

2018 WCCC
Brother Ted Peng
Sonship and Inheritance (2)

This afternoon the burden that God gave us is to share on the inheritance – God's inheritance to the praise of His glory. Let us read a few scriptures.

Galatians 4: 7. So thou art no longer bondman, but sons; but if sons, heirs also through God. To be heir through God in the Chinese translation is better than what I read in English. Yesterday we shared on sonship. Here it said if a son, then an heir through God. This brings us from sonship into inheritance. Heir is inheritance. The purpose is to inherit the inheritance.

Psalms 16: 5. Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup; thou maintains my lot. This is David's psalm. Here David said, Lord you are my inheritance.

Psalms 78: 70 – 71. And He chose David His servant, and took him from the sheep folds: from following the suckling-ewes, He brought him to feed Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. Here I would like to underline Jacob His people and Israel His inheritance. So the Lord called 'His people, His inheritance'.

Acts 26: 14 – 20. And, when we were all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecuted thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against goads. And I said, who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecuted; but rise up and stand on thy feet; for, for this purpose have I appeared to thee, to appoint thee to be a servant and a witness both of what thou has seen, and of what I shall appear to thee in, taking thee out from among the people, and the nations, to whom I send thee, to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan

to God, that they may receive remission of sins and inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in me. Whereupon, king Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision; but have, first to those both in Damascus and Jerusalem, and to all the region of Judea, and to the nations, announced that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance.

These groups of verses show that from the very beginning when Paul became an apostle, the Lord entrusted to him to proclaim the inheritance. I want brothers and sisters to note 'an inheritance among those who are sanctified in Me'. This is the first time the Lord appeared to Saul. And then He told Saul to tell the people that there is an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Him.

Acts 20: 32. And now I commit you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give to you an inheritance among all the sanctified. This was after Paul has served in Ephesus for about three and half years and what he said to the elders in the church. Apostle Paul never forgot that the Lord has entrusted this message of inheritance among brothers and sisters.

Ephesians 1: 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ.

9 – 12, 14. Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself for the administration of the fullness of times; to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth; in Him, in whom we have also obtained an inheritance, being marked out beforehand according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His own will, that we should be to the praise of His glory who have pre-trusted in the Christ.

Who is the earnest of our inheritance to the redemption of the required possession to the praise of His glory.

18 – 23. Being enlightened in the eyes of your heart, so that you should know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance

in the saints, and what the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of the might of His strength, in which He wrought in the Christ in raising Him from among the dead, and He set Him down at His right hand in the heavenlies, above every principality, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name named, not only in this age, but also in that to come; and has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the assembly, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians was written about 25 years after the Lord first appeared to Saul.

Verse 14 talks about the Holy Spirit. Ephesians talks about inheritance three times. The first time is in verse 11 which said we have also obtained an inheritance. Verse 14 said the Holy Spirit will guarantee our inheritance. Verse 18 actually said that we are that inheritance.

Let us have a word of prayer.

Lord we really thank and praise You because You have given us an inheritance – a glorious inheritance. Lord we really praise You. This inheritance in our Lord Jesus is way beyond what we can think of. Lord, please open our eyes this time. In the entire conference time, You have been with us, Lord. You have a burden that we can open our eyes and see this glory. Lord, we have a confidence and that confidence is that You are able. So this afternoon we entrust all of us to You. There is no veil between You and us. Lord, speak beyond the weakness of Your servant. Lord we praise You and we shall see Your glory. In the name of the Lord Jesus we pray. Amen.

Yesterday we talked about sonship. We thank the Lord that actually His intention is for each of us to be His son according to sonship. His idea of sonship is from the very beginning. There is love in it. There is responsibility that He requires of His sons. He also expects His sons to represent Him. Putting all these things together, He called it covenant. It is a very, very serious matter in His mind. Thank the Lord in the New Testament time, the apostle called it sonship. Thank the Lord that it takes all of the effort of the Father, the

