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In Christ and Christ In Us (3)

Ephesians 1:3-14. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Please bow our head and pray.

Our God, we want to see Your glory on the face of our Lord Jesus. May Your glory display here, so we will prostrate before You and worship You, because You are the God who should be praised forever. In the Lord Jesus’ name. Amen.

Our brother T. Austin-Sparks once said that no other terms appeared more than this term “In Christ” in the New Testament. “In Christ”, “In Him”, “In Jesus Christ”, “In Christ”, “Through Christ”, “With Christ”, these terms have been used in the Bible for more than two hundred times. Among all the dogmas in Christianity, no other dogma is expressed more than “In Christ”; and no other dogma is understood as little as this one. Therefore, we can see how important is “In Christ.”

Colossians 2:2-3 tell us: God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Who can search God's mystery? Who can know God? Our God is a God who is unsearchable. But His mystery is Christ. Christ proclaims our God completely; He has completely opened up our God to us. This is why He said, "When you see Me, you see the Father." For in Christ all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. There is nothing else outside of Christ; all that He is, is in Christ. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we need to know how important it is to understand the meaning of Christ. We should not have any other pursuit outside of Christ, because God's will is to have us gain all His fullness in Christ. This is what we shared on the first morning.

Yesterday morning we shared that since all the fullness of God dwells in Christ, then how do we enter into Christ? If we can enter into Christ, we can enjoy all the fullness of God. We know that we are originally in Adam. Because we are in Adam, we have Adam's nature, we have Adam's living, and we have Adam's behavior. All that we are regulated by Adam. We have no way of coming out of Adam. But thank and praise God! Because of His wondrous grace, He has taken us out of Adam, and has placed us in Christ. Therefore, it states in 1 Corinthians 1:30, "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus".

Not only do we not have a way to come out of Adam, we do not have a way to enter into Christ by ourselves either. It is through our Lord Jesus' resurrection from the dead, making us dead to Adam and alive in Christ. Therefore, brothers and sisters, salvation is a change in position. He has taken us out of the position in Adam, and has placed us in Christ. It is just as in the Old Testament God saved the people of Israel, using the lamb of the Passover to make the angels of destruction pass over them. Therefore, all the land of Egypt and all the families in Egypt were wailing that night because all the firstborns were killed; only the Israelite families had peace and joy. Because of the blood of the lamb on the top and sides of the door frames, the angels of destruction passed over them. This represents that we are out of death and have entered into life today because of the precious blood of our Lord Jesus. We are saved.

But the Israelites did not stay in Egypt after the Passover, because God's will was for them to leave Egypt. The will of God was to lead them into the land of Canaan. Therefore, you see that was a change in position. They no longer lived in Egypt; they were in Canaan. If they were in Egypt, they lived the life of Egypt, they were under the rule of Pharaoh, they did not have any hope of living, they were living the life of a slave, because they were in the land of Egypt. But thank and praise God, God brought them out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan.

Canaan was a land flowing with milk and honey. In Canaan one lived the life of Canaan, it was free, they were under God's government, under God's care, and they enjoyed all the abundance given by God.

Therefore, the question is, where are you? Are you in Egypt or are you in Canaan? Are you in Adam or are you in Christ? How did the people of Israel go from Egypt to Canaan? We know that God used Moses and Joshua to lead them. It was Moses who took them out of Egypt, and Joshua brought them to Canaan. Moses and Joshua are types of our Lord Jesus. Moses represents the Lord's work on earth. He has accomplished salvation and delivered us from Adam. Joshua represents the Lord's work in heaven. Our Lord is an apostle of God on earth; our Lord is a high priest in heaven. Because He is God's apostle, He came to the earth in order to finish the redemptive work. Because He has ascended to heaven and has become our high priest, He is able to save us to the uttermost, so that we can enjoy all the fullness in Christ.

