

Message 7: Practicing the Church Life under the Ministry of Christ as the Minister of the True, the Heavenly, Tabernacle

CHRIST: THE MINISTER OF THE TRUE, THE HEAVENLY, TABERNACLE

I. Christ is a minister of the true, heavenly tabernacle:

The ascended Christ is a “Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle”—**Heb. 8:2**

- A. Christ ministers heaven into us:** Christ, as a Minister of the true (heavenly) tabernacle, ministers heaven (which is not only a place but also a condition of life) into us.
- B. For us to live a heavenly life on earth as He did when He was here:** He is ministering to us the heavenly life, grace, authority, and power and sustaining us to live a heavenly life on earth as He did when He was here—**Heb. 7:26**
- C. The heavenly Christ is ministering in the tabernacle:** “which the Lord pitched, not man”—**Heb. 8:2**
- The heavenly Holy of Holies: This tabernacle, this sanctuary, is in the third heaven, in which is the heavenly Holy of Holies.
 - The Holy of Holies in Spirit: The heavenly Holy of Holies, where Christ is ministering on our behalf, is connected to our spirit—**Heb. 4:16**
 - Take care of our needs: Christ’s ministry in the heavens takes care of our needs—**Heb. 4:15; Eph. 1:10**
 - Christ is our life supply in the way of dispensing. As our Minister takes care of our needs, He carries out God’s economy
- D. Christ as the Spirit applies to us practically:** Whatever Christ carries out as the heavenly Minister, He applies to us as the Spirit—**1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17**
- Supply the riches of Christ: The supply we need comes from the Christ who is both the Lord in the heavens and the Spirit within us—**Rom 8:11**.
 - Enjoy the achievement of ascension: Now we may experience Him in all His functions as the ascended One—**Heb. 9:24, 12:2**.
 - Transmit into our spirit: As the heavenly Minister, He transmits what we need from God the Father, who is the source, into our spirit
- E. Serving the new testament bequests to His people:** Christ is serving God’s people with the bequests, the blessings, of the new testament—**Heb. 7:22, 8:6, 9:15**
- Carrying out the better new covenant: As our heavenly Minister with a more excellent ministry, Christ is carrying out the better covenant, making the facts of the new covenant effective.
 - Executing the bequests: Whatever is a fact in the new covenant is a bequest in the new testament; Christ, the heavenly Minister, is executing the bequests in the new testament—**Heb. 8:10-12**.

PREFACE

Message 7 reveals to us the ascended Christ in His heavenly ministry, through the divine dispensing, to express all the reality in the church life.

EXPERIENCE / BURDEN

When being a witness for Christ, our friends, family, coworkers may persecute or trouble us. From the outside we may seem to be taking the narrow path like Jesus the Nazareth, yet we are experiencing the resurrected Christ in our inner man and to offer spiritual sacrifices of praise to God.

Praise is an offering, a sacrifice. In another word, hardship brings out praises. Those who sacrifice must endure loss to do so. Offering sacrifices is not gaining but losing. God makes us wounded, crush us and cut us so that we come forward to Him to praise Him. Such hurting of the self for God to gain praises is a sacrifice. Our God likes us to praise Him like this. The principal of sacrifice is based on loss. There couldn’t be no sacrifice without loss. God need us to praise Him in spite of taking loss – that makes a sacrifice.

II. What is revealed in the book of Hebrews:

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, various aspects of the church are revealed

- A. **The many sons of God, the many brothers of Christ:** The church is a living composition of the many sons of God, who are the many brothers of Christ brought forth in His resurrection—[Heb 2:10-12](#)
 - We have His divine nature: God is our divine Father, and we are His divine sons born of His divine life with His divine nature—[John 1:13](#); [2 Pet 1:4](#)
 - The image of the son of God: As the many brothers of Christ, we are the same as the firstborn Son; He is divine and human, and we are human and divine. The church is an organism with two lives and two natures—[Rom 8:29, 1:3-4](#); [Heb 2:11](#).
- B. **A corporate partnership with Christ:** The church is a corporate partnership with Christ—[Heb 3:15](#)
 - The firstborn Son being the joint heirs with the many sons: The firstborn Son is God's appointed Heir, and we, the many sons, have been saved to be His joint heirs, inheriting all things with Him; thus we are His partner—[Eph 3:6](#)
 - Reach the goal of God's economy: As Christ's partners, we share in His anointing and cooperate with Him in His operation to reach the goal of God's economy— the glorious expression of the Divine Being—[2 Cor 1:21](#); [Rev 21:10-11](#)
- C. **The Sabbath rest of God:** The church, the enlargement of Christ, is the Sabbath rest—[John 2:19,21](#); [Heb 4:9](#)
 - Christ is God's Sabbath: The individual Christ is God's Sabbath, and the church is the enlargement of Christ; therefore, the church is also God's Sabbath rest—[Mat 11:28-29](#).
 - The church is God's satisfaction and rest: Because in the church God has His habitation for His expression and representation—[Eph 2:22](#).
- D. **The heavenly New Jerusalem:** To come to the church is to come to the new covenant and to the heavenly New Jerusalem—[Heb 12:22-23, 8:7-12](#).
 - The three are one: The new covenant, the heavenly Jerusalem, and the church are one.
 - To receive all: To receive the new covenant is to enter the New Jerusalem and come to the church (the old covenant of law has been replaced by the new covenant. we have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, and to the church)
- E. **The unshakable kingdom of God:** The church is the unshakable kingdom of God —[Heb 12:28](#)
 - The kingdom is Christ's enlargement: The unshakable kingdom that we are receiving is Christ with His enlargement—[Luke 17:20-21](#); [Mark 4:3, 26](#)
 - The increase in life and administration: Whereas the church is Christ's increase in life, the kingdom is Christ's increase in administration —[Rom 14:17](#)

