**Monday 12/21**

***Related Verses***

**Jer. 31:33-34**

**33** But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Jehovah: I will put My law within them and write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

**34** And they will no longer teach, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for all of them will know Me, from the little one among them even to the great one among them, declares Jehovah, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

**Heb. 8:8-9**

**8** For finding fault with them He says, "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, and I will consummate a new covenant upon the house of Israel and upon the house of Judah,

**9** Not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

**Heb. 9:14-15**

**14** How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**15** And because of this He is the Mediator of a new covenant, so that, death having taken place for redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, those who have been called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

**Heb. 10:16-17**

**16** "This is the covenant which I will covenant with them after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws upon their hearts, and upon their mind I will inscribe them,"

**17** He then says, "And their sins and their lawlessnesses I shall by no means remember anymore."

**Heb. 12:24**

**24** And to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant; and to the blood of sprinkling, which speaks something better than that of Abel.

***Suggested Reading***

In the new covenant four blessings are promised: (1) propitiation for our unrighteousnesses and the forgetting (forgiveness) of our sins (v. 12); (2) the imparting of the law of life by the imparting of the divine life into us (v. 10a); (3) the privilege of having God as our God and of being His people — the divine life’s enabling us to participate in the enjoyment of God in fellowship with Him (v. 10b); and (4) the function of life that enables us to know Him in the inward way of life (v. 11). According to the covenant that God consummated, these four blessings are His promise. But according to the testament that the Lord bequeathed to us, they are His bequests. (Heb. 8:12, footnote 1)

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1. We will now look specifically at the characteristics of the content of the new covenant….According to Hebrews 8:10-12 the contents of the new covenant include three major parts. According to God’s eternal purpose, He first imparted His life and power into us; then He became our God in the law of life that we might be His people in the law of life, that we might have a deeper knowledge of Him, and that we might live Him out through us. Since forgiveness of sins is only a procedure by which to achieve His purpose, this Scripture puts forgiveness of sins at the very end. However, according to our spiritual experience, we first obtain cleansing, that is, the cleansing that comes from forgiveness, then we become God’s people in the law of life, and then we possess a deeper knowledge of God in an inward way.
2. Now let us look at the matter of forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 8:10 and 11 form one continuous thought, and verse 12 is another start. Notice the word *for* in verse 12. It says, “For I will be propitious to their unrighteousnesses, and their sins I shall by no means remember anymore.” The word *for* shows us that God’s being propitious to our unrighteousnesses and no longer remembering our sins occurs before we receive the life. In other words, what is mentioned in verse 12 occurs before that which is mentioned in verses 10 and 11. For this reason the first thing to see is how our sins are forgiven and cleansed according to the covenant.
3. How regrettable it is that what God remembers we forget, and what God does not remember we continue to keep in mind! Some people keep thinking, “I have committed so many grievous sins—has God really forgiven them all? Does God really forget them?” Others think, “God has blotted out my sins, but the trace of the blot is still there. Whenever God sees it, He will again remember what kind of sinner I am.” Those who have such thoughts do not know what the new covenant is. Hence, they do not know how to enjoy the rights of the new covenant.
4. We must not forget that God’s forgiveness of our sins and no longer remembering our sins is the fulfillment of the first item in the new covenant….When God sees the blood of the Lord Jesus, He forgives our sins and by no means remembers them anymore. (Watchman Nee, *The New Covenant*, pp. 67, 72-73)
5. Today there are many who have believed in Christ, who have received the blessing of the new covenant, and yet are not aware of the content of the new covenant and what it accomplishes and produces. Therefore, we have the burden to emphasize the new covenant again and again. May we all see the new covenant and be fully occupied with it. (*Life-study of Jeremiah*, p. 258)
6. **Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations - Week 12, Day 1*
7. **Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 3 – Sections:***The Difference Between Being A Believer And Being A Member; The Body Of Christ the Expression Of Christ; The Body Of Christ Being The Corporate Vessel To Fulfill God's Plan*

**Tuesday 12/22**

***Related Verses***

**Heb. 8:12**

**12** For I will be propitious to their unrighteousnesses, and their sins I shall by no means remember anymore."

**Psa. 130:4**

**4** But with You there is forgiveness, That You would be feared.

**Heb. 2:17**

**17** Hence He should have been made like His brothers in all things that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**1 John 1: 7-9**

**7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

**8** If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 2:1-2**

**1** My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous;

**2** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for those of the whole world.

**John 5:24**

**24** Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

***Suggested Reading***

To “be propitious” [in Hebrews 8:12] is to make propitiation for our sins. Christ made propitiation for our sins to appease God’s righteousness, to reconcile us by satisfying the demand of God’s righteousness (2:17)….Based upon this propitiation, God forgives our sins. In 8:12 we are told by the Lord that “their sins I will by no means remember anymore.” Here we see that God will forget our sins. To forgive means to forget….Without forgetting, forgiveness is not real. God not only forgives us our sins but also forgets our sins.