effort of the Son and the effort of the Holy Spirit to make that happen to us – to happen to you and to happen to me. Especially today, the Holy Spirit is doing His perfecting in us. I am thankful that our brother this morning referred to Romans 8: 23. It talks about the entire creation waiting for sonship. Many sons will mature. And the sonship can be a reality and actually can be perfected. And what our brother mentioned this morning is the redemption of the body. So, the sonship will be fully accomplished in each of us. It is hard for us to believe that it will happen to each one of us. But brothers and sisters, it is not our work. It is His work. As long as we are willing to yield to that He is going to make it work. We praise the Lord for that. Galatians chapter 4 states that we are sons now and because we are sons we depend on God to obtain our inheritance. This is the next step. We are sons now, and God expects us to inherit the inheritance. That is a big responsibility. So the emphasis of inheritance is responsibility. We will talk more about that today.

Let us read a few verses in *Hebrews 11:13 – 16*. *All these died faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them from afar off and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on the earth. For they who said such things show clearly that they seek their country. And if they had called to mind that from whence they went out, they had had opportunity to have returned; but now they seek a better, that is, a heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God; for He has prepared for them a city.*

These verses talk about the whole family, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and even Joseph. The Bible states that this entire family – several generations, male and female, including Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph had not yet received the promise on earth. But they see from afar a better country, which is in heaven. So God was not ashamed to be called their God. God was really pleased with them. Brothers and sisters, from the very beginning, the inheritance is not a material thing. They had not received the promise on earth. But they looked forward to a better country which is in heaven. So the real inheritance is spiritual. The real inheritance is with God. How do we know the

heavenly one was the real one? It was because God's heart was pleased. He was not ashamed to be called their God.

Four hundred years later, during the time of Moses, there was a brother by the name of Caleb. He was born and raised in Egypt. He loved the Lord. He knew all the history of his people. And he was made the chief of the tribe of Judah. And in that year when the Israelites were drawing near the south of the Promised Land, twelve spies were sent in to spy the land. Caleb was one of them. At that time, he was forty years old. He spent forty days in Canaan. And in those forty days something came up in his heart. And I believe that he had to be thinking about this inheritance. He thought about all his forefathers Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob. He thought about the deep fellowship in each one of their lives that they had with the Lord. He thought about all these people. Each of them, except for Joseph, one generation after another, chose to be buried in this place called Hebron. He came back after forty days. We all know the story of how the ten spies gave an evil report. They were just like the ordinary people. They saw only the difficulty. The soldiers there were so tall, and the castles were so strong. They saw themselves compared to them as grasshoppers. And they said the people saw them as grasshoppers. But Caleb said the Lord had given this land to them and they should go in. However, all the men said they should not go in because it was too hard. And the Lord sent them back to the wilderness for thirty-eight years. Finally, the second generation went in. Seven years later, when the land was to be divided, Caleb told Joshua, 'when we first came, I was forty years old. Moses had promised this Hebron to me. So please give this land to me. I am now eighty-five years old. But I am as strong as when I was forty'. Dear brothers and sisters, the inheritance of the Lord grabbed his heart. And throughout these forty-five years, he had not forgotten Hebron. When he was eighty-five, he still wanted that place to conquer. This is the story of Caleb. The inheritance of the Lord grabbed his heart.

Some time later we come to the story of Ruth. She was a Moabite. But she was married to an Israelite. The history of the family was sad. Somehow Ruth saw

in her mother-in-law something very, very special. The family was actually miserable. But she saw in Naomi that God was superior. So when Naomi asked her to go back to her father and brothers, and to get married again, Ruth said no. She told Naomi, 'your God is my God, and your people are my people. Wherever you dwell I will dwell. Wherever you die, I will die. I will be buried there'. Thank the Lord for that. Ruth saw something superior. Ruth saw something glorious. If you ask Ruth, I do not think she could tell you all these terms – glory, superior. But there was something that grabbed her heart that was more important than anything. It was more important than life and death. And it was more important than her father's home. So she went with Naomi. We all know the story. The book of Ruth is a story of inheritance. Ruth went in. They came to Boaz's farm. It was very interesting in the third chapter. When Ruth had a chance to be private with Boaz, Ruth told Boaz, 'you have the right to redeem me'. Boaz said 'from the very beginning we see you, we see you as a woman of virtue. You have not followed young men whether they are rich or poor. Everyone in our village see that you are a woman of virtue'. Finally, Boaz married Ruth. The interesting thing was that when Ruth first had the chance to talk to Boaz alone, she did not say 'I love you'. But she said 'you have the right to redeem me'. What does that mean? It meant that Boaz had the right to redeem her so that she could become associated with the inheritance of God. She said 'so I can become a member of Judah'. From the very beginning Ruth said 'your God is my God, your people are my people'. Her great grandson was David.