When the Israelites left Egypt and came into Canaan, they came across two bodies of water. First, they crossed the Red Sea, then they crossed the River Jordan. In reality, the Red Sea and River Jordan is one water. For us, it is us dying into Christ. We died, and died with Him, buried with Him, and resurrected with Him. I believe all the brothers and sisters here are all baptized. Do we know the meaning of baptism? God tells us that when we baptize with Christ, we have changed our position. We have come out Adam and have entered into Christ. I hope brothers and sisters will grab hold of this point firmly. Thank and praise God that we are not in Adam. Thank and praise God that we are in Christ today. This is the position God has given us. We need to stand in this position by faith and we will be able to experience the fullness God has given us in Christ.

This morning we want to take a further look. Since God has already placed us in Christ, then let us discover the riches in Christ now. We need to find out what wonderful things are in Canaan that are prepared for us by God. Of course, I have already mentioned that the abundant grace in Christ is not something we can count. Our Christ and His riches are unsearchable riches. In other words, if we start discovering it on the day we are saved, we will still be discovering it in eternity, because our Lord is infinite. Therefore, brothers and sisters, you need to see the riches in Christ are infinite. We will uncover it today, uncover it tomorrow, and will still be uncovering it until eternity. This is the thrilling feeling of a Christian; it is not boring to be a Christian. We know that it is full of hope to be a Christian. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we need to uncover the grace given to us in Christ by God is never-ending. This morning we will have a little

taste of it, just like we are tasting the goodness of our Lord's grace. I believe the more we taste of it, the more we will want to eat it.

Therefore, Paul said in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ". Paul exclaimed in praises in the very beginning. If you had known what kind of blessing God has given us in Christ, we would not be able to keep thanksgiving and praises from gushing out of us. How our God cares for us that He has even blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. It is not that you need one blessing today and He will prepare one for you at the time. He has already prepared all that you need, and has hidden them in Christ. If you have Christ, you have all. That is why it says in Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" Thank and praise God, He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. So, what are these spiritual blessings in the heavenly places? Firstly, in verses 3 and 4, "who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him." The first of all these spiritual blessings in the heavenly places is that He has chosen us. Before the foundation of the world, before time even began, God has already chosen us in Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, the election of God is a mystery. Why? It is because the election of God happens before the foundation of the world, before time begins, and before space begins. It is at that time God has already chosen us in Christ. God's election is God's sovereignty. Our God is God; therefore, He can choose according to His pleasure. If He wants to choose in a certain way, no one can refute Him and say, "Why would You do it this way?"

This is God's sovereignty. People of the world often want to argue with God's sovereignty. If you read Romans 9, there is a person refuting God's election. But God said, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." God's election and calling do not depend on man's behavior. They do not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. This is God's election. God will have mercy on whom He has mercy, and He will have compassion on whom I have compassion. No one is qualified to judge why He works the way He does. It is just like a lump of clay in

the hands of a potter. If the potter is pleased to use a lump of clay to make a certain vessel, the lump of clay cannot say to the potter, "Why did you make me into such a vessel?" It is because that is the potter's sovereignty. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we need to remember the election of God is God's sovereignty. We have no rights whatsoever in this matter. We can only prostrate and accept.

I think Moody had a very good analogy. He said that when you come before the door of salvation, you will see these words on the door: All who are willing can come. These words are: "All who are willing". God does not say, "So-and-so are willing." Perhaps you are not that so-and-so, or perhaps there are two or three people who are all so-and-so, then you will not know whether you are that person. But God says, "All who are willing". As long as you are willing, these words are spoken to you. As long as you are willing, you can enter regardless of who you are. You can drink of the water of life for free. Thank and praise God that you are willing, and you enter in. After you get into the door, you turn around and look, these are the words written at the back of the door: "Blessed are you who are chosen by God". Therefore, brothers and sisters, before you are willing, you do not know whether you are chosen or not. But if you are willing, then you enter the door, and you will see that you are chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.

Brothers and sisters, there is nothing else that can strengthen our faith like the election of God. Sometimes we are ever-changing, sometimes we will even doubt whether God will save us. But thank and praise God, God has chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world. This is the security of Christians. We thank and praise God, nothing else can strengthen our faith more than God's election. It is because it does not depend on man's will or the man who runs, but it only depends on God who has mercy.

