

Monday 6/8

Related Verses

Gen. 2:9

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.

Rev. 21:10

10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev. 20:14

14 And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

2 Peter 1:3-11 (3-4, 8, 10-11)

3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;

6 And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness;

7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.

8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he in whom these things are not present is blind, being shortsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his past sins.

10 Therefore, brothers, be the more diligent to make your calling and selection firm, for doing these things you shall by no means ever stumble.

11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.

Matt. 7:13-14

13 Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it.

14 Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Suggested Reading

In the divine revelation in the holy Scriptures there are two trees, two sources, two lines, two principles, and two ends.

In Genesis 2 there are two trees—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, in Revelation 21 and 22 we see only one tree—the tree of life—in a holy city. In the center of this city is the throne of God and of the Lamb (22:1), indicating God's administration. God and the Lamb are not sitting side by side on the throne; rather, God is in the Lamb much like light is in a lamp. The Lamb is the lamp (21:23), and God is the light in the lamp. This indicates that God and the Lamb, the light and the lamp, are one. Out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, that is, out of the one God, flows a river, and on the two sides of this river grows the tree of life (22:2a). According to the principle, if the tree of life ends in the city of water, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil must end in the lake of fire. (*Life-study of Job*, p. 197)

All the evil things in Revelation 22 are involved with the lake of fire. Thus, the two ends are the city of water and the lake of fire. Between the two sources and the two ends are two lines, which become two ways. Each source issues in a line that becomes a way consummating in an end. (*Life-study of Job*, p. 197-198)

The church had become degraded through apostasy. Apostasy is a deviation from the right track of God's truth....Peter's burden was to inoculate the believers against the poison of apostasy.

The Epistle of 2 Peter was probably written between A.D. 65 and 68, approximately thirty years after the establishment of the church in Jerusalem. During those years, the church became degraded, and apostasy crept in. The Epistles of 2 and 3 John were also written during a time of apostasy....Thus, five books—2 Timothy, 2

Peter, 2 and 3 John, and Jude—were written during a time of the church's degradation in apostasy.

In 2 Peter 1:3 Peter says, "As His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us to His own glory and virtue." Chapter two shows that this Epistle, like 2 Timothy, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude, was written in the time of the church's degradation and apostasy. Hence, apostasy was the background of this book. The burden of the writer was to inoculate the believers against the poison of apostasy. God's salvation is to impart Himself in His Trinity into the believers to be their life and life supply. This is God's economy, God's dispensation. The apostasy distracted the believers from the economy of God by leading them into the human logic of puzzling philosophies. It was not the exercise of partaking of the tree of life that gives life, but of participating in the tree of knowledge that brings in death (Gen. 2:9, 16-17). Thus the serpent deceived and seduced Eve (Gen. 3:1-6). In order to inoculate against this death-poison in his healing Epistle, Peter first prescribed the divine power as the strongest and most effective antidote. This provides the believers with all things related to the generating and supplying divine life (not the killing knowledge) and the God-expressing godliness (not the show of human wisdom). This rich divine provision, which is covered in detail in the following verses 1:3-11), is more than sufficient for the believers to live a proper Christian life and overcome the satanic apostasy. (*Life-study of 2 Peter*, pp. 90-91, 14)

Further Reading: Life-study of Job, msg. 37; Life-study of Jude, msgs. 2, 5

Corporate Reading of "The Overcoming Life" Chapter 3 – Sections The Characteristics Of The Overcoming Life; The Meaning Of This Life—An Exchanged Life, Not A Changed Life

Tuesday 6/9

Related Verses

2 Peter 1:12

12 Therefore I will be ready always to remind you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been established in the present truth.

Morning Watch

John 18:37

37 Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears My voice.

