the Spirit in the uniting <sup>3b</sup>bond of <sup>c</sup>peace:

Eph 4:4 <sup>1</sup>One <sup>a</sup>Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one <sup>2b</sup>hope of your <sup>c</sup>calling;

Eph 4:5 One <sup>1a</sup>Lord, one <sup>2b</sup>faith, one <sup>c</sup>baptism;

Eph 4:6 One <sup>1a</sup>God and <sup>b</sup>Father of <sup>2</sup>all, who is <sup>3</sup>over all and through all and in all.

4. The universal Body of Christ is expressed as local churches; the ground of the church is the oneness of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:12-13, 27; 1:2; Eph. 1:23; 4:3-6.

- 1 Cor 12:12 <sup>1</sup>For even as <sup>2</sup>the body is <sup>a</sup>one and has many <sup>b</sup>members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:13 For also in <sup>1a</sup>one Spirit we were all <sup>b</sup>baptized into <sup>2c</sup>one Body, whether <sup>3d</sup>Jews or Greeks, whether <sup>4</sup>slaves or free, and were all given to <sup>5e</sup>drink one <sup>f</sup>Spirit.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and <sup>a</sup>members individually.
- 1 Cor 1:2 To the <sup>1a</sup>church of God which is <sup>2</sup>in <sup>b</sup>Corinth, <sup>3</sup>to those who have been <sup>4c</sup>sanctified <sup>5</sup>in Christ Jesus, the <sup>6d</sup>called saints, <sup>7</sup>with all those who <sup>8e</sup>call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* <sup>9f</sup>theirs and ours:
- Eph 1:23 Which is His <sup>1a</sup>Body, the <sup>2b</sup>fullness of the One who <sup>3c</sup>fills all in all.
- Eph 4:3 Being diligent to <sup>1</sup>keep the <sup>2a</sup>oneness of the Spirit in the uniting <sup>3b</sup>bond of <sup>c</sup>peace:
- Eph 4:4 <sup>1</sup>One <sup>a</sup>Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one <sup>2b</sup>hope of your <sup>c</sup>calling;
- Eph 4:5 One <sup>1a</sup>Lord, one <sup>2b</sup>faith, one <sup>c</sup>baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One <sup>1a</sup>God and <sup>b</sup>Father of <sup>2</sup>all, who is <sup>3</sup>over all and through all and in all.
5. We were all baptized into one Body, and we all have one Spirit, one Lord, and one God and Father; now we must stand on the ground of oneness to be the unique testimony of the Body of Christ and to live the practical church life—1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-6; Rev. 1:11.
- 1 Cor 12:13 For also in <sup>1a</sup>one Spirit we were all <sup>b</sup>baptized into <sup>2c</sup>one Body, whether <sup>3d</sup>Jews or Greeks, whether <sup>4</sup>slaves or free, and were all given to <sup>5e</sup>drink one <sup>f</sup>Spirit.
- Eph 4:4 <sup>1</sup>One <sup>a</sup>Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one <sup>2b</sup>hope of your <sup>c</sup>calling;
- Eph 4:5 One <sup>1a</sup>Lord, one <sup>2b</sup>faith, one <sup>c</sup>baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One <sup>1a</sup>God and <sup>b</sup>Father of <sup>2</sup>all, who is <sup>3</sup>over all and through all and in all.
- Rev 1:11 Saying, What you <sup>a</sup>see <sup>b</sup>write in a scroll and <sup>1</sup>send *it* to the <sup>c</sup>seven <sup>d</sup>churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

### III. We must develop any biblical truth in the way of Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church—2 Tim. 2:15:

- 2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to <sup>a</sup>present yourself <sup>b</sup>approved to God, an unashamed workman, <sup>1</sup>cutting straight the <sup>c</sup>word of the <sup>2d</sup>truth.
- A. Any message or development of the truth in the Bible without Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church is an empty shell with no content—1 Tim. 1:6-7.
- 1 Tim 1:6 From which things some, having <sup>1a</sup>misaimed, have turned aside to <sup>2b</sup>vain talking,
- 1 Tim 1:7 Desiring to be <sup>1a</sup>teachers of the law, though they understand neither the things that they say, nor concerning what they <sup>2b</sup>confidently affirm.
- B. It is always safe to develop a biblical truth in the way of Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church; for example, we should develop the truth concerning holiness with Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church—1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 6:22; Eph. 5:26.
- 1 Cor 1:30 But <sup>1a</sup>of Him you are <sup>b</sup>in Christ Jesus, who became <sup>c</sup>wisdom to us from God: both <sup>2d</sup>righteousness and <sup>e</sup>sanctification and <sup>f</sup>redemption,
- Rom 6:22 But now, having been <sup>a</sup>freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto <sup>1b</sup>sanctification, and the end, <sup>c</sup>eternal <sup>2</sup>life.
- Eph 5:26 That He might <sup>1a</sup>sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the <sup>2b</sup>washing of the <sup>3</sup>water in the <sup>4c</sup>word,