What is God's purpose of choosing us before the foundation of the world? It tells us here: we would be holy and blameless before Him. In the Chinese Bible some words are missing. It does not tell us that it is "in love", we would be holy and blameless. It is before God, in love, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. God has chosen us, what kind of choice is this? Is it only to choose us not to go to hell but go to heaven? If this is the case, this is not like God's glory. Because God's election is based on His glory. The God of glory has chosen us. His love is upon us. He wants us to be holy. Not only justified, He wants us to be holy. Because our God is holy, He wants us to have a part in His nature. What is to be holy? To be holy is to be separated. We are separated from all things so that we can be God's completely. This is the meaning of being holy.

Not only does God want us to be holy, He also wants us to be blameless, without any blemishes. Be holy just as the Father is holy. Dear brothers and sisters, this is the election of God. Since God has chosen you, He will do His work in love upon you until you are holy. He will not allow you to be common. He will surely make you special, completely holy as God is holy. Even though we have many blemishes, His love will work in us and take away all of our imperfections. Because God wants a holy church, without blemish, without spot, without wrinkle or any such thing. This is God's election that has been given us in Christ. Should we not praise our God because of Him choosing us? It is not because we are good, not because we are better than others, but God has chosen even us before the foundation of the earth. This is the first matter.

Let us look at the second matter, which is in verse 5, "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will." Here it says, "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself". "Sonship" is a better translation than "adoption as sons" because adoption in our concept has the meaning of raising someone else's children. But "sonship" means you are the son. God has placed you in the position of a son. It is according to the kind intention of His will that He predestined us. God's predestination is a wonderful thing. There were many quarrels in the two thousand years in the history of Christianity. Some said that if God has predestined me to go to hell, then I would have to go to hell, it would not matter if I believed in Jesus. If God has predestined me to go to heaven, I would go to heaven no matter what I do. If this is the case, then there is no need to preach the gospel. Because if God has predestined me to go to hell, there is no use to preach the gospel to me. There is full of misunderstanding regarding God's predestination among God's children today.

God's predestination is a wonderful thing. First of all, what is God's predestination? God do not predestine you to go to heaven and predestine him to go to hell. He predestines you, who have received His redemption, to gain sonship. Let us read Romans 8:29, "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren". It shows us here that His predestination is based on His foreknowledge. Our God is omniscience. He is not limited by time. In other words, He has no past, no present, and no future. To Him it is always the present. Therefore, He foreknew. Before things happen, He already has the foreknowledge of how things will happen. God is able to foresee. Today, we are very short-sighted, we are not able to see far ahead. But our God can see everything clearly with just one look. It is based on His foreknowledge that He predestines. Our God's predestination is not without reasons. If it were without

reason, it will be the so-called fatalism. It is like in Islam, things are determined by Allah and man can only accept them, therefore it is fatalism, and this is not the truth in the Bible.

God's predestination is based on His foreknowledge. But, because you have no foreknowledge and I do not have foreknowledge, God's foreknowledge becomes an issue for us. Let me use an analogy. Let's say you are a very vigilant person. One day, when you were sitting at home and looking out your window, you saw someone walking back and forth in front of your door. His eyes were also looking checking out the place. Then, you had an idea that this person was probably going to break into your home at night. So, you were very alert and kept watch at night. Sure enough, this person came in the night time. Indeed, he was a thief. And this is how your predestination is based on your foreknowledge. So, when you called him out as a thief, did you make him a thief? No. He was a thief. It is because you were very vigilant, you foreknew he was a thief.

This is how our God is. His predestination is based on His foreknowledge. He foreknew that when the gospel is preached to you, you will keep resisting, you will not accept, therefore, He knew you are someone who will perish. He did not make you perish. It is you causing yourself to perish. He only foreknew; therefore, He is not responsible. If you are to perish, God will not take responsibility, it is your own responsibility. God's predestination is based on His foreknowledge.