In the new covenant the primary blessing is the imparting of the divine life which brings in the inner law of life, the blessing of having God and of being His people, and the inward ability of knowing the Lord. For God to do this, He had to be propitious to our unrighteousnesses and forget our sins. The propitiation for our unrighteousnesses and the forgiveness of our sins give Him the ground to impart His life into us. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, pp. 413-414)

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Forgiveness of sins means the removal of the charges of sin against us before God that we may be delivered from the penalty of God’s righteousness (John 3:18; 5:24). Because a charge had been made against us before God so that we were condemned by God, it was necessary for us to suffer God’s righteous punishment. But when God forgave us, He delivered us from the penalty of His righteousness and condemned us no longer. This is because the Lord Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross according to God’s righteousness to suffer God’s righteous punishment in our place (Heb. 9:22), thus satisfying God’s righteous requirement. Hence, according to His righteousness, God can, and will, forgive the sins of those who believe in Christ, canceling the charges of sin against them and delivering them from the penalty.

In the New Testament the Greek word for *forgiveness* means “causing (it) to leave” and “sending away” (Matt. 12:31; Rom. 4:7; Acts 5:31; 13:38). When God forgives us of our sins, He…also causes the sins which we have committed to depart from us. This is because when He made the Lord Jesus an offering for sin on the cross, He laid all our sins on Him that He might carry them up in His body for us (John 1:29; Isa. 53:6; 1 Pet. 2:24). Furthermore, when God caused the Lord Jesus to carry up our sins on the cross to suffer God’s judgment and punishment in our place, He also caused all our sins to be laid on Satan that he should bear them forever. This is revealed in type in the atonement recorded in Leviticus 16. When the high priest made atonement for the children of Israel, he took two goats and presented them before God. One was for God and was to be killed to make atonement for the children of Israel; whereas the other was “for Azazel,” that is, for Satan, to bear the sins of the children of Israel (Lev. 16:7-10, 15-22 ASV)…[since] sin came from Satan.

When God forgives us of our sins, He also forgets our sins (Heb. 8:12). When God forgives us, He not only exempts us from suffering the penalty of sin and causes our sins to depart from us, but He also forgets our sins. Once He forgives us, He erases our sins from His memory and remembers them no longer.

People think that God’s forgiveness will cause man to become audacious and reckless. Little do they know that the grace of God’s forgiveness is to bring man into the fear of God (Psa. 130:4). Our experience tells us that the more we are forgiven by God, the more we fear Him; the more we have received the grace of God’s forgiveness, the more we have the fear toward God….The grace of God’s forgiveness causes us not only to fear God but also to love God. (Truth Lessons—Level One, vol. 3, pp. 118-120, 122-123)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations - Week 12, Day 2*

**Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 3 – Sections:***The Difference Between Being A Member And Being A Christian; The Consciousness Of The Body*

**Wednesday 12/23**

***Related Verses***

**Heb. 9:22**

**22** And almost all things are purified by blood according to the law, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

**Matt. 26:28**

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

**Eph. 2:13**

**13** But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have become near in the blood of Christ.

**1 Pet. 1:18-19**

**18** Knowing that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers,

**19** But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, the blood of Christ;

**Heb. 10:19-22**

**19** Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,

**20** Which entrance He initiated for us as a new and living way through the veil, that is, His flesh,

**21** And having a great Priest over the house of God,

**22** Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

**Jer. 32:39**

**39** And I will give them one heart and one way, to fear Me all the days, for their own good and for the good of their children after them.

***Suggested Reading***

The children of Israel needed forgiveness and… God was ready to forgive them. If God had not been willing to forgive the people, He could have set the sacrifices aside and put the people all to death. But blood was shed as the necessary requirement for the forgiveness of sins.

The blood for forgiveness of sins ushered the sinful party of the covenant, the children of Israel, into better things. We know this by the fact that after God’s people failed to observe the law, He came in to make another covenant with them. (*Life-study of Exodus*, p. 924)

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In the new covenant God pledged to make with His people, He promised [in Ezekiel 36:26] to give them a new heart….For God to give the people a new heart means that He would change their nature. At the foot of Mount Sinai the children of Israel spoke foolishly to Moses when they promised to do whatever the Lord commanded. God does not want His people to speak in such a way. His intention is to change their heart.

