

Message Twelve
**Living an Overcoming Life by Reigning in Life
to Become the New Jerusalem as the City of Life**

EM Hymns: 1302, 877

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:10, 17, 21; 14:17-18;
Mark 4:26-29; Luke 17:21; Matt. 24:14

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 5:17	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 5:21	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 14:17	For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Rom 14:18	For he who serves Christ in this is well pleasing to God and approved by men.
Mark 4:26	And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth,
Mark 4:27	And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens-how, he does not know.
Mark 4:28	The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear.
Mark 4:29	But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.
Luke 17:21	Nor will they say, Behold, here it is! or, There! For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.
Matt 24:14	And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

I. The genuine Christian life is the life of an overcomer, and all the overcomers in the New Testament should be kings who have received the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness to reign in life—Rom. 5:17:

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.

A. As the God-ordained prophets and priests, we are also kings to allow God to rule in us and through us over all His enemies; the believers in the New Testament should be the fulfillment of the typology of the kings, priests, and prophets in God's economy:

1. In the New Testament all the believers are saved to be kings and priests; when the priests speak for God, they become God's spokesmen, God's mouthpiece, and these are the prophets—1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 20:6; 22:3-5; 1 Cor. 14:12, 24-25, 31.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;

Rev 22:4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their forehead.

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.

1 Cor 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may excel for the building up of the church.

- 1 Cor 14:24 But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;
- 1 Cor 14:25 The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.
- 1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
2. Prophesying (speaking Christ into people) makes us overcomers; prophesying is the function of the overcomers—v. 4b; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Acts 5:20 and footnote 2.
- 1 Cor 14:4b He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
- 1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of ²this life.
 note 2 The divine life preached, ministered, and lived by Peter that overcame the Jewish leaders' persecution, threatening, and imprisonment. This word indicates that Peter's life and work made the divine life so real and present in his situation that even the angel saw it and pointed it out.
- B. If we have not reached the level of a king in our Christian life, we are still below the proper standard; we may say that we enjoy Christ, but to what degree, to what extent, do we enjoy Christ?
- C. Our enjoyment of Christ may be only "one-inch high," but Christ is unlimited; our enjoyment of Christ should come up to the kingship level; we need to receive grace upon grace to such an extent that grace reigns in us so that we can be good stewards of the varied grace of God—Phil. 3:13; John 1:16; Rom. 5:21; 1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 3:2.
- 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,
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- 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.
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- D. God's complete salvation is for us to be saved in the life of Christ to reign in this life by the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness (Rom. 5:10, 17, 21); the gift of righteousness is God's judicial redemption applied to us in a practical way; grace is God Himself as our all-sufficient supply for our organic salvation.
- 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 5:17 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 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

II. Revelation, the last book of the Bible, is a book concerning the overcomers; in chapters 2 and 3, the Lord gives a sevenfold call to us, His believers, the spiritual descendants of our great father Abraham to be His overcomers (2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21), those who conquer all the satanic chaos (cf. Col. 1:17b, 18b, 10) and triumph in the divine economy (Rom. 8:37; 2 Cor. 2:14):

Rev 2, 3 be omitted.

- 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.
- Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.
- Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.
- Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- Rev 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.
- Col 1:17b ... and all things cohere in Him;
- Col 1:18b ... He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 1:10 To walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full knowledge of God,
- Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.
- 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
- A. From God's viewpoint there are four major races of people: the race of Adam, the race of Abraham according to the flesh (Gen. 13:16), the race of Abraham according to the Spirit (15:5; Gal. 3:7, 29), and the race of the overcomers; we should declare by exercising our spirit of faith that we belong to the race of the overcomers (2 Cor. 4:13).
- Gen 13:16 And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then your seed can also be numbered.
- Gen 15:5 And He brought him outside and said, Look now toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, So shall your seed be.
- Gal 3:7 Know then that they who are of faith, these are sons of Abraham.
- Gal 3:29 And if you are of Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise.
- 2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,
- B. The book of Revelation shows us that without the overcomers Christ has no way to come back; we know that Christ is our way (John 14:6a), but from deep within His heart, Christ would tell the overcomers that they are His way; the overcomers are the very way for Christ to come back (Rev. 19:7-9; Psa. 45:13-14).
- John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Psa 45:13 The king's daughter is all glorious within the royal abode; / Her garment is a woven work inwrought with gold.
- Psa 45:14 She will be led to the King in embroidered clothing; / The virgins behind her, her companions, / Will be brought to You.
- C. Let God bless you to make you an overcomer today, living a life that is the life to reign; this unique blessing is the eternal blessing of the Triune God dispensing Himself into us for our enjoyment—Num. 6:22-27; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:14.
- Num 6:22 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

- Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,
 Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;
 Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
 Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
 Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.
 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
 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.

