

#3 The Goodness of the Land—Its Food

(Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy) 2020/3/9-15

Overview: When we enjoy our share of Christ's riches, which is typified by the richness of the good land (the richness of food) God's eyes are upon us continually, and making us the object of His care (I). The purpose of God's calling is to bring us into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, typified by the good land flowing with milk and honey. Milk and honey, which are the mingling of both the animal life and the vegetable life, are two aspects of the life of Christ—the redeeming aspect and the generating aspect (II). The good land is a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees. Wheat typifies the limited Jesus, the One who was incarnated, crucified, and buried. Barley typifies the resurrected Christ. Vines typify the sacrificing Christ, the Christ who sacrificed everything of Himself, and out of His sacrifice He produced new wine to cheer God and man. Fig trees signify the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ as our supply. Pomegranates typify the fullness of life, the abundance and beauty of life, and the expression of the riches of life. Olive trees typify Christ as the one who was filled and anointed with the Spirit (olive oil) (III-VIII).

I. Christ, as the preeminent and all-inclusive One, is the allotted portion of the saints:

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;

A. The allotted portion refers to the lot of the inheritance, as illustrated by the allotment of the good land of canaan given to the children of Israel for their inheritance.

B. The New Testament believers' allotted portion is not a physical land; it is the all-inclusive Christ as the life-giving Spirit: **1.** The riches of the good land typify the unsearchable riches of Christ in different aspects as the bountiful supply to His believers in His Spirit. **2.** By enjoying the riches of the land, the believers in Christ are built up to be Christ's Body as the house of God and the kingdom of God.

C. Because we are practically joined to Christ as the reality of the good land and are enjoying His riches, God's eyes are upon us continually, causing us to enjoy God's presence and making us the object of His care. **Deut. 11:12** It is a land which Jehovah your God cares for; always the eyes of Jehovah your God are upon it, from the beginning of the year even to the end of the year.

II. The purpose of God's calling is to bring God's chosen people into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, typified by the good land flowing with milk and honey:

A. Milk and honey, which are the mingling of both the animal life and the vegetable life, are two aspects of the life of Christ—the redeeming aspect and the generating aspect:

1. The redeeming aspect of Christ's life is for our judicial redemption, and the generating aspect of Christ's life is for our organic salvation. **2.** The symbols of the Lord's table signify the redeeming and generating aspects of Christ's life for God's complete salvation; thus, the good land has become a table, a feast for our enjoyment.

B. By enjoying Christ as the land of milk and honey, we will be constituted with Him as milk and honey—"Your lips drip fresh honey, my bride; / Honey and milk are under your tongue". **Mon**

III. The good land is a land of wheat, typifying the limited Jesus, the One who was incarnated, crucified, and buried:

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

A. In the midst of situations that limit us and press us, we

may experience the Lord as a grain of wheat: **1.** When we contact the Lord in our limiting and restricting circumstances, we will realize that He is the infinite God who became a finite man and that there is power in Him to bear any kind of limitation. **2.** Christ our life is within us as a grain of wheat to live the life of the incarnated One, the limited One; He is our life to make us willing to be limited and to die and be buried. **3.** If we contact the Lord, we will experience Him as a grain of wheat, and in Him we will be content with our situation.

B. Paul considered himself the prisoner of Christ Jesus; apparently, Paul was confined in a physical prison; actually, he was imprisoned in Christ. **Eph. 3:1** For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles— **4:1** I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called.

C. Eventually, every faithful lover of Christ will be imprisoned not only by Christ but in Christ; the more we love Him, the more we will be in Him to such an extent that He becomes our prison where we can enjoy Him to the uttermost. **Tue**

IV. The good land is a land of barley, typifying the resurrected Christ: **A.** Because barley ripens early, it is the firstfruits of the harvest—a type of the resurrected Christ.

Lev. 23:10 Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, When you come into the land which I am giving you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest;

1 Cor. 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

B. As the firstfruits, Christ has become the bread of life; hence, barley loaves signify Christ in resurrection as food to us: **John 6:48** I am the bread of life. **1.** The number five signifies responsibility; this indicates that the resurrected Christ is able to bear responsibility. **John 6:9** There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many? **2.** As we feed on Christ as the barley loaves, we become a loaf of barley to feed others with the Christ whom we have experienced.

