

WCCC2012
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Message 2 of 2

Turn to Colossians chapter 3 verse 4 'When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.' Verse 1 'Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.' Verse 3 'For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.'

We know that the theme of the conference is 'Christ is all and in all'. Tonight we want to see Christ is our life. We already shared on this point on Wednesday. By His grace we want to go forward. When we say Christ is our life that we know the feature of the life is Christ. If we know Christ we know our life because here it says that your life is hidden with Christ in God. Then this life is with Christ. How is it with Christ? You have to ask where is He? And then the Bible tells us that He is seated at right hand of God. So ever since He ascended to heaven He is seated at right hand of God. When Christ seated at the right hand of God refers to the ascended Christ. For us to know what is our life to know that Christ is our life. We need to know it is the ascended Christ is our life. And then we understand what is the nature of our life. And then we also know the content of that life. However Christ is that is our life. Obviously it is not our life because you have died. And your life you're dead but you're alive. Very obviously it is the resurrected life. When we speak of Christ is our life. We need to pay attention that the ascended Christ is our life. The resurrected Christ is our life. And this life is the life that with Christ. So today the preposition that we're pay attentioned to is not the word 'in' but the preposition 'with'.

When we speak of Christ is our life. We know this life is not individual life. If there is no Christ there is no us. If there is no Christ we cannot live. It's not that Christ helps us. It's not Christ allow us to live a better life but it is no Christ there is no life. If there is no Christ there is no life. So may we understand why Paul is saying that Christ is our life. We know that Paul very early of his life saw that light. But Paul seeing that light is one thing, for him to be able to reveal what he saw that need God's word. Paul very early already experienced that Christ is his life. But it is only when he wrote Colossians it's when he pointed out that Christ is our life. We also reminded when he helped the church of Thessalonica. Because they just were born. How you help a new born church this matter of Christ is our life? So we're already read a verse last time. It's when a life is still very tender. How do we enable them to see that Christ is our life? So let us read that verse again, I Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 9 'For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ'. Here we see salvation. He died for us very obviously He is our saviour. That whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with Him. Because He died for us, we no longer need to die. So we've arose with Him. ... From then on we're made alive with Him. Five years latter, after five years or more when Paul was there helping the church. That he was telling the churches of Galatia they entered into their youth stage. Paul told them how Christ is our life. That is Galatians 2:20 'I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me'. Not only we live with Christ but now we're resurrected with

Christ. Because I have been crucified with Christ it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

Christ is our life. Because Christ is our life therefore only He can live that life. If He is our life it is no longer I who live but it is Christ in me who lives. When we talk about made alive with Christ. When we talk about salvation we live with Christ. So Paul said you're saved by grace. That salvation points to He died for us. But when we talk about resurrected with Christ it shows that Christ is living on our behalf in us. He died for us therefore we do not need to die. That is gospel. He lives for us so we no longer need to live. This is also gospel. This shows us the complete salvation. Not only He died for us but He also lives for us. Not only to allow us to live with Christ but also we're risen with Christ. So another 5 years or 6 years latter when Paul was telling the churches of Ephesus, Galatia and Philippi, God's words are more rich. The light is still the same light. Christ is our life is still that light. But Paul worded it more rich. We can turn to Ephesians chapter 2 verse 5 'even when we were dead in our transgressions made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved.' He died for us therefore whether we're awake whether we're asleep we live with Him. Verse 6 'and raised us up with Him'. It is no longer I live but Christ lives in me. Brothers and sisters, Paul added another phrase. Now we see that the Lord came not just want us have life, not just made us alive but we'll have abundant life.

What is that abundant life? And that is a life risen with the Lord. But ever more amazing, but here says seated with Christ. Brothers and sisters, here Paul shows us what kind of life is it, Christ is our life. You have to ask what kind of life is Christ's life? He died for us so we are made alive with Christ. Thank Lord for how He became our life. But Christ is also the resurrected Christ. The resurrected Christ is our life and this life is resurrected life. A life that go through death and comes out of death. Death has a feature that contains us, limits us and it contains, limits us on this earth. So some says that sky is the top of the coffin and earth bottom of the coffin. Nobody has ever gone through it. Two thousand years ago our Lord broke through this grave. And that was the day that death died. Thank Lord! This is the life that we gained. If our Lord did not resurrected then we would be contained by that death. If Christ is our life, the resurrected Christ became our life. Now you know many times just by ourselves we cannot do anything. We are but vessels. Can the vessel go through the pressure? Thank Lord, but because there is treasure in that vessel so now you see there is a very special word. Knock down but not knock out. You can hit him knock down but you cannot knock him out. And that is the victorious life.

When we speak of Christ is our life. When we say what is that victorious life? Victorious life is more than conqueror. Some sister gave a testimony saying that yesterday I almost made a bid. That victory is a victory is at the edge almost dangerously ... All the Christian's victory are victory at the edge. For us is all at the edge. But thank Lord, as long as the resurrected Christ is our life you know this is a victorious life more than conqueror. Thank Lord, we probably all experience it. So when Paul wrote I and II Corinthians he is a victorious saint. When he wrote Romans he said we need to be more than a conqueror. When you see the second set of epistles, Romans, Galatians, I and II

Corinthians, Christ is our life. The life that Paul showed us the life he went through is a life of death and resurrection. Thank the Lord when he wrote II Corinthians even though he prayed for that thorn in his life three times. It says as if Lord never answered his prayer. When a boat gonna go by a rocky place. We pray that the Lord will keep you away from the rock but the Lord did not do that. The Lord allowed the water of grace to overflow. And then the boat went over the rocks. So the Lord told Paul my grace is sufficient. Brothers and sisters, whenever Paul was weak was strong. This is the life that Paul experienced. Thank the Lord, you see that life of Paul was more and more abundant. So when he was in prison when he was in the Roman prison. Don't forget he is just like you and me. We have moment of weakness. We have moment of failure. For we many times that spiritual person never fail, that spiritual person never get tired. His being is made of iron. So he can get off the plane and preach. Somebody who is truly used by the Lord their weakness just like our weakness.

Do you remember the story of Elijah? Right on that mountain of Carmel he actually gained the victory. And then Jezebel wanted to kill him. So he ran and ran and ran. He said O just let me die. What would happen a spiritual man said let me die? So somebody who says let me die probably a depressed person. You say O may be we small brother and sister might be depressed. Paul and Elijah they would never depressed. They always live in the heaven. They are just like angels but they have weakness. When Elijah was really depressed did he need to have antidepressant? No. The Lord knew he was too tired. If you really read the bible so from Mt. Carmel all the way to the Canaan it is about a hundred and sixty miles. Someone is running for his life. He is so tired so he hid under the tree because he was in the Negev. There was nothing. So he has to hide under that tree. And then the Lord knows how to help him. God gave him to eat and drink. So those who say I want to die, after he eat and drink he doesn't no longer want to die. So, so many times we're so spiritual many times we say oh this brother and sister has difficult we want to help this one and that one. To ease the way though is to treat him a meal. So we're still in our bodies. That person wants to die.

Another servant of God wants to die that was Jonah. Jonah just has the eastern wind blow. For the Chinese east wind is the best wind but in Israel because on the east is desert. So actually the wind that is blown from east has the hot sand that comes with it. So it was blown to a point that Jonah wanted to die. Aren't you called by God? How come change a weather then you lose it? Brothers and sisters, we are indeed man. We're of course have our weakness. Of course we have moment of depression. Brothers and sisters, when Paul wrote this epistle when Paul said he is seated heavenly, you know Paul wrote this while he was in prison. Didn't we say Paul's entire life of 33 years? First 11 years hidden before God and God took away the dam of the living water. River of the living water was then flow out. God use Paul went through half of Europe and all of Asia. So he walked almost half the distance of the equator. So for Christ he wanted to gain the whole world. And indeed the Lord allowed him to bear much fruit. So when he wrote Romans and Galatians that is at the time of his apex. That it was his most useful, his ministry was the highest. When you see the revelations of Romans, the revelations of Galatians there is no seminary that did not study these epistles. But I do pray that seminary read more than these two epistles. No matter what, it is indeed represents the

greatest from Paul. So for twenty two years our Lord has trained him. I heard once a phrase I really could never understand. Brother Watchman Nee said these words if you truly want to the Lord to use you. You have to prepare yourself at least twenty years. After twenty years may be the Lord starting to use you.

Brothers and sisters, it's not that study is no use. It's not going to school useless. The bible had the school of prophet but in the school of prophet never came out a great prophet. All the great prophets of the bible came out of wilderness. Brothers and sisters, so at the world equip someone is very different than how the Lord equips them. Today after you study, after graduated you can be used by the Lord. But brother Nee once said if you're to be used by God, only after twenty years preparation will God begin to use you. If you are saved at age forty and you want to start serving the Lord at age of forty. Are you useful in the hands of the Lord? You need to spend over twenty years before the Lord. Before that your hair is still black but twenty years latter you start to gray. And when your hair starts to turn gray then you could be used by the Lord. Why is the church poor today? The church's poor just like McDonald starts the problem. The culture of the United States is everything needs to be fast. Even spiritual matter need to be fast. You have instant coffee, instant noodle and you want instant overcomer. There is a book out there that says within 30 days you can become an overcomer. This is the day the condition of the church. But you need to understand one thing. The Lord's work has its measurement and depth and it needs time. Someone is in the hands of God over the sculpting of twenty years. Then God can begin to use you. That time when I heard the word I had a big question. I asked based on what our brother said that? But after I read the word of Lord you see the example of Paul. When Paul twenty two years latter, when he wrote Romans, wrote Galatians, you remember? He told the Ephesians church I have preached the whole counsel of God to you. In other word, he was in Ephesus for only two years. All the Asian minor heard his preach. Brothers and sisters, would it be great if we could have his notes. We can't find the notes but we found Romans, we found Galatians, we found I & II Corinthians. In other words, if you want to see the whole counsel of God you can read these four epistles, you see entire counsel.

But brothers and sisters, you see how amazingly it is, we believe that Paul has reached his apex. And the Lord used him mightily. And if the Lord has been prepared these two hands Paul's hands will be the most useful. Not only should the church has this pair of hands but the church should contains ten, twenty pairs of this hands. Just like Peter's mouth very useful. Peter's mouth is golden mouth and we love to use his golden mouth to preach the gospel. Once he preached the gospel three thousand were saved. Once again five thousand were saved. Thank the Lord! When God use a man like Paul now this pair of hands is so precious. You want this pair of hands to be free. Not only this pair, two pairs, three pairs the more pairs the better of the world. Because Paul's pair of hands represent the work of God in him for twenty two years. But quite amazing, at the highest point of his sun in the life of Paul. Suddenly he was put in the chain. When he wrote the prison letters, so many times he mentioned his chain. Especially the last verse of Colossians he said 'remember my chain'.

Brothers and sisters, this chain of Paul it is a great occurrence of Paul. Before Paul can go anywhere he wanted to preach the gospel. If the Lord equipped him for twenty some years Lord has to use him. But God's purpose is beyond ours. We thought that the more pairs of hand the better but then this pair of hands were chained. We don't understand that. So when he wrote to the Philippians, the church of Philippi knew that he was in prison. And they heard that he was in prison. So in the epistle of Philippians you can almost sense the church of Philippi didn't understand it. And very clearly even Paul went through period of time. We think so many times the servant of God would understand and know God's will immediately. Somebody who was very free suddenly his two hands were in chain. Somebody who just go.... But if you'll limit him in the wheel chair, when some like that happens suddenly. I believe all those who sit in the wheel chairs, those who are in chains, they have to ask why, why. May be a thousand why. Brothers and sisters, Paul just like you and me. Paul just like Elijah and Jonah. He is an overcomer. He is more than a conqueror. He has experienced Christ in his life yet. He had made alive with Christ. Because He said... because He died for us and also arose for us. So, because He died we no longer need to die. And then because He lives we no longer need to live. For this reason, he lived overcoming life but he never thought that these two hands will be in chain. How do you explain understand this chain? Brothers and sisters, only until the Holy Spirit explained this chain then Paul understand what God's purpose is. We don't know as soon as he entered that prison what he was thinking. Even though he was under house arrest and he still will be able to receive guests and able to write letters. So, but one hand was cuffed chained with another soldier. So you see that he lost his freedom.

Brothers and sisters, now the Holy Spirit need to tell him to experience how Christ is his life. We don't know what he went through. When he wrote Ephesians he actually unnoticed to him able to see the secret. How do we know? So in the first chapter the prayer he spoke of a power and that power manifested to us believers. That power is very important because it talks about the inheritance riches from the glory of the inheritance of the saints. Brothers and sisters, this word of 'inheritance' you know that it's interesting in the Old Testament. When it talks about the inheritance of the Old Testament at beginning it speaks of land of Canaan. How do the people of Israel gain that inheritance? We have to ask what is the reason for them to gain? Canaan, what is Canaan? the ultimate purpose of it? Because when you read the latter part of the Old Testament when it talks about the inheritance. That inheritance speaks of the people of God. Brothers and sisters, for the people of Israel to gain that inheritance is for a glorious purpose. When entire people of Israel mature to a point that they can become His inheritance. So in chapter one there are two inheritances. In Him we have an inheritance. Christ is our Canaan but Paul used the word 'the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints'. We don't understand. We understand that Christ is our inheritance but how can we saints to be His inheritance? Okay, may be we are. But then he talks about the riches of the glory of His inheritance. May be it's glory but now he says riches of that inheritance. Why did Paul say that? Of course it's God's purpose. On one hand, we gain Christ as our inheritance. Christ is our life. Once our life matured we are conformed into the image of Christ. Then we become His inheritance.

Brothers and sisters, how do you go from this inheritance to that inheritance? Can you do it? You can't. I can't do it. But if you have power you can. Thank the Lord, the Lord gave the saints a power and according to that power you can go from that inheritance to this one. And His inheritance is obtained. Brothers and sisters, these words are for you and for me. Of course for the church. But Paul has had an experience. He needs the experience how Christ is his life. Quite amazing! Here we see what kind of power is it? So let us turn to Ephesians chapter one verse 19 'and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe'. Thank the Lord, this greatness of power so we can become His inheritance. Let's explain what that power is. Verse 20 'these are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places'. What is the feature of this power? On one hand, it's power of resurrection. There is a treasure in the vessel. We can overcome because there is a power in you and me. This power was in Christ allow Him to rise from the dead. And that power is in you and me vessels. But that is half of the story. The other half is seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly. Brothers and sisters, this is an amazing phrase. Why it is so amazing? Do you remember when Stephen was martyred? He was on the side and Stephen spoke long word message. Acts chapter 7 is a long message. I want to ask brothers and sisters, at that time Paul didn't want to hear, he wanted plug his ears. But if he plugged his ears, how could he hear the message? Luke wasn't there, Paul was there. Who told Luke that Stephen spoke that message? Paul refused to hear but he actually heard. So do you see the work of the Spirit? Not only he didn't want to hear, he also heard Stephen said the heaven opened. So, when you read that part of scripture 'But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God'. How that possible? If he is being judged, how come he has a face of angel? How come he sees the glory of God? And he can see Jesus standing at right hand of God. Is that not third heaven?

So brothers and sisters, listen, when Paul said be seated at the right hand, he is reminded of when he was saved. When he wanted to block out the work, so unnoticed to him that image impressed him. So this power is a dual power. It is a power of resurrection. But on the other hand, it is a power of ascension. Brothers and sisters, while he was in the prison, when he was so depressed, thank the Lord, unnoticed to him, he received a power. This power can seated him to the heaven. So when you read chapter 2, when you read verse 5 'even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places.' Here is not just the matter of position. Yes, it is position but it is also experience. How is it experience? Because the power enables you to go from this inheritance to that inheritance. That power even though Paul was in prison but at the same time he was seated in the heavenly with Christ. So Paul wrote out what he saw what he experienced. He felt that this prison limited him. So that the life could not be let and then spiritual His life is a life of butterfly. That prison is just like a cocoon. It is like a container limited his life and handcuff chained his hands. But thank Lord, at that time, but if his life is a life of butterfly then it is different. Before he was a caterpillar, the caterpillar can only crawl on this earth. In its concept there is no 3rd dimension, there is no sky. Do you remember when the Lord spoke to Jacob and He said

'you worm'. You know that Jacob was crawling on this earth. All the blessings God gave to the Jews. Be careful to do business with Jews because all the earth blessings are to the Jews so all the money in your pocket goes to them. So this is typical Jacob. Jacob is like a caterpillar. He never thought there is 3rd dimension. When he was dreaming suddenly he saw that heavenly ladder. He never thought of that.

Brothers and sisters, Paul also was a Jew. In his concept, the greatest thing was earth. When you think of Messianic kingdom that was global. But the Lord wanted to show him, even though he was a caterpillar, even though he was crawling on the earth. This life is limited one. Thank Lord, but it is one that changes. If he have the life of butterfly, even though it is cocoon. But thank Lord, and suddenly it will nibble at the cocoon and it will come out. Suddenly its wing will come out. And then after hours the wing will start to harden. And then the butterfly might fly into the sky. Brothers and sisters, you understand? Paul thought he was just caterpillar. If you are only caterpillar, if you are just an insect, that prison will limit you. Then you will be the last on earth, you're dead. Thank the Lord, now we see, before a caterpillar will only crawl on the earth. And the greatest the big part of its life is on this earth. Never has dreamed there is a power in that life. That power allows to break through that cocoon. Just like when the rocketship go through the sky, there is a great power inside and it overcomes the gravity. And then it can go into the sky. Brothers and sisters, now you see, somebody is raised from the dead. He can still be on earth. As long as he is on earth and he is the treasure hidden in the vessel. And he can overcome but he is still on earth. But thank Lord, this life is not only a resurrected life. We are made alive with Christ. We are awake with Him. No longer I'll live but Christ lives in me. But our world is still too small. You see that? We only see the surface of the land. But now the Lord opens our eyes. And Paul seated together with Christ in the heavenly. What kind the life is that? That life is a life of ascension. If the ascended Christ is our life, now we can see why Paul says Christ is our life. Only then can you see the nature of that life. If we can be seated with Christ in the heavenly. All the problems will be different. All these four epistles are different. The same theme, the same glorious gospel. Romans talks about man to God, from the earth to the heaven.

Ephesians has the same message but when you speak of that is from heaven to earth, from eternity to now, from God to man. Brothers and sisters, when you read Ephesians again it is different. Ephesians shows the position of the ascension. Colossians shows the life of the ascension. Philippians shows the heavenly reward and Philemon shows the heavenly man. The heavenly position, the heavenly reward, heavenly man and heavenly ... that is the heavenly Christ. When you read these four epistles you see everything is heavenly. So many times we don't understand because we're crawling on this earth. So many times we don't understand these words. Thank the Lord, this is how Christ is our life. The resurrected Christ is our life, the ascended Christ is our life. So before the resurrection and ascension, it is the crucified Christ. He died for our sake so that we can be made alive with Him. The day we're saved by grace He awoke us. Thank the Lord, that is gain life. How is gain a life more abundantly? How do you know it is abundant? If you experience the resurrection you know abundant. If you experience the ascension you know what is abundant. Then this man become big, before you're very small. When the Lord opened up your eyes. Now we ask a question. When we hear the gospel we

love to hear the word 'Behold the lamb of God' but I ask when you read the first John is that what gospel all? 'Behold the lamb of God take away the sin of the world'. Because of sin men and God were separated by great distance. So Lord became our median. He became our saviour. 'Behold lamb of God' but if you read the end of John chapter one. What did He tell disciples? He said 'Truly, truly I say to you, you'll see the heavens open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the son of man'. What does that mean? Is that the story of Jacob saw the heavenly ladder?

Those disciples followed the Lord they read Old Testament. They know the story of that heavenly ladder. When you see the heavenly ladder, when you see Jacob saw heavens open and the angels walking on that ladder up and down. What does the Lord say? Truly, truly I say to you, you shall see the heavens open. You have been saved that's wonderful. Behold the lamb of God takes away the sin of the world. Is that it? Is that the size of the world? Is that the gospel of the Lord? No. On one hand He is the lamb of God. On the other hand He is a heavenly ladder. Do you understand? When we were like Jacob like a worm crawling on the earth we have no concept of third dimension. We have no concept of the sky. We thought the sky was when we'll go to heaven... But today we are already seated with Christ in the heavenly. Today we are on earth but as we are in heaven. Is that amazing! Why did the Lord say that you'll see the heavens open? If the heavens were opened then you'll see the heavenly ladder. Outside of this earth then you'll see heaven. So, before we say how we have wronged the Lord, how we need to be forgiven, how we need a saviour, a mediator. We thought that was salvation. That was it. But, no. God's universe is greater than ours. Not only He created earth but also the heavens. So here says you'll see the heavens open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the son of man. So here is two facets of the story.

Why the lamb of God? Because sin separates man from God. So from now on, the distance between man and God is so great. Sin not only separates God and man. Sin also separates heaven and earth. You know when God created heavens and earth what is its purpose? It is all things under the earth and the heaven will be headed up in Christ. Darby's translation is very interesting. The original doesn't mean to be summed up into Christ. It means to be headed up. The meaning there is that Christ is the head. So when He created the universe what is its purpose? All things under the heaven and the earth could look heads up looking up into the heaven. The heaven is like the head, the earth like the body. This is a material world. There is a material head and material body. That sky is like the head. So He created heaven and created earth. But all on this earth will look up into the heaven. What does that mean? It says that this heaven is the crown of the earth. This is the purpose of the universe. Brothers and sisters, doesn't matter what example the scientists come up with. Some people said we found something. Some people said We don't know. But that is not important. One thing that Christians know what is the eternal purpose. So that all things in the heaven and on the earth will look up to the heaven. And when all things look up if there is a fig tree on this earth, it needs look the fig tree in the heaven. Even though you can distinguish between heaven and earth you cannot separates them. That universe is what God created. Earth is just like a mirror, like a lake reflect the sky. When you see the heaven you see heaven. When

you see the earth you see the heaven as well. When you are in the heaven you see the heaven. And when you're on earth you'll join the heaven as well. Everything is looking up toward heaven.

When you see a vine it looks to the true vine. This vine only explain the story of the true vine. The earthly vine will grow four months. And absorb the water from the heaven, absorb the water from the ground. And when the grape ripe, through the wine press becomes wine. So this vine is the story of water being turned to wine. It tells the story of the true vine. So when the Lord came, He is true vine. He doesn't need four months, just a milli-second He can turn water into wine. No wonder that is the first miracle. Brothers and sisters, now you understand. Now you know the eternal purpose of God? All things under the heavens and the earth are to look up into heaven. Look up onto Christ. In other words, the heaven is the crown and then the earth very naturally under subjection to the heaven. Thank the Lord! That is Paul helps us to see. So here is the question. Before sin enters you see the heaven and the earth are one. It is wonderful, it is beautiful. But ever since sin enters, you see the heaven and the earth is distant. Before when you enjoy God's creation, you'll think of God easily. You know that in Australia the scenery...New Zealand ... But they have sold off all the church buildings because only those old people enter the church buildings. All the young people go to beach. Brothers and sisters, because the heaven and the earth is separated in such distance, when they see all these they don't think of God.

So, many say here is no God. Some say God is already dead. Brothers and sisters, now you see the distance between earth and heaven. So when you read the story in the bible, you know that after man fall, it tells us in Deuteronomy. And your heaven which over you shall be bronzed. It is like bronze, heavens are closed. So no longer they'll see the open heaven. Do you remember Ezekiel by the river Kebar he saw the heavens were opened? But you can be sure that was not the third heaven. How do you know that was not the third heaven? Because Ezekiel tells us he saw the likeness of the glory of God. But what Stephen saw was the glory of God and he saw Jesus standing at the right hand. Therefore it must be the third heaven. So very clearly here that heavens were closed. Even Ezekiel even though he was a priest, the third heaven wasn't opened for him. But good news ever since the word became flesh. Do you remember when after Lord was baptized came out of water, remember was Mark? Once He came out of the water He saw the parting of the heaven. As it is somebody tore the heaven apart. What does it mean? No matter where our Lord is that is what heaven is. Brothers and sisters, on one hand yes, He is the lamb of God. On the other hand, He is the heavenly ladder. For this reason, we need go back to Colossians, very important. Colossians chapter one, this is only mentioned here in Colossians. It combines two things. Let us turn to verse 21 'And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach'. Before we were separated from God because of our sin. So now we're so distant from our God. But our Lord crucified for us. And when He was crucified and He grabbed us with one hand and the other hand He grabbed Father's hand. And on the cross He reconciled us. So that there is no close moment... There was one time, a father and son went through difficult time and they refuse to talk. And when the mother was sick and the son was called to come back. So

the mom was on the bed and she was walk her last moment of life. She sat at bed side she saw her husband on one side and her son on the other. They still refuse to talk to each other. So right before her last breath, she grabbed her husband's hand and she grabbed the other hand of son. And put those two and grabbed close to her. And then she breath the last.

Brothers and sisters, this is how the Lord became our mediator. So that we can be reconciled to the Father. This is the story of the lamb of God. But there is another story, only Colossians tells us. Let's turn to verse 20 'heaving made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself'. You understand? Because of sin, earth and heaven are so distant. But thank the Lord, on the crucifixion on one hand He is the lamb of God, on the other hand He is the heavenly ladder. On one hand He grabbed the earth, on one hand He grabbed the heaven. And in Christ so that heaven and earth was once again meet together. Brothers and sisters, that is why our Lord said 'You'll see the heavens open'. Nathanael was even seen under the tree of fig tree. And he thought that was quite amazing. But the Lord said you'll see something greater than that.

Brothers and sisters, today we want to see something greater. You can't just say I'm saved and go to heaven that's it. You'll see something greater. You'll see the heaven's open. You won't no longer you just crawling on the earth. That life of resurrection and ascension will bring you to seated in the heaven. So that on earth as if you're in heaven. How that possible? Thank the Lord, He is our heavenly ladder. So that all things on earth and in heaven can be reconciled. Then God's purpose can be accomplished. Even though because of sin the universe is no longer in So that all things will head up in Christ. You see that is the two facets of the story. On one hand, He is our lamb. On the other hand He is our heavenly ladder. Brothers and sister, so we're made alive with Christ. So we're raised with Christ. We're seated with Christ in the heavenly. Even though we're in heavenly but we're still on earth. And while on earth we can live a heavenly life. And from now you see the heavens are open. And we're on heaven and as well on earth because Christ is our life. When we're on earth Paul said think of the things of above not on earth. You're need to put to death the members of the body on earth. Now you know how to deal with the flesh. Before you have to bear a heavy cross, now you just have to stand at the position of the heavenly. And you'll overcome. You remember the Sino-China war? You remember all those war planes were old planes, very old. And one day the pilot noticed there is a mouse in the plane. How do you deal with the mouse? He suddenly had a thought. So started to ascend the plane higher and higher and higher. And he went all the way high enough until the mouse died.

You know our flesh how difficult to handle? You want to deal with the flesh on earth you can't do it. I challenge you! Have anyone of you ever carried yourself? You can't carry yourself. Only when you're in heaven, when your body is on earth, then you can put to death the members of your body. And this life grows. Beginning with life, just like a infant lies in the mother's womb and suddenly forming a man. But you know there is a nature here. And from a nature you have character, and from character you have personality. Not only you talk about the new life, you talk about the new man. You put

off your old but put on the new man. Brothers and sisters, isn't it the story of life? Very clear! When this life continues to grow, there will be no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised, uncircumcised, barbarian, slave, Scythian, women but Christ is all and in all. You see this life is no longer an individual life. Naturally, this life want to be with others, because for the very beginning it is with Christ. And now it is to be with all those who are in Christ then he can live. Naturally, here you see a body. The entire life comes from the head...is in the body. Not this means in all? The verse 12 says 'So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'. You see here characters not for your self. Why you need to be patient? If you're alone you don't need patience. If you're not happy just do whatever you want. But when with someone else then you need patience, have compassion and you need bear one with another, forgive one another. And how would just the Lord forgave you, you should also forgive others.