In the case of David, his feeling about this inheritance was very strong. We cannot say that it is because of Ruth that David had such a strong feeling about inheritance. But David saw the inheritance as something he had to have. He said 'the Lord is my inheritance'. Later he was chased around by Saul for ten years. We mentioned yesterday that he did not kill Saul when he had a chance to do it. But he told Saul one thing and that was if people wanted to drag him outside of God's inheritance, he could not accept that. So the Lord and his inheritance were more important to David than anything else. And the Lord

appreciated that. In David's life, the Lord revealed Himself to him in special ways. Remember in Psalm 110, David said, 'the Lord said to my Lord, sit on my right until I make your enemies your footstool'. David had two Lords. He was saying to the Lord Jehovah, 'on your right is a Lord and He is my Lord'. So the Lord said to my Lord. The Lord showed David there is another Lord whom David called my Lord. At the end of David's life in 2 Samuel 23, David said my Lord has a righteous ruler. He can bring the rain and the sunshine and He can make everything grow. But my family is not like that. So he was talking about a righteous ruler. Thank the Lord that David was the best king in Israel. Actually God used David as a standard for kings. There was always a Lord before David the entire time when he was king. And the Lord led him on when he was king. Brothers and sisters, this is wonderful.

Whether it was Caleb, Ruth or David, the inheritance of the Lord drew them. There was a vision, a force that led them. In Revelation 5 it says 'Jesus, the lion which is of the tribe of Judah'. So we have Caleb who was of the tribe of Judah, Ruth who was a Moabite but later became of the tribe of Judah and David of the tribe of Judah. In their hearts there was a leader. That leader led them to see the spiritual inheritance, and to treasure the spiritual inheritance. Brothers and sisters, the spiritual inheritance is the same, whether it was what the family of Abraham saw, what Caleb saw, what Ruth saw, and what David saw. They saw the same spiritual inheritance. It is just a matter of seeing it clearer and clearer as time passes. We thank the Lord there was a lion in the tribe of Judah. He led the people to seek the spiritual inheritance. Brothers and sisters, oftentimes we feel we do not have the heavenly vision. When we look at these people, the first thing was that they treasured the spiritual inheritance. And this spiritual inheritance became clearer and clearer in their lives. And it became their vision. The inheritance could be historical in nature. It goes on for generations. But it does not matter because it is so real. When Caleb saw it, it was so important to him. Thirty-eight years in the wilderness did not matter. All the men in his generations died. But all through these many years, the spiritual inheritance

was always before his eyes. It became his vision which means regardless of time, difficulties or troubles, Caleb's heart did not change and still aimed at that. When we come to the New Testament, we know this spiritual inheritance is Jesus. Thank the Lord that He is pleased to reveal His Son in us. If we love this inheritance, not only do we have hope but we also have the assurance. Do not worry whether we see this vision or not if we love this spiritual inheritance. Sooner or later the Lord will show us that spiritual inheritance. And this will become our vision. Then we will be like Caleb who had not forgotten Hebron for forty-five years. And we will be like Ruth who had never seen Bethlehem before, but could see something really beautiful, really superior, and that your God is my God and your people my people.

