
Church in Campbell Weekly News

September 25, 2011

Issue 11- 38

LIFE-STUDY OF THE PSALMS

MESSAGE THREE

CHRIST IN GOD'S ECONOMY

VERSUS THE LAW IN MAN'S APPRECIATION.

We need to see Psalm 1 in the light of the economy of God. This psalm says that those who meditate in the law will be like a tree absorbing the water from the streams, but according to the New Testament revelation this is not very high. Eventually, the New Testament tells us that the river of living water gets into us (John 7:38; 4:14). Do we want to be a tree by the side of a river or do we want to have the river flowing within us? Which is better and which is higher? The thought of a river flowing within us is the ultimate concept of the Bible (Rev. 22:1). To be a tree planted by the river to absorb its supply of water is good, but it is not the best. Paul said that he planted and Apollos watered (1 Cor. 3:6). The thought here is the same as that of a tree absorbing water, but this is not as high as the thought of the river of water of life flowing within us. This is God's ultimate thought.

In my youth I was taught that when we study the Bible, we have to get the secret of the Bible. Later, Brother Nee told us that we have to know the spirit of the Bible. The Bible, the written Word, has a spirit. The Lord Jesus said, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (John 6:63). This shows us that the Word is the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). Not only is the Spirit in the Word, but also the Word itself is the Spirit. Furthermore, John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God." The Word is God, and the Word is the Spirit. Thus, God, the Word, and the Spirit are one.

When we come to the Bible, we should not think that we are coming to an ordinary book. We should not read it as we would a magazine or a newspaper. We have to realize that the Bible is God's Word, and the Word is God's embodiment, Christ. Christ is the Word of God. Also, whatever He as the Word of God utters, whatever is spoken out of His mouth, is the Spirit. Psalm 1 is the Word of God. Paul told us that all Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16a). If we take this position when we read Psalm 1, we will receive the Spirit, we will see the secret, and we will also see the spirit of the Bible.

Does the spirit of the Bible reveal to us the law of Moses, exalting the law given at Mount Sinai? On the mount of

transfiguration, Peter put Moses and Elijah on the same level as Christ (Matt. 17:1-13). When Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, Peter became excited. He said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You are willing, I will make three tents here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah" (v. 4). Then God said, "This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!" (v. 5). In God's New Testament economy, we should no longer hear Moses (the law) or Elijah (the prophets). The Bible does not exalt the law or the prophets. The spirit of the Bible exalts only one person—Christ.

We must understand why Psalms 1 and 2 were sovereignly arranged in this way. Psalm 1 is concerning the keeping of the law. Immediately after Psalm 1, Christ is in Psalm 2 as the exalted One. The spirit of the Bible, from Genesis 1 through Revelation 22, reveals only Christ as the prominent One, as the first One, as God's centrality and universality. Eventually, the Bible concludes with a new city. The new city, the New Jerusalem, will be a complement of Christ and a complement to Christ. The spirit of the Bible does not exalt anything or anyone other than Christ.

Paul, in his fourteen Epistles, fought a battle to put down everything other than Christ. In his Epistle to the Galatians, Paul put down the law, circumcision, tradition, and religion. To him all things other than Christ were refuse (Phil. 3:8). He exalted only Christ.

In Paul's last visit to Jerusalem, he went to the elders, and the leading elder at that time was James. James told him, "You observe, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews who have believed; and all are zealous for the law" (Acts 21:20). James exalted the law. I believe that he exalted the law higher than David did in Psalm 1. James declared that there were thousands of Jewish Christians who were enthusiastic for the law. The Greek word for thousands means myriads or tens of thousands. Tens of thousands of Jewish brothers were all burning for the law. James was concerned that these ones would dispute with Paul, since they had heard that Paul put down the law. History tells us that James was a man of prayer, a pious, godly, and devoted man. In his Epistle he taught the practical virtues of Christian perfection. But we need to see that James, the elders in Jerusalem, and many thousands of Jewish believers were still in a mixture of the Christian faith and the Mosaic law.

Testimonies and Enjoyment

a lifelong enjoyment of the divine goodness and lovingkindness in the house of Jehovah(Psalm 23)

[Psalm 23](#) is a psalm on God's economy, and God's economy has as its goal the church, the house of God! [The last verse in Psalm 23](#) therefore says, *Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of Jehovah for the length of my days.* This shows us that in the fifth stage of experiencing [the pneumatic Christ's organic shepherding](#) we have a lifelong enjoyment of the divine goodness and lovingkindness in the house of Jehovah!

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me...

SURELY – this is an assured fact, nothing can contradict this, and it is forever secured before God! Goodness – the grace of Christ; lovingkindness – the love of the Father; will follow me... – the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. In this one verse we see the entire Triune God as described in Paul's blessing in [2 Cor. 13:14](#) – the grace of the Son, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit – are with us! [The Triune God is reaching us](#) and moving towards us and in us for us to enjoy all His riches!

... will follow me all the days of my life

Have you ever thought what “*will follow me all the days of my life*” means? This means that as long as we the believers in the Lord live, the entire Triune God follows us wherever we go and wherever we are [so that He may impart all His riches into us!](#) We go to work – He is following us with lovingkindness and goodness; we go to school or we are at home – the Triune God as love, grace, and fellowship is following us to be everything to us for our enjoyment!

The disciples went down to Emmaus – the Lord walked with them ([Luke 24](#)); some of them went fishing – the Lord Jesus was there with them and made breakfast for them ([John 21](#)). Sometimes the disciples were put in prison – but the Lord was there with them ([Acts 5](#)) – sometimes He released them while all the time He was their continual enjoyment ([Acts 16:25](#)). Paul was on the ship towards Rome, chained as a prisoner to be judged, but the Lord was with him ([Acts. 27](#)). Paul was in prison, but he enjoyed the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ ([Phil. 1:19](#)).

The Lord is with our spirit ([2 Tim. 4:22](#)), and His name is Emmanuel – God with us ([Matt. 1:23](#)). The Spirit of reality is not just with us but in us – to subjectively teach us and anoint us about all things ([John 14:17](#)). We have an anointing that teaches us all things ([1 John 2:27](#)). And

above all, the entire Triune God works together to be the love-grace-fellowship to us for our enjoyment and experience ([2 Cor. 13:14](#)) and to make His home in our hearts ([Eph. 3:15-19](#)).

The enjoyment of the Triune God ushers us into the house of God – [we enjoy God in His house](#), where we dwell. We dwell in the house of God, which is the church today ([1 Tim. 3:15-16](#)) and the New Jerusalem for eternity ([Rev. 21:2-3](#))! For the length of our days, as long as we shall live, we will dwell in the house of God. God's house is our dwelling place, our home, where we enjoy the Triune God – the Son's grace, the Father's love, and the Spirit's fellowship – with all the saints!

Today we enjoy God in His house, the church – but if we are not in the church, we lose the rich shepherding of Christ! [He is the Shepherd of the flock](#) – therefore, we need to remain in His flock, in His house, the church. Christ as the Shepherd is with His sheep, and if we remain in the church life, we enjoy His rich and abundant shepherding.

From <http://www.agodman.com/blog/a-lifelong-enjoyment-of-the-divine-goodness-and-lovingkindness-in-the-house-of-jehovahpsalm-23/>

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for the new baptized saints to be remaining fruits.
- Pray for the young people to sanctify their time to pursue the Lord with their companions.
- Pray for us to be an fruitful bearing branch.
- Pray for the growth of the feeling of the Body of Christ.
- Pray for spreading to nearby cities
- For daily exercise in GOW training: prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth and attend Lord's day meeting on time.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.

Announcement

- Morning Revival: Psalms Crystallization Study Week 2
- YP Bible reading : Luke chapter. 21.
- Prayer meeting 7:30PM on Tuesday (9/27) at Campbell meeting hall
- 10/1 Video training of Psalms Crystallization Study, 8:30am-12:15pm.