

#4: Knowing and Experiencing the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ as the Reality of All Positive Things

(Thanksgiving Conference) 2020/2/3-9

Overview: Christ as the daily food and drink, weekly Sabbath, monthly new moon, yearly feast for our joy and enjoyment shows that Christ is the reality of every positive thing. It is implying the universal extensiveness of the all-inclusive Christ. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ, who is full of attractiveness and rich in magnetism, is the essence of the Bible (I). The Old Testament uses human beings, animals, plants, minerals, offerings, and foods to describe Christ. In the New Testament, Christ is the Spirit of reality who makes the untraceable riches of all that He is real to us. The Spirit transfuses and dispenses all these riches into us through the Lord's words (II). The more we enjoy Christ as the Head, the more we become Body-conscious, bring us into resurrection and save us from our natural being, and into the heavenlies. We enjoy the riches of Christ, for the building up of the Body (III).

I. "Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath, which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ. Let no one defraud you by judging you unworthy of your prize": (Mon)

A. As with a man's physical body, the body in 2:17 is the substance, and like the shadow of a man's body, the rituals in the law are the shadow of Christ, who is the substance and reality of the gospel; Colossians unveils such an all-inclusive Christ as the focus of God's economy.

B. Daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly, Christ is the reality of every positive thing, implying the universal extensiveness of the all-inclusive Christ:

1. Daily, Christ is our food and drink for our satisfaction and strengthening. [1 Cor. 10:3](#) And all ate the same spiritual food,

2. Weekly, Christ is our Sabbath for our completion and rest in Him. [Matt. 11:28-29](#) Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **3.** Monthly, Christ is our new moon as a new beginning with light in darkness. **4.** Yearly, Christ is our feast for our joy and enjoyment.

C. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ, who is full of attractiveness and rich in magnetism, is the essence of the Bible.

D. According to the context, "the prize" in Colossians 2:18 is the enjoyment of Christ as the body of the shadows; to be defrauded of our prize is to be defrauded of the subjective enjoyment of Christ.

E. Our need is for the subjective Christ to become our enjoyment to complete the divine revelation within us; if we are short in the experience and enjoyment of Christ, we are also short concerning God's revelation.

F. Whatever we do day by day should remind us of Christ as the reality of that thing; if we follow the practice of taking Christ as the reality of all the material things in our daily life, our daily walk will be revolutionized and transformed, and we will be full of Christ. (Mon/Tue)

G. We need to enjoy Christ by day as the reality of all our necessities: **1.** Christ is our breath. **2.** Christ is our drink. **3.** Christ is our food. **4.** Christ is our light. [John 1:4](#) In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. [8:12](#) Again therefore

Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. **5.** Christ is our clothing. **6.** Christ is our dwelling place. (Wed)

II. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the reality of all the positive things in the universe:

A. Because the universe with the billions of things and persons in it was created for purpose of describing Christ, He, in revealing Himself to His disciples, could easily find in any environment something or someone to serve as an illustration of Himself.

B. The Old Testament uses six major categories of things as types to describe Christ—human beings, animals, plants, minerals, offerings, and foods: **1.** Human beings typify Christ, such as Adam, Melchizedek, Isaac, Jonah, and Solomon. **2.** Animals typify Christ, such as a lamb, a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a gazelle. **3.** Plants typify Christ, such as the vine tree, the apple tree, the fig tree, the pomegranate tree, and the olive tree; the different parts of a tree are also types of Christ, such as the root, the stump, the sprout, the shoot, the branch, and the fruit. **4.** Minerals typify Christ, such as gold, silver, copper, and iron, and different kinds of stone: the living stone, the rock, the cornerstone, the topstone, the foundation stone, and precious stones. **5.** Offerings typify Christ, such as the sin offering, trespass offering, burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, wave offering, heave offering, and drink offering. **6.** Foods typify Christ, such as bread, wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, milk, and honey.