III. The Virtues and the Experiences:

Hebrews 13:1-19 speaks of the virtues and the experiences needed for the practice of the church life:

- A. **Brotherly love and hospitality:** in the chapter, brotherly love and hospitality, is for the church life, not only for the Christian life—[Heb 13:1-2](#)
- B. **Must hold on to the same Christ:** For a true and steadfast church life, we must hold on to the Christ who is the same yesterday and today, and even forever—[Heb 13:8](#)
- C. **Come outside the camp of religion, follow Jesus:** The more we are in our spirit, enjoying the heavenly Christ, the more we will come outside the camp of religion, following the suffering Jesus—[Heb 13:12-14](#)
- D. **Offer through Christ spiritual sacrifices of praise to God:** Since in the church life we enjoy the unchanging Christ as grace and follow Him outside religion, we should offer through Him spiritual sacrifices of praise to God—[Heb 2:12, 13:15](#)
 - Praise onto the Father in Christ: In the church we should offer up through Christ a sacrifice of praise to God continually; In the church He sings in us hymns of praise unto God the Father, and in the church we too should praise God the Father through Him.
 - Praise the Father in Spirit: He, as the life-giving Spirit, praises the Father in our spirit, and we, by our spirit, praise the Father in His Spirit. This is the best and highest sacrifice that we can offer to God through Christ the Son.

* Christ In The True, Heavenly Tabernacle

I. Christ is a minister of the true, heavenly tabernacle

[Heb 8:2] A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man

- A. Christ ministers heaven into us continually
- B. Sustain us to live a heavenly life on earth, as He did when He was here
- C. The ascended Christ is ministering in the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies is connected to our spirit; Christ is our life supply in the way of dispensing. As our Minister takes care of our needs, He carries out God's economy
- D. Christ applies to us as the Spirit, [2 Cor 3:17]...And the Lord is the Spirit He transmits what we need from God the Father, who is the source, into our spirit.
- E. Christ is serving us the New Testament bequests, including the 4 blessings:
[Heb 8:10] I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; (inscribed in hearts – life dispensing)
and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me (mutual enjoyment – experiencing life)
[Heb 8:11] for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them. (subjective knowing – the issue of life)
[Heb 8:12] For I will be propitious to their unrighteousnesses, and their sins I shall by no means remember anymore. (achieving peace – goal of life)

* Seeing The Church From A Heavenly Vision

II. The what is revealed in the book of Hebrews

- A. The living composition of the many sons
[Heb 2:11] For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers
 - we are His sons with His divine nature, the same as the firstborn son, a living organism with two lives and two natures
- B. A corporate partnership with Christ [Heb 3:15] For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end
 - We cooperate with Him to reach the goal of God's economy—the glorious expression of the Divine Being
- C. The Sabbath rest of God [Heb 4:9] So then there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.
 - In the church God has His habitation for His expression and representation
- D. The heavenly New Jerusalem
[Heb 12:22-24] But you have come forward to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...
And to the church of the firstborn... And to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant
 - The new covenant, the heavenly Jerusalem, and the church are one.
- E. The unshakable kingdom of God
[Heb 12:28] Therefore receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly with piety and fear
 - The church is Christ's increase in life, the kingdom is Christ's increase in administration.

* The Living In The Church Life On Earth

III. The virtues and the experiences needed for the practice of the church life

- A. The ten virtues in the church life, e.g. brotherly love, hospitality, remembrance of the suffering in the body, respect marriage, not being a lover of money...(cf. Life Study of the Hebrews 55)
- B. Hold on to the same Christ as grace [Heb 13:8] Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes, even forever.
- C. Come outside the camp of religion, follow Jesus [Heb 13:13] Let us therefore go forth unto Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.
- D. Offer through Christ spiritual sacrifices of praise to God
[Heb 13:15] Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confession His name.
➤ [Heb 13:20-21] Now the God of peace... Perfect you in every good work for the doing of His will, doing in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.