In Ezekiel 36:26 God also promises to give the people a new spirit. This is to regenerate them and reconstitute them.

For God to put His Spirit within His people is for Him to put Himself into them….A new heart, a new spirit, and the Spirit of God can all be ours because the blood has been shed for the forgiveness of sins.

[In] Jeremiah 31:33…God promises to put His law into our inward parts and to write it upon our hearts. This word is quoted in Hebrews 8:10. The law inscribed into our inner being is not the outward law, but the inward law of life.

Because we have a new heart, a new spirit, the Spirit of God, and the inward law of life, we have the ability of life to know God [Jer. 31:34].

God Himself has come into us as the Spirit to impart His life and nature to us. God’s life and nature have become the inward law of life, an organic element which spontaneously regulates us. A new heart, a new spirit, the Spirit of God, the inward law of life, the ability of life to know God—these are the better things into which the blood for forgiveness of sin has ushered us.

Leviticus 16:11-16…show[s] that the blood shed on the altar enabled the high priest to enter into the Holy of Holies…to stay in God’s presence and receive the infusion of His shekinah glory. This is to have the enjoyment of God on the basis of the blood shed at the altar and brought into the Holy of Holies.

Hebrews 9:14…[indicates that] the blood of Christ makes it possible for us to serve the living God. How could we serve God if we were still dead?...Praise Him that through the redeeming blood we have life and have been brought into His presence to serve Him!

The blood of Christ is not only the cleansing blood, the blood which washes us from our sins. It is the blood of the covenant which brings us into God, into the divine life and nature, into the inward law of life and the ability of life to know God, and into the infusion, transfusion, and enjoyment of God both now and in eternity. This is the function of the blood of the covenant.

The blood of the covenant is not mainly for forgiveness; it is primarily for God to be our portion. God has ordained and predestinated us to enjoy Him. This enjoyment has also been covenanted to us. What enacted this covenant? It was enacted by the blood of Jesus Christ, the blood which brings us into all the divine blessings. (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 924-927, 929-930, 933)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations - Week 12, Day 3*

# Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 4 – Sections: *The Supply Of The Body; The Need For The Supply Of The Body*

**Thursday 12/24**

***Related Verses***

**Heb. 8:10**

**10** For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.

**Rom. 8:2**

**2** For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

**Ezek. 11:19-20**

**19** And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them; and I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

**20** That they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them; and they will be My people, and I will be their God.

**Ezek. 36:26-27**

**26** I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

**27** And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and My ordinances you shall keep and do.

**Jer. 31:31-34**

**31** Indeed, days are coming, declares Jehovah, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

**32** Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by their hand to bring them out from the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was their Husband, declares Jehovah.

**33** But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Jehovah: I will put My law within them and write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

**34** And they will no longer teach, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for all of them will know Me, from the little one among them even to the great one among them, declares Jehovah, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

**2 Cor. 3:3**

**3** Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.

***Suggested Reading***

The center, the centrality, of the new covenant is the inner law of life [cf. Jer. 31:33a]….This law is not an outward law but an inward law. In its essence, this law refers to the divine life, and the divine life is nothing less than the life-giving Spirit, the all-inclusive Christ, and the processed and consummated God….We may say that the law is with us. But this law is the divine life, and the divine life is the processed and consummated Triune God—the marvelous source as the Father, the wonderful element as the Son, and the excellent essence as the Spirit. This is the center, the content, and the reality of the new covenant. (*Life-study of Jeremiah*, pp. 183-184)

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A law is a natural regulation, a constant and unchanging rule. A law is not necessarily derived from a life, but a life is definitely accompanied by a law. This law that accompanies life is called the law of life. The law of a particular life is also the natural characteristic, the innate function, of that particular life. For example, cats can catch mice…; or, our ear can hear, our nose can smell, our tongue can taste….All these abilities are the natural characteristics and innate functions of a life. As long as any particular life exists and is free, it can naturally develop its characteristics and manifest its abilities….Such natural characteristics and innate capabilities in a life constitute the law of that life.

