

#6 Being Found in Christ, Knowing Christ, and Pursuing Christ

(The Memorial Conference) 2019/8/5-11

I. Paul's desire was to be found in Christ, not having his own righteousness but "that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith":

Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ. **9** And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

A. Deep within Paul was the aspiration to have his whole being immersed in and saturated with Christ so that all who observed him might find him fully in Christ; we also should have the earnest desire to be found in Christ. **Mon**

B. Paul wanted to be found in Christ in the condition of not having his own righteousness but the righteousness of God, taking Christ as his subjective, lived-out righteousness:

Phil. 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

1. There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers: **a.** The first aspect is Christ being the believers' righteousness for them to be justified by God objectively. **b.** The second aspect is Christ being the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified subjectively.

2. The subjective righteousness of God in Philippians 3:9 is actually God Himself becoming our daily living, a living that is right with God and man: **a.** Paul did not want to live in his own righteousness, the righteousness that comes from man's own effort to keep the law. **b.** Paul desired to live in the righteousness of God and to be found in the condition of expressing God by living Christ; if we would be found in Christ, we must be in such a condition.

C. Faith is the basis, the condition, on which we receive and possess the righteousness that is out of God, which is Christ.

1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God; both righteousness and sanctification and redemption, **Tue**

II. Paul lived in a condition of having not his own righteousness but the righteousness that is out of God in order to know (experience) Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, to be conformed to His death, and to attain to the out-righteousness:

A. To have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ is by revelation, but to know Christ is by experience—to have an experiential knowledge of Him:

Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ. **10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

1. To experience Christ is to know and enjoy Christ in an experiential way. **2.** To know Christ is not merely to have the knowledge of Him but to gain His person.

3. To gain Christ is to experience, enjoy, and take possession of all His unsearchable riches by paying a price. **4.** We need to know Christ by experiencing Him, enjoying Him, being one with Him, and having Him live within us; in this way we know

Him by both revelation and experience. **Wed**

B. Paul aspired to know the power of Christ's resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings: **Phil. 3:10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **1.** The power of Christ's resurrection is His resurrection life, which raised Him from the dead: **Eph. 1:18** The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

a. The Spirit is the reality of Christ's resurrection and its power. **b.** The Spirit compounded with Christ's resurrection and its power indwells our spirit to dispense Christ's resurrection and its power into our entire being. **c.** If we put ourselves aside and remain under the death of the cross, we will experience the power of Christ's resurrection, and spontaneously, the power of resurrection experienced by us will build up the Body.

2. The expression *the fellowship of His sufferings* in **Philippians 3:10** refers to the participation in Christ's sufferings, a necessary condition for the experience of the power of His resurrection: **a.** We first experience the power of Christ's resurrection, and then by this power we are enabled to participate in His sufferings. **b.** These sufferings are mainly for Christ's Body, the church. **Thu**

C. **Philippians 3:10** also speaks of "being conformed to His death"; this indicates that Paul desired to take Christ's death as the mold of his life: **Phil. 3:10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **1.** Being conformed to Christ's death is the base of the experience of Christ. **2.** The mold of Christ's death refers to Christ's continually putting to death His natural life so that He might live by the life of God. **3.** By being conformed to Christ's death, we experience Christ in His death for the release, impartation, and multiplication of life, and we also glorify the Father. **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. **Fri**

D. The result of being conformed to Christ's death is that we attain to the out-resurrection from the dead, which will be a prize to the overcomers: **Phil. 3:10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11** If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead. **1.** To attain to, to arrive at, the out-resurrection means that our entire being is gradually and continually resurrected. **2.** The out-resurrection is a resurrection out of the old creation into the new creation.

III. Like Paul, we should pursue Christ Himself and "pursue toward the goal for the prize": **Phil. 3:14** I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward. **A.** In order to pursue Christ, we should not think that we have attained, and we should forget the things which are behind and stretch "forward to the things which are before".

B. The goal toward which we are pursuing is the full enjoyment and gaining of Christ, and the prize is the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom as a reward to the victorious runners of the New Testament race. **Sat**

Crucial Points(1): To be found as a person in Christ

OL1: Paul's desire was to be found in Christ, not having his own righteousness but "that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith."

OL2: Deep within Paul was the aspiration to have his whole being immersed in and saturated with Christ so that all who observed him might find him fully in Christ; we also should have the earnest desire to be found in Christ. **OL3:** There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers: The first aspect is Christ being the believers' righteousness for them to be justified by God objectively. The second aspect is Christ being the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified subjectively. **Phil. 3:9** And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

It is one thing to have a doctrinal understanding of being found in Christ; it is quite another thing to be found in Christ in our daily living. If I were to visit you in your home, where would I find you? Would I find you in your good behavior or in Christ? Where we are when others observe us indicates the realm in which we live. If we live in our culture, we shall be found by others in culture. If we live in our good behavior, we shall be discovered by others in our behavior. In whatever realm we live, that is where we shall be seen, observed, and discovered by others. When Paul was still living by the law, he was found in the law. But one day he began to have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. He saw the vision that Christ must be his everything: love, kindness, humility, wisdom, patience, intention, attitude, and even his words, utterances, and expressions. On account of this excellency of the knowledge of Christ, he was willing to count all things to be loss. Furthermore, he suffered the loss of all things and counted them refuse in order to gain Christ and be found in Him.

Application to the Serving ones

As a servant of the church, please go out for the gospel and shepherding every week. When you go out and contact with six kinds of newcomers, what do you expect yourself to be seen? Some people expect to be seen as a good person in Japanese culture. Another wants to be seen as a wise person. Some sisters expect to be seen as well-trained and refined ladies, and some brothers expect to be seen as people with high ability. However, Paul expected that he could be seen as "a person in Christ." Paul is your model. The famous US company GE is said to be one of the best companies in the 20th century. Executives at this company have dress codes even on holidays and are required to maintain certain standards. That's because we expect executives in this company to be seen as better than ordinary people.

Now you are a servant of Christ Jesus. The most important point in God's economy is to enjoy Christ's dispensing and to express Christ greatly both individually and corporately. The basic lines of God's economy are the dispensing of God and the expression of God. **In Philippians, "through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, (1:19)" "For it is God who operates in you (2:13)," "among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, Holding forth the word of life, (2:15~16)"** are all for the dispensing and expression of God. As a servant, you should be able to change your values through renewal of mind.

What is found in Christ is to express Christ greatly, and to bring Christ out of you as righteousness. Righteousness is normal and correct. You must bring out Christ who is completely righteous in people, things and things.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I want to be a true servant of Christ Jesus. Such servants are found in Christ for the building of the Body of Christ, and they dispense Christ to others. I still have cultural and personal values that are not compatible with God's economy. Please renew my mind and change my values. In life and service, I want to be found as "people in Christ." Amen!"

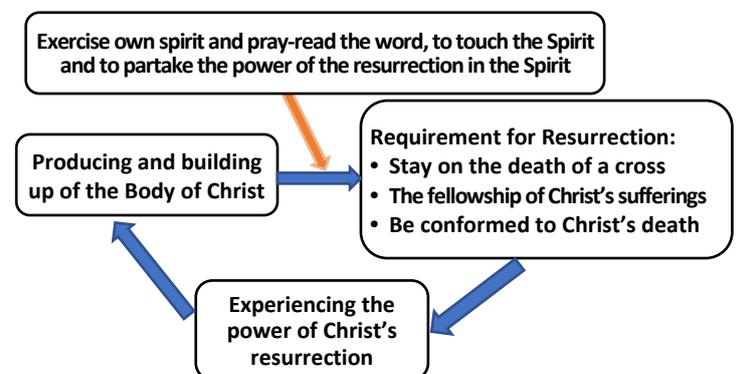
Crucial Points(2): Entering into the cycle of cross, resurrection, and Body, by the power of resurrection

Phil.3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

FN "the fellowship of His sufferings": With Christ, the sufferings and death came first, followed by the resurrection; with us, the power of His resurrection comes first, followed by the participation in His sufferings and conformity to His death. We first receive the power of His resurrection; then by this power we are enabled to participate in His sufferings and live a crucified life in conformity to His death. Such sufferings are mainly for producing and building up the Body of Christ.

OL1: If we put ourselves aside and remain under the death of the cross, we will experience the power of Christ's resurrection, and spontaneously, the power of resurrection experienced by us will build up the Body. **OL2:** We first experience the power of Christ's resurrection, and then by this power we are enabled to participate in His sufferings. These sufferings are mainly for Christ's Body, the church.

Enter into the cycle of cross, resurrection and Body by the power of resurrection



Being conformed to Christ's death is the very base of the experience of Christ. If we are not conformed to the death of Christ, we do not have the base for the experience of Christ. In order to experience Christ, we must be conformed to His death. But to be conformed to the death of Christ, we must have the fellowship of His sufferings. By participating in Christ's sufferings, we are ushered into a position to experience the power of His resurrection. Then, when we experience the power of Christ's resurrection, we know Him.

If unbelievers set themselves aside, nothing will remain, for they do not have the Spirit as the remainder in them. We are different. If we put ourselves aside, we have the Spirit as the remainder within us. What is set aside is the self, and what remains is the Spirit. If a brother will set himself aside when his wife is arguing with him, the Spirit will come out. This is the power of resurrection. We need to do only one thing—always put ourselves aside. To do this is to put the self under death and to keep it on the cross.

When we do this, we live a crucified life and have a base for the power of resurrection to be manifested.

Although it is wonderful to enjoy the power of Christ's resurrection, the power of resurrection is not mainly for our enjoyment. In God's economy there is no selfish enjoyment. The power of Christ's resurrection is for the producing and the building up of the Body. If we put ourselves aside and remain under the death of the cross, we will enjoy the power of resurrection. Immediately, the power of resurrection will produce the Body. This goal of producing and building up the Body stirs up opposition. Satan knows of this goal, and he stirs up opposition against it.... When the opposition comes, we suffer. In this way we enter into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings.... According to Colossians 1:24, these sufferings are for the Body.

Application to the young working saints and graduate students

In the Philippians, the book about experience and enjoyment of Christ, you can see a cycle of cross→ resurrection→ the Body. In order to experience the cross in this cycle, you need to touch the power of resurrection in the Spirit. While you are exercising spirit to pray-read and pray with your partner, or while you are enjoying a hymnal personally or corporately, you are participating in the power of resurrection in the Spirit. By this resurrection power, the believers can stay under the cross. For Christ, a cross comes first and then there was the resurrection. However according to your experience, you experience cross by the power of resurrection. Because the cross is a requirement for the resurrection, the more you experience the cross, the more you can experience the power of resurrection.

As an example, you are now in trouble because you have a difficult relationship with others in your office. If you are practicing in the morning revival regularly to participate in the power of resurrection in the Spirit, then you are able to stay on the cross in such difficult situation. But if you are not practicing the morning revival every morning, you do not have a power to stay on the cross even if you know you should stay on the cross. Moreover, because you move according to the flesh, the situation will get worse. However, if you experience the cross in such difficult situation, you also experience the resurrection. Then people around you see you have a stress tolerance, and you can gain a reputation from your boss and the Human Resources department.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I love the cross because of your mighty power of resurrection. Life arise from death alone (Hymn 464). The cross, the power of resurrection and building up of the Body are the circulating cycle. In order to enter into this cycle, I practice the morning revival every morning and touch the Spirit to participate in the power of resurrection in the Spirit. If I do not do so, I have no power to enter into this cycle. There are sufferings in my office, but let me experience the cross and the resurrection to break through the situation. This experience is first for building up of the Body of Christ, and second for my business life. Amen!"

