

Message 2

Christ the Reality of All Positive Things

Scripture Reading: Col. 2:16-18a, 19; Eph. 4:15-16

- I. The all-inclusive Christ is the reality of all of the positive things in the universe—cf. Rom. 1:20; Eph. 3:18**
- A. Christ is the body, the substance, and the reality, of all the shadows—as such, He must be the reality of our daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly enjoyment—Col. 2:16.
 - 1. Daily, Christ is our food and drink for our satisfaction and strengthening—1 Cor. 10:3-4.
 - 2. Weekly, Christ is our Sabbath for our completion and rest in Him—Matt. 11:28-29.
 - 3. Monthly, Christ is our new moon as a new beginning with light in darkness—John 1:5; 8:12.
 - 4. Yearly, Christ is our feast for our joy and enjoyment—1 Cor. 5:8.
 - B. Although Christ is universally extensive and all-inclusive, we should experience Him in our daily living and in our daily walk so that He becomes real, practical, and experiential to us—Col. 2:16.
 - 1. Christ is our breath—John 20:22.
 - 2. Christ is our drink—4:10, 14; 7:37-39a.
 - 3. Christ is our food—6:35, 57.
 - 4. Christ is our light—1:4; 8:12.
 - 5. Christ is our clothing—Gal. 3:27.
 - 6. Christ is our dwelling place—John 15:5, 7a.
 - C. As we consider all the positive things in the universe, we should evaluate them according to Christ—Phil. 3:7-8.
 - 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 our subjective enjoyment of Christ—3:14; cf. Gen. 15:1.
- II. 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**
- A. Since the Christ whom 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—cf. Eph. 3:8; 4:15-16.
 - 2. The more we enjoy Christ, the more we love the other members of the Body—Col. 1:4, 8.
 - B. When we allow Christ to be the Head in everything and when we grow up into Him in all things by enjoying Him, we will be supplied with the riches of His life, receiving from Him to transfuse Him into other members of the Body—Eph. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 3:6, 8; John 7:37-39.

Focus: The all-inclusive Christ as the reality of all positive things is for our subjective experience, and the more we experience and enjoy Him, the more we will be brought into the subjective realization of Christ as the Head of the Body, which will make us conscious of the Body, love all the members of the Body, and build up the Body.