John 8:32, 36

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

1 Tim. 2:1-4

1 I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men;

2 On behalf of kings and all who are in high position, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and gravity.

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of our Savior God,

4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of one's own interpretation;

21 For no prophecy was ever borne by the will of man, but men spoke from God while being borne by the Holy Spirit.

Suggested Reading

[In 2 Peter 1:12], "these things"...means things such as the divine power, the things concerning life and godliness, the divine nature, and the development of the divine riches in our experience. Peter was always ready to remind the saints concerning these things, even though they had come to know them and had been established in the present truth.

By "the present truth"...means the truth which is present with the believers and which they have already received and now possess. In the first section of this chapter (vv. 1-11), Peter uses the provision of the divine

life for the proper Christian life to inoculate against apostasy. In the second section (vv. 12-21), he uses the revelation of the divine truth, as the second antidote, to inoculate against the heresy in the apostasy, a heresy similar to today's Modernism. (*Life-study of 2 Peter*, pp. 65-66)

The "present truth" can also be rendered the "up-to-date truth." What is the up-to-date truth?...Although...all [truths are] in the Bible, through man's foolishness, unfaithfulness, negligence, and disobedience many of the truths were lost and hidden from man....Not until the fullness of time did God release certain truths during particular periods of time and cause them to be revealed once more.

These freshly revealed truths are not God's new inventions. Rather, they are man's new discoveries....In past generations God revealed different truths. During certain periods of time, He caused men to discover these specific truths. We can see this clearly from the history of the church.

Take, for example, the raising up of Martin Luther in the sixteenth century. God opened his eyes to see the matter of justification by faith....The fact already existed before Luther's time. Luther was merely the one who realized this truth in a stronger way; he was particularly outstanding in this truth. For this reason, this truth became the "present truth" in that age.

Every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is....Although there are many major and crucial truths in the Bible, what we need to know is God's present truth. Not only do we need to know the general truths, we must also be clear about God's present truth. (Watchman Nee, *What Are We?*, pp. 2-4)

Every worker of the Lord must uphold the absoluteness of the truth. This is possible only when a man is delivered from himself. Many...are not absolute to the truth; they are affected by people, things, and personal feelings. If a man is not absolute to the truth, he will, in the course of his work, sacrifice God's truth for man, himself, or his own desires. A basic requirement for being a servant of the Lord is to not sacrifice the truth. We can sacrifice ourselves and our desires, but we can

never sacrifice the truth. (Watchman Nee, *The Character of the Lord's Worker*, p. 151)

In the church life today, the main responsibility of the elders is to teach the saints with the truths....However, I have observed that some elders are deficient in the knowledge of the truth and may not even be clear whether a particular matter is an item of the truth.

Calling on the Lord is necessary, and we need to have such a practice in our daily life, but calling on the Lord's name is not a truth. Likewise, baptism, presbytery, footwashing, and pray-reading are not truths...[However], justification by faith is a truth. Regeneration, sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, transfiguration, being made God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead—all these are truths. (*Life-study of Ezra*, p. 33)

Further Reading: The Character of the Lord's Worker; ch. 10; What are We?

Corporate Reading of "The Overcoming Life" Chapter 3 – Sections The Principle Of This Life—A Gift, Not A Reward

Wednesday 6/10

Related Verses

2 Tim. 3:16

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

1 Tim. 1:4

4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

1 Tim. 6:12, 20-21

12 Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.

20 O Timothy, guard the deposit, turning away from profane, vain babblings and oppositions from what is falsely called knowledge,

21 Because of which some, professing this, have misaimed regarding the faith. Grace be with you.

Morning Watch

Eph. 1:9-10

9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph. 3:9-11

9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

2 Cor. 13:14

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Suggested Reading

It is important for us to realize that the element of apostasy continues today. Because a number of basic truths have been given up, even by those who apparently are fundamental believers, there is the need for us in the Lord's recovery to fight the battle for the truth. At the time of Martin Luther it was necessary to fight regarding justification by faith. It certainly was worthwhile for Luther to fight that battle. But today we need to fight for the deeper truths revealed in the Word of God. We believe not only in all the genuine items held by fundamental Christians, but also in the deeper truths. (*Life-study of 2 Peter*, p. 91)