But what is this predestination? It is not to predestine whether you will perish or will be saved, because this is not like God, this is not like God's glory. What is God's predestination then? It is to predestine us to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. Oh, brothers and sisters, this is such a wondrous predestination! We ought to jump and praise God because of this predestination. And it continues in verse 30, "And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified." Those whom God foreknows, He called. Since God has called you, He justifies you. Since He has justified you, He glorified you. In other words, His hand does not let us go, until He has conformed us to the image of His Son. When we believed in the Lord, we were babes in the Lord, we were of the flesh. I often find that everyone likes little children. Little children are innocent; but we can say that they are completely fleshy. If a child is not happy, he will cry in the middle of the night. He does not care whether you need to sleep. If he is hungry and you don't feed him right away, he will be angry. He is completely fleshy, is it not?

God does not want little children; He wants sons and daughters who are like His only begotten Son, that He would be the firstborn. The meaning of firstborn is that all other sons will be like Him; therefore, this is God's predestination for us. Brothers and sister, you do not look like the Son of God today. Often when we look at brothers and sisters, all we can see is Adam. It seems that we cannot see Christ. Christ has not been formed in us. You do not need to look at others; you just need to look at yourself. You can see you are full of Adam's image, and Christ's image seems not to be showing. Sometimes you may feel discouraged, you may wonder if there is still hope. Does someone like me still have hope? Dear brothers and sisters, I thank and praise God. I am so discouraged by myself, but when I think of God's predestination, since He has called me, since He has justified me, He will surely glorify me. He will transform me and conform me to His Son's image, and that His son will be the firstborn among many brethren. Brothers and sisters, there is nothing else that can encourage me like this truth. Thank and praise God, He has already predestined this in Christ. One day, when someone sees you, he will not see you but the Lord Jesus. This is God's predestination. Therefore, you see, predestination is a glorious truth, it is determined by God for us in Christ. Should we not thank and praise God for this?

The third matter. Ephesians 1:6, "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he has taken us into favor in the Beloved." (Darby) It is not very clear in the Chinese translation; it is clearer in the English translation. The emphasis here is "favor". Not only does God accept us, He also favors us as He favors His only Son. We know that the Lord Jesus is His beloved only Son; how our God favors Him. Our Lord was under the Father's favor all the days on earth. God loved Him to a point, as if God could not contain Himself, He opened the heaven and said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." Dear brothers and sisters, God has already decided in Christ that He would favor us as He favors His beloved Son. Sometimes you doubt whether God loves you: Maybe you have come across something that is against you, or after you prayed but God did not grant you what you wanted, or you had a certain need but God did not provide for you, or God put you in a circumstance and did not deliver you out of it. You doubted whether God loved or hated you, whether God was with you, whether God had a change of heart. We often have these questions. But thank and praise God, God favors us in Christ, just as He favors His beloved Son. When our Lord Jesus was in Gethsemane, when our Lord Jesus was on the cross in Calvary, did God hate Him? Did God change His love for His Son? We know very well that it was not the case. All these were under God's favor, because God wanted His beloved Son to accomplish salvation. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we need to thank and praise God, every brother and sister is the favored son of God.

When I was growing up, we had seven siblings in the family, and I was the fifth child. When I was young, I often thought that it was the worst to be the fifth child. Because my father liked the oldest and the youngest ones, it was not a good position to be in the middle. Sometimes we might think whether our parents love us. I was living at home until I graduated from college. During college years, I only spent a few months living at school. When my father saw how thin I was, he immediately told me to go back home. But I still did not think I was the favored son. After I left home to serve the Lord, I was living by myself in another place. One day, the Holy Spirit touched me and made me see how my parents had loved me. I did not feel it when I was living with them. I only began to feel my parent's love after I had left them. But I have never expressed my feelings to them. So, I wrote a letter to my parents, and I told them how grateful I was for their love to me. So often we are the same towards God. Because we are living in God's love, we do not feel how God favors us; on the contrary, we have ill feelings towards God. But if God opens our eyes, we will see God indeed favors us like He favors His only Son. We need to thank and praise God.

