

WCCC 2023

Brother Timothy Kwok

For the Testimony of Jesus Christ (1)

Peace to you brothers and sisters. We are filled with thanksgiving before our Lord because we have this opportunity to gather before Him again. We deeply believe that we do not gather in vain, and the will of our God from His throne will be manifest to us, particularly in this end age. I trust that we all treasure this gathering time.

Let us begin with the reading of the Word.

Revelations 3:11. This is the theme verse of our conference.

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
Revelations 3:11

The theme of our conference is “Hold fast what you have”. That is according to Revelations 3:11.

Let us look at Revelations 1:1-2

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants— things which must ^ashortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, **2** who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.
Revelations 1:1-2

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **18** *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
Revelations 1:17-18

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,
2 Timothy 1:8a

I believe that these are familiar verses to you. The theme of this conference is “Hold fast what you have”. The brothers have given me the burden for the testimony of Jesus Christ. So in these 2 sessions, I would like to meditate on this topic of the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Before we go on, let us look at the theme of our conference. To “Hold fast to what you have”. After you read the context of this verse, we know that our Lord is reminding us, spoken through the words to the Church in Philadelphia. The Lord told His church, “I am coming soon”. This is the context - the Lord is coming quickly.

What does this mean? It means that the end of all things is nigh. In other words, it is time for us who serve the Lord to give an account. The time is up, He is coming quickly.

The Lord has a burden for the church in Philadelphia. They were walking well. But the Lord told them that He is coming quickly, He is afraid that they are losing what they have. I am not very familiar with the original language, but the meaning is that they need to get a grip on it. Not to hold it lightly, lest it slip away.

The Lord reminds us that He is coming quickly, and that there are things we need to lay hold of. For the sake of younger brothers and sisters, let me say something simpler. The Lord is saying I am coming quickly, what do you lay hold of? What is in your hand? If there is a hurricane today, what do you hold on to? If there is an earthquake, what do you hold on to?

These are outward things. Something more important is happening. The Lord says “I am coming quickly” What are you laying hold on to? The Lord says to lay hold of what you have.

Brothers and sisters, thank the Lord. This is already in your hand. You need to lay hold of it. If you do not hold fast, the consequence is that your crown may be taken away. It means this - that all Christians are on a race. Some may be racing, some are wrestling. No matter what the competition, if you win, you receive your crown.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord has said that you will win. You are an overcomer. But if you are not careful, and you lose this, when the Lord comes, you will lose your crown. This is the context.

This is the burden I have before the Lord. We have had decades of WCCC. The Lord has told us His will through the servants of the Lord. If your child has come to WCCC since the age of 1, he would be almost 40 years old already.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord has shown us so much grace. Through this long period of time, year after year, just like Malachi said, He has poured out of the heavens and into your bosom. Have you taken it with you, or have you left it in the meeting place?: Have you taken it home, to your workplace, to where you gather? After you have heard this many messages, have you held fast to what you have heard? Are you living in the messages of what you have heard?

The Lord reminded the church in Philadelphia to lay hold of what they have. Let me ask you this simple thing: what do you have?

Think about this. If you are old enough and have attended all the WCCC. Perhaps you are younger and have attended half or two-thirds. Ask yourself this simple question: what do you have in your hand? I ask you, what have you heard? What have you received all these years? The Lord tells you this: I am coming quickly, hold fast to what you have.

If you do not hold fast, you may lose your crown. You will not lose your salvation. You will not lose the love of God. But sadly, you will lose your crown. This is a simple but solemn message. We can all understand this, but not be careful enough.

Brothers and sisters, since I am starting the conference, I would like to present these words before you.

The Lord is coming. Lay hold of what you have so that no one may take your crown.

The brothers have laid on me the testimony of Christ. To be honest, I almost fainted when I received it. The topic is too grand and difficult. Brothers have already exhausted this topic. If you read what the previous brothers have said, they have already presented it clearly. What is there for me to say? I would encourage you to go home to read the books and that would be enough.

But since the burden is laid on me, I sought and prayed before the Lord: What exactly do you want to tell my dear brothers and sisters? Perhaps this is a grand and difficult topic that my brothers and sisters know some. Perhaps it is in their head. What is the message today about the Lord Jesus Christ?

Dear brothers and sisters, I don't know if you can agree with me. Today, on the earth, whether it is your personal life or church life, or your service in the church, the testimony of Jesus Christ is not complete in us. We have not fully manifested the testimony of Jesus Christ. If you can accept what I am saying, we have heard many brothers and sisters rise up to give their testimonies.