We definitely believe that the Bible is fully inspired by God word for word. We would follow the literal translation of 2 Timothy 3:16 to say that all Scripture is God-breathed. We believe that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God. He is true God and true man. We believe in Christ's incarnation and in His death on the cross for our redemption. According to the Scriptures, we believe that the Lord's death was all-inclusive. Through His crucifixion He terminated the old creation, including us with our flesh and our fallen nature. We fully believe in the Lord's resurrection and ascension. We believe that

the Lord is now on the throne. But we also believe that He is not limited to the throne, for as the life-giving Spirit He dwells in our spirit. We believe in every aspect of what Christ is and of what He has done, is doing, and will do. We also believe in all that Christ has attained and obtained. Furthermore, according to the Bible, we believe in transformation and in being constituted of the element of God for the rearrangement of our being. We may say that all this is our deeper faith. In a time of apostasy, we believe and testify the full revelation of the pure Word of God. (*Life-study of 2 Peter*, p. 91-92)

Today many Christians have never heard of the processed and consummated God. Hence, what they are preaching is the unprocessed God in Genesis 1. However, what we have seen is the consummated God in Revelation 22. At the end the Bible says, "The Spirit and the bride say..." (v. 17). The Spirit is the processed and consummated God; the bride is the processed and consummated church. The two are joined to be a loving pair in eternity.

The divine revelation in the Bible is the content of the Lord's recovery. This revelation contains six major items. The first item concerns God's eternal economy (1 Tim. 1:4b; Eph. 1:10; 3:9)...God's economy is God's plan. For this plan God made an administrative arrangement, which is His administrative management for dispensing Himself through the processed and consummated all-inclusive Spirit into His chosen, regenerated, sanctified, and transformed tripartite men so that they can become God in life and nature yet with no share in His Godhead. Thus they are being constituted to be the Body of Christ and will ultimately be enlarged and built up to be the New Jerusalem as God's eternal and corporate expression.

The second major item in the divine revelation concerns the Divine Trinity (John 14:9-20; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5)...The three [of the Divine Trinity] coexist and coinhere. Although the three are distinct, They cannot be separated. All this is not for doctrinal debate or study but for our experience and enjoyment (2 Cor. 13:14). The Divine Trinity is for the dispensing of God into His chosen people that they may accomplish His eternal economy. (*The Issue of the Union of the Consummated Spirit of the Triune God and the Regenerated Spirit of the Believers*, pp. 77-78)

Further Reading: Life-study of 2 Peter; msg. 10; Life-study of Ezra, msg. 5

Corporate Reading of "The Overcoming Life" Chapter 3 – Sections: The Way To Receive This Life—Obtained, Not Attained

Thursday 6/11

Related Verses

Rev. 1:4

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev. 4:5

5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Rev. 5:6

6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rev. 22:17

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

Eph. 1:22-23

22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Col. 2:9

9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Matt. 26:26-28

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

27 And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you,

28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Morning Watch

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Suggested Reading

The third major item in the divine revelation concerns the person and work of the all-inclusive Christ (Eph. 1:23)...This all-inclusive Christ, as the preeminent One over all things and the One who fills all in all, is the center and circumference of God's economy. By passing through incarnation,...human living,...death,...resurrection, and...ascension, He dispenses Himself into the believers to regenerate, sanctify, renew, transform, and conform them to the image of God's firstborn Son,...and ultimately glorify them...They become the many God-men to constitute the Body of Christ, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the enlargement and expression of God in humanity for eternity. (*The Issue of the Union of the Consummated Spirit of the Triune God and the Regenerated Spirit of the Believers*, pp. 77-78)