The fourth point. Verse 7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." This shows us we have redemption in Christ. Brothers and sisters, what is redemption? Why do we need redemption? It is because we are sold to sin. We are the ones who have died in sin and transgression. Not only have we died in sin, we have also lost the inheritance God gave us. We know that when God created man, God not only gave man a body, He also gave man a spirit so that we can receive God's life. Additionally, God has given man the authority to rule over the birds of the air, the beasts of the earth, and the fish in the sea. It seems that not only did God create man, He also gave the land as an inheritance to man. However, when man sinned, not only did he fall, he also lost the authority God gave him, he lost his inheritance. As a result, today, if you see a bird you really like and you call it to come to you, it will not listen to you. If you come across a tiger and say, "Bow before me!" The tiger will jump on you. You have lost your authority. We have lost our inheritance. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we need redemption.

You remember the book of Ruth in the Bible; this book shows us that we have a kinsman redeemer. It shows us not only did Ruth need to be redeemed, the lost inheritance also needs to be redeemed. Therefore, brothers and sisters, God has a redemptive work in Christ. This redemptive work not only includes us, that we are redeemed by the blood of the beloved Son, and our transgressions are forgiven. God has paid a great price to redeem us. We have sold ourselves; we are sold to sin; yet God has paid such a great price, using His Son's precious blood to redeem us from sin, and our transgressions are forgiven. It is such grace. Not only this, not only the people are redeemed. When Boaz redeemed Ruth, he redeemed to a point that he married Ruth. Therefore, today God uses

the blood of His beloved Son to redeem us so that we will become the bride of His beloved Son, to be one with Him. This is redemption. It is not just redeeming the person; He has redeemed our inheritance as well. Therefore, it says in verse 11, “also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will”. What is our inheritance? How do we know that God will redeem the inheritance back to us? Verse 14 says, “Who (the Holy Spirit) is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.” Dear brothers and sisters, every one of us who is redeemed by the Lord has the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. The Holy Spirit is a seal. Not only is He a seal, He is also a pledge. The indwelling Holy Spirit is the down payment given to us by God. Which is to say, after the down payment is made, the inheritance will completely be yours. The Holy Spirit is the pledge and down payment within us. What does He prove? He proves that we will gain Christ completely. Christ is our inheritance; we will gain all the fullness in Christ. The Holy Spirit has already been a pledge in us. He is within us and is to take up the responsibility to conform us into the image of God’s son and He will reveal Christ to us. He will transform us, from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit, so that we will gain Christ completely. Therefore, brothers and sisters, it is not only the person is redeemed, we have also gained Christ as our inheritance. Paul said that man are turned from darkness into light, and to receive the inheritance with all the saints, to receive the inheritance in light. This is the redemption God has given us in Christ.

Of course, there is another aspect of the inheritance. Not only is Christ our inheritance, we are also Christ’s inheritance. That is why He is a seal upon us. A seal means you belong to Him. In the old days, when people conducted business transactions, if you were to go get lumber from the forest, every buyer from a lumber factory had a seal. If he wanted a particular tree, he would put his seal on it. After the tree was cut down and transported to the port, the buyer would come and get his tree according to the mark of the seal. Therefore, brothers and sisters, you can see that the Holy Spirit not only is a down payment so that we can gain Christ completely, because He is our inheritance; the Holy Spirit is also a seal so that God can gain us completely. That is why it says in Ephesians 1:18, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”. This tells us God sees us as His inheritance. “His inheritance in the saints”, how glorious is His inheritance in the saints. Brothers and sisters, when we look at ourselves, we say that God is fooled, He is fooled in this business transaction. We gain Christ to be our inheritance, He is full of glorious riches; but, when Christ gains us to be His inheritance, we are but a piece of desolate land, and full of thorns and briars. Our God is indeed fooled. But thank God, it says, “the glory of His inheritance in the saints”. Because the Holy Spirit is working Christ in us, until we become a glorious church, without

blemish, without wrinkle, without spot. Dear brothers and sisters, this is what God does in Christ. Should we not thank and praise our God for these?

