

“WORD OF LIFE”

August 23, 2026

58. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (38)

U. IN THE CHURCH

2. The Head of the Body

Suggested Hymns: # 203 & (# 189) / # 233 / # 8043

✚ “... the words ... are spirit and are life.,” (John 6:63)

- Eph. 1:22 - And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph. 1:23 - Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph. 4:15 - But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph. 5:23 - ... Christ is Head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body.
- Col. 1:18 - And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

✚ “... the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...,” (Phil. 3:8)

- ❖ Christ is the Head of the Body, the church (Eph. 5:23).
 - Christ as the Savior of the Body is a matter of love
 - we must love Christ as our Savior
 - Christ as the Head of the church is a matter of authority
 - we must be subject to Christ as our Head.
 - Christ is the Head of the Body in resurrection.
 - Christ was made the Head over all things to the church.
 - Christ brings us into resurrection and saves us from our natural being.
 - The Body is one with the Head in the divine life and in the divine Spirit.
 - All that Christ has accomplished, obtained, and attained as the Head
 - is for the Body and to the Body (Eph. 1:22-23).
 - All that Christ has gained now belongs to the Body,
 - it is transmitted to the church, His Body.

✚ “For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.” (1Cor. 14:31)

- ✚ We need to grow up into Christ. This is to have Christ increase in us in all things until we attain to a full-grown man. To grow in life is to grow into the Head, Christ, First, we grow up into the Head; then we have something that is out from the Head for the building up of the Body, the church.
- ✚ Christ is the Head of the Body; the Body is supplied by holding the Head. We need to hold the Head so that the Body may grow with the growth of God (Col. 2:19). For the Body to hold the Head means that the Body does not allow itself to be separated from the Head. We shall not be separated from Him by anything. We shall remain in Him without any insulation between us and Him.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 58 letter T- 2)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

Hymn 203 Praise the Lord – His Increase

- 1 In the bosom of the **Father**,
Ere the ages had begun,
Thou wast in the **Father's glory**,
God's unique **begotten Son**.
When to us the **Father** gave Thee,
Thou in **person** wast the same,
All the **fulness** of the **Father**
In the **Spirit** to **proclaim**.
- 2 By Thy **death** and **resurrection**,
Thou wast made **God's firstborn Son**;
By Thy **life to us imparting**,
Was Thy **duplication** done.
We, in Thee **regenerated**,
Many **sons to God** became;
Truly as Thy **many brethren**,
We are as **Thyself the same**.
- 3 Once Thou wast the **only grain, Lord**,
Falling to the earth to **die**,
That thru **death** and **resurrection**
Thou in **life** may **multiply**.
We were brought forth in Thy nature
And the **many grains** became;
As one **loaf** we all are **blended**,
All Thy **fulness** to proclaim.
- 4 We're Thy total **reproduction**,
Thy dear **Body** and Thy **Bride**,
Thine expression and Thy **fulness**,
For Thee ever to abide.
We are Thy **continuation**,
Thy **life-increase** and Thy **spread**,
Thy **full growth** and Thy rich surplus,
One with Thee, our glorious **Head**.

Eph. 4:15 –

...holding to truth in love, we may **grow up**
into Him in all things,
who is the Head, Christ,

1Co 12:12 –

For even as the **body** is one and has **many members**, yet **all the members** of the **body**,
being many, are **one body**,
so also is the Christ.

Col 3:3 –

For you **died**, and your **life is hidden**
with Christ in God.

Head indicates that our **growth in life** by the
increase of **Christ** should be the **growth of**
the members in the **Body** under the **Head**.

The **growth of the Body** of **Christ** is the
increase of **Christ** in the **church**, which
results in the building up of the **Body** by the
Body itself. [**Christ is the Body**, (1Cor.12:12)]

Our life is **hidden** with **Christ in God**.
To be **in God** is to be **in the heavens**, and to
be **in the heavens** is to be **in the church**.