Their testimonies are good to the ears. Some of them touch our hearts. But brothers and sisters, I must ask: how much of your testimony is the testimony of Jesus Christ? Are you testifying how capable you are, or are you telling others how many people like or endorse me? Or are you telling people in your own way that I am able; I am still capable.

Brothers and sisters, in our everyday life, in your family life, in your workplace, can you truly manifest the testimony of Jesus Christ? Concerning the church, we know more. How much of the testimony of Jesus Christ is being presented in the church? I don't want to point fingers at others. In my service I often fall short before the Lord. I often feel that I have come short of the will of the Lord. I have served, but most of the time I am exalting myself. I want to tell others how

many come to our gathering, how grand our building is, how many are saved when we preach the gospel.

Are these good? They are good things. But in all these things, how much of this is the testimony of Jesus Christ? When the Lord is coming, we can see that our Lord is seeking in the heavenlies, as if the testimony of Jesus Christ is not clear at all.

My dear brothers and sisters, today what the Lord wants on this earth, what He is looking for in His church, is not the things that we consider. In very simple words, the Lord is seeking whether or not there is the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, when you read Revelations you will know this: the testimony of Jesus Christ is not a simple thing. It is not an ordinary thing. It is something you need to pay an exceedingly high price for. If you do not care about the testimony, that is one thing. But if you care about the testimony, and are willing to bear witness to this testimony, dear brothers and sisters, we know that this requires a heavy price.

John said this: for the Word of God, for the testimony of Jesus Christ, he was placed on the island of Patmos. He left his dear brothers and sisters. He left his area of service and was placed on this island. This elderly man on an island. Does he not have relatives to live with? A comfortable life to enjoy? But for the sake of the testimony of Jesus, he was placed on the island of Patmos.

When we come to chapter 6 of Revelations, and the fifth seal was broken, we see the souls of many martyrs. Why were they martyred? What was the cause for them to be killed? This is the price of life. This is the price of blood. This is not cheap at all. What is this all for? This is for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters, if you read through Revelation, you realize that when the testimony rises, when the testimony is about to be manifest, the enemy is not willing. A beast came from the earth. A beast came from the sea. The enemy hates the testimony most of all.

So today, as I speak on this topic, it is both simple and also heavy. It is not enough to just hear the sermon. If you think that brother Kwok has shared something reasonable, is that enough? It is not enough.

I have a heavy burden. It is not easy. This is the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Let me briefly explain what a testimony is. These are the things that you have personally seen or experienced, and you say it out loud. There are some fundamental criteria to a testimony. It is something you have personally seen. If you have heard it from others, it does not count. What other people tell you does not count. It only counts as a testimony if you have seen it.

I emphasize that I am not an expert in the original language, having learned only a little. In the Bible the word “testimony” and “witness” are used together. This is not hard to understand. The witness exists for the testimony. If someone says, “I am a witness”. He himself becomes the testimony.

So we can say this: the word “testimony” and “witness” are two sides of the same word. The testimony is the fact, and the witness manifests this fact.

Testimony is something you have personally seen.

For us living in North America, we have some knowledge of what a witness is.

When you drive in Canada there is a very good arrangement. If we have a car accident, we don't have to argue. We use the same insurance company. So we just take down each other's particulars and the money is somebody else's problem. But there is one thing that needs to be sorted out: whose fault it is. The one at fault needs to bear the responsibility. It is a simple thing: the one at fault will have a rise in their insurance premium next year.

I was driving on the road and saw a car that ran a red light. An elderly driver drove his car out slowly.. The car that beat the red light hit him. I saw this elderly man, now very afraid and shaking in the car. I saw the whole thing. I stopped my car and went to tell the elderly man, “Dear sir, I saw everything. Do you need a witness? If the insurance company needs a witness, here is my number. I will tell them what happened. I want to be a witness.” The elderly man now smiled. He knew that since there is a witness, he no longer has any responsibility.

Let me ask this hypothetical question, “What does the one at fault desire the most?” Wouldn't it be that I would not show up at court? That way he can tell his story. If I did not exist, no one can tell what happened. But the driver confessed his fault and the matter was resolved.

But brothers and sisters, is it possible that on that glorious day, our Lord sits on His throne and judges the enemy and Satan, Satan says, “You have accused me of so many wrongdoings. Do you have a witness? Do you have testimony?”

Would we be able to stand before the Lord and say, “Oh my Lord, I am a witness. I am a testimony.” Brothers and sisters, this is a hypothetical thing. Our Lord's work is settled and sure. He knows everything. We thank the Lord that He has esteemed us highly. He wants us to be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants us to know the testimony of Jesus Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters, to be honest, the testimony of Jesus Christ is the testimony of God. No one has ever known how God is. Did not the gospel of John tell us, when Jesus came, that no one has seen God? No one has seen God except the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of God. He has manifested Him. Jesus Christ is the testimony of God.

In the Old Testament, it is true that God has raised up many people to be His testimony. He has used the entire Israelite people to be His testimony. Isaiah 43, the Lord told the people that they were His witness. But that is not a complete testimony. It cannot completely manifest the testimony of God. Only the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. No one has seen God, except the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of God - He has declared Him.

If you say that you have never seen God, you need only see Jesus Christ. In Hebrews it says that Jesus is the manifestation of the glory of God. How do you see the glory of God; who He really is? Our Lord Jesus has manifested all this. He is the testimony of God.

In all honesty, the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, it speaks to the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the testimony of God. In John 5:39, the Lord told the Jews, "You search the scriptures. You think there is eternal life. But you do not know that the scripture testifies of me. You would not come to me to receive life." The Lord said this, "You search the scripture". You have read and read the Bible. Do you not know that the scriptures testify of Him?

Of course back then there was no New Testament. From Genesis to Malachi. The entire Old Testament bears witness for the Lord. The Bible tells us who God is and what He has done.

Brothers and sisters, how can I finish speaking of this tonight? The testimony of Jesus Christ covers all of Genesis to Revelations. There are 66 books. When will we end?

I do not have this capability. And you do not have this tolerance for me. But what is the testimony of Jesus Christ? The scriptures testify of the Lord. If we read the Word of the Lord carefully, we know that from Genesis to Revelation, the whole bible tells us a fact: that our God is seeking witnesses. You could say that God is looking for a vessel to contain His testimony. God is looking for a vessel to place His testimony within. Out of this vessel we can see who Jesus is. The testimony of Jesus speaks of Himself, from the creation of man to the end of the scene in Revelation.

What do we see? We see that our God is seeking a vessel. This vessel can contain the testimony of God. Brothers and sisters, I have said that the testimony of Jesus Christ is a very grand thing. The Lord willing, I will share a little about the content of the testimony of Jesus Christ. What the most important things in the testimony of Jesus Christ are.

I will share with you tomorrow afternoon about the witnesses of Jesus Christ. Because the witness and the testimony are two sides of the same thing. Tonight, by the grace of God, I want to share with you what the content of the testimony of Jesus Christ is.

As I meditated before the Lord, He showed me something. On the testimony of Jesus Christ I would like to share 2 things: First, the testimony of life. The testimony of Jesus shows us life. The second side of the testimony shows that He is the Lord of all. He is the Head.

These are the 2 sides we can consider about the testimony. Brothers and sisters, we know this clearly.

The Testimony of Life

Today, for us to live, we have a life. But what is our life like? Many times we do not think about our life. We need to know that we are a testimony of the life of God because He has placed the life of His Son in us. We all know that when God created Adam and Eve, the Bible says something we all understand: That God made man and woman according to His own image and likeness.

What does that mean? It means that when all creation sees man, whether the birds or fishes, they see the testimony of God when they see man. Because Man manifests the glory of God. So what is the purpose for which God created Man according to His image and likeness? It is to be the witness of God. But it is not enough just outwardly. God gave His life to man. To point to man the fruit of the tree of life. To tell them to eat of the tree of the fruit of life. To put it in the words of the new testament, that Christ is to be your life.

Every one of us ought to manifest the life of God because we are made in His image and likeness. Today, we should be this vessel that holds the life of the Son of God.

We are familiar with many stories of our salvation. We thank the Lord. All this is a process. But what is the most important outcome? That we can have the life of the Son of God.

Brothers and sisters, this life needs to be manifest in us. You have a body to manifest the content of your life. Would you agree with what I said? Whether you have a healthy life, you need only look at your body. Do you agree?

If your body is well, it shows that the life in you is healthy. But sadly, Paul tells us that our outward body is getting more corrupted day by day.

Some time ago, I came across my health report from 20 years ago. Let me tell you, everything was normal. There was nothing over the limit. Today, I look at my report. Nothing is within the limit. The doctor sees the report and shakes his head, and has many suggestions that I do not wish to hear.

Brothers and sisters, this is the manifestation of our body. Today what your body manifests shows your life. The words you speak, the things you do represent the life that is within you. If you have believed in the Lord for 5 or 10 years, and your temper is getting worse; or if you used to lie, and now you lie even more, let me tell you that your body is telling you that your life is not healthy. If your life is healthy, you live a life that is more and more sanctified. You realize that there are more and more things you ought not to touch. This life within you will tell you that you can no longer do these things - you represent God. You are God's testimony. You are made in

the likeness and image of God. The old life could not manifest this, but thank God that you now have the life of the Son of God. You need to manifest the Son of God. Your life can change.

Yes it is true that your outward body corrupts daily, but the inner man is renewed day by day. The capability to bear the Lord's testimony grows day by day. When God gave life to Adam and Eve, He gave them the responsibility to fulfill the will of God. To keep and maintain the garden. On one hand the garden is the testimony, and Adam and Eve are also the testimony of God. God gave them a body, that they may guard the garden, holding on to the testimony of God.

Why did God give us life? Only when we have the same life, can we have true fellowship. Only when we have the same life can we abide together. Forgive me for saying this, today man does not have the image of a man.

Brothers and sisters, do not think that I am speaking of you specifically. If I offend you, I apologize. Some people hold a dog in their hand and call it their "son". When they let the dog go free, they talk to the dog, "when are you coming back to Mommy?"

Oh my goodness how can this happen? This is a dog. How can this be? Brothers and sisters, man has fallen to this extent. This is man's condition.

If you can allow me to say this, man can save a polar bear, or a panda, but would not save the child in your womb, what sort of logic is this? You can have an abortion just like this, but if you kill a panda, you will have to bear the consequences.

I am not saying all these things to blame these activities. I want to tell you this, brothers and sisters. You need to know how precious your life is. God has given you life that you can fellowship with God. Today we have lost the precious grace with which we can fellowship with God. We would much rather fellowship with things that are not God.

We thank the Lord. What is so precious in the garden of Eden? It is precious because God can abide with Man. God can be anywhere in the universe, but He would come into this garden to fellowship with Man. He wants to be with Man.

Dear brothers and sisters, if you know this story of life, this testimony of life, and you want to tell other people that you can fellowship with God; that you can be with God. At the end of Revelation He says, "behold the tabernacle of God among man". God is with man. There needs to be a fundamental criteria - we must have the same life. If you do not have the life of the Son of God, you cannot have His blessing. How the Son of God testifies the Father; how the Son of God allows the Father to be manifest through Him. No one has seen God except the Son who declares Him.

How do you declare God? There is only one criteria. You must have the life of the Son of God. Brothers and sisters, if you do not have the life of the Son of God, you can do many good deeds, and by the will of man you can do many good things, but sadly, God cannot be

manifested through you. This testimony is not an individual thing. Because individually we are too small and limited. So what vessel does God use? He uses the Church. Only the Church can manifest the testimony of Jesus Christ.

What is our testimony in the Church? We want to tell people that we have the life of the Son of God here.

In Acts 3 when Peter spoke to the people, he said to the Jews, "You have killed the Prince of Life. God has raised Him from the dead. To this we testify." In the Chinese translation it is "the Lord of Life". In the original language, you have killed the "pioneer of life". In Hebrews it mentioned this twice: Chapter 2: The pioneer of salvation, and the pioneer of faith.

Our Lord is the pioneer of life. Peter says that this is our testimony in the church. That our Lord is the resurrected life. He is the Lord of life. Only He can give life. Brothers and sisters, what is the testimony of the church today? He is the pioneer of life. He can give life to us. Although He was dead, now He is alive. What is the testimony of the church today? The church bears witness that the Lord has resurrected.

In the book of Revelation the Lord Himself says, "I was dead, but now I live forevermore." When I read this I got very excited. Because the Lord says "I hold the keys of Hades and of death". The keys are in His hand When He closes the door no one can open. When He opens no one can shut it.

Thank the Lord He has opened the gate of life, and no one can shut it. The life floods out. And He has shut the gates of Hades. We do not have to go in. This is the testimony of the church. This is the testimony of the love of God. What the life gives us is the manifestation of love. Isn't it?

Why do you have such a close relationship with your children? Because they are joined with you in life. They have an inseparable relationship with you. In this union in life, you love them. You pour out your love on them. This is the testimony of John the Baptist. When he saw the Lord Jesus walking on this earth, he saw differently from everyone else. Where everyone else saw Jesus of Nazareth the son of a carpenter, John saw differently. He said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!".

This is what John saw. Everyone else saw Jesus of Nazareth, but John saw a different picture. This is the picture of love that God has prepared for man. Dear brothers and sisters, what do you see today? Can you express what John expressed? Behold this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Thank the Lord that the church is telling people that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Paul told us that before the foundation of the world, God chose us in Christ Jesus. That was the beginning of the testimony of Jesus Christ. That is the election according to His love. Before the creation of this world, before all that, God has chosen you. God has chosen all of us, that we can become His body, to become His church, that we may manifest life. Paul tells us that when the fullness of life comes, all things would be gathered together in Christ Jesus. That is the end. That is the Omega.

Thank the Lord that He is the beginning. Before the creation of the world we were chosen. At the very end, we are one in Christ. Of course there are many things in between. But you all know this, so I won't elaborate.

When we have life, we can see this important reminder from the Old Testament to the New: The sonship. Your son would tell you that he has the same life as you. There are many lovely children, but if you did not give birth to them they are not your son. No matter if the son is well behaved, or good looking, as long as he is united with you in life, he is your son.

The bible tells us that we have the sonship. This is another grand topic.

We know this simple fact: that those of us who have received the life of the Son of God, He calls us the children of God. Not just the children of God, but we have the sonship. How do we express this in the New Testament? That we would receive an inheritance, because the sonship speaks of an inheritance.

In the book of Ephesians He tells us that on one hand we are an inheritance to God, our God is also our inheritance. This is a beautiful picture.

When we are alive in this world, we assume that inheritance is of earthly things. Our house is our inheritance. Or a plot of land. Or a car. But these things will pass away so quickly. Paul said it well, "what you can see is temporal." These things that you can see will not last long. The things that are invisible last forever. We have a spiritual inheritance.

Brothers and sisters, have you seen this? You are the sons and daughters of God. You have received a sonship. Then you can receive your inheritance.

In the words of Colossians, you have received the unsearchable wealth of Christ. The fullness of the godhead dwells bodily in Christ Jesus, and in Him we are made full.

In that day of glory, we thank the Lord, that people will not ask how much land or houses we have, or how much treasure we have, but they will ask how much Christ we have in our inheritance. How much Christ?

Sadly, brothers and sisters, today we work hard to maintain our earthly inheritance. We labor and toil for the earthly inheritance.

Someone told me, "Brother Kwok, do you know that if you open up the cash I have, it contains my blood and sweat". I was puzzled. You threw your blood and sweat into all this. Today, within you, how much blood and sweat have you put into the reading of His Word, or for the testimony of God? Have you bled for it? Are you willing to tell the Lord, "I am willing to give for the testimony of God? I would rather sleep less, make less money. That when I open up my testimony of Christ, therein lies my sweat and blood."

Today we live in our foolishness. We fight for all this earthly inheritance, and give ourselves over to these things that come up empty on the last day.

On that day we receive the sonship of God, and we can enjoy the fullness of Christ. In the heavenlies we will rejoice so greatly, enjoying the feast set before us. It is not something you can find in a restaurant today. In the eternal glory, what is set before us on the table; when we dine with the heavenly Father, is the unsearchable wealth of Christ. That is our inheritance. Our God said, "You are my inheritance", and we say to our God "You are my inheritance".

In the New Testament there is another description: The Bride. We can only marry someone with the same life. We can marry someone of a different race, but the person must be human. Don't you agree? You have to agree with this.

Do you know that when God says that we are the bride of the Lamb, we must have the same life as the Lamb. You cannot have a different life from the Lamb. You must be in the same life, then you can be His wife. How do you get this life?

It is very simple. For us it is simple, with simple faith we receive it. We have received the unsearchable wealth. This is the testimony of life. Does the church have this testimony? I am not saying that the church should not work hard. The church should be busy with many things, but there is something we cannot lose in the church. The church must manifest the glorious life of the Lord.

Many people like to hear good messages. They go to different assemblies after good messages. No, brothers and sisters, we should not desire good messages. Of course we need sound teaching. But more importantly is whether the testimony of life is there.

Christ is the Head of All Things

Brothers and sisters should be clear about this. The testimony of Jesus Christ. What does it tell us? Jesus said, "I will not be the head. I will submit myself and obey. I want to show others that only God is my head." So when we read the gospel of John, these are familiar verses to us.

John 5:19 - Verily I say to you, that the Son can do nothing of Himself. He does whatever He sees the Father does.

The Son of God has great capability, but here He bears the testimony that by Himself He would do nothing. This is the testimony of Jesus Christ. That His head is His heavenly Father.

In John 12, Jesus said that He would not speak on His own authority, but He hears what the Father says. He only speaks what the Father says.

What about us? We say whatever we want.

What is the testimony of our Lord? He does nothing, except what the Father tells Him to. He does not speak, only when the Father commands Him to speak will He speak.

What does this show? He has submitted Himself under the authority of God.

This is the prayer that He has taught us in Matthew 6. May your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

Brothers and sisters, it would seem that the Lord has no will of His own. How can this be? The will of the Lord is joined with the will of the Father. So He prays that God's will is done on earth as it is done in heaven.

We remember the Lord's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. "Father..." You know, when your child calls you "father", your heart softens and you ask what they need.

The Lord said to the Father, "Father. If it is possible, you remove this cup". It is a bitter cup. "Yet not my will, but yours."

Brothers and sisters, through the birth of our Lord to the end of His life, He did not choose anything for Himself. Everything was chosen by God. The Father is His head. So Paul summarized it this way, that our Lord did not consider Himself equal with God, and came to this world, obeying wholeheartedly, obedient unto death.

There is a type of obedience that is obedient to the point of death. If someone, or a group of people, would be obedient to the point of death, it would change this world. What is the difficulty today? We do not have the testimony of Jesus. His testimony is indeed this simple. He did not choose anything for Himself. Who started all this? God. At the end, who received the glory? It is God.

When the Lord said that He is the beginning and the end, He means that His beginning was by God, and His end is the manifestation of the glory of God. My dear brothers and sisters, in Hebrews 10:7, the Lord bears witness, "behold I have come that you have prepared a body for me. This body has only one purpose, to come to do your will, O God". His body has only one purpose and function - to do the will of God. This is the testimony of Jesus Christ. He wants everyone to know that He exists only for one purpose - to do the will of God.

If you know God as your head, and He is the Lord of your life, what sort of life would you live? I think you all know the answer to that. Romans 12:1 is the best reminder to us, “by the mercies of God I beseech you, that you give your body as a living sacrifice”. You are a sacrifice. A sacrifice does not get to dictate its own life. A sacrifice lies on the altar.

But you are a living sacrifice. When you present yourself on the altar, you bear the testimony: Apart from the Lord I can do nothing. He is the Lord of my life. He is my Lord. I give myself unto the altar.

In 2 Timothy, Paul wrote, “In the hand of the Lord we are like a vessel.” The vessel cannot tell the master what to put within it. The master gets to put whatever he wants. The bowl cannot complain that the soup is too hot, or the rice is too sticky. You are a vessel. The master can place whatever He wants.

I like the words of this hymn:

Lord, the small cup of the rest of my life
Fill it according to your design
Whether joy or sorrow
I would choose not my own way

Brothers and sisters, when the vessel is presented this way, it is suitable for the Master’s use. Of course you must be set free from dishonorable things. We need to be vessels for honor, to be used by the Master. You need to bear this testimony: the Lord is my Lord.

This is so precious, brothers and sisters. For the sake of the Church, Christ has become the Head of all things. This is not something we can say in a few words. The Lord is showing something to the church. That the church may see that He is the head over all things. Brothers and sisters, what is the testimony of the church today? If the church is the testimony of Jesus Christ, you need to bear witness that Christ is the Head over all things.

Colossians tells us that He is the Head of the body, and He has the preeminence over all things. I need not explain this. When we speak of the purpose of God, we talk about Ephesians 3, the eternal purpose of God. That through the church, the principalities and powers will know the manifold wisdom of God. How does all creation know of the manifold wisdom of God? Is it not through Christ being made head of all things?

My time is up. I must stop here. I trust that the Holy Spirit will speak even heavier words in us. Brothers and sisters, there are 2 sides to the testimony of Jesus Christ. The testimony of life, and the testimony that He is the head.

Are you living in this testimony? Will you show others that there is the life of the Son of God in you? Would you submit under the authority of the Lord? Like the song says, “I have no other master. My heart is Thy Throne”.

Lord, may you place your Word in our heart. How limited are the words of man, how incomplete! But Lord, we plead you speak and work for the sake of your glorious testimony. That in these last days, in the days of your coming, we are reminded to hold fast to what we have, and we will not lose our crown. Bless your church. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.