III. In order for us to reign in life to be the Lord's overcomers, we need to see that we have been regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life; the Lord said, "So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth"—Mark 4:26; 1 John 3:9:

- 1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God.
- A. This seed is the seed of the divine life (v. 9; 1 Pet. 1:23) sown into the believers, indicating that the kingdom of God, which is the issue and goal of the Lord's gospel, and the church in this age (Rom. 14:17) are a matter of life, the life of God, which sprouts, grows, bears fruit, matures, and produces a harvest (1 Cor. 3:6-9; Rev. 14:4, 15-16).
- 1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God.
 1 Pet 1:23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.
 Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.
 1 Cor 3:7 So then neither is he who plants anything nor he who waters, but God who causes the growth.
 1 Cor 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.
 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
 Rev 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
 Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, Send forth Your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come because the harvest of the earth is ripe.
 Rev 14:16 And He who sat on the cloud thrust His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.
- B. The kingdom of God is Christ Himself (Luke 17:21); as the Triune God in humanity (Col. 2:9), He is the seed, "the gene," of the kingdom of God to be sown into God's chosen people that He might grow in them, live in them, and be expressed from within them to develop into God's ruling realm (Mark 4:26-29; 1 Cor. 3:9).
- Luke 17:21 Nor will they say, Behold, here it is! or, There! For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.
 Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
 Mark 4:26 And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth,
 Mark 4:27 And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens-how, he does not know.
 Mark 4:28 The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear.
 Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.
 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

- C. The intrinsic element of the entire teaching of the New Testament is that the Triune God has been incarnated in order to be sown into His chosen people and develop within them into a kingdom; God's goal is the full development of the kingdom of God:
1. In the Gospels we have the sowing of the seed, the gene, of the kingdom—Mark 4:3, 14; Matt. 9:35.
 - Mark 4:3 Listen! Behold, the sower went out to sow.
 - Mark 4:14 The sower sows the word.
 - Matt 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every sickness.
 2. In the Acts we have the propagation and spreading of this sowing by thousands of sowers who had received the seed, the gene, of the kingdom—6:7; 12:24; 19:20.
 - Acts 6:7 And the word of God grew, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly; and a large number of the priests obeyed the faith.
 - Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.
 - Acts 19:20 Thus, the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.
 3. In the Epistles we see the growing of the seed, the gene, of the kingdom—1 Cor. 3:6, 9b; 2 Pet. 1:3, 11.
 - 1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.
 - 1 Cor 3:9b ... you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
 - 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
 - 2 Pet 1:11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.
 4. The harvest of this seed is found in the book of Revelation with the reaping of the first-fruits and the harvest—14:4, 15-16; Mark 4:29; Matt. 13:39.
 - Rev 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
 - Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, Send forth Your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come because the harvest of the earth is ripe.
 - Rev 14:16 And He who sat on the cloud thrust His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.
 - Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.
 - Matt 13:39 And the enemy who sowed them is the devil; and the harvest is the consummation of the age; and the reapers are angels.
 5. The millennial kingdom will be the uttermost development of the seed, the gene, of the kingdom with the Son as the King and all the overcomers as His co-kings, the "kingdom-gene people"—Rev. 20:6.
 - Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
 6. The New Jerusalem, God's eternal kingdom, is the fullest development of the kingdom seed, the gene, sown by Jesus the Nazarene in the four Gospels—Rev. 21:2; 22:1, 3, 5; 5:10; 3:12; 11:15; 19:6; 20:6; Psa. 146:10.
 - Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - 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 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
 - 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 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
- Rev 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunders, saying, Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
- Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
- Psa 146:10 Jehovah will reign forever, / Your God, O Zion, forever and ever. / Hallelujah!
7. We need to be one with the Lord to preach the gospel of the kingdom to the whole inhabited earth for the propagation and development of the seed, the gene, of the kingdom to consummate this age—Matt. 24:14.
- Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