The life of God is the highest life; it is the surpassing life; therefore, the characteristics and capabilities of this life must definitely be the most high and surpassing. Since these highest and surpassing characteristics and capabilities constitute the law of the life of God, this law naturally is the most high and surpassing. Since by regeneration we have received the life of God, we have naturally received from the life of God the most high and surpassing law of this life. (*CWWL, 1953*, vol. 3, “The Knowledge of Life,” pp. 102-103)

How wonderful that, after being processed, the Triune God has been installed in us and works within us not by activity, but by law! He is now a law operating within us. He is working in us not merely as the mighty God, but as a law which operates automatically. (*Life-study of Romans*, p. 699)

In Jeremiah 31:33, the source of [the quotation in Hebrews 8:10], the word *laws* is singular, proving that it is one law that spreads into a number of laws. The one law that eventually develops into many laws is the law of life (Rom. 8:2)….The higher the life, the higher is its law….By imparting His divine life into us, God puts this highest law into our spirit, from whence it spreads into our inward parts, such as our mind, emotion, and will, and becomes several laws….When we called on the name of the Lord, the divine life came into our spirit. Gradually, as we have been growing in this life, this life has had the opportunity to develop from our spirit into all of our inward parts. When this life develops into our inward parts, in every part there will be a law to regulate us. Many laws develop out of that one law of life….The law of life regulates us from within by and according to its life element, while the law of letters regulates us from without by and according to its dead letters. The law of dead letters depends upon outward teachings, but the law of life depends upon the inward consciousness, the inward sense of life. Since we all, great or small, have this law of life, we do not need outward teachings according to the law of letters (8:11). (*Life-study of Hebrews*, p. 411)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations - Week 12, Day 4*

**Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 4 – Sections:***The Intercession Of The Members; Living In The Body Of Christ*

**Friday 12/25**

***Related Verses***

1. **Rom. 8:4, 29**
2. **4** That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

**29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

1. **Phil. 2:12-13**
2. **12** So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
3. **13** For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
4. **Gal. 5:24-25**
5. **24** But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.
6. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
7. **Rom. 12:1-2**
8. **1** I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
9. **2** And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
10. **2 Cor. 3:18**
11. **18** But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

***Suggested Reading***

As the function of the law of life accomplishes metabolically the transformation of life for us, so the issue of the law of life is that we are transformed and conformed to the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29) and that Christ is formed in us. The transformation in life and the conformation to Christ depend upon the function of the law of life and are the issue of the work of the law of life….The regulating of the law of the divine life brings the riches of Christ into our life and forms Christ in our being. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, p. 421)

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1. In Romans 8:3 and 4 God has passed through the processes so that there can be an issue—that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk according to the spirit. To cooperate with this law is to walk according to the spirit, and to walk according to the spirit is the way to cooperate with this working law. The law has been installed, but the law’s function and the law’s operation need your cooperation.  (*CWWL, 1980*, vol. 1, “Perfecting Training,” p. 364)
2. Christ makes His home in our heart by occupying our mind, will, emotion, and conscience. Paul prayed that the Father would grant us to be strengthened into our inner man, our spirit, that Christ would have the opportunity to make His home in our heart. We need to be strong to agree and cooperate with the Lord’s settling Himself in our heart by filling every part of our inner being with Himself. The Lord comes into our spirit when we believe in Him, but we need to give Him the permission to spread into our will, our emotion, and especially our mind. We need to give Him the freedom to take over our mind, emotion, and will. Otherwise, He will be confined by us in our spirit and will be unable to settle in our entire inner being to make His home in our heart. (*CWWL, 1982*, vol. 1, “The All-inclusive Indwelling Spirit,” p. 328)
3. God’s eternal purpose is to work Himself into us and make us the same as His Firstborn Son. The Firstborn Son of God is the standard model for God’s economy. This standard model has both divinity and humanity. Originally, He was the Only Begotten Son of God. As the Only Begotten Son of God, He was the embodiment of God, for all that is in the Godhead was embodied in Him (Col. 2:9). He was also the expression of God (Heb. 1:3). As the embodiment and expression of God, He became incarnated, bringing divinity into humanity and joining humanity to divinity. But before the incarnation, divinity had never been joined to humanity. Since the day of His incarnation, there was in this universe a wonderful Person who was both human and divine. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, p. 427)
4. Our entire spiritual life before God cannot be accomplished by our own striving; neither can it be achieved by self-improvement with utmost effort; rather, it is the responsibility of the life of God, which we have already received into us. The life of God accompanied by the law of this life dwells in our spirit; if we live and act according to this law of life in our spirit, this law of life can very naturally regulate out from within us, item by item, all the content within the life of God. This will correspond very well with the demand of the external law of God, and even exceed it with no deficiency. Romans 8:4 speaks of this: “That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (*CWWL, 1953*, vol. 3, “The Knowledge of Life,” p. 104)
5. **Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations - Week 12, Day 5*
6. ***Corporate Reading –*** *no reading today.*

**Saturday 12/26**

1. ***Related Verses***
2. **Heb. 8:10-11**
3. **10** For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.
4. **11** And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.
5. **Ps. 16:5**
6. **5** Jehovah is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup; You maintain my lot.
7. **Acts 26:18**
8. **18** To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.
9. **Col. 1:12**
10. **12** Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
11. **Eph. 1:11, 18**
12. **11** In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