The fifth point: We have eternal life in Christ. Our brother has mentioned eternal life in the evening. He told us eternal life is not an “it” but a “person”. Eternal life is our Lord. Because life is in Him, this life is the light of man. John 17:3 tells us that eternal life is to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Brothers and sisters, eternal life is not only living forever and ever in time; eternal life is to live in a glorious state. If we were to live to eternity today, I am afraid spending one hundred years on earth is enough. This world is a world of suffering.

I think only the young people want to live longer, but we, the elderlies, wish to live less years. We feel that we have lived enough. If we live forever like this, it is very painful. Therefore, eternal life is not a matter of time, it is a matter of quality. When we live in the Lord and the Lord lives in us, this life is glorious, is abundant, is overcoming, is joyous, and is fulfilling. Brothers and sisters, we live like our Lord, because the Lord lives in us. If this is the case, the longer we live, the more interesting it will be. Then we thank and praise our Lord that we will live forever and ever. This is what God has given us in Christ.

I'd like to emphasize what our brother had shared last night. One year, I went to South America. I was in Peru and was spending time with an American missionary couple. We were hiking and we took a boat ride on the Amazon river to visit some brothers and sisters. This couple loved the Lord very much. They served the Lord in Peru for many decades and brought many to the Lord. One time, when they were travelling, they heard that a Chinese Christian family had moved there. So, they went to visit the family and to have fellowship with them. I knew this Chinese family very well, they had been serving the Lord for many years. When they were having fellowship, it was discovered that when they preached the gospel, they told people there is eternal life for those who believe in Jesus, but their concept of eternal life is that one can go to heaven after he dies. It was like buying insurance. You cannot use it while you are alive, it will take effect once you are dead. When our brother was sharing with the family, he told them eternal life begins on the day when one is saved. You can enjoy eternal life today. You can have Christ living in you today. Such fellowship opened the eyes of the couple and they began to see what eternal life is. They said that they would go preach the gospel again and tell others that eternal life is not just for the future. One can live in eternity today because Christ is our life.

Which life are you living by today? Is it by the life of Christ? Or is it by your own life? Thank and praise God. Therefore, brothers and sisters, you see, God has given us eternal life in Christ. He has given us His son as our life, so that we can live on earth.

The gospel has two sides. To those who have not believed, I say to them, "Because the Lord has died for you, you don't need to die." The other side of the gospel is for those who have believed: Because the Lord had resurrected, you don't need to live. I feel that it is hard for us to live. I feel that it is difficult for us to be Christians. I often say that nervous Christians are good Christians. If you are not a good Christian, if you don't care, you will not be nervous. But, brothers and sisters, the Lord says, "You don't need to live. I have already resurrected. Because I live, you don't need to live." This is the gospel. This is what God has prepared for us in Christ.

My time is up. Indeed, we are not able to do the counting. We will still be counting in eternity. We will still be discovering. Thank and praise God. Not only has God prepared everything for each one of us in Christ, chapter 2 tells us He has made us all into a new man. Whether it is the Greek and the Jew, the circumcised and the uncircumcised, slave and freeman, barbarian and Scythian, we are all one in Christ, one new man. Today, there are not Chinese or Americans in Christ. There is only Christ in Christ. We have all kinds of distinction in the world to separate us, but we are one in Christ. Because it is Christ only. Not only this, when the fullness of the times come, all things in heaven and on earth will be summed up in Christ. All will display the glory of Christ. This is what God does in Christ. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, how we want to discover the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ every day.

Let us bow our head and pray.

Our God, we give You thanksgiving and praises from our hearts. You have already blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. You have not kept any good things from us. You have given us all in Christ. Our God, please open our eyes, please move our hearts, so we can discover the fullness in Christ every day, and that Your glory will be praised. In the Lord Jesus' name. Amen.