IV. In experience, to reign in life means to be under the ruling of the divine life:

- A. Christ is a pattern of reigning in life by being under the ruling of the divine life of the Father—cf. 8:5-13.
- Matt 8:5 And when He entered into Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, beseeching Him
- Matt 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant is lying in the house paralyzed, terribly tormented.
- Matt 8:7 And He said to him, I will come and heal him.
- Matt 8:8 But the centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not fit for You to enter under my roof; but only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.
- Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.
- Matt 8:10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed, Truly I say to you, With no one in Israel have I found such great faith.
- Matt 8:11 But I say to you that many will come from the east and the west and will recline at table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens,
- Matt 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.
- Matt 8:13 And Jesus said to the centurion, Go; as you have believed, so be it done to you. And his servant was healed in that hour.
- B. Paul is an example of one who, in his life and ministry, was under the ruling of the divine life—2 Cor. 2:12-14.
- 2 Cor 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door was open to me in the Lord,
- 2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
- 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
- C. There is the need for all the believers who have received the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness to practice the restriction and limitation in the divine life; a life under the kingdom's rule is a life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit; to live in this way is to serve Christ as a slave, and such a life is well pleasing to God and approved by men—Rom. 14:17-18; cf. 1 Cor. 12:3.
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 14:18 For he who serves Christ in this is well pleasing to God and approved by men.

1 Cor 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus is accursed; and no one can say, Jesus is Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.

V. Deuteronomy reveals that a proper king first had to be instructed, governed, ruled, and controlled by the word of God (17:14-15, 18-20); this principle should be the same with the elders in the churches and with all of us who aspire to reign in life (2 Tim. 3:14-17):

- Deut 17:14 When you enter the land which Jehovah your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it, and you say, I will set a king over me like all the nations which surround me;
- Deut 17:15 You must set a king over you whom Jehovah your God will choose; from among your brothers you shall set a king over you; you may not put a foreigner, who is not your brother, over you.
- Deut 17:18 And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write out for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests.
- Deut 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them,
- Deut 17:20 So that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left; that he and his sons may extend their days over their kingdom in the midst of Israel.
- 2 Tim 3:14 But you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from which ones you have learned them
- 2 Tim 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- 2 Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.
- A. In order to administrate, to manage, the church, the elders must be reconstituted with the word of God (1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17); as a result, they will be under God's government, under God's rule and control.
- 1 Tim 3:2 The overseer then must be without reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, of a sober mind, orderly, hospitable, apt to teach;
- 1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who take the lead well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in word and teaching.
- B. Then spontaneously, God will be in their decisions, and the elders will represent God to manage the affairs of the church; this kind of management is theocracy.
- C. Under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, the returned people of Israel were collectively reconstituted by and with God through His word to be a nation as God's testimony; to reconstitute the people of God is to educate them by putting them into the Word of God that they may be saturated with the word—Neh. 8:1-18.
- Neh 8:1 And all the people gathered as one man in the open area that was before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which Jehovah had commanded to Israel.
- Neh 8:2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women, and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.
- Neh 8:3 And he read in it before the open area that was before the Water Gate from first light until midday in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- Neh 8:4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a wooden platform that had been made for that purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah and Shema and Anaiiah and Uriah and Hilkiah and Maaseiah at his right hand; and at his left hand, Pedaiah and Mishael and Malchijah and Hashum and Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.
- Neh 8:5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people (for he was above all the people); and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
- Neh 8:6 And Ezra blessed Jehovah the great God; and all the people answered, Amen, Amen, lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped Jehovah with their faces to the ground.

- Neh 8:7 Also Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites helped the people understand the law; and the people stood in their place.
- Neh 8:8 And they read in the book, in the law of God, interpreting and giving the sense, so that they understood the reading.
- Neh 8:9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who helped the people understand said to all the people, This day is holy unto Jehovah your God; do not mourn or weep. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.
- Neh 8:10 Then he said to them, Go your way; eat the fat, and drink the sweet wine, and send portions to him for whom nothing has been prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength.
- Neh 8:11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Be quiet, for the day is holy; and do not be grieved.
- Neh 8:12 And all the people went their way to eat and to drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.
- Neh 8:13 And on the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, the priests, and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe, that is, in order to gain insight into the words of the law.
- Neh 8:14 And they found it written in the law that Jehovah had commanded through Moses that the children of Israel dwell in booths during the feast in the seventh month,
- Neh 8:15 And that they publish and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, Go out to the mountain and bring olive branches and wild olive branches and myrtle branches and palm branches and branches of other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.
- Neh 8:16 So the people went out and brought them, and all made booths for themselves on their roofs and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God and in the open area before the Water Gate and in the open area before the Gate of Ephraim.
- Neh 8:17 And all the assembly of those who returned from the captivity made booths and dwelt in the booths, for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the children of Israel had not done so; and there was very great rejoicing.
- Neh 8:18 And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they held the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