C. In order to experience the wheat, the limited Jesus, we need to apply the barley, the unlimited Christ; we follow the limited Jesus in the power of the resurrected Christ.

D. We can do all things in the One who empowers us because He is the resurrected and unlimited Christ. **Wed**

V. The good land is a land of vines, typifying the sacrificing Christ, the Christ who sacrificed everything of Himself, and out of His sacrifice He produced new wine to cheer God and man: **Judg. 9:13** But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees? **Phil. 2:17** But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

A. Christ is the wine-producer, sacrificing Himself to produce wine to cheer God and others; if we contact the Christ typified by the vine and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize us to live a life of sacrifice, producing wine to make God and others happy.

B. In ourselves we are not able to live a life of sacrifice, for our life is a natural life, a selfish life: **1.** If we contact the Lord and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize and strengthen us to sacrifice for God and for others. **2.** The more we experience Christ as the vine with His sacrificing life, the more we will be energized to sacrifice ourselves to make God and others happy: **a.** We will be "drunken" with happiness, realizing that the happiest person is the one who is the most unselfish. **b.** We will bring happiness to those

who contact us, and we will bring cheer to God. **Thu**

VI. The good land is a land of fig trees, signifying the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ as our supply:

Judg. 9:11 But the fig tree said to them, Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to wave over the trees?

A. Paul is a pattern of one who experienced and enjoyed the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ as his supply.

B. Although Paul's desire was to depart and be with Christ, he was willing to remain in the flesh for the sake of the saints' progress and joy of the faith: **Phil. 1:22** But if I am to live in the flesh, if this to me is fruit for my work, then I do not know what I will choose. **1.** Through Paul as a channel, the saints could experience Christ and have the progress and joy of the faith. **2.** Today there is an urgent need for channels of supply; if the saints are to experience Christ, someone must serve as a channel of supply.

C. Paul was a partaker of grace, and he rejoiced in the Lord greatly; he was happy in the Lord, and his happiness did not diminish as time went by.

D. Through the Body Paul received the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ; grace is God in Christ as our enjoyment conveyed to us through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

VII. The good land is a land of pomegranates, typifying the fullness of life, the abundance and beauty of life, and the expression of the riches of life:

A. Pomegranates and golden bells were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church.

B. The church should be full of life in her humanity; this is the significance of pomegranates made of linen.

C. The church has humanity for the expression of the fullness of life and also divinity for the sounding of the golden bells: **1.** The fullness of life is expressed in the church's humanity, but the voice of warning is expressed in the church's divinity (the golden bells). **2.** We first have the expression of the fullness of life and then the sounding of the golden bells, that is, the speaking from the divinity of the church. **3.** The beauty of life expressed in our humanity and the divine sounding from the golden bells are signs of a proper church life.

D. The two hundred pomegranates surrounding the capitals at the top of the pillars in the temple signify the expression of the riches of life: **1.** Those who judge themselves (bronze) and regard themselves as nothing will be able to bear responsibility in full in the midst of an intermixed and complicated situation (nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work) because they live not by themselves but by faith in God (lily work); thus, they express the riches of life two hundredfold (pomegranates). **2.** Out of every one hundred pomegranates, ninety-six were exposed to the open air, and four were covered: **a.** The expression of the riches of life is eternally complete, in the freshness of resurrection, and in the Spirit. **b.** The fact that four of every one hundred pomegranates were hidden indicates that our natural being, our natural life, and our self must be concealed. **c.** When our natural being disappears, we have the ninety-six pomegranates, the rich expression of the life of Christ in the reality of the spiritual air. **Fi**

VIII. The good land is a land of olive trees, typifying Christ as the one who was filled and anointed with the Spirit:

Zech. 4:12 And I answered...and said to him, What are the two olive branches that are by the side of the two golden spouts, which empty the gold from themselves? **14** And he said, These are the two sons of oil, who stand by the Lord of the whole earth. **A.** The olive tree's oil, typifying the Holy

Spirit, is used to honor God and man: **Judg. 9:9** But the olive tree said to them, Shall I leave my fatness, because of which God and men are honored by me, and go to wave over the trees? **1.** We cannot serve the Lord or help others without the Holy Spirit. **2.** In order to serve the Lord and help others, we must be filled with the Spirit; only when we are filled with the Spirit can we honor God and honor others.

