

#3: The All-inclusive, Extensive Christ Having the Preeminence in All Things

(Thanksgiving Conference) 2020/1/27-2/2

Overview: The entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens to match His intention in His economy. Christ is the center of this economy. Under God's heavenly rule, God is using the environment to make Christ the centrality (the first) and the universality (everything) to us (I). For Christ to be the first means that He is all; since Christ is the first both in the universe and in the church, He must be all things in the universe and in the church (II). Christ, **a**) in our personal universe, **b**) in our love, **c**) in our tri-partite being, **d**) in our spiritual experience, **e**) should have the preeminence in our human living. We should do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, which is to act in the Spirit (III-VII).

I. God's intention in His administration is to give Christ the preeminence in all things, to cause Christ to have the first place in everything:

A. The entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens to match His intention in His economy, of which Christ is the center. **Dan. 7:9-10** I watched Until thrones were set, And the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothing was like white snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool; His throne was flames of fire, Its wheels, burning fire. A stream of fire issued forth And came out from before Him. Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him...

B. For Christ to have the preeminence in all things, God needs a people; apart from God's having a people, there is no way for Christ to be made preeminent.

C. Under His heavenly rule God is using the environment to make Christ the centrality (the first) and the universality (everything) to us. **Mon**

II. Christ has the first place, the preeminence, in God's economy:

A. Christ is the preeminent One, the One who has the first place in everything.

B. Christ is preeminent in the triune Godhead; the first, the Father, exalts the Son, and the third, the Spirit, always testifies concerning the Son. **Phil. 2:9** Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.

C. Christ is preeminent in God's exaltation of Him: **Eph. 1:22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church. **1.** Christ has been exalted to the right hand of God in the third heaven. **2.** In God's exaltation of Christ, He has been given to be the Head over all things. **Tue**

D. Both in the old creation and in the new creation, both in the universe and in the church, Christ occupies the first place, the place of preeminence. **Col. 1:15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation, **18** ...the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

E. For Christ to be the first means that He is all; since Christ is the first both in the universe and in the church, He must be all things in the universe and in the church.

III. Christ should have the preeminence in our personal universe:

A. As those who have been chosen by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, we are under His heavenly rule.

B. Christ, the preeminent One, must be the centrality and universality in our church life, family life, and daily life.

C. Under God's heavenly rule everything is working together for our good; this is especially true of the things in our personal universe: **1.** Our personal universe many things happen day by day for the purpose of making Christ preeminent; we need to realize this and be submissive to God's heavenly rule. **2.** In our personal universe many things happen day by day for the purpose of making Christ preeminent; we need to realize this and be submissive to God's heavenly rule.

D. In order to give Christ the preeminence in all things, we must be willing to be adjusted, to be broken, and to be made nothing so that the Lord can have a way in us, through us, and among us for the building up of His organic Body.

E. If we have a vision of the preeminence of Christ, our living and our church life will be revolutionized, for we will realize that in all things Christ must have the first place. **Wed**

IV. Christ should have the preeminence in our love: **Rev. 2:4** But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

A. To give the Lord the first place in all things is to love Him with the first love; we need to maintain and develop our first love toward the Lord.

B. Whatever one loves, his whole heart, even his whole being, is set on and occupied and possessed by.

2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

C. Whether there would be a day of glory in the church's victory or grievous days of the church's decline depends on what kind of love we have.

D. Our love for the Lord must be absolute; we should not love anyone or anything above Him.

E. We love the Lord because He first loved us, infusing His loving essence into us and generating within us the love with which we love Him.

F. We love the Lord according to the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity as love. **Thu**

V. Christ should have the preeminence in our tripartite being: **Col. 1:27** To whom God willed to make known that are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory, **3:4** When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

A. We worship the enthroned Christ in the heavens, but we experience, enjoy, and partake of the indwelling Christ in our spirit; we are one with Him in a very subjective way: **1.** The Christ who indwells us is not a small, limited Christ but the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ. **2.** We need to be infused, saturated, and permeated with the all-inclusive, extensive, preeminent Christ until in our experience He is everything to us.

B. Because Christ is our life, all He has and all He has attained and obtained become subjective to us; universally, Christ is extensive, but in our experience, He is our life, our being.