D. The word of God is one with the Spirit (John 6:63; Eph. 6:17); through our daily reading of the divine Word, the word of God works within us, and the Spirit, through the word, spontaneously dispenses God's nature with God's element into our being, causing us to be constituted with God.

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.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

VI. In order to reign in life, we also need to be under the rulership of the Spirit; the record of Joseph's life is a revelation of the rulership of the Spirit, for the rulership of the Spirit is the reigning aspect of a mature saint; it is a life of reigning in life, being under the restriction and limitation of the divine life in the reality of God's kingdom, and it is higher than any other aspect of the Spirit—Rom. 5:17, 21; 14:17-18; 1 Cor. 2:15-16; 2 Cor. 2:13-14; 3:17-18; 2 Tim. 4:22; Rev. 4:1-3:

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 5:21 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 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 14:18 For he who serves Christ in this is well pleasing to God and approved by men.
- 1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.
- 1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.
- 2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
- 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
- 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.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.
- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
- Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.
- A. Joseph, a “master of dreams” (Gen. 37:19), dreamed that according to God’s view, His people are sheaves of wheat full of life and heavenly bodies full of light (vv. 5-11); Joseph’s two dreams (vv. 7, 9), both from God, unveiled to him God’s divine view concerning the nature, position, function, and goal of God’s people on earth.
- Gen 37:19 And they said one to another, Here comes this master of dreams.
- Gen 37:5 Then Joseph had a dream; and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.
- Gen 37:6 And he said to them, Listen to this dream which I have had:
- Gen 37:7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose up and remained standing; and then your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.
- Gen 37:8 And his brothers said to him, Will you indeed reign over us and actually be a ruler among us? So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.
- Gen 37:9 And he had still another dream and told it to his brothers and said, Now I have had another dream: There were the sun and the moon and eleven stars, bowing down to me.
- Gen 37:10 And he told it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the ground to you?
- Gen 37:11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in his heart.
- B. Joseph’s dreams controlled his life and directed his behavior; he behaved so excellently and marvelously because he was directed by the vision that he saw in his dreams (cf. Acts 26:19); his brothers vented their anger (Gen. 37:18-31) and indulged in their lust (38:15-18), but Joseph subdued his anger and conquered his lust (39:7-23), behaving as a sheaf full of life and conducting himself like a heavenly star shining in the darkness.
- Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
- Gen 37:18 And when they saw him from a distance and before he came near to them, they conspired against him to put him to death.
- Gen 37:19 And they said one to another, Here comes this master of dreams.
- Gen 37:20 Now then, come and let us slay him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, A wild beast has devoured him; then we will see what will become of his dreams.
- Gen 37:21 But when Reuben heard it, he tried to deliver him out of their hand and said, Let us not take his life.
- Gen 37:22 And Reuben said to them, Shed no blood; throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him-that he might deliver him out of their hand to restore him to his father.

Gen 37:23 And when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his coat, the coat of many colors that was on him;

Gen 37:24 And they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Gen 37:25 Then they sat down to eat food; and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and there was a caravan of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

Gen 37:26 Then Judah said to his brothers, What gain is there if we slay our brother and conceal his blood?

Gen 37:27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let our hand not be on him; for he is our brother, our flesh. And his brothers listened to him.

Gen 37:28 So when some Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And these brought Joseph into Egypt.

Gen 37:29 And when Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes.

Gen 37:30 And he returned to his brothers and said, The boy is not there; so as for me, what shall I do?

Gen 37:31 Then they took Joseph's coat and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the coat in the blood.

Gen 38:15 And when Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, for she had covered her face.

Gen 38:16 And he turned aside to her by the way and said, Come now, let me come in to you; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, What will you give me, that you may come in to me?

Gen 38:17 And he said, I will send you a kid from the flock. And she said, Only if you give me a pledge until you send it.

Gen 38:18 And he said, What pledge shall I give you? And she said, Your seal and your cord and your staff that is in your hand. And he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

Gen 39:7 Now after these things his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, Lie with me.

Gen 39:8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, Behold, with me here, my master is not concerned about anything in the house, and he has put everything he has in my charge.

Gen 39:9 There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great evil, and sin against God?

Gen 39:10 And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.

Gen 39:11 And one such day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house were there in the house.

Gen 39:12 And she grabbed him by his garment, saying, Lie with me! But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and went outside.

Gen 39:13 And when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside,

Gen 39:14 She called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, See, he has brought in a Hebrew man to us to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I called out with a loud voice;

Gen 39:15 And when he heard that I lifted up my voice and called out, he left his garment beside me, and fled and went outside.

Gen 39:16 And she placed his garment beside her until his master came home.

Gen 39:17 And she spoke to him with these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought to us, came in to me to mock me.

Gen 39:18 And when I lifted up my voice and called out, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.

Gen 39:19 And when his master heard the words of his wife that she had spoken to him, saying, This is the way your servant treated me; his anger burned.

Gen 39:20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while he was there in the prison,

Gen 39:21 Jehovah was with Joseph; and He extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

- Gen 39:22 And the chief jailer put in Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the prison; and whatever was done there, he was the one to do it.
- Gen 39:23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in his charge, because Jehovah was with him; and whatever he did, Jehovah caused it to prosper.
- C. Joseph's life under the heavenly vision was the life of the kingdom of the heavens described in Matthew 5—7; by living such a life, he was fully prepared to reign as a king; according to the constitution of the heavenly kingdom revealed in these chapters in Matthew, our anger must be subdued, and our lust must be conquered (5:21-32).
- Matt 5~7 be omitted.
- Matt 5:21 You have heard that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not murder, and whoever murders shall be liable to the judgment."
- Matt 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, Raca, shall be liable to the judgment of the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, Moreh, shall be liable to the Gehenna of fire.
- Matt 5:23 Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you,
- Matt 5:24 Leave your gift there before the altar, and first go and be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
- Matt 5:25 Be well disposed quickly toward your opponent at law, while you are with him on the way, lest the opponent deliver you to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.
- Matt 5:26 Truly I say to you, You shall by no means come out from there until you pay the last quadrans.
- Matt 5:27 You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."
- Matt 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman in order to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- Matt 5:29 So if your right eye stumbles you, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.
- Matt 5:30 And if your right hand stumbles you, cut it off and cast it from you, for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish than for your whole body to pass away into Gehenna.
- Matt 5:31 And it was said, Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.
- Matt 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries her who has been divorced commits adultery.
- D. As the representative of the reigning aspect of the mature life, Joseph enjoyed the presence of the Lord and with it the Lord's authority, prosperity, and blessing—Gen. 39:2-5, 21, 23; Acts 7:9.
- Gen 39:2 And Jehovah was with Joseph, and he became a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.
- Gen 39:3 And his master saw that Jehovah was with him and that Jehovah caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.
- Gen 39:4 And Joseph found favor in his sight, and he ministered to him; and he made him overseer of his house and put all that he had in his charge.
- Gen 39:5 And from the time he made him overseer in his house and put him over all that he had, Jehovah blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; and the blessing of Jehovah was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field.
- Gen 39:21 Jehovah was with Joseph; and He extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.
- Gen 39:23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in his charge, because Jehovah was with him; and whatever he did, Jehovah caused it to prosper.
- Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt; yet God was with him
- E. Although Joseph was full of human feelings and sentiments toward his brothers, he kept himself with all his feelings under the rulership of the Spirit; he denied himself and placed himself absolutely under God's sovereign leading, conducting himself wholly for the

interest of God and His people—Gen. 42:9, 24; 43:30-31; 45:1-2, 24.

Gen 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them, and he said to them, You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.

Gen 42:24 And he turned away from them and wept. Then he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from among them and bound him before their eyes.

Gen 43:30 And Joseph hurried-for his inward parts burned for his brother-and sought a place to weep. So he entered into his chamber and wept there.

Gen 43:31 Then he washed his face and came out, and he controlled himself and said, Serve the meal.

Gen 45:1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who attended him; and he cried out, Have everyone go out from me. So there was no one standing with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

Gen 45:2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Gen 45:24 So he sent his brothers away; and as they departed, he said to them, Do not quarrel on the way.

F. Joseph is a living illustration of what is revealed in the New Testament; he was a self-denying person who had no self-interest, self-enjoyment, self-feeling, self-ambition, or self-goal; everything was for God and for God's people; Joseph's self-denial, his restriction under God's sovereign hand, was the key to the practice of the kingdom life—Gen. 45:24; Matt. 16:24; 2 Chron. 1:10; Isa. 30:15a; Phil. 1:9; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; 1 Thes. 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thes. 1:3; Rom. 12:10; 1 John 4:9; Heb. 13:1.

Gen 45:24 So he sent his brothers away; and as they departed, he said to them, Do not quarrel on the way.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

2 Chron 1:10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?

Isa 30:15a For thus says the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, / In returning and rest you will be saved; / In quietness and in trust will be your strength; ...

Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and all discernment,

1 Tim 5:1 Do not upbraid an elderly man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,

1 Tim 5:2 Elderly women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

1 Thes 3:12 And the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we also to you,

1 Thes 4:9 Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need for me to write to you, for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another;

2 Thes 1:3 We ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers, even as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly and the love of each one of you all to one another is increasing,

Rom 12:10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.

Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

G. Joseph's realization was that it was God who sent him to Egypt; in Genesis 50:20 he said to his brothers, "Even though you intended evil against me, God intended it for good" (45:5, 7; 50:19-21; cf. 41:51-52); this is the reality of Paul's word in Romans 8:28-29; Joseph received as from God all that his brothers had done to him, and he comforted those who had offended him (Gen. 45:5-8; 50:15-21); what grace, and what an excellent spirit, he had!

Gen 41:51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, for, he said, God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house.

Gen 41:52 And he called the name of the second Ephraim, for, he said, God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.

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;

Gen 45:5 And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Gen 45:6 For the famine has been in the midst of the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

Gen 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.

Gen 45:8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Gen 50:15 And when Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the evil which we did to him?

Gen 50:16 And they sent a message to Joseph, saying, Your father charged before he died, saying,

Gen 50:17 Thus shall you say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong. So now please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father. And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Gen 50:18 And his brothers also went and fell down before him and said, We are here as your servants.

Gen 50:19 And Joseph said to them, Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?

Gen 50:20 Even though you intended evil against me, God intended it for good, to do as it is this day, to preserve alive a numerous people.

Gen 50:21 Now therefore do not be afraid; I will sustain you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

H. We have to use the “divine telescope” to see through time and behold the New Jerusalem, where there is nothing but sheaves full of life and stars full of light; the more mature in life we become, the less we will speak negatively concerning the saints or the church—cf. 38:27-30; Matt. 7:1-5; 1 Pet. 3:8-9.

Gen 38:27 And at the time of her delivery, there were twins in her womb.

Gen 38:28 And while she was giving birth, one put out a hand; and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, This one came out first.

Gen 38:29 But when he drew back his hand, his brother suddenly came out; and she said, What a breach you have made for yourself! Therefore his name was called Perez.

Gen 38:30 And afterward his brother came out, who had the scarlet thread on his hand; and his name was called Zerah.

Matt 7:1 Do not judge, that you be not judged.

Matt 7:2 For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with what measure you measure, it shall be measured to you.

Matt 7:3 And why do you look at the splinter which is in your brother's eye, but the beam in your eye you do not consider?

Matt 7:4 Or how can you say to your brother, Let me remove the splinter from your eye, and behold, the beam is in your eye?

Matt 7:5 Hypocrite, first remove the beam from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.

1 Pet 3:8 And finally be all of the same mind, sympathetic, loving the brothers, tenderhearted, humble-minded;

1 Pet 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing one another, because you were called to this, that you might inherit blessing.

VII. We need to see and arrive at the goal of reigning in life; when we are reigning in life, living under the ruling of the divine life, the issue is the real and practical Body life expressed in the church life—Rom. 12:1-4, 9-12, 15-18; 14:1-9; 15:1-13:

Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

- Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
- Rom 12:10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.
- Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.
- Rom 12:12 Rejoice in hope; endure in tribulation; persevere in prayer.
- Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
- Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another, not setting your mind on the high things but going along with the lowly; do not be wise in yourselves.
- Rom 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil; take forethought for things honorable in the sight of all men.
- Rom 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men.
- Rom 14:1 Now him who is weak in faith receive, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his considerations.
- Rom 14:2 One believes that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables.
- Rom 14:3 He who eats, let him not despise him who does not eat; and he who does not eat, let him not judge him who eats, for God has received him.
- Rom 14:4 Who are you who judge another's household servant? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will be made to stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.
- Rom 14:5 One judges one day above another; another judges every day alike. Let each be fully persuaded in his own mind.
- Rom 14:6 He who regards that day, regards it to the Lord; and he who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who does not eat, does not eat to the Lord, and he gives thanks to God.
- Rom 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself;
- Rom 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.
- Rom 14:9 For Christ died and lived again for this, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.
- Rom 15:1 But we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those who are weak and not to please ourselves.
- Rom 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor with a view to what is good for building up.
- Rom 15:3 For Christ also did not please Himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell upon Me."
- Rom 15:4 For the things that were written previously were written for our instruction, in order that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- Rom 15:5 Now the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus,
- Rom 15:6 That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Rom 15:7 Therefore receive one another, as Christ also received you to the glory of God.
- Rom 15:8 For I say that Christ has become a servant of the circumcision for the sake of God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises given to the fathers,
- Rom 15:9 And that the Gentiles should glorify God for His mercy, as it is written, "Therefore I will extol You among the Gentiles, and I will sing praise to Your name."
- Rom 15:10 And again he says, "Rejoice, Gentiles, with His people."
- Rom 15:11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples speak praise to Him."
- Rom 15:12 And again, Isaiah says, "There shall be the root of Jesse, even He who rises to rule the Gentiles; on Him will the Gentiles hope."
- Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- A. As those who have believed into Christ, we have been transferred into the kingdom of the Son of God's love, and in the church life, love prevails (Col. 1:12-13); the Body builds itself up in love (1 Cor. 8:1; Eph. 1:4; 3:17; 4:2, 15-16; 5:2), and love is the most excellent way for us to be anything and do anything for the building up of the church as the organic Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:31b; 13:4-8a).
- 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;

- Col 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- 1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Eph 5:2 And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.
- 1 Cor 12:31b ... And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.
- 1 Cor 13:4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;
- 1 Cor 13:5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
- 1 Cor 13:6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- 1 Cor 13:7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 1 Cor 13:8a Love never falls away. ...
- B. If we do not have Christ as love, all our speaking is like “sounding brass” and a “clanging cymbal,” which give sounds without life—v. 1.
- 1 Cor 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
- C. The church life is not a police station or a law court but a loving home to raise up spiritual children, a hospital to heal and recover the sick ones, and a school to teach others in love—Matt. 9:12; 2 Cor. 11:29a; John 8:7, 10-11; 1 Cor. 9:22; Luke 15:1-7.
- Matt 9:12 Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.
- 2 Cor 11:29a Who is weak, and I am not weak? ...
- John 8:7 But when they persisted in questioning Him, He stood up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.
- John 8:10 And Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?
- John 8:11 And she said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.
- 1 Cor 9:22 To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak. To all men I have become all things that I might by all means save some.
- Luke 15:1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were drawing near to Him to hear Him.
- Luke 15:2 And both the Pharisees and the scribes murmured among themselves, saying, This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.
- Luke 15:3 And He told them this parable, saying,
- Luke 15:4 Which man of you, who has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?
- Luke 15:5 And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- Luke 15:6 And when he comes into his house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.
- Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.

VIII. When we are reigning in life, we are allowing the indwelling Christ as grace to reign within us “unto eternal life”; this is the consummation of reigning in life—Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:17, 21:

- Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

- 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 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- A. John 4:14b says, “The water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.”
- B. *Into* (*unto* in Romans 5:21) speaks of destination; the eternal life is the destination of the flowing Triune God; *into* also means “to become” or “to be.”
- 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.
- C. By enjoying the flowing Triune God—the Father as the fountain of life, the Son as the spring of life, and the Spirit as the river of life—we are receiving the abundance of grace to become the New Jerusalem as the totality of the life of God, the city of life; thus, the issue and consummation of our reigning in life should be uniquely and ultimately the goal of God’s eternal economy—the New Jerusalem.