We now come to the time of Paul. We know that Paul was Saul. He was so advanced in Judaism. He was a true Pharisee. He was well respected. He adopted the best of the Jewish religion. Then there were some incidences. In Jerusalem a man called Jesus of Nazareth showed up. And this became a problem for Judaism. And that became a problem for Saul because he did not like it. One day Jesus was crucified. Later there was this person Stephen. In Stephen's last days, he had to explain things to the Jewish council. Saul was among them because he was a superior Jew and a superior Pharisee. And then Stephen talked about the law, the temple and the circumcision. These were the best Jewish traditions, but their interpretation was all wrong. They could not stand that. They stoned Stephen to death. Saul was there taking care of all the clothing. But what Stephen said hit his heart. He could not forget that. And then we know on the way to Damascus, a bright light from heaven shone on him. It struck him down from the horse. 'Saul, Saul why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads?' What were the goads? This name of Nazareth that showed up was a goad. What Stephen said was a goad. What Stephen said totally shattered Saul's belief. He thought the inheritance was the Jewish law, the temple and the circumcision. This was according to the interpretation of the Jews. And now all these were shattered. None of these interpretations was the inheritance. Very quickly Paul learned. So what is the

real inheritance from the Lord? The only way to interpret the law, the temple and the circumcision is to interpret them in the light of Jesus. And it changed Paul's thinking. Now Paul really knew what the inheritance of God was. Some twenty or more years later, Paul could tell King Agrippa: 'I have not been unfaithful to the heavenly vision'. The spiritual inheritance became his vision. Only Christ Jesus is the basis of our understanding of the spiritual inheritance. Only Christ Jesus can make the people fulfill the purpose of God in us. We have already said that day the Lord entrusted this to Paul. Jesus said to Paul 'you have to go open the eyes of the Jews and Gentiles. You have to let them know there is an inheritance waiting for them. They will obtain that inheritance with those who are sanctified by faith in me'. So the Lord was telling Paul that there are people who are sanctified by faith in Him. They are going to inherit the inheritance. Anyone who has their eyes opened will inherit the same inheritance. And these people who inherit the inheritance are those who have faith in Him.

Brothers and sisters, it is very interesting to see that the first day the Lord met Paul, the Lord told Paul to preach the message of inheritance. Twenty years later when Paul was at Ephesus, on the last day when he was talking to the elders of the church at Ephesus, he said, 'I am going to leave you. But I entrust you to the Lord and His word of grace, so that you can receive the inheritance with those who are sanctified in Him'. These are his last words to the Ephesians: to receive an inheritance with all the saints who are sanctified in Him. Five years later he wrote the letter of Ephesians to the saints in Ephesus. There he poured out the idea of inheritance. In Ephesians 1, he mentioned inheritance three times. The first time is in verse 11. He said we are going to receive the inheritance. Then he immediately said to the praise of His glory. The second time is in verse 14. He said the Holy Spirit is going to guarantee one thing. He is going to guarantee that you receive that inheritance. Then in verse 18, Paul said 'may the Lord open our eyes, so that we can see the riches of the glory of the inheritance in the saints'. Not only does the Holy Spirit going to guarantee we receive the inheritance but He is going to guarantee what is said in

verse 18. He said 'the riches of the glory of the inheritance in the saints'. Paul here was actually saying we the saints are His inheritance. Not only are we going to receive the inheritance as mentioned in verse 11, but we are going to be His inheritance as mentioned in verse 18. Remember in Psalm 78 it said Jacob my people, Israel my inheritance. And here in Ephesians it said that we are His inheritance. The wonderful thing is that the Holy Spirit is to guarantee that both these things will happen. We are going to receive the inheritance and we are going to be the inheritance.

Brothers and sisters, what inheritance are we inheriting? What is that inheritance? I would like to say two things about it. The first thing is in verse 3, 'every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ'. That is part of it. This is just one sentence but it means a lot. We say God's grace, God's truth, God's love, God's patience, God's kindness and God's leading are in us. Every spiritual blessing has been given to us. It is given to us in Christ. Do not think that this thing is too complicated. It is something so simple. Today we all sit here and we have a heart for the Lord. Any brother said something about the Lord Jesus our heart jumps. And any brother who lead a song about Jesus our hearts jump. Every spiritual blessing comes to us in Christ. Any spiritual or heavenly blessing must be in Christ. In Christ is everything. Outside of Christ there is absolutely nothing. If you have a feeling of something that is not in Christ, throw it away. It is not from heaven. It is not spiritual blessing. It is not any of the spiritual blessings in the heavenly realm. Brothers and sisters, I think you all know this. Outside of the Lord Jesus, there is nothing. In the Lord Jesus, there is everything. This is spiritual blessing. And this is inheritance. There is a second point in the first chapter about spiritual inheritance. And that is the mystery of God's will. The mystery of God's will is now given to us in Christ. It said in the fullness of time, everything is going to be headed up in Christ. The basic thing is that it is headed up in Christ. As our brother shared this morning, it means we are altogether, and we are not like a scattered people. We are glued together by the purpose of God. We are supposed to express the beauty of the Lord. The word "sum up" can also be translated as "head up" in

Christ. The picture here is that there are all these people here and there is a head on top. Inside the word “sum up” or “head up”, there is a part called ‘head’ in Greek. We are summed up together not like there is no direction. There is a direction. The direction is according to the head. We are together not without characters. There is a character and the character is the character of the head. And the wonder is like what our brother said, we are the first to hope. We are the first to hope in Christ. That day not only us, but all people on earth, all creation, on heaven and on earth, all will be under this head. Dear brothers and sisters, there are so many things happening in this world that make you so sad. One of these days, all these things will be under that headship of Christ. This is the wonder of the mystery of God’s will. That is part of the inheritance. Brothers and sisters, I think this is the most precious part of the inheritance. To God maybe the mystery of the will of God is most important part to Him. His Son is going to be the head of all things. He is going to bless every one of us. He blesses every one of us as people under that head.

Brothers and sisters, today you argue with your wife, or you see some brothers and sisters and you are hurt by what they say. But that day when these things happen you praise and thank the Lord that what these brothers said is actually good for me, what my wife said is actually good for me. Our whole concept is different. The mystery of the will of God is the most important part of the spiritual inheritance. It is most important to Him. So it ought to be most important to you and me. It solves all our problems. It changes curse to joy. It changes curse into blessings. It is wonderful, brothers and sisters. We should never look down on the eternal purpose of God. It is not a slogan. It is very real. It is real to Him and it is real to us. If we hold on to that as our spiritual inheritance, we will live a blessed life on earth. Not only that, we will be a blessing to other people. If we do not get hold of that, we will live a life without real purpose. At the end of your life, you may be very rich, but you will be so sad because you have nothing to do with the eternal purpose of God. You will miss this wonderful spiritual inheritance. This is what Paul was saying in Ephesians.

But then Paul also said we are the inheritance. There is another verse in the bible that illustrates this concept really well. The Lord God really treasures His own inheritance. His inheritance is where He entrusted His hope. In Isaiah 19: 25 the Lord said, 'Egypt my people; Assyria the work of my hands and Israel mine inheritance'. Egypt my people means He loved the Egyptian people. Assyria is the work of my hand because at that time He really used Assyria to do something. But then He said, Israel my inheritance. Inheritance is not only people He loves, and it is not only the works that He works in. Inheritance is something that He has an expectation. This is extremely important to Him. He works, manages and develops His inheritance. And this inheritance is supposed to represent Him. When we come to Ephesians 1, when Apostle Paul said we are the Lord's inheritance, God actually has a great expectation of us. Only His inheritance can represent Him. No one else can represent Him. Paul was very serious. He said the riches of the glory of the inheritance. So on one hand the Lord considers us as His inheritance. And on the other hand, He expects the riches of the glory of this inheritance. If this inheritance goes on year after year and no one can see the glory in it, the Lord's heart will be really sad. Not only the Lord wants to see the glory in His inheritance, He wants to see the riches of the glory of His inheritance. It seems that Paul cannot find a word to really describe that. He can only say the riches of the glory of His inheritance. Now when we read on, we can see clearly what He was talking about. He spoke of the riches of the glory of His inheritance, and He brought in a person. He brought in Christ Jesus. Right after Paul talked about the riches of the glory of His inheritance in Ephesians 1, he said God raised His Son from the dead. By great power, God raised His Son up above all principalities and all authorities and above every name. He raised Him up high to the right hand of Himself. Dear brothers and sisters, this is the force of the riches of the glory. The Lord God raised His son, Jesus Christ to the highest. What does that have to do with us? Immediately Paul said the church is Christ's body and the fullness of Him who fills all in all. So He raised His Son up to His own right hand and above everything. He raised Him from the dead by great power. This power had never

happened in the universe. But now the Lord God demonstrated it by raising His Son from the dead. Not only did He raise Him up from the dead but raised Him up to the highest place, above everything, above every power. Then He said the church is His body, and the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

So the body of Christ is not simply just a group of people. First of all, the position of this body of Christ is really high. The principalities and authorities of this world and everything cannot touch it because the body of Christ is with Christ. But it does not mean that you and I do not need to do anything because we are so great. And he immediately said what the body of Christ is. The body of Christ is not just a group of people gathered together. It is the fullness of something. That thing is the one that fills all. Brothers and sisters, we just read in Ephesians that God wants His Son to be the head of everything. He is going to fill everything. The body of Christ is one that He fills. The great thing is that if we surrender ourselves to that, let Him fill us, then we are that body of Christ. If we are together, and none of us wants Him to fill us, then are we the body of Christ? Strictly according to what Paul said here, it is not the body of Christ because the body of Christ has to be the fullness of Him who fills all in all. We cannot say just two or three or even a thousand together and we are the body of Christ. I do not think strictly we can say that because in here it said it has to be the fullness of Him who fills all in all. If there are a thousand of us here and He fills each one of us, then we are really the body of Christ. And then we are really seated with Him in the highest place above all principalities and authorities. When that happens, then you can see the riches of the glory of His inheritance. What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance? It is the spiritual reality. It is not doctrine. It is real life of Christ in you and in me. And not only is Christ's life in us, but it is in control and in dominance. We live accordingly. We work accordingly. That wonderful life of Christ, when it fills all of us then that is the spiritual reality. And that is the body of Christ. That is the riches of the glory of the inheritance among the saints. May this be an encouragement to us. It actually is your choice and my choice. Letting the Lord Jesus fill our life is our choice. You can decide that you do not want to. Or you can decide and say,

thank you Lord, I want to. It is just that simple. But that determines whether we manifest His glory or not when we are together. You and I are all His inheritance. We are His inheritance but whether there is the riches of the glory in there or not, is your choice and mine.

In Ephesians 3 it says that the glory of God is actually our strength. Paul has a prayer in chapter 3. He prayed that God will give us the strength in the inner man, according to the glory of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? It means the glory of God and the glory of Jesus are now our strength. We really need to get hold of God's glory and Jesus' glory. Otherwise we will not have strength. Paul kept saying 'so that we can be rooted in His love'. That way we can have the Lord abide in us. Then we can know with all the saints the height and the width and the depth of Christ's love. It takes spiritual strength to let Christ live in us. If the Lord Jesus lives in me, then I cannot have funny thoughts anymore. I cannot get mad easily at my wife and my kids. I do not have the freedom to get mad easily at my brothers and sisters in the church. Is that true? So to let Christ live in me takes spiritual strength. Where do you get the spiritual strength? Paul said from the glory of God and the glory of Jesus. With that glory, then we can have spiritual strength. Next time if you get mad at the brothers and sisters, then just take a look at the glory of God. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and everything will be fine. Or you are driving on the highway and someone cut in front of you, and you want to curse. Turn your eyes upon Jesus. This is all so real. The glory of God and the glory of Jesus are our internal strength.

And we are supposed to be rooted in Christ's love. That is not easy either. I only love those that I like. I like my grandson so I love him. And I do not love those that I do not have the natural attachment. I say I love because I am a Christian. But I do not. To love someone with agape, it takes spiritual strength. It takes the strength in the inner man. Where does it comes from? Turn your eyes upon Jesus. The glory of the Lord enables us to love with agape love. This is so true. Now we can say we know the height, width, length and depth of God's love. In Chinese translation, it says the love of Christ. But I traced back to the original

