

Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life

#1 Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life for the Accomplishing of God's Eternal Economy 8/1-7 Bird's-eye view

I In Genesis 2 we see two choices before man—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil: Gen. 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden...; and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A The two trees show that in the universe there are two wills, two sources, and two possibilities for man to choose with his free will.

B The tree of life signifies Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, as life to man in the form of food for man to enjoy Him and be constituted with Him for His glory, His corporate expression, thus accomplishing God's original intention according to His eternal economy: **1** The tree of life, the tree of God, the God-tree, is the center of the universe. **2** The Old Testament begins with the tree of life, and the New Testament ends with the tree of life; thus, the thought of God being man's life runs through the entire divine revelation. **3** God's placing man in front of the tree of life indicates that God wanted man to receive Him as his life by eating Him organically and assimilating Him metabolically, so that God might become the very constituent of man's being.

Inspired point

C The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as the source of death to man: Heb. 2:14 ...the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil, 1 It also signifies all things apart from God, for anything that is not God Himself, including good things and even scriptural things and religious things, can be utilized by Satan, the subtle one, to bring death to man. **2** Good and evil are not signified by two trees but by one tree, the second tree; thus, seeking good other than God

belongs to Satan. **3** The genuine good is God Himself; hence, gaining God equals gaining the genuine good.

Inspired point

D The tree of life causes man to be dependent on God, but the tree of knowledge causes man to rebel against God and be independent from Him: John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. 1 Eating indicates dependence; that God is our food, signified by the tree of life, means that we must depend on God continually. **2** The tree of knowledge indicates independence; in the eyes of God, man's first sin and the greatest sin is independence.

E The two trees issue in two lines, two ways—the way of life and the way of death—that run through the entire Bible and end in the book of Revelation: Gen. 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man... 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. 1 Death begins with the tree of knowledge and ends with the lake of fire. **2** Life begins with the tree of life and ends with the New Jerusalem, the city of the water of life.

Inspired point

I We must stay on the way of life, the line of life, in the maintenance of life by enjoying Christ as the tree of life for God's building in life by our growth in life: John 10:10 ...I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly. 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. 2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life,

A We stay on the way of life by living and serving according to the principle of life, not according to the principle of right and wrong: **1** We must live and act according to the inner sense of life in our spirit, the leading of life, not according to right and wrong. **2** The standard for Christian living is the presence of the indwelling Christ within us; it is not a question of

what is right or wrong but of whether or not the divine life within us agrees with something.

Inspired point

B We stay on the way of life by loving the Lord to the uttermost, drawing others to run after Him: **1** To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must tell Him all the time, "Lord Jesus, I love You"; if we have a burning love toward the Lord Jesus, giving Him the first place in all things, we will enjoy all that He is. **2** To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must betroth people to Him, bringing them into the genuine appreciation, love, and enjoyment of the precious person of the Lord Jesus. 2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

C We stay on the way of life by eating Jesus through pray-reading the Word, musing on the word, and ministering the word as the Spirit into others by the exercise of our spirit of faith: **1** We must enjoy Him in the Word early in the morning to have a new start of each day, and we must receive His word with much and careful consideration. Psa. 119:147 I anticipated the dawn and cried out; /I hoped in Your words. 148 My eyes anticipated the night watches, /That I might muse upon Your word. **2** We must speak Christ to all kinds of people daily in season and out of season and desperately endeavor to build up a habit of speaking in any meeting.

Inspired point

D We stay on the way of life by enjoying the Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life with its divine capacity: **1** In the garden of Eden with the two trees, we see life, good, and evil; we are a miniature garden of Eden with the law of the Spirit of life in our spirit, the law of good in our natural, independent mind, and the law of evil in our flesh. Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. **2** We must "switch on" the law of the Spirit of life by walking according to the spirit and setting our mind on the spirit for the

dispensing of the Triune God as life into our tripartite being. Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

E We stay on the way of life by living in resurrection, in the reality of the church as the Body of Christ, signified by the golden lampstand as a tree of resurrection life; this is so that we may bear the glory of God for God's expression as the city of life, the New Jerusalem.

III The unique way for us to be overcomers is by eating and enjoying Christ as the tree of life so that we can be transformed in life to become the man-child for the display of Christ's victory and for us to become the bride for Christ's satisfaction. Rev. 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Inspired point

CP1 If we act according to the knowledge of good and evil, death is brought in. If we act according to life, we receive life

IC The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as the source of death to man: Heb. 2:14 ...The children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil. **1** It also signifies all things apart from God, for anything that is not God Himself, including good things and even scriptural things and religious things, can be utilized by Satan, the subtle one, to bring death to man. **2** Good and evil are not signified by two trees but by one tree, the second tree; thus, seeking good other than God belongs to Satan. **3** The genuine good is God Himself; hence, gaining God equals gaining the genuine good.

God is very frank and always comes to the front. Satan, however, is subtle, always staying at the rear. If Satan wants to trouble you, he will not do it openly and frankly. He will do it subtly, acting through your wife or through a part of the world, such as a department store. Sometimes, Satan even utilizes the Bible, operating through the

letters of the Scripture to harass you. Remember how the Jewish religionists, the Pharisees and the scribes, used the Bible to condemn the Lord Jesus to death. Because Satan is subtle, the tree of knowledge does not signify him directly. It signifies everything apart from God, including good things, scriptural things, and religious things. Regardless of whether a thing is good or evil, as long as it is not God Himself, it can be utilized by Satan.