B. When we minister Christ to others, supplying them with oil, we are supplying them with God (gold): **1.** We all should be olive trees emptying God from ourselves into others. **2.** In this way oil will be provided to the needy ones by those who are olive trees out of which God is flowing.

C. As Christians, we are olive trees, not in the sense of being separate trees but in the sense of being branches of Christ, the unique olive tree: **1.** Although Christ is the unique olive tree, out from Him many branches, many shoots, have issued forth; these branches, or shoots, are the many olive trees on earth today. **2.** As branches of Christ, the unique live tree, we need to supply others with oil, that is, with the Spirit, so that they may be enlivened for God's unique testimony. **Sat**

Pictures of six major types of food of the good land:



小麦(wheat)



大麦(barley)



葡萄(vine)

Wheat: Primarily a biennial plant, its basic form is to sow seeds in autumn, germinate in spring and harvest in summer.

Barley: sow seeds in autumn, seedling over winter, heading (flowering) and fruiting in spring, harvesting in early summer.



無花果 (fig) 石榴 (pomegranate) オリーブの木 (olive tree)

Crucial Point(1): Practice morning revival every day and participate in the Lord's table every Lord's day in the beginning of the week. This kind of living will establish and strengthen the living of enjoying the rich produce of the good land

Deut. 26:9 And He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

OL1: The purpose of God's calling is to bring God's chosen people into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ, typified by the good land flowing with milk and honey.

OL2: Milk and honey, which are the mingling of both the animal life and the vegetable life, are two aspects of the life of Christ—the redeeming aspect and the generating aspect. The redeeming aspect of Christ's life is for our judicial redemption, and the generating aspect of Christ's life is for our organic salvation.

OL3: The symbols of the Lord's table signify the redeeming and generating aspects of Christ's life for God's complete salvation; thus, the good land has become a table, a feast for our enjoyment.

The good land is a land flowing with milk and honey....Without the flowers we cannot have honey, and without the bees we cannot have honey either. We must have flowers, and we must have bees. These two cooperate; these two lives are mingled together,

and honey is produced.

What about the milk? ...If we do not have the pasture, if we do not have the grass, even though we have the cattle and the flock, we cannot have milk and butter.

When you enjoy Christ as the wheat, the barley, the vine, etc., and at the same time you enjoy Him as the bullock and as the lamb, you will realize that the Lord is so good, that the Lord is so sweet and so rich to you, just as milk and honey. Especially when you are weak in spirit and you come to the Lord to experience and apply Him, you sense that He is the milk and the honey.

You sense the riches and the sweetness of the life of Christ—the goodness of milk and the sweetness of honey. Christ is so good.

Application for the new ones & young people & college students

① The mingling of the animal life and the vegetable life:

The first characteristic of the good land is that it is a land flowing with milk and honey. Milk is the mingling of cows (the animal life) and grass (the vegetable life) and honey is the mingling of bees (the animal life) and flowers (the vegetable life). You should experience the redeeming life of Christ by confessing your sins and experience the producing life of Christ by eating Christ as the bread of life. Then you can experience milk and honey.

② Participate in the Lord's table every Lord's day and morning revival everyday:

New believers and young students, please join the Lord's table meeting in the Lord's day every week. At the bread breaking meeting, the separation of the bread and the cup on the Lord's table shows that the Lord has shed His blood on the cross and accomplished the redemption. And the bread shows the life-giving Spirit which gives life to man. Moreover, as the enjoyment of the rich produce of the good land was toward the building up of the temple, eating of the bread is for the expression of the oneness of the corporate Body of Christ. Thus to have a living of enjoyment of the good land, please participate in the Lord's table in the Lord's day meeting in the first day of the week, the day of resurrection. Participation of the Lord's table in the new beginning of the week and practicing the morning revival in the beginning of the new day are indispensable for the life of enjoying the various food of the good land.