Crucial Points(3): Not accounting of ourselves to have laid hold, but forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before and pursue Christ

OL1: The result of being conformed to Christ's death is that we attain to the out-resurrection from the dead, which will be a prize to the overcomers.

OL2: The goal toward which we are pursuing is the full

enjoyment and gaining of Christ, and the prize is the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom as a reward to the victorious runners of the New Testament race. [Phil. 3:11](#) If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead...[13](#) Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, [14](#) I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Paul was pursuing toward the goal for the prize. Christ is both the goal and the prize. The goal is the fullest enjoyment and gain of Christ, and the prize is the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom as a reward to the victorious runners of the New Testament race. In order to reach the goal for the prize, Paul was exercised to forget the things which are behind and to stretch forward to the things which are before. In order to have the extra portion of resurrection, ...called the outresurrection, we must pursue, run the race, and finish our course triumphantly.

Like Paul, we have been regenerated, but we are not yet perfected, or matured, in life. At the time of our conversion, we were gained by Christ so that we may gain Him. Now as those who have not yet obtained and who have not yet been perfected, we are pursuing Christ. The first aspect of the way to pursue Christ is that we do not consider ourselves to have gained. The second aspect is that we forget the things which are behind and stretch forward to the things which are before.

The out-resurrection can be illustrated by the experience of a few members of a high school graduating class. At the time of graduation, a few outstanding students will enjoy an extra portion.... In like manner, all believers who die before the Lord comes back will be resurrected, but some will enjoy an extraordinary resurrection, an outstanding resurrection....The Greek word for pursue can also be translated "persecute." Before Paul was saved, he was persecuting Christ in a negative way. After he was saved, he pursued Christ to such an extent we may even say he persecuted Christ, but in a very positive way.

Application to young people and college students

You should to pursue Christ from your youth. The Greek word translated as "pursue" includes the meaning of "persecute." Please press and persecute Christ in a positive sense. The way to pursue is, first not to think you have laid hold, and second to forget the things which are behind and stretch forward to things before. In order to forget your past success and experience the present Christ, you need to continue to open to the Lord, so that you can step forward without stopping.

There is a Japanese idiom, "Anything flowered will die down, and anything prosperous will be declined", expressing the short life of the human world repeating prospering and declining. The cause of such prospering and declining is that they stayed in their past successful experiences. If you keep holding your past successful experience, even the times are changing, your past success will become a cause to your present failure.

One of reasons of a Japanese company SHARP's great leap was their liquid-crystal technology. However, their over-investing in this world's highest technology for manufacturing liquid-crystal became a cause for their failure later. It is because Taiwan, Korea, China and other countries

started to produce the products which are not highest in technology but are good products with low price, and then people did not buy the SHARP products that are the highest in technology but too expensive. The balance of cost and effectiveness of their products become worse.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I want to attain to the out-resurrection to be an overcomer. So I see importance of not staying on my past successful experiences, but diving into the present flow of the Holy Spirit and stretching forward to keep pursuing Christ. Lord, please give mercy on me, and save me from closing myself against you because of my past success. I want to be a vessel that keep opening and pursue you."

The High Gospel Topic 16: Facing Persecution

1 Peter 4:14 If you are reproached in the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

BEING BLESSED IF REPROACHED IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

"In the name of Christ" is actually in the person of Christ, in Christ Himself, because the name denotes the person. The believers, having believed into Christ, and having been baptized into His name, that is, into Himself, are in Christ and one with Him. When they are reproached in His name, they are reproached with Him, sharing His sufferings, in the fellowship of His sufferings.

The reason the persecutions we suffer are the sufferings of Christ is that we suffer in the name of Christ. According to Peter's word in verse 14, we are blessed if we are reproached in the name of Christ. Do not think that it is a curse to be reproached in the name of Christ. This is to be blessed. However, it may be a curse if people appreciate us too highly. Regarding this matter, we need to have a change of concept.

HAVING MORE GLORY UPON US

THE MORE WE SUFFER AND ARE PERSECUTED

The more we suffer and are persecuted, the more glory there will be upon us. This is truly a blessing. I can testify that the more I am persecuted and evil spoken of, the more I am empowered. Persecution and reproach do not hold me down. On the contrary, it lifts me up. Therefore, we should rejoice when we are reproached in the name of Christ, because the Spirit of glory is resting upon us.

SATAN INSTIGATING OTHERS TO PERSECUTE A PERSON

ONCE HE TURNS TO GOD

The entire world lies in the evil one, Satan. Satan opposes God continually in every possible way. Satan is displeased whenever people turn to God, and he will not tolerate this. Once a person turns to God, Satan will instigate others to persecute that one. Paul once said that we Christians are appointed to suffer persecution. Persecution, therefore, is the portion appointed to us as believers in Christ.

Persecution is a suffering. However, trials are not merely a suffering, for trials are a suffering that serves the purpose of trying or proving us. We may use final examinations in school as an illustration. Students know that final examinations can be a real suffering and trial. But such a trial is actually a help to the students. If there were no final examinations in school, the students would probably be careless concerning their studies. But when they know that a final examination is coming, they concentrate on their studies with much diligence. Therefore, a final examination helps a student learn the necessary material. For this reason, the parents of those who are students should be

grateful for the final examinations, knowing that this helps their children to profit from their education.

There are also "finals" and other kinds of "examinations" in the "school of spiritual education." The "principal" of this school is our heavenly Father. He has arranged different trials for us, different examinations. All these trials are good for us. Just as examinations are good for students, so the various trials we face as Christians are a profit to us.

A final examination serves the threefold purpose of trying, testing, and proving a student. Likewise, the various trials through which we must pass as believers serve the purpose of trying, testing, and proving us. These trials are surely a help in our practical Christian perfection, for God uses them to perfect us.

THE OPPOSERS GLORIFYING GOD IN THE DAY OF VISITATION

In verse 12 Peter is saying that **if we have an excellent manner of life among the nations, they will eventually glorify God concerning us in the day of visitation.** In this verse Peter seems to be telling the saints, "The opposers now speak evil against you. But if you live a life that is excellent among them, a life that is beautiful in quality and excellent in manner, they will observe your good works and glorify God in the day of visitation. As they look upon you, they will realize that you are under the visitation of God. Eventually, the outcome will be a glory to God, for the opposers will glorify God in the day of visitation."

I can testify that throughout the years I have seen Peter's word fulfilled many times. Because they saw God's visitation of the saints, a good number of opposers regretted what they had done and repented. The saints were under God's loving care in the day of His visitation. Even though these saints were evil spoken of, they lived a marvelous, excellent life under God's gracious care. Therefore, God visited them again and again. Their excellent manner of life and God's visitation eventually caused the opposers to repent and give glory to God.

THE OPPOSERS CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDE

AFTER SEEING THE CHANGE IN OUR MANNER OF LIFE

Some of the young people in the Lord's recovery have been opposed by their parents. Several years ago, the parents of a particular young person may have opposed him strongly. They wondered why he spent so much time attending the meetings of the church and of the ministry. However, gradually they began to see a change, a transformation, in his manner of life. Although they did not have the word to describe it, they were witnessing the Lord's transforming work in their son. Eventually, they came to realize that he was a person under God's care, a person under God's visitation.

Not long ago, a number of saints testified to this effect in a meeting. They said that in the past they were opposed by their parents and, in some cases, even persecuted by them. But gradually, over a period of time, the attitude of their parents began to change. When the young people went home to visit the family, their parents continued to oppose them. But they also were carefully observing their children. Little by little, there was less opposition and more observation. Eventually, the parents had a complete change in attitude, and in some cases, they also came into the church life. They observed the excellent manner of life of their children, and they glorified God in the day of visitation. (Hymn 628 The Way of the Cross)