[Hymn # 189 –His All-inclusiveness]

Hymn 233 Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

- 1 O what a miracle, my **Lord**,
That **I'm in Thee** and **Thou in me**,
That Thou and I are **really one**;
O what a wondrous **mystery**!
- 2 For me Thy **body** Thou didst **give**,
That I may ever **share** in Thee;
For me Thy precious **blood** was **shed**,
That from my sins I might **be free**.
- 3 By **resurrection** Thou didst change
Thy form and as the **Spirit** come;
Thou wouldst that I be **filled with Thee**
That all Thy **riches** mine become.
- 4 Now as the **symbols** we behold,
Thy loving self we see anew;
We thank Thee for Thy heart's desire
As all Thy **travail** we review.
- 5 We **eat** the **bread** and **drink** the **wine**,
And to Thy **sweetness** we are led;
In **spirit** each **receiving** Thee,
Our **spirits** with Thyself are **fed**.
- 6 We long to **eat** and **drink** e'en more,
To take Thyself in **spirit** thus,
Till Thou shalt all **our being fill**
And **true remembrance** have from us.

Isa 53:10 –

But **Jehovah** was pleased to **crush** Him, to **afflict**
Him with **grief**. When He makes Himself an
offering for sin, (the **Lamb of God**) He will see
His **seed**. He will extend His days, ...

Isa 53:11 –

He will see the **fruit of the travail of His soul**,
And He will be satisfied; By the knowledge of
Him, the **righteous One**, My Servant, will **make**
the **many righteous**, And He will **bear their**
iniquities.

Gal 4:19 –

My children, with whom I **travail** again in birth
until **Christ** is **formed in you**,

What is the **fruit of the travail** of Christ's soul?

The **fruits** are all the items **produced** in and through
Christ's resurrection,

- (1) As the **processed One**, the last Adam, Christ
became the **life-giving Spirit** as the reality of the
pneumatic Christ **for** His propagation through life-
imparting.
- (2) As the **preeminent One**, the One who has the
first place in all things, Christ **became** the
Firstborn from the dead **for** the germinating of
God's new creation and for Christ to be **Head** of
the **Body**.
- (3) As the **God-man**, Christ was begotten of God in
His humanity **to be** the **firstborn Son of God** in
both the divine and human natures, **to be** a model
for conforming many sons to His image.
- (4) As the **one grain of wheat**, Christ **became** the
many grains, who are His **increase** and the
components of His **Body**, i.e., the one bread, the
church.

Hymn 8043 Worship of the Father – His Grace in Sonship

- 1 O **Father**, Thou art **boundless love**;
We **praise** Thee and adore Thee.
For lessons from Thy **grace** above,
We can but joy before Thee.
For **sonship** Thou **predestined** us,
Before the world was founded;
In time Thy pow'r was manifest
And grace to us abounded.
- 2 Thine only **Son** from **death** Thou **raised**,
Firstborn in resurrection;
His work completed, well He's praised;
His vict'ry's our possession.
We've now **become** Thy **many sons**;
Our heart with **praise** is ringing;
All that Thy **firstborn Son** has done
Fills all our days with singing.
- 3 His God is also ours, we're shown;
His **Father** is our **Father**.
Flesh of His flesh, bone of His bone;
Naught us from Him can sever.
By Him we're now **led back to Thee**
To sing in congregation;
Like Him and **one with Him** are we,
Thy **Firstborn's duplication**.
- 4 What **grace** and **love** divine this is!
Thy **Son and sons joined ever**;
Our blest **eternal portion** 'tis,
Our **Father's** joy and pleasure!
Thy **Son** will come from heaven soon;
Today we here **await** Him;
May this desire our hearts consume:
With lute and lyre to **praise** Him.

Joh 17:21 –

That they **all may be one**; even as You,
Father, are in Me and I in You, that **they also**
may be in Us; ...

Joh 17:23 –

I in them, and You in Me, that they may be
perfected into one, ... and have loved them
even as You have loved Me.

The **fruits** produced in and through Christ's
resurrection,

- (5) As the **resurrection life**, Christ
regenerated all His believers, making them
His **brothers** and the **many sons** of God, who
are the **members** of God's household **to be**
God's kingdom and God's precious
inheritance.
- (6) