

SUMMER SCHOOL OF TRUTH

Friday, August 17, 2018

Making Our Heart the Good Earth for Christ to Grow in Us

Scripture reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 19-23; Luke 8:15

Hymns: 1299, 1132

- I. The basic need for the building up of the church is the growth in life; thus, we need to pay our full attention to the growth in life – 1Pet. 2:2, 5; 1 Cor. 3:6, 9; Eph. 2:21:**
 - A. The growth in life is not the improvement of ourselves, but the increase of Christ.
 - B. Christ as the life-giving Spirit is the wonderful seed of life; He is all-inclusive; in Him we have everything that we need – 1 Cor. 15:45; Gal. 3:16; 1 John 3:9.
 - C. Our spirit is the very spot into which Christ as the seed of life has been sown, whereas our heart is the field in which Christ grows and spreads; the way to grow in life is to give Him the room in our heart – 2 Tim. 4:22; Luke 8:11-15.
- II. We must deal with the condition of our heart to make our heart the good earth for the full growth of Christ within us – Matt. 13:3-8, 18-23:**
 - A. In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, the seed is sown into four kinds of soil:**
 1. The wayside signifies the heart that has been hardened by worldly traffic and cannot open to receive Christ as the seed of life – vv. 4, 19.
 2. The rocky places refer to the heart that is shallow in receiving the word of the kingdom; rocks signify hidden sins (Prov. 28:13), personal desires (Gen. 13:10; 1 Tim. 6:19), self-seeking (Phil. 2:21), self-pity (Job 19:21), and temper, lust, self, and flesh (Matt. 5:21-22; 28-30; 6:1-2, 5, 16).
 3. The thorny soil signifies a heart full of anxieties and the deceitfulness of riches that consume the ground in which the seed should grow – 13:7, 22:
 - a. Anxiety is the gear that makes the world move; we must do our duty today, but do it without being anxious for our living – 6:32-34; 2 Thes. 3:10-12.
 - b. There is no anxiety in the divine life; to God anxiety is a strange term; God's life is a life of enjoyment, rest, comfort and satisfaction.
 - c. The source of anxiety is Satan – Phil. 4:6-7.
 - d. Anxiety is Satan's incarnation; if you welcome anxiety, you welcome Satan, the devil – 1 Pet. 5:7-8.

- e. By means of prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, we should cast our anxieties and burdens on God – Phil. 4:6-7; 1Pet. 5:7; Psa. 55:22.
 - f. We should take care of God and His purpose; then He will take care of our future; our future is not under our own care, but under the care of our Father – Matt. 6:33.
 - g. “Your future is in the Lord’s hand. Your future is the Lord’s future, and His future is bright” – CWWL, 1971, vol. 1, p. 210.
4. The good earth is the heart that gives all room to the seed for its growth – Matt. 13:8, 23; Luke 8:15.
- B. We need to deal with our heart by admitting our condition to the Lord and have a detailed confession under His shining and speaking – 1 John 1:7, 9; Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12.

III. In order to have Christ as the seed of life deeply rooted in us, we need to be deeply rooted in Him by having a secret life and a secret history with Him – Col. 2:7:

- A. “The one sown on rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled” – Matt. 13:20-21.
- B. We all need a secret, hidden life with the Lord, a life in which we experience the Lord secretly in the depths of our being – Psa. 42:7a; Matt. 6:3-4, 6.
- C. We must take time in secret to absorb the Lord, setting aside time every morning to have direct and intimate fellowship with the Lord in pray-reading His word – Mark 1:35; Matt. 6:6; Psa. 5:3; 88:13; 119:15.