C. In the New Testament, Christ is the Spirit of reality who makes the untraceable riches of all that He is real to us, guiding us into Himself as the divine reality.

D. The elements of the reality of all the types are in the Spirit, and the Spirit transfuses and dispenses all these riches into us through the Lord's words. [John 6:63](#) It is the Spirit who gives life... the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. [Eph. 6:17-18](#) And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God. By means of all prayers and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints, (Thu)

III. The very Christ who is the reality of all positive things is the One who is the Head of the Body; thus, to hold the Head is simply to enjoy Christ as the reality of all positive things: [Col. 2:19](#) And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

A. Since the Christ we enjoy as our everything is the Head of the Body, the more we enjoy Him, the more we become Body-conscious: **1.** This indicates that the enjoyment of Christ is not an individualistic matter but a Body matter. **2.** The more we enjoy Christ, the more we love the other members of the Body. [Col. 1:4](#) Because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have unto all the saints.

B. Because Christ's headship is in resurrection, the enjoyment of Christ spontaneously brings us into resurrection and saves us from our natural being. (Fri)

C. The enjoyment of Christ brings us into the heavenlies in ascension; we can be experientially in the heavens only by

enjoying Christ, the Head, as the life-giving Spirit in our spirit.

Col. 3:1-2 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.

D. As we enjoy Christ and hold Him as the Head, we absorb the riches of the all-inclusive, extensive Christ; these riches become in us the increase of God by which the Body grows for its building up. **Col. 2:7** Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1): By starting every morning with "Oh Lord!", practicing morning revival, and going to work with joy and energy together with the Lord, the work place which is full of requirements can become the good land

OL1: Whatever we do day by day should remind us of Christ as the reality of that thing; if we follow the practice of taking Christ as the reality of all the material things in our daily life, our daily walk will be revolutionized and transformed, and we will be full of Christ.

We may think that we have patience, but real patience is Christ Himself....There is a God, but this God is in Christ....There is man, but this man is in Christ....There is a Son, and this Son is Christ....There is life, but only Christ is the real life....There is light, and this light is Christ Himself. Every morning when we put on our clothes, do we have the sense that Christ is our real covering and our real clothing? When we are preparing to lie down on our bed, do we have the realization that Christ is our true rest, our real bed? When we are on our way home, do we have the feeling that the Lord is our home, our dwelling place? When we are walking upstairs, do we realize that Christ is our real stairs and that apart from Him we can neither go up nor down? When we are going out of a door, do we tell the Lord, "Lord, You are my door, my entrance and my exit"? Do we experience Christ as the reality of all these items? Can we tell the Lord, "Lord, You are my sun, my moon, and my way"? Our goal is not merely to understand the Bible according to the printed black and white letters. Rather, we are coming to the living Word of God to gain the deep sense that Christ is everything and to be brought into this experience. This is what God planned in eternity past, and this is what God is doing today. Although very few of the Lord's children realize this, God's intention is that Christ would be everything to us. Since this is God's intention, we must learn the practical way to experience, contact, and apply Christ.

Application to young working saints and graduate school students

Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Col. 2:17 Which (eating and drinking, the Sabbath, a new moon, a feast) are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

Christ is the reality of all the positive matters in the universe. For instance, Christ is the reality of food, house, family, friends, your good teacher, boss, seniors, honor, wisdom, power, hope and light (cf. hymn 388). There is the reality of all these in Christ. And Christ is the all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit now and when you exercise

your spirit to call upon the name of the Lord and pray-read the word of the Bible, you will touch the life-giving Spirit and enjoy the reality of all in Christ.

As the young working saint, please experience Christ as joy and energy. For you to rejoice in the Lord always, please start your day in the morning by calling "Oh, Lord Jesus!" not "Oh, No!". "Oh, No" includes the negative thought such as "I especially feel fatigue remaining this morning", "I'm suffering such a heavy headache due to the lack of sleep last night" or "I have a meeting today with the boss I don't like". If you start with "Oh, No!" you end up going to work with gloomy feeling, eventually you don't feel going to work, thus your work performance will go down. But if you start with "Oh, Lord", you will be filled with joy and energy. So when you get up in the morning, do not say "Oh, No!" but simply exercise your spirit to call "Oh, Lord Jesus, Oh, Lord Jesus!". This is a good training of your not putting your mind on the flesh when you get up. If you say "Oh, No!" by putting your mind on the flesh, you will be filled with suffering, worries, rant and rave etc. and end up going to work with gloomy face and work reluctantly. Putting your mind on the flesh forces you a life of "going down" and putting your mind on the spirit gives you hope for a life of "going up". **Rom. 8:6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Getting up with "Oh Lord Jesus!", preparing yourself, and participating in the cooperate morning revival, then after all those, please have a time to fellowship with the Lord personally. Then go to your work with a full of joy and energy together with the Lord. Once you reach at the office, you will need concentration, understanding, endurance, language skill such like English, foresight, cooperation, ability to take action, ability to involve others properly, power of breaking through, and so on. Christ is the reality of all the abilities described above. Because of this, the workplace with full of requirements actually can become the good land, the realm to experience all-inclusive Christ.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus! Christ is the reality of every positive things. Every morning I start a day with calling on the Lord's name and setting the mind on the spirit. Through both the cooperate morning revival and the personal morning revival, I gain joy and power. Then my workplace with full of requirements can become the good land for me to experience Christ as the various abilities I need. I praise the Lord! Amen!"

Crucial Point(2): In the school life, listening to the speaking of the speaking Spirit and being led by Him to be sanctified from the world

OL1: In the New Testament, Christ is the Spirit of reality who makes the untraceable riches of all that He is real to us, guiding us into Himself as the divine reality.

OL2: The Spirit transfuses and dispenses all these riches into us through the Lord's words.

God has never promised us a smooth environment that we may sail smoothly from the earth to heaven and from this age all the way into the kingdom age. Human beings will always have problems. However, the difference between Christians and unbelievers is that we Christians

can still rejoice in our afflictions and not be anxious. Actually, it is not that we can rejoice; rather, it is the Spirit in us who rejoices.

We thank the Lord that He has given us the Bible, which is very precious. Its essence and sphere are Christ, and this Christ of whom it speaks eventually became the Spirit.... **Romans 8:16** says, "The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit." This means that the Spirit is in us and speaks together with us. **Revelation 2:7** says, "The Spirit says to the churches." The Spirit is the speaking Spirit. Therefore, the Lord Jesus said, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (**John 6:63**). This indicates that the Lord's words, the Lord's Spirit, and the Lord Himself are one and can never be separated....We should daily exercise our spirit to pray-read the words of the Lord and take in the rich supply from Him, because His words are spirit and are life.

For new believers, young people and college students

For both people believing the Lord and people not believing Him, the life is full of sufferings. Through the sufferings, people may learn something. However, through God's eye, through the view of eternity, unless God's element increases in you, then anything you learned does not have eternal value.

But I praise the Lord. You who have believed in Him, can be transformed through the sufferings and grow up in the Lord. In order to step forward and be transformed through the sufferings, please practice (1) to listen to the Lord's fresh speaking through the morning revival, and (2) to keep listening to the Lord in your school life with sufferings. When you go to school, you face various kinds of sufferings. Then you should pray this way; "O Lord Jesus. In the human life, there are sufferings. But I thank to the Lord that for Christians, the suffering has the glorious goal. I am afraid of not having any transformation after passing through those sufferings. What has the eternal value is only God. I deserve God Himself within me to renew me and transform me. For being transformed, may I exercise my spirit to listen to the Lord's speaking and to keep opening to His speaking. If I do so, the Lord will lead me step by step and at the same time transform me from glory to glory."

Pray-reading the words of God and your school life have an intimate relationship each other. If you can have speaking of the Spirit, then, in any environment, any people, and any event that the Lord prepared, you can solve the problems appropriately in the Lord. **Daniel 10:19** And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.

The Lord has saved you while you are young. Praise the Lord. Please pray-read the following words of Romans chapter 1 and then worship God and exalt Christ. The root causes of any fallen minds that come from the world are not worshipping God and not exalting Christ. If you worship God and exalt Christ by following the speaking Spirit, then you can live a school life sanctified from the world and so you will be led and blessed by the Lord.

Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold down the truth in unrighteousness,...**20** For the

invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse; **21** Because though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or thank Him, but rather became vain in their reasonings, and their heart, lacking understanding, was darkened....**25** Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **26** Therefore God gave them up to passions of dishonor; for their females exchanged the natural use for that which is contrary to nature; **27** And likewise also the males, leaving the natural use of the female, burned in their craving toward one another, males with males committing unseemliness and fully receiving in themselves the retribution of their error which was due. **28** And even as they did not approve of holding God in their full knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mind, to do the things which are not fitting, **29** Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; **30** Whisperers, slanderers, hateful to God, insolent, arrogant, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,...**32** Who, though fully knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but also have fellow delight in those who practice them.

Crucial Point(3): Because Christ is the Head of the Body, the experience of Christ brings us to the building up of the Body

OL1: The very Christ who is the reality of all positive things is the One who is the Head of the Body; thus, to hold the Head is simply to enjoy Christ as the reality of all positive things.

OL2: Since the Christ we enjoy as our everything is the Head of the Body, the more we enjoy Him, the more we become Body-conscious.

OL3: Because Christ's headship is in resurrection, the enjoyment of Christ spontaneously brings us into resurrection and saves us from our natural being.

This shortage of the enjoyment of Christ opens the door for the enemy, Satan, to come in to make us critical of other members of the Body. But if we begin again to enjoy the Lord, the door will gradually close. Eventually, if we are constant in our enjoyment of Christ, the door will be completely shut. Then, instead of criticizing the church, we shall praise the Lord for the church life, and we shall testify how much we love it. What brings about such a change is not admonition or correction, but the recovery of the enjoyment of Christ.

The dear, precious One whom we enjoy as our food, drink, and breath is the Head of the Body. Because Paul had a thorough realization of this, he could leap from Christ as the reality of all positive things for our enjoyment to the matter of Christ as the Head. Since the Christ we enjoy as our everything is the Head of the Body, the more we enjoy Him, the more we become Body-conscious. This indicates that the enjoyment of Christ is not an individualistic matter. It is a Body matter. We need to enjoy Christ as members of the Body in a corporate way.

Application to the serving ones

When Paul revealed in the Book of Colossians that Christ is the preeminence, all-inclusive one, the centrality and the universality in God's economy, he presented them in the following order: After mention of (1) the portion of the saints, (2) the image of God and the Firstborn both in creation and in resurrection, (3) the mystery of God's economy, (4) the mystery of God, (5) the body of all the shadows, 2:19 mentions Christ, the Head. Since this is our portion and the all-inclusive and extensive Christ is the Head, it shows that experience of Christ is for the building of the church.

Even though personal experiences are mentioned in the Bible, it is not for individualism. Your personal fellowship with the Lord, experiences, transformation are for the building up of the church. Your experience of Christ in daily life is not for you ultimately, but for the benefit of the Body. This is why you need to deal with individualism thoroughly as you move forward in the Lord. Under this vision, you pay attention to priorities. While your experience of Christ will help your business life, it is not for business prosperity. It is for the goal of God's economy, the building up of Christ's Body, and the appearance of the one new man. But first, if you are for God, your need for your life will be cared by God.

For you, God's economy is preaching the gospel and nourishment. Please read the testimony of gospel and nourishment from a sister.

A sister's Testimony: I was saved by the gospel on the street in front of Motoyama Station. I did not have the burden of the gospel shortly after being saved, and attended the meeting only at my own convenience. At first, I only attended for the Lord's day meeting. But on Saturday, I wanted to go to the museums, go shopping, or spend some time for myself. After I was promoted from a temporary staff to a full-time employee, I was forced to work overtime, and I could only attend prayer meetings for the last 5 minutes. I began to feel that I have to redeem more time for my church life. I saw one brother, who is also working, attending the praying meeting, preaching the gospel and nourishing. I can't go on like this. I also want to join in preaching the gospel and nourishing. Then I prayed to the Lord and had a feeling inside. Since I was saved by the gospel on the street, I thought I need to have some breakthrough in gospel, which I didn't like. And then I began to go out preaching the gospel with brothers and sisters. After I started preaching the gospel, I became more peaceful than I was spending time on my own. When I was using my time for myself, I wasn't really satisfied. When I preach the gospel and nourish people with brothers and sisters, I strongly felt that I was protected. I resigned from my job at the end of the year, started to work in full-time service, and moved to a meeting hall in Sannomiya in mid-January. Visiting the newcomers near Sannomiya, the burden on gospel and nourishment has been increasing. The enjoyment of Christ has led me to the gospel and nourishment for the building up of the Body.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, the Christ I enjoy is the Head of the Body. The more I enjoy Christ, the more I become Body-conscious. Please deal with my individualism, rescue me from my natural existence and bring forth to resurrection. May the gospel and nourishment be carried out for the building up of the Body. Amen!"

Topic of the week:

Spread of coronavirus infection in Wuhan, China and Preaching the gospel of the church

It is said that the infection in Wuhan is caused by the virus in bats. It is said that bats have transmitted to snakes and snakes to humans.

Lev. 11:13 And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten; they are an abomination: ... 19 ...and the bat.

Leviticus in the Old Testament has rules about food. The dirty birds mentioned in verses 13 to 19 eat corpses instead of eating seeds. These birds (bats, etc.) are dirty and not edible. Even when there was not enough biological knowledge of the virus, such a statement confirms that the Bible is God's Word.

The number of people infected with this coronavirus is about 6,000 in China, and the deaths were 132 in China (until January 29), already exceeding the number of people infected with SARS. We support the Chinese government's strict traffic control to prevent the spread of infection and need to pray for this.

On the other hand, through this we need to reaffirm and reevaluate the gospel truths revealed in the Bible.

(1) Humans are very fragile:

Gen. 4:26 And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah. The name of Enosh, the third generation of human, means "fragile" or "mortal." Humans are easily mentally, or physically damaged. Humans are fragile. But when they realize that they are fragile, they can call on the Lord's name and be saved.

(2) The gospel saves humans from the second death:
Heb. 9:27 And inasmuch as it is reserved for men to die once, and after this comes judgment, With the corruption and sin, human must die once. At that time, the soul and the spirit of the fallen man are separated from the body and perish in Hades, the place of torment. However, this first death is not a final judgement.

Matt. 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.
Rev. 20:14 And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
15 And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

In the second death, the soul and the spirit are reunited with the body in the resurrection and cast into the lake of fire with the body. This means that the whole being of unbelievers, the spirit, soul, and body will perish in the lake of fire, in eternal suffering. Perishing unbelievers are cast into the lake of fire according to the book of life. Without Faith in the Lord Jesus is the only sin that can lead to perish.
Act. 24:5 For we have found this man (Paul) a pest and an agitator of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the inhabited earth and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. We should preach the gospel and spread the good pest of gospel.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, when I see the horrible infections in Wuhan, I fear you, worship you, and praise you. The Bible is truly God's Word. I believed in the gospel and got eternal life. The development of eternal life is the church life. Thank you for the additional burden of carrying out the gospel and nourishment. May the gospel pest spread further in Japan. Amen!"