

# CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS

Friday Night Fellowship: Fully Equipped

## Session 1: The Way to Fulfill God's Purpose

### I. God's purpose and His economy depend on the tree of life

**Gen. 1:26** And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and 1over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

**Isa 45:15a** Surely You are a God who hides Himself

**Gen. 3:12-13** And the man said, The woman whom You gave [to be] with me, she gave me [fruit] from the tree, and I ate. And Jehovah God said to the woman, What is this that you have done? And the woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.

### II. Eating the tree of life

**Gen. 2:9** And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Gen. 2:15-17** And Jehovah God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and to keep it. And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

**John 1:4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

### III. Changing our concept from doing to eating

**John 6:35** Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

**John 6:57** As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God

### IV. How to enjoy Christ

**John 4:24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

**John 7:38** He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

### **GOD'S PURPOSE**

God's economy and God's building both depend on the tree of life. In Genesis 1 there is a full record of God's creation. On the sixth day God created a man in His own image and then committed man with His own authority (v. 26). Image means "expression." Something in your image is the expression of yourself. God created man in His own image for the purpose of having man as His very expression in this universe and on this earth. God is hidden and invisible, yet God has a heart's desire to express Himself through man. God did not create a thousand men at one time, but He created just one man. All the descendants of that one man were included in that one man. God created a corporate man in His image to express Himself, so man is the very image, the very expression, of God.

Why did God also commit man with His authority? God's purpose is to express Himself, but this purpose of God was greatly frustrated by His enemy. God has an enemy in this universe and on this earth, and this earth has been usurped from the hand of God, robbed away from God. Thus, God had to create a man to deal with His enemy. It is for this purpose that God committed His authority to man, that man may be not only His expression but also His representative, representing Him on this earth as the very authority to deal with His enemy.

God gave authority to Adam for the purpose that he might rule over the earth, and especially that he might rule "over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth" (v. 26). The implication here is that God's enemy is embodied in the creeping things. In Genesis 3 the head of the creeping things came in, that is, the serpent, the enemy of God... Throughout the sixty-six books of the Bible, there are always these two aspects. God's intention positively is to express Himself through a corporate man, and negatively to deal with His enemy, Satan, through this corporate man. At the end of the Scriptures there is a city called the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2). God's image is expressed through that city (v. 11; 4:3), and God's authority is exercised through that city (22:5; 21:24-26). That city is the very expression and representation of God.

### **EATING THE TREE OF LIFE**

In Genesis 1 there is the purpose, the intention, of God, but there is not the way to fulfill God's purpose, the way to attain God's intention. The way is not in Genesis 1 but in Genesis 2, and what is the way? The way is the tree of life (v. 9). After the revelation of the words image and dominion (authority), there is the word life in Genesis 2. How could we created human beings express God if we did not have the life of God? You can take a picture of me, but that picture only has a certain image without life. If God is life within you and lives in you, it is possible for you to live God out, to express God in a full way. The way to fulfill God's purpose is seen in the tree of life. Even the matter of authority to represent God depends on the tree of life. If you do not have the tree of life, God within you as your life, how can you exercise His authority? For these two aspects of God's purpose, God's expression and God's representation, we need God to be life to us. We need God to live within us that we may be His very expression and His very representation.

Genesis tells us that after God created man, He put man in front of the tree of life. God did not give man a list of commandments. That was the work of Moses after the fall, not the work of God according to His eternal intention. The law is in Exodus 20, not in Genesis 2. In Genesis 2 is the first picture regarding God's dealing with His created man. There is such a basic principle of the first mentioning in the Bible. Whenever you have the first mentioning, a principle is always laid. The first mentioning of God's dealing with man is that God put Adam in front of the tree of life, charging him to be careful about his eating (vv. 16-17). God's intention for man is not a matter of doing but a matter of eating. If man eats well and eats rightly, then he will be right.

This tree of life is God in Christ as the Spirit to be life to us. It is the Triune God, the Father in the Son, and the Son as the Spirit... God's intention is not that we serve Him, do good to please Him, or that we worship Him in a religious, ritualistic way. But God's intention is that we eat Him. We have to eat Him. The first picture of God's dealing with man is not a picture of doing but a picture of eating.

God presented Himself to man in the form of food. This can be clearly seen in the Gospel of John. John tells us that in the beginning was the Word, the Word was God, and in Him was life (1:1, 4). One day He performed a miracle by feeding five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish (6:9-13). Then the people wanted to make Him King. But He did not take that offer (v. 15). He later told them that He came not to be a king to rule others outwardly but to be the bread of life to be eaten (vv. 35, 57)... We have to take Him as food by feeding on Him and eating Him. "He who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me" (v. 57b).

### **CHANGING OUR CONCEPT FROM DOING TO EATING**

I hope that the Lord would change your concept from doing to eating. If you would become not merely a doing Christian but an eating Christian, that would be wonderful. In today's Christianity the emphasis is on doing and working. Christianity has been degraded into a doing religion, a working religion, a toiling religion. But God's first intention is not to have man toiling but to have man feasting and feeding on Him, to have man enjoying God Himself.

We may realize that we need to forget about doing, but it is not so easy for us to forget... We all have to first realize that the Lord has no intention that we do something for Him. The Lord's intention is to present Himself as food to us day by day.

### **HOW TO ENJOY CHRIST**

We also have to learn how to enjoy Him. He is life, food, water, and air to us, but how can we enjoy Him? If we are going to enjoy the Lord, we have to open ourselves, not superficially but in a deep way. We should not only open our mind, or even our heart, but we also have to open our spirit.

You have to realize that the Lord as the living water is within you as the living fountain in the deepest part of your being. He is in your spirit. John 4:14 says, "The water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life." In this verse we should underline the words in him. This fountain is "in him," in us. In what part of us? John 4:24 says, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit." If you read the whole context of John 4, you will realize that this living water, the fountain within us, is in our spirit...

We must learn to come to the Lord in a new way. We must learn how to contact the Lord by opening ourselves from within. You have to say, "Lord, help me to open my mind, to open my heart, and even to open my spirit, to open my entire being, the depths of my being, to You. Lord, reveal Your riches to me and impart Yourself into me that I may enjoy You." If you will open yourself to the Lord in such a way, you will see how real, available, and precious the Lord is. You will sense His presence within, and you will be filled with Him.

Learn to open yourself. Then you will enjoy the Lord as the tree of life. With the tree of life is the flow of living water and the fresh air as the breath of life. If you open yourself to the Lord, the Lord will spring up from within you. Then you will be nourished, watered, refreshed, and strengthened from within. You will be right in your person, in your being, in what you are, not just in what you do. May the Lord bring us into His intention, that is, into the enjoyment of Himself as our life and life supply that we may express Him in His image and represent Him with His authority on the earth.