The things apart from God fall into three categories: knowledge, good, and evil. Suppose you have the intention of doing a certain good thing. Deep in your spirit, however, you have the sense not to touch it and not to do it... Do not employ the principle of good and bad, but cooperate with the principle of life. If you do not have peace within, it means that the Spirit of life does not agree with what you intend to do. You need to cooperate with Him. If you do, you will receive life. Have you not had this kind of experience repeatedly in the past? Whenever you acted according to the good, you were killed. You experienced death. However, when you acted according to the inner life, you received more life.

Application to business person, graduate students

Testimony When I was in my 20s, I visited the churches in Taiwan and California, USA (these churches were led directly by Brother Lee). Compared to Japan, I was overwhelmed by the ① release of the spirit, ② the richness of the enjoyment of Christ, ③ the fullness of the corporate expression, and ④ the number of people at the meetings. I was disappointed with the current situation in Japan, where the size of the churches is small, and as I was fellowshiping with the Lord, He showed me the vision of the new man in Colossians 3:9-11. [Col.3:9](#) Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his practices [10](#) And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, [11](#) Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

The church is one new man, and in the new man there are no Americans, Chinese, or Japanese. In other words, there must be saved Americans, saved Chinese, and saved Japanese. The new man is not

complete unless the Japanese are saved. Therefore, I was very encouraged and convinced that the Lord must surely build the churches in Japan.

At the same time, the Lord showed me that unless I take off the old Japanese man, I cannot put on the new man. I found out that Satan uses the cultural goodness of the Japanese, such as "don't bother others", "don't force yourself on others", and "the policy of equality, the belief that everyone must be equal" to distract us from the enjoyment of the tree of life. These goodnesses discourage us Japanese from "releasing our spirits in the meetings", "prevent us from speaking the gospel boldly", and "hinder the coming forth of the gifts". This kind of cultural goodness is a major factor hindering the building of the church and is revealed in the heart of the Bible, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. These are not of the tree of life, but belong to the tree of knowledge of good and evil. I realized that for a long time after I was saved, by living by good, I was eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and was dying. And I have become more careful to exercise my spirit.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represents Satan, the source of death. Anything that is not God Himself, whether good, biblical or religious, can be used by Satan, the subtle one, to bring death to man. Especially in Japan, cultural goodness is a major factor that hinders the building of the church. Let me have keen sense so that I can follow the principle of life instead of the principle of good and evil.

CP2 If we have a burning love toward the Lord Jesus, giving Him the first place in all things, we will enjoy all that He is

II We must stay on the way of life, the line of life, in the maintenance of life by enjoying Christ as the tree of life for God's building in life by our growth in life: **A** We stay on the way of life by living and serving according to the principle of life, not according to the principle of right and wrong. **B** We stay on the way of life by loving the Lord to the uttermost, drawing others to run after Him. Song of Songs 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you -- The king has brought me into his chambers – We will be glad and rejoice in you; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

1 To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must tell Him all the time, "Lord Jesus, I love You"; if we have a burning love toward the Lord Jesus, giving Him the first place in all things, we will enjoy all that He is. **2** To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must betroth people to Him, bringing them into the genuine appreciation, love, and enjoyment of the precious person of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus is not a doctrine; He is not a set of gifts or a power; He is a person who needs our love, our appreciation, and our affection. How we need the sweet affection and love toward the Lord Jesus!

We may talk about Christ being our life, but if we do not have the real love toward Him, He is only life to us in doctrine...If we would enjoy Jesus as life, we must love Him. As long as we love Him, even if we do not know the term life, we will enjoy life. We will not know a doctrine, but we will enjoy Jesus, a living person, as our very life.

We may have many teachings with all the gifts and power, and yet we would not take the personality of Christ. The Lord Jesus... needs someone like Peter to love Him, someone to tell Him, "O Lord Jesus, I love You! I follow You. I take You as my person. I take Your personality as my personality. I take Your will as my will. I take Your desire as my desire. I do not care for teachings, gifts, and power. I just care for You. I love You, and I follow You, taking You as my person."

Application to young people, college students, new ones

Testimony 1 I am currently serving in the Rokko district. Since the Shinjo family came to the student center to serve in Rokko, many 6 kinds of new ones have been brought in. Serving with Sister Kaika Shinjo enlightened me that I was individualistic, lacking the love for the Lord, and indifferent to others. Sister Kaika follows the line of the Tree of Life in caring and visiting people. As a result, the remaining fruit is produced and many people are able to function in the Body. I would like to learn the life of the Gospel and shepherding from the coordination with Sister Kaika and serve according to the line of the Tree of Life.

Testimony 2 I enjoyed the Lord very freshly when I came to the church life. I participated in morning revival, various meetings, blending, and had fun doing whatever I did with the brothers and sisters. I was encouraged to always say to the Lord, "Lord, I love You." I simply did as I was told. The more I said, "Lord Jesus, I love You!" the more my love for the Lord increased and burned within, and I spontaneously began to pray prayers of consecration to Him. I was also touched by God's will and began to preach the gospel. In coordination with brothers and sisters, I began to preach the gospel and carry out shepherding. Bringing God to man and bringing man to God build the church. Thank the Lord.

Testimony 3 At the National Conference, Brother Ed Marks frequently encouraged us to say, "Lord Jesus, I love You." He loves the Lord so much that when I heard him speak, I felt a desire to love the Lord from within. I called out many times in a small voice at work, "Lord Jesus, I love You." Then I was touched and refreshed by the Lord's life inwardly, and I was able to concentrate on my work. Hallelujah, Christ is my life and my life supply.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, I need to enjoy Christ as the tree of life, stay in the line of life, and grow in life for God's building in life. Always tell the Lord, "Lord Jesus, I love You," and have a burning love for this person, the Lord Jesus, with a true appreciation for His precious person, and enjoy the Lord. Lord Jesus, increase my love for You.