**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,

1. **1 John 2:27**
2. **27** And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

***Suggested Reading***

Romans 8:17 says that as children of God, we are also heirs of God to inherit God as our everything….Many times the Old Testament, especially the book of Jeremiah, says that Israel will be God's people and He will be their God….For us to be God's people means that we are God's inheritance, and for God to be our God means that He is our inheritance. Before this mutual inheritance existed, both God and we, we and God, were poor. Before we had God, we had nothing, and before God had us, He was childless. That was the reason that He desired to dispense Himself into us, to make us all His children; and all His children are now His inheritance. Now God is rich. By this we can understand the significance of this simple word: "I will be your God, and you will be My people." Today, as the children of God, we have Christ, and Christ is the embodiment of God. This God who is embodied in Christ is our life, our person, and our inheritance. Likewise, God also has an inheritance. We are His inheritance. (*Life-study of Isaiah*, pp. 347-348)

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The last part of Hebrews 8:10 says, “I will be God to them, and they shall be a people to Me.” In the new covenant we have the privilege of having God as our God and of being His people—the enabling of life for us to participate in the enjoyment of God in fellowship with Him. The people under the old covenant had God according to the Ten Commandments. God was God to them according to the old law of letters, and they were His people also according to the law of letters. But today our God is God to us not according to letters but according to the inward life, and we are His people not according to any written regulations but also according to the inner life. It is according to the law of life that God is God to us and we are a people to Him. God’s relationship with us today is fully based upon the law of life; it is a relationship in life. So today we do not need to walk according to the knowledge of the law of letters but according to the consciousness of the law of life.

It is very difficult, for example, to find a verse in the New Testament which tells us what time God wants us to get up in the morning….We shall not know it by any regulation of letters outwardly but according to the inner life. When tomorrow morning comes, the inner life will tell us what time God wants us to get up. If we do not rise up at that time, we shall miss God’s presence.

In the new covenant there is also the function of the law of life by which we know God in the inward way of life. Verse 11 [indicates that]…there is no need for the outward teachings, because we know the Lord by…the inner sense of life. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, pp. 412-413)

In chapter 31 Jeremiah laid the foundation of the new covenant, prophesying that God will put His law within us; that He will write His law into our mind that we may know God; that God will be our God and we will be His people; that we will not need anyone to teach us, because we will all have a teaching life within us; and that God will forgive our iniquity and remember our sins no longer. In the new covenant we enjoy the inner law of life. This law of life brings us God's person and also the divine capacity of the divine life, which can accomplish everything for God to fulfill His economy. By the inner law of life we have the capacity to know God, to live God, and even to be constituted with God in His life and nature so that we may be His corporate expression. (*Life-study of Jeremiah*, pp. 183-184)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations – Week 12, Day 6*

**Hymns, #1187**

**1**

Your ministry, O Lord,

How excellent it is;

A better covenant,

And better promises;

Enacted on a better law.

Of such You are Executor.

**2**

A better covenant,

And better promises;

A better law of life

And sacrifice this is.

Redemption’s work, done long ago,

A better blood has made it so.

**3**

In Hebrews eight we see

The way to make us whole;

Life planted deep within,

Which spreads into the soul.

The law of life, imparted, still

Inscribed in mind, emotion, will.

**4**

The law of letters leave,

The law of life pursue;

The one is old and dead,

The other fresh and new.

Dead teachings cannot help the seed;

The law of life is what we need.

**5**

The law of life in us,

In function now we see,

Works not by will and thought

But automatically.

It saturates, conforms to Him;

The standard model spreads within.

**6**

Our sins are all forgiv’n,

His life imparted too;

God is our God today,

And we’re His people true.

We know Him in an inward way:

These blessings four have come to stay.

**7**

We’re being sonized now;

The life within will do

The deep transforming work

Of making us anew.

In ages past, the work was done—

Now prayer is over—praise the Son!

**Lord’s Day 12/27**

1. ***Related Verses***
2. **2 Cor. 5:9, 14-15, 17**
3. **9** Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.
4. **14** For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
5. **15** And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.
6. **17** So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
7. **Gal. 2:20**
8. **20** I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
9. **Eph. 4:16**
10. **16** Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
11. **Rev. 21:1-3**
12. **1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more.
13. **2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
14. **3** And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
16. **Further Reading**
17. Watchman Nee, *The New Covenant,*  chp. 6
18. *Life-Study of Jeremiah,* msgs. 39, 26
19. *Life-Study of Hebrews*  msg. 36-38