language and it just said the height, length, width and depth. And the love is in the next sentence. Let us assume that the length, width, length and depth talk about Christ. Of course it includes love because Christ himself is love. To understand that we need energy. We do not have the time to fully go into that. So I just want to mention one thing and it is about width. The width means everyone in the church, no matter whether he is colored or white. You have to understand that God's love is to all of them. Sometimes we are so used to those who have the same educational background with us. And then you keep a distance from those who do not have the same education background. Now the bible tells us we have to love them all. And we have to see them the same, whether it is a Jew or gentile, whether it is a bond man or a free man. Christ is all and is in all. To believe and to practice that take spiritual strength. When you see brothers and sisters coming from different background, it is so easy for us to see them differently. But the Lord wants us to treat them all the same. Brothers and sisters, it takes spiritual strength to do that. Where does that spiritual strength come from? It comes from the glory of the Lord. And when we see the glory of the Lord, these differences are nothing. You can embrace all your brothers. It does not matter whether you are rich and he is poor. It does not matter whether you have a college degree and he does not have one. You can embrace him. This is the glory of the Lord and its power in us allows us to do that, enabling us to do that. Thank the Lord for that.

Finally, I just want to say one thing. We know that we are His inheritance. We also know that God takes that very seriously. We know that Jesus was crucified on the cross so that all these can happen. And also we want to do it. So what should we do? Brothers and sisters, remember two things here. This chapter said it is the fullness of Him who fills all in all. It is a matter of life. In the book of Isaiah 61 towards the end of the book it talks about the tree of righteousness. It said it is planted by God for His glory. It is a matter of life. God planted the tree so the seed is God's seed. The life is God's life. Today when we walk around the campus here we see the beautiful redwoods. These redwoods can live two thousand years. And if you take a closer look at the tree every bit inside that

tree is redwood. You cannot make it grow. It is only God who can make it grow. So this is a wonderful picture. The life of Christ is in us. If we allow it to really live in us, it will really grow. It will last a long, long time. The wind, the storm, the lightning and the thunder will not affect it. It may be broken. You may think it is dead, but the following year it will come up again. And the people from a distance can see it and they see the glory of God. And it said the tree of righteousness is for God's glory. Brothers and sisters, that is how the riches of the glory of the saints manifested.

Another picture in the book of Isaiah is in chapter 62. It talks about the city of Jerusalem. Now the Lord assigns a watchman to stay watch on the wall. And it is Christ, the Lord Jesus who assigned. It is very explicit in chapter 62. It is Christ who assigned His servants there. He assigned His servants to be watchmen. They will not rest and they will not let God rest until God establishes Jerusalem as a praise on the earth. This is another picture of His inheritance. Jerusalem becomes a praise on the earth. This talks about spiritual reality. The brick is just you and me. The Lord works on you and works on me. The reality of Christ will then be in every brick. So when people see it from a distance, they will say it is glorious. This is God's glory. And they praise it and Jerusalem becomes a praise on the earth.

Brothers and sisters what is Jerusalem? Jerusalem today is wherever we meet. The Lord wants us to be a praise on the earth. Ephesians 3 says it is for God's purpose so that He can make known to all the principalities and authorities through the church His own wisdom. The principalities and authorities in the air are very smart. If we just have the appearance of being good, they see through us quickly. You cannot cheat them. But if we have spiritual reality, the precious life of Christ in you and me, and not only in there but also working and governing our life, and if that is the case, every brick on Jerusalem's wall shines out the reality of Christ. When the principalities and authorities in the air see that they can only praise the wisdom of God. They might be enemies, they might be cynical, they might be mocking, but when they see the spiritual realities of our brothers and sisters, they have to prostrate and say Jesus, you are Lord,

God is wise and they give praise to the Lord. Dear brothers and sisters let us aim high. Today we meet everywhere. We need to aim to become the riches of the glory of the inheritance of the saints, not only here in San Francisco, but also in Seattle, in Los Angeles and everywhere. May this spiritual reality, may the life of Jesus Christ fill everywhere. And may His name and the name of His Father be praised.

Let us pray.

Lord, we really thank and praise You. Your expectation of us is so noble, beyond what we can imagine. You put the hope of Your own glory in us. And You want to find among us the riches of the glory of Your inheritance. Lord, oftentimes we feel very weak. We are weak so much of the time. We do not know how to express You. But Lord, You are full of mercy, grace, patience, and hope. Lord, we really thank You. May Your glory be our strength. We live and we serve to the praise of Your glory. In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.