By partaking in the morning revival every day and Lord's table every week, Lord's word will dwell in you and your spirit will be strengthened. And you will experience the cross by the power of resurrection (the experience of wheat and barley) and also experience the wine which pleases God and man, you will become a pleasant person in school and teachers and friends will trust in you.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, uplift my church life into the life of enjoying the rich produce of the good land. Every morning I exercise my spirit and pray read the Word and participate in the Lord's table at Lord's day meeting in the beginning of the week. This divine table has an aspect of Lord's redemption and an aspect of life for the building up of the Body of Christ and the oneness. Praise the Lord. The good land is the land of flowing milk and honey. Every day I experience the mingling of the animal life which shows redemption and the vegetable life which shows production of life."

Crucial Point(2): Experience wheat, Barley, vine, the cross of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, the

sacrificing life of Christ in the business life

OL1: The wheat, typifying the limited Jesus, the One who was incarnated, crucified, and buried. When we contact the Lord in our limiting and restricting circumstances, we will realize that He is the infinite God who became a finite man and that there is power in Him to bear any kind of limitation.

OL2: As we feed on Christ as the barley loaves, we become a loaf of barley to feed others with the Christ whom we have experienced.

OL3: In order to experience the wheat, the limited Jesus, we need to apply the barley, the unlimited Christ; we follow the limited Jesus in the power of the resurrected Christ.

OL4: Christ is the wine-producer, sacrificing Himself to produce wine to cheer God and others;

OL5: If we contact the Christ typified by the vine and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize us to live a life of sacrifice, producing wine to make God and others happy.

When in the midst of that limiting and pressing situation you contact the Lord, He is just as a grain of wheat to you. Immediately upon contacting Him, you can be completely satisfied with your situation and your limitation. That life which is Christ Himself within you is a grain of wheat. It is the life of the little carpenter, the incarnated One, the limited One.

Jesus said to His disciples, "You give them something to eat". The disciples said, "There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many?". The Lord replied, "Bring them here to Me". As long as they are barley loaves, as long as they are something of the resurrected Christ, that is good enough; that will meet the situation, and there will be a surplus....If you will take my word, believe in the resurrected Christ, and apply Him, you will find that the remainder abiding in you is more than that with which you started. This is the barley. Apply the resurrected Christ, the unlimited, inexhaustible One.

Sometimes under the Lord's sovereignty we are put into a certain situation in which we must sacrifice ourselves to make others happy and the Lord happy. When in this situation we come to contact the Lord, it is then that we experience Him as the wine-producing vine; we experience Christ as the One who gives cheer to God and cheer to others.

Application to young working saints/graduate students

To experience the death and resurrection of Christ is the base of the experience of Christ. **① Wheat...limited**

Jesus, crucified Christ: Any business person receives various requirements and limitation from company. Although Lord Jesus was God, He was born as a child of a poor carpenter, living such a limited life, beyond our imagination, yet magnified God and did the will of God in such a living. For example, you might need to perform certain task within due time and at the same time you need to take care of the new ones. If you are married, you also have requirements from wife and children. But never say like this, "I can do one of them, but if all of them altogether it is impossible because of the situation." Please experience humanity of limited Jesus in such a restricted environment. This is the experience of wheat.

② Barley...resurrection of Christ: In a company, you may often find that your boss's demands exceed your abilities. This is an opportunity for you to experience barley, the

infinitely expanding resurrection of Christ.

Witness of brother: During the last six months of a two-year full-time training in Taiwan, I was required to read about 6 messages each morning of the Life Study of Philipp in Chinese and then make a message for 10 minutes after covering a chapter. I had never read a Life Study or a spiritual book in Chinese before, so I told my co-workers, "I can't." But he strictly instructed me to do it. I felt poured by cold water and was stunned. I thought, "Maybe I can't graduate." But the next day, I worked on that desperately. Surprisingly, I finished reading 6 messages in the morning and was able to understand them. There was a power of resurrection in the spirit of Jesus Christ, which allowed me to do things I could not do.