The fourth major item...concerns the consummated life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b; John 7:39; Rev. 22:17)...The Spirit passed through many processes to become a consummated Spirit...First, the Spirit of God has been compounded with a number of elements to become a compound Spirit, as typified by the holy anointing ointment in Exodus 30:23-25. Second, John 7:39 and 1 Corinthians 15:45b reveal that before Jesus' resurrection, in which He was glorified, the Spirit of God had not yet been processed to become the Spirit who gives life. It was at the time of His resurrection that Jesus was glorified (Luke 24:26). In His resurrection Christ, the last Adam in the flesh, became a life-giving Spirit...Third, in Revelation the Spirit of God eventually becomes the seven Spirits, that is, the sevenfold intensified Spirit (1:4; 4:5; 5:6), to enable the believers to overcome the various degradations of the church in the dark age of the church. The Spirit of God, after being compounded, transformed, and intensified, became the consummated Spirit of the Triune God (22:17a).

The fifth major item in the divine revelation concerns the eternal life of God (John 3:15-16)...We obtained this

eternal life from God through believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This life is...the divine life of God, even the complete Triune God Himself. It is uncreated, incorruptible, indestructible, and eternal. *Eternal* implies that in quality, quantity, time, space, and existence, it is perfect and complete. We are regenerated and transformed in this eternal...life and glorified with the consummated Triune God as our eternal glory. This is the eternal life.

The sixth major item of the divine revelation in the Bible concerns the Body of Christ, which is the church of God (Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 10:32). According to the revelation and pattern seen in the New Testament, the church is the gathering of the believers in Christ, who are called out from the world. This gathering, on the one hand, is the house of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15) for God to dwell in to accomplish His will according to His desire for His good pleasure. On the other hand, it is the organic Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23) for Him to have a counterpart that is organically united with Him to be His expression. Such a church as the house of God and also the Body of Christ is unique in the universe, yet it is manifested and expressed in many different localities on the earth to be the many local churches. The fellowship in life of this church, whether universally or locally, is unique.

I would exhort the brothers and sisters, especially the co-workers and elders, to study thoroughly the revelation of these six major items and even to widely teach and preach concerning them. (*The Issue of the Union of the Consummated Spirit of the Triune God and the Regenerated Spirit of the Believers*, pp. 79-81)

Further Reading: The Issue of the Union of the Consummated Spirit of the Triune God and the Regenerated Spirit of the Believers, ch. 6; Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 24

Corporate Reading of "The Overcoming Life" Chapter 3 – Sections: The Receiving Of This Life—A Miracle

Friday 6/12

Related Verses

John 14:20

20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

Rev. 21:2, 11

2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rom. 14:17

17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2 Tim. 2:15, 22-25

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.

22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But foolish questionings and those arising from an untrained mind refuse, knowing that they beget contentions.

24 But a slave of the Lord ought not to contend but be gentle toward all, apt to teach, bearing with wrong;

25 In meekness correcting those who oppose, if perhaps God may give them repentance unto the full knowledge of the truth,

Suggested Reading

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are one and abide in us; therefore, we are "four-in-one," a divine and human constitution. The Father is embodied in the Son, the Son is realized as the Spirit, and They are all in us. God and man are united, mingled, and incorporated.

God's desire and intention [is] to be united, mingled, and incorporated into one corporate New Jerusalem (Rev. 21). The New Jerusalem is the conclusion of the entire sixty-six books of the Bible. All the revelations and visions of the Scriptures consummate in the holy city. The New Jerusalem is the processed and consummated Triune God incorporated into one with His regenerated, transformed, and glorified elect. It is also a couple with the Husband and the bride, the wife. The Husband is the wife, and the wife is the Husband because they coinhere. This is God's eternal economy to incorporate Himself with His elect, to be one universal, divine, mystical

Morning Watch

incorporation, which is the New Jerusalem. (*Crystallization-study of the Gospel of John*, pp. 112, 118)

Do you know what the New Jerusalem is? The New Jerusalem is a composition of God's chosen, redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, transformed, and glorified people who have been deified. On God's side, the Triune God has been incarnated to be a man; on our side, we are being deified, constituted with the processed and consummated Triune God so that we may be made God in life and in nature to be His corporate expression for eternity. This is the highest truth, and this is the highest gospel. (*Life-study of Job*, p. 122)

[Second Peter 2:2 says], "...Many will follow their licentiousness, because of whom the way of the truth will be reviled." The way of the truth is the path of the Christian life according to the truth, which is the reality of the contents of the New Testament (1 Tim. 2:4; 3:15; 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:15, 18; Titus 1:1).