And you have to have love and which is perfect bound of unity. And the peace of Christ is ruled in your heart. Brothers and sisters, isn't it the result of Christ being our life? And at the end what does it says? Which is the perfect bound... 'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body'. So we at the end were called into one body and every member looks toward the head. Just like the earth looks up into the heaven. Brothers and sisters, when we talk about the whole universe, earth and heaven, would that all will be summed up in Christ? Before the Lord come all these will be realized. But where is the secret? If you see the heaven is the head and earth is the body, the true universe of life that is the church. When God uses the church when we live a life in the church, when we can experience Christ is all and in all. So that we can truly be our head. Brothers and sisters, at the very end His purpose will be accomplished. So we know that material world its future.... Is according to the future of the church. Thank the Lord, when we experience this life, this is a life indeed. One time T. Austin Spark went to be a guest at F.B. Meyer's house. And he saw a plaque in the living room. And that plaque uses the word of Song of Solomon and it says 'Look down'. And Spark wasn't understand. Spark said shouldn't we look up? What did F. B. Meyer said? 'It depends on the position if you asked.' If you're seated with Christ in heaven, of course you look down. This is Song of Songs chapter 4. Solomon and Shulamite looked down from Mt. Hermon.

One brother name Robert Chapman interpreted doctrine is very different than and didn't see eye to eye with Darby. So, many of the coworkers of Darby would criticize Chapman. And at one point Darby was very upset he said 'Stop criticize'. We all talk about being seated with Christ in heaven but our brother is there. This is the 'on earth as in heaven'. 1900, we know there was a Box Rebellion and many Christians were martyred. Especially missionaries went through many difficult times. And the China Inland Mission Hudson Taylor his daughter-in-law wrote a diary. She wrote that diary what did she say? She said that during those four days, critical four days, was we have most close fellowship with the Lord. Those four days we did not know whether we were in heaven or we were on earth. Brothers and sisters, that is seated with Christ in heaven. That is 'that' life. Also one sister named Lady Powerscourt. If you go to Dublin you'll see a garden of Lady Powerscourt. She also had a big castle. Darby once on the

horse back rode there for conference. The story of the Brethren begins there. What did the Robert Chapman say of our sister? He said that she is so spiritual, so heavenly that her feet did not touch the ground. She was a widow at age of 23. She went to with the Lord at age of 36. So when Darby had a meeting there and they had feelings with one another. So they talked about whether they can be together. And after they prayed, so Darby felt that because of his ministry gonna travel much he didn't want always leave Lady Powerscourt. So they separated. So from then on, either one got married. No matter where Darby went, when he travels the hymn he liked most and many times were buried his face in hands. He would sing that song 'I bear my cross, I follow You'. Always do that. At the same time, Lady Powerscourt wrote a hymn. And that hymn is the hymn in many hymnodies 'Lord Jesus I long in thy presence to live'. You'll find the hymn in the hymn book. Then the Chinese hymnody we have the hymn what is not the original from Lady powerscourt. Watchman Nee actually translated Lady Powerscourt's original hymn into Chinese. The original hymn actually had eight words on each line. It is very difficult to have eight, eight, eight and eight. And then brother Nee thought of a hymn that we always sing. So and then he just changed to a regular hymn so that we can sing it. So the Chinese version is translated from English. If you want the original English, you'll find it in the hymnody 'Christ in Song'. If you read the hymn she wrote, undoubtedly this sister is as on earth as she is in heaven. Christ is our life. We can live this life on earth.

Don't forget. Our Lord descended from heaven. Even though He descended from the heaven He is still in heaven. What does that mean? Even though He is on earth as if He is in heaven. When the Word became flesh that was His life on earth. Thank the Lord. He wants us to be alive with Christ. To arise with Him, be seated in the heaven. Thank the Lord. This is Christ is our life because our Lord was alive. Therefore, we can live on the earth. May the Lord open our eyes. Christ is our life and then how to attain Christ is all and in all. Let's pray.

'Lord, we want to commit these words into your hands. Especially pray for the young ones or those newly saved. Lord, may they go back not empty handed. May they understand these words. May they be able to experience these words. Listen to our prayer. In Jesus victorious name. Amen'