C. The content and constituent should only be the all-inclusive, extensive Christ.

D. We should allow Christ to fill our entire being and replace every aspect of our natural life with Himself.

VI. Christ should have the preeminence in our spiritual experience.

A. The history of Christ is the experience of the Christian, and the experience of Christ is the history of the Christian: **1.** The history of Christ becomes our experience and our spiritual history. **2.** In the organic union with Christ, whatever Christ passed through has become our history.

B. In Colossians a number of phrases point to our experience of Christ; these expressions give us a complete picture of the proper experience of Christ. **Fr**

VII. Christ should have the preeminence in our human living:

Col. 3:17-21 And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord. Fathers, do not vex your children, that they may not be disheartened. **A.** God desires that Christ be expressed through human life.

B. The living of the believers must be in union with Christ; this means that in our living we need to be one with Him: **1.** We need to be one with the Lord Jesus just as He is one with the Father. **2.** We and Christ should now have one life and one living; the Son's life becomes our life, and our living becomes the Son's living. **3.** The living of the believers in union with Christ results in the expression of Christ in their human living.

C. We should do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus: **1.** The name denotes the person, and the Lord's person is the Spirit. **2.** To do things in the name of the Lord is to act in the Spirit; this is to live Christ and to give Him the preeminence in our human living. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1):By putting mind on the spirit, reject a beast and an Antichrist within and make Christ preeminent

OL1:The entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens to match His intention in His economy, of which Christ is the center.

Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing?

Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

OL2: For Christ to have the preeminence in all things, God needs a people; apart from God's having a people, there is no way for Christ to be made preeminent.

OL3: Under His heavenly rule God is using the environment to make Christ the centrality (the first) and the universality (everything) to us.

The book of Daniel... reveals that it is through their environment that Christ becomes the centrality and universality of God's elect. Through the nations as the environment, in the coming days God will eventually make

Christ the centrality and universality of Israel. The principle is the same with us today. In this present age of mystery, which is not revealed in Daniel, God is using the environment to make Christ the centrality and universality to us.

We are not simple. On the one hand, we, the believers in Christ, are God's elect; on the other hand, we are parts of the old creation.... As God's elect, we need Christ to be wrought into us as our centrality and universality. However, the old creation in us is sometimes a beast [as in Daniel 7] and at other times a Nebuchadnezzar or an Antichrist seeking to defeat, capture, possess, and utilize God's elect. Since we are complicated in this way, we also need to be a Daniel and open our windows toward Jerusalem and pray that Christ will come in to cut off, to terminate, everything in us that is natural and part of the old creation.

As those who have been chosen by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, we are under God's heavenly rule. Concerning this, the principle is the same both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Under God's heavenly rule, everything is working together for our good. This is especially true of the things in our personal universe. Our universe includes ourselves, our families, and the church. In our universe many things happen day by day for the purpose of making Christ preeminent. We need to realize this and be submissive to God's heavenly rule.

Application to young working saints and graduate school students

Please understand that you are so complicated. In your flesh, there is a beast which opposes God and the church life, which is God's economy, a Nebuchadnezzar and an Antichrist which destroy the church life. But in your spirit, there is Christ as a true Daniel. In your soul, there is yourself who's mind is wandering if it should be put to flesh or spirit.

The feeling that comes from your flesh, which opposes Christ and the Church is actually not from you but from Satan, the sin. If you don't realize this you find yourself remaining in the complication and chaos. **Rom. 8:6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

When you put your mind on the flesh, the death of Satan is infused into your mind and the mind will be filled with death. This is so terrifying thing and if you put your mind on the flesh, you will be gradually separated from Christ and the Church. And if you remain in your soul, in another words, if you do not aggressively put your mind, which is the main part of your soul, onto your spirit, you will start wandering about in the soul. Then eventually you will put your mind on the flesh. The life which you put your mind on the spirit and walk according to the spirit is simple and joyful and it is a life which is led by the Lord.