Because of the false teachers, the way of the truth will be reviled. Since the way of the truth is the way of reality, and the way of reality is the way of God's economy, this means that the false teachers will cause the entire revelation of the New Testament to be reviled.

In 2 Peter 2:21 Peter speaks of the way of righteousness. The way of righteousness is to live a life that is right with both God and man. This is another aspect of the way of the truth (v. 2) and the straight way (v. 15). This is the way to live a life according to God's justice, a way that can take His governmental judgment (vv. 3, 9) for His kingdom of righteousness (Rom. 14:17; Matt. 5:20). Peter in his Epistles stresses both the manner of life and the way of life, because his writings are based on the governmental point of view of God's administration. In order to fit in with the government of Him who is holy and righteous, God's people need to live in a manner of life that is holy, pure, good, and excellent...not licentious or vain...in His straight way of righteousness and truth. (*Life-study of 2 Peter*, pp. 80, 89-90)

Acts 9:2 says that Saul's intention was to find those "who were of the way" and "bring them bound to Jerusalem." Here the way denotes the Lord's full salvation in God's New Testament economy. It is the way God dispenses Himself into the believers through Christ's

redemption and the Spirit's anointing; it is the way the believers partake of God and enjoy God; it is the way the believers worship God in their spirit by enjoying Him, and follow the persecuted Jesus by being one with Him; and it is the way they are brought into the church and built up into the Body of Christ to bear the testimony of Jesus. (*Life-study of Acts*, pp. 204-205)

Further Reading: Life-study of 2 Peter; msg. 9; Crystallization-study of the Gospel of John, msg. 11

Corporate Reading of "The Overcoming Life" Chapter 3 – Sections: The Result Of This Life—A Life Of Expression, Not A Life Of Suppression

Saturday 6/13

Related Verses

Mark 12:30

30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

1 Peter 1:22

22 Since you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart fervently,

1 Peter 2:17

17 Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

1 Peter 3:8

8 And finally be all of the same mind, sympathetic, loving the brothers, tenderhearted, humble-minded;

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Rom. 12:9-10

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.

Eph. 5:26-27

26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Heb. 13:1

1 Let brotherly love continue.

Suggested Reading

According to Peter's word in 1 Peter 1:22, we purify our souls by obedience to the truth...Here Peter speaks not merely of love, and not only of brotherly love, but of unfeigned brotherly love. Therefore, in this one verse Peter covers the purification of our souls, obedience to the truth, and unfeigned brotherly love. Then he goes on to urge us to love one another from the heart fervently. It is characteristic of Peter's writings to put so many points together in one verse. (*Life-study of 1 Peter*, p. 114)

According to the proper understanding of language [in 1 Peter 1:22], the subject of "having purified your souls" is "you." This means that Peter is telling the believers that they have purified their souls.

The way we purify our souls is by our obedience to the truth. This may not be a profound matter like the foreknowledge of God, but it is very practical. Compared to the great matters on the divine side, it is quite small. Nevertheless, it is very important in our Christian life. We need to ask ourselves if in our Christian life we have experienced the purifying of our souls by obedience to the truth.

In order to understand what it means to purify our souls by obedience to the truth, we must be clear concerning the meaning of truth in this verse. Truth here is the sanctifying truth, which is God's word of reality (John 17:17). Truth in this verse does not mean doctrine. Truth is the reality contained in God's word and conveyed by it.

