

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

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CRUCIAL ELEMENTS OF THE BIBLE

Message Three Experiencing the Indwelling Christ

Scripture Reading: John 14:16-18, 20; Rom. 8:9-10; Gal. 2:20a; 4:19; Eph. 3:17a

- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another ^{1a}Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
John 14:17 Even the ^{1a}Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; but you know Him, because ²He abides with you and shall be ^{3b}in you.
John 14:18 ¹I will not leave you *as* orphans; I am ^{2a}coming to you.
John 14:20 In that ^{1a}day you will know that I am ^bin My Father, and you ^cin Me, and I ^din you.
Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.
Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
Gal 2:20a I am ^{1a}crucified with Christ; and *it is* ²no longer I *who* live, but *it is* ^{3b}Christ *who* lives in me;
Gal 4:19 My ^{1a}children, with whom I ^{2b}travail again in birth until ^{3c}Christ is ⁴formed ^din you,
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His ^ahome in your ¹hearts through ²faith, ...

I. Christ is a mystery, and His indwelling is also a mystery—Col. 1:27:

- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the ^{1a}riches of the glory of this ^bmystery among the Gentiles, ²which is ^{3c}Christ ⁴in you, the ^dhope of ^{5c}glory,
- A. Christ's indwelling is very real and intimate because it takes place within us and is intimately related to us—John 14:20; Eph. 3:17a.
John 14:20 In that ^{1a}day you will know that I am ^bin My Father, and you ^cin Me, and I ^din you.
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His ^ahome in your ¹hearts through ²faith, ...
- B. The experience of the indwelling Christ is a real and subjective matter—Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 4:19.
Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves whether you are ^ain the ¹faith; ²prove yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves that ³Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are ^{4b}disapproved?
Gal 4:19 My ^{1a}children, with whom I ^{2b}travail again in birth until ^{3c}Christ is ⁴formed ^din you,

II. While the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was the Comforter outside His disciples, but after His resurrection He became the Comforter inside His disciples—John 14:16-18, 20:

- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another ^{1a}Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
John 14:17 Even the ^{1a}Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; but you know Him, because ²He abides with you and shall be ^{3b}in you.
John 14:18 ¹I will not leave you *as* orphans; I am ^{2a}coming to you.
John 14:20 In that ^{1a}day you will know that I am ^bin My Father, and you ^cin Me, and I ^din you.
- A. The Greek word for *Comforter* means "advocate," "one alongside who takes care of our cause, our affairs."
- B. While the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was with His disciples in an outward way as a tender, caring Comforter; although His physical presence with the disciples was wonderful, He could be with them only in an outward way since He was still in the flesh, limited by space and time—v. 16.
John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another ^{1a}Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

- C. In order to be the indwelling Comforter, the Comforter inside the disciples, it was necessary for the Lord Jesus to pass through death and enter into resurrection to become the Spirit of reality, the life-giving Spirit—v. 17; 1 Cor. 15:45b:

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

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a ^clife-giving Spirit.

1. The most precious result of our faith in Christ is that we receive Christ into us; He is now able to enter into us to be with us at any time and in any place as the Comforter within us—John 1:12-13; 3:15; 14:16-17.

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

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

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

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another ^{1a}Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

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

2. The "He" who is the Spirit of reality in verse 17 becomes the "I" who is the Lord Himself in verse 18; this means that the Christ who was in the flesh went through death and resurrection to become the life-giving Spirit, the pneumatic Christ—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17a.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a ^clife-giving Spirit.

2 Cor 3:17a ¹And the ²Lord is the ^{3a}Spirit; ...

- D. The Gospel of John reveals that Christ became flesh to be the Lamb of God and that in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit, another Comforter, to breathe Himself into the disciples—1:14, 29; 14:16-17; 20:22:

John 1:14 And the ¹Word became ^{2a}flesh and ^{3b}tabernacled among us (and ^{4c}we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten ⁵from the Father), full of ^{6d}grace and ^ereality.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the ^{1a}Lamb of God, who takes away the ^bsin of the ²world!

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another ^{1a}Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

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

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He ^abreathed into *them* and said to them, ^bReceive the Holy ^{1c}Spirit.

1. It is as the Spirit that He was breathed into His disciples and that He can live in them and they can live because of Him—14:19-20.

John 14:19 Yet ^aa little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I ^{1b}live, you also shall ^clive.

John 14:20 In that ^{1a}day you will know that I am ^bin My Father, and you ^cin Me, and I ^din you.

2. The Holy Spirit in 20:22 is actually the resurrected Christ Himself, because this Spirit is His breath; the Spirit is the breath of the resurrected Christ.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He ^abreathed into *them* and said to them, ^bReceive the Holy ^{1c}Spirit.

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

Rom 1:1 ¹Paul, a ²slave of ³Christ ⁴Jesus, a ⁵called ⁶apostle, ⁷separated ⁸unto the ⁹gospel of God,

Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,

Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

- A. Christ has resurrected and has become the life-giving Spirit; He is no longer merely the Christ outside the believers but the Christ within them—8:9-10.
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
- B. The gospel in the Epistle to the Romans is the gospel of the One who is now indwelling His believers as their subjective Savior—1:1, 3-4; 8:10; 5:10.
- Rom 1:1 ¹Paul, a ²slave of ³Christ ⁴Jesus, a ⁵called ⁶apostle, ⁷separated ⁸unto the ⁹gospel of God,
- Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was ⁴designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,

IV. The apostle Paul is a pattern of a believer who experienced the indwelling Christ—1 Tim. 1:16:

- 1 Tim 1:16 But because of this I was shown ^amercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display all His long-suffering for a ¹pattern to those who are to ^bbelieve on Him unto ^{2c}eternal life.
- A. "It pleased God...to reveal His Son in me"—Gal. 1:15a, 16a:
- Gal 1:15a But when it ^apleased God, ...
- Gal 1:16a To ^{1a}reveal His ^{2b}Son ³in me that I might announce ⁴Him as the gospel among the ^{5c}Gentiles, ...
1. To reveal the Son of God brings pleasure to God; nothing is more pleasing to God than the unveiling of the living person of the Son of God.
 2. We need to be brought into a state where we are full of the revelation of the Son of God and thereby become a new creation with Christ living in us.
- B. "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me"—2:20a:
1. Paul did not say that the life of Christ lived in him but that Christ, the person, lived in him.
 2. God's economy is that the "I" be crucified in Christ's death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection.
- C. "My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you"—4:19:
1. To have Christ formed in us is to have Christ grown in us in full.
 2. Christ has been born into us, He is now living in us in our Christian life, and He will be formed in us at our maturity.
- D. "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ"—3:27:
1. To be baptized is to be immersed into the reality of the person of Christ.
 2. We have put on the pneumatic Christ as our clothing; this means that, as our person, Christ is not only our inner being but also our outward expression.
- E. "That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith"—Eph. 3:17a:
1. God the Father is exercising His authority through God the Spirit to strengthen us into the inner man that God the Son may make His home deep downward in our hearts.
 2. If we allow Christ to have all the room within us and if we give Him the full right and full liberty to do whatever He wants within us, then our heart will become His home.
- F. "God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus"—Phil. 1:8:
1. Paul did not live in his natural inner being; he lived a life in the inward parts of Christ, experienced Christ in His inward parts, and was one with Christ in His inward parts.

2. Paul did not keep his own inward parts but took Christ's inward parts as his; Paul's inner being was reconstituted with the inward parts of Christ.
- G. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"—2:5:
1. To let Christ's mind be in us is to allow the indwelling Christ to live in us by denying our natural mind and taking His mind.
 2. If we want to experience the indwelling Christ and live Him, we need to deny our mind and have our mind replaced by the mind of Christ—1:21a.
Phil **1:21a** For to me, to ^{1a}live is Christ ...
- H. "For also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ"—2 Cor. 2:10b:
1. Paul lived Christ in the closest and most intimate contact with Him, acting according to the index of His eyes.
 2. Paul was a person who was one with Christ, full of Christ, and saturated with Christ; he truly experienced the indwelling Christ—Col. 3:11.
Col **3:11** ¹Where there ²cannot be ³Greek and ⁴Jew, ^{4b}circumcision and uncircumcision, ^{5c}barbarian, ⁶Scythian, ⁷slave, ⁸free man, but ^{9d}Christ is ¹⁰all and in all.