③ Vine...the sacrificing life of Christ: The more we experience Christ as a vine with his sacrificing life, the more we are empowered to sacrifice ourselves and make God and man happy. Such a person is a person who has been completely saved from individualism and can be useful to the company because he can put his own interests aside and purely consider the interests of the company. **Prayer:** "O Lord Jesus, you are infinite God, but you had become a finite man. You have the power to be subject to any kind of restrictions. In many cases I can't meet the need and can't face the situation. But I praise you. You can. I trust you completely and I will move forward by relying on you completely. Further I will move forward and touch Christ's sacrificing life, live in a sacrificing life, and make God and man happy. Amen!"

Crucial Point(3): Experienced the sweetness of Christ's supply, and become channels of supply to others (the experience of fig trees). The church expresses the fullness of life in the humanity (the experience of Pomegranates). Be filled with the Spirit to serve, bless and honor others. (the experience of the olive tree).

OL1: Paul is a pattern of one who experienced and enjoyed the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ (fig trees) as his supply.

OL2: Today there is an urgent need for channels of supply; if the saints are to experience Christ, someone must serve as a channel of supply.

OL3: Pomegranates (The fullness of life in the humanity) and golden bells (the speaking of warning in the divinity) were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church. The church has humanity for the expression of the fullness of life and also divinity for the sounding of the golden bells.

OL4: The olive tree's oil, typifying the Holy Spirit, is used to honor God and man. We cannot serve the Lord or help others without the Holy Spirit. In order to serve the Lord and help others, we must be filled with the Spirit; only when we are filled with the Spirit can we honor God and honor others.

Judges 9:11 tells us that the fig tree represents sweetness and good fruit. It speaks of the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ as our supply. The sweetness and satisfaction of the Lord is our supply.

In the Body life there is the urgent need of certain ones to function as channels of supply. We need members like Paul. When such members die, the transfusion of Christ is in a very real sense interrupted. But as long as such ones are with us, the transfusion continues unabated, and we can boast in them in Christ. The leading ones in all the local churches should be such channels, such means of supply.

We come now to...the pomegranates. What do they represent? ... When you see a ripe pomegranate, you immediately realize the abundance and the beauty of life. When you enjoy and experience Christ as the wheat, as the barley, as the vine, and as the fig tree, the beauty of Christ is around you, and the abundance of the life of Christ is with you. This is the experience of Christ as the pomegranate.

We are told in Judges 9:9 that [the oil of the olive tree] it is used to honor God and honor man. If we would honor God or man, we must do it by the olive oil. This simply means that if we would serve the Lord, if we would help others, we must do it by the Holy Spirit.

Do you realize that whenever you go to contact a brother or a sister, you are going to honor him? By what will you honor him? —by yourself, by your natural life, by your old man, by your worldly knowledge? You can honor him only by the Holy Spirit. But you have to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Deu. 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil...

Application for the serving ones

① Fig trees...the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ's supply: There is a need for channels of supply in local churches. As a minister, please experience Christ as fig trees and take part in the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ's supply. You should be filled with the sweetness of Christ and be the channels of supply.

② Pomegranates...the expression of the fullness of life in the humanity: Pomegranate is the expression of the fullness of life in the humanity of the church. When the fullness of life is expressed in the church, the voice of warning is expressed in the church's divinity (the golden bells). In the age of the church, humans have problems with the flesh where Satan's sin lives (jealousy, competitiveness, being proud, etc.) and problems with wandering fallen souls (unbelief, muttering, languishing, etc.). Therefore, no matter how advanced in the Lord, you still need to be warned.

③ Olive tree...a man filled with the Holy Spirit: The ministers are filled with the Holy Spirit and go out from the realm of Japanese culture and serve, help, honor and bless others in a divine and mysterious realm. This is the true minister with building. For example, you will be in charge of the bird's eye view or closing fellowship of the Lord's day meeting. You need to be prepared, but no matter how much you prepare, unless you are filled with the Holy Spirit to speak, you will not be able to anoint, honor, and bless others through speaking. Though you are not good at speaking, if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you can supply others.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, let me be satisfied with your sweetness and let the new ones become your channels of supply. Also, let us express the fullness of life in our practical human living. At the same time, I listen to the divine speaking of warning in the church life. I must always be warned because I have problems with the flesh and the fallen soul. I repent and confess my sins, faults and weaknesses before you. Fill me with the Spirit. May I serve, help, honor and bless others with Olive Oil, the Holy Spirit! Amen!"