God will not purify our soul for us. We need to do this ourselves by our obedience to the truth we have heard and received. Suppose a certain brother struggles for a period of time concerning the Lord's recovery. Eventually, by God's mercy and the moving of the sanctifying Spirit within him, he declares, "Praise the Lord! My mind is girded up with one goal. My emotion

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is fully set on one Person, the Lord Himself. I have no other object of my love. Therefore, my will follows to make a strong decision: I am for the Lord, and I am for the Lord's recovery. I don't care for anything else." This is obedience to the truth. Such an obedience to the truth becomes the means by which we purify our souls. Therefore, in verse 22 Peter tells the Jewish believers that they have purified their souls by obedience to the truth. This truth is conveyed in God's sanctifying word.

In verse 22 Peter says that we purify our souls by obedience to the truth unto unfeigned brotherly love. Since the purification of our souls concentrates our entire being on God that we may love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind (Mark 12:30), it results in unfeigned brotherly love. We love from the heart fervently all those whom God loves. First, God's regeneration issues in a holy life. Then His sanctification (purification) results in brotherly love.

Unfeigned brotherly love is brotherly love that is genuine, without pretense; it is brotherly love without any kind of mask...It indicates that through the purification of our soul, all the masks have been taken away.

When we have purified our souls by our obedience to the truth, we can love one another from the heart fervently. In verse 22 we have both the purifying of the soul and love from the heart. To love from the heart is to have a love that comes not only from the parts of the soul but also from the conscience. Our conscience testifies that we love the brothers with an unfeigned love. When our conscience has this kind of testimony, we love from the heart. (*Life-study of 1 Peter*, p. 114-115, 118-119)

Further Reading: Life-study of 1 Peter; msg. 14; Life-study of John, msg. 40

Hymns, #1285

1 The faith which once for all was giv'n
Unto the saints of old,
Has been committed unto us
To guard, defend, and hold.
And we know whom we have believed
And are persuaded that He is able
To guard, through the Holy Spirit,
Our deposit to that day.

- 2 This good deposit is the mark
Of God's economy,
Without it we will miss the aim
Of His recovery.
And we know whom we have believed
And are persuaded that He is able
To guard, through the Holy Spirit,
Our deposit to that day.
- 3 The myst'ry of the common faith,
A conscience pure requires;
A holy, separated life
For us the Lord desires.
And we know whom we have believed
And are persuaded that He is able
To guard, through the Holy Spirit,
Our deposit to that day.
- 4 This outline of the healthy words,
In faith and love we'll hold;
All different teaching, fruitless talk,
Reject with spirit bold.
And we know whom we have believed
And are persuaded that He is able
To guard, through the Holy Spirit,
Our deposit to that day.
- 5 Oh, healthful teaching, wholesome words:
The truth of godliness!
Oh, good deposit, common faith,
And life of holiness!
And we know whom we have believed
To guard, through the Holy Spirit,
Our deposit to that day.
- 6 Lord, make us now those faithful men
Who pass on what we've heard;
Make us examples of the saints
In spirit, faith, and word.
And we know whom we have believed
And are persuaded that He is able
To guard, through the Holy Spirit,
Our deposit to that day.

Lord's Day 6/14

Related Verses

John 17:19

19 And for their sake I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

1 Thess. 5:23-24

23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
24 Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.

1 Pet. 5:6-9

6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,
7 Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you.
8 Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour.
9 Him withstand, being firm in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being accomplished among your brotherhood in the world.

2 Pet. 3:13-15, 18

13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
14 Therefore, beloved, since you expect these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace without spot and without blemish;
15 And count the long-suffering of our Lord to be salvation, even as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you,
18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and unto the day of eternity. Amen.

Life Study Messages

Life-Study of Jude, msgs. 2, 5

Life-Study of 1 Peter, msg. 14

Life-Study of 2 Peter, msgs. 9, 10