For example, you may have obsession or worries such as "I will be deprived of my role if I don't join drinking with my boss and colleagues at night like my colleagues do. I have no time for prayer meeting nor joining the gospel preaching". This comes from the mind set on the flesh. Please cast all these obsessions and do not worry and simply follow the Lord. **1Pet. 5:7** Casting all your anxiety on

Him because it matters to Him concerning you. **8** Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, Satan who lives in my flesh often threaten me by saying "you become different and will be deprived of your role in your company if you spend time in the church life" and cause me to be unbeliever. I only believe God's word and not Satan's word. Devil Satan, get out! I will thoroughly remove the feeling of death that comes from putting my mind on the flesh. Strengthen my inner man, my regenerated spirit for me to be able to put my mind on the spirit and simply follow the Lord. I make Christ as centrality and universality in my business life. Amen! "

Crucial Point(2): In order to make Christ preeminent in your personal universe, we need to be submissive to heavenly rule and love the Lord with the best love.

OL1: In our personal universe many things happen day by day for the purpose of making Christ preeminent; we need to realize this and be submissive to God's heavenly rule.

OL2: If we have a vision of the preeminence of Christ, our living and our church life will be revolutionized, for we will realize that in all things Christ must have the first place.

OL3: To give the Lord the first place in all things is to love Him with the first love; we need to maintain and develop our first love toward the Lord. We love the Lord because He first loved us, infusing His loving essence into us and generating within us the love with which we love Him.

What was the cause of the desolation of God's house? Apparently it was because the children of Israel were evil and sinful. However, the intrinsic reason for the desolation was that Christ was not exalted by God's people; they did not give Him the preeminence, the first place, in everything. Actually their failure to give Christ the preeminence, their failure to honor and exalt Him, was the cause of their becoming sinful and evil. The principle is the same with us in the church life today. If we do not love Christ with our first love, giving Him the first place in everything that He may have the preeminence among us, the church will become desolate. The desolation of the church as the house of God always issues from the negligence of the experience of Christ.

The way of restoration is the exaltation of Christ. Whenever God's people exalt Christ, there will be restoration and revival.... If a church is somewhat cold and old and desires revival, that church should give Christ the preeminence, recognizing Him as the One who is at the right hand of God.... Whoever calls upon Him as such a One will be restored and revived. In our private life, married life, family life, and church life, Christ needs to be at the right hand of God. If He is exalted in every aspect of our living, there will be restoration everywhere. Exalting Christ is the way for revival, for restoration.

As regenerated people we need to come together in the meetings of the church to exalt Christ by praising, singing, and shouting. Instead of being silent, we should exercise our spiritual birthright to exalt Christ. We should declare, "Lord Jesus, You are at the right hand of God. You have the preeminence in my private life, married life, family life, and church life."

For young people and college students

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation, **16** Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him; **17** And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him; **18** And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things; **19** For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell **20** And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross -- through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens. **21** And you, though once alienated and enemies in your mind because of your evil works, **22** He now has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and without reproach before Him;

In your school, there is a school principal at the top, an assistant principal as the No.2, a year-head teacher as the No.3, and then teachers in charge of each class. Each of them has their roles. However, God's will to you is for you to give Christ the preeminence, and make Christ be everything to you. The school principal is the top of your school, but he is not everything. He does not have his own class. If we read the words in Colossians chapter 1 above, Christ is preeminent in all creations, and preeminent in the new creation produced in the resurrection. Furthermore, Christ accomplished redemption on the cross to bring you back to God while you have been apart from God because of sin. In your school life, learn to give Christ the preeminence. Christ is everything for you, such as wisdom, understanding, concentration, endurance, relationship, cooperativeness, ability to appreciate good points of others, objectiveness, and ability to coordinate people. By pray-reading those words in Colossians, may you be able to know and experience that Christ has the first place in all creations, and all the fullness is dwelling in Him. You can make Christ preeminent by loving Him with the best love.

Prayer: "The will of God is that Christ become preeminent in all creations. In my personal universe, in my school life and family life, Christ must be preeminent. In order to be blessed by spending my school life under the will of God, may I be able to crucify my old concept and opinions and give Christ the first place. Then I can be saved from any kind of degradation. Amen!"

Crucial Point(3): Following the principle of "the big first and then the small", first know the eternal will of God, Next, live according to the will

OL1: Christ should have the preeminence in our human living. **Col. 3:18** (**To wives**) Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** (**To husbands**) Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter against them. **20** (**To Children**) Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord. **21** (**For Parents**) Fathers, do not vex your children, that they may not be disheartened. **22** (**For employees**) Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work from the

soul as to the Lord and not to men, [24](#) Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as recompense. You serve the Lord Christ. [25](#) For he who does unrighteously will receive what he unrighteously did, and there is no respect of persons. [4:1](#) ([To managers](#)) Masters, grant to your slaves that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

If we live in union with Christ, Christ will be expressed through our humanity. Christ is to be expressed in the human life, not in the angelic life. Angels cannot express Christ. The Father has ordained that we, His chosen ones, be the expression of His Son. "Live Thyself, Lord Jesus, through me" should be our prayer.

Many of those in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Catholicism have a low estimate of human life. They do not care for marriage or for the proper family life. They prefer to remain unmarried, and they aspire to live a type of angelic life. But the angelic life cannot express Christ. On the contrary, Christ needs to be expressed in those who are husbands, wives, parents, children, masters, and slaves. In order to express Christ, we need to have a proper and normal human life.

As an elderly person with eight children and more than twenty grandchildren, I can testify that the Lord knows how to choose the best husband or wife for us and what kind of children we should have. He also knows how to break us and make us transparent so that we can express Christ. Through our family life we learn many valuable lessons from the Lord. I believe that the angels are observing to see whether or not we live out Christ in our family life.

No brother or sister in the Lord's recovery should aspire to live like a monk or nun. At the right time, the brothers and sisters should marry and then learn through the experiences of married life to express Christ in their human living.

Application for the new ones

The new ones should train themselves "the big first and then the small." The big first means that you understand God's eternal will first. God's eternal will have nothing to do with things in your daily life, but with the will of God, the intention of God. You need to forget your condition, your situation, your failure, your weakness, to understand God's eternal will, read and pray the Bible about God's will for Christ, which is all-inclusive, extensive, revealed in Colossians chapter 1. If your heart is narrowed and you pray with your life and the future, you will not be able to understand the will, so you need to forget everything, open your heart and use your spirit to pray. May the Spirit of wisdom and revelation concerning the will be given.

Once you understand the will of God about the all-inclusive and expensive Christ in Colossians 1:9-3:11, you will have a daily life united with Christ in 3:12-4:6. At this point, your business life or school life is an area where you experience Christ specifically in human life. This principle of "the big first and then the small" is also an important principle for your working or studying. May the new ones join and experience Christ under the will of God in a life with difficulty, laboring and patience. Then the Lord can bless you greatly because of God's will.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, forget all my condition, situation, weakness and failure. Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation, and know the eternal will of God. And May us be united with the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, and actually experience Christ in human life with difficulty, laboring and patience. Bless my life for the will of God."

Topic of the week: [Testimony of the experience of the great earthquake that struck Kobe 25 years ago and the revival of the church in Kobe](#)

January 17, 2020 was the 25th year since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Before the earthquake, the number in church in Kobe had not reached ten people. In April 1993, we started gathering with three people, but there was no meeting place, so we used two or three rental meeting rooms in a month for the Lord's day's meeting. On January 17, 1995, a big earthquake with a seismic intensity of 7 occurred early in the morning, causing large buildings and highways to collapse, causing a fire and killing approximately 7,000 people.

After that, we (1) thank for being protected by the Lord, (2) strive to preach the gospel to the friends' hearts, which are shaken by the earthquake. (3) From February 1995, right after the earthquake, we rented a studio near Motoyama Station in the morning of the Lord's day and held a Lord's day meeting there for about two and a half years. After about one and a half years from the fall of 1998, I started the meeting at an apartment near Motoyama Station that I bought. In April 2000, the Motoyama meeting hall was built up. The sad experience of the earthquake has shaken my heart violently, shaking off my unbelief and making me move forward positively.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami that occurred on March 11, 2011, was more severe than the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Every time I saw a picture of the tsunami at that time, I recalled the scene of the Great Earthquake that I experienced. The Lord is searching inside me, saying "After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, you may have moved forward, but aren't you still lukewarm?" "About the gospel, isn't it lack of a sense of urgency?" "Did you not fully understand my guidance through environment?" I repented and confessed my sins, shortcomings, and weaknesses. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, the church has been able to have a major breakthrough in the gospel, especially in the gospel for the Japanese. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

[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.

[Col. 1:27](#) To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

[Dan. 4:34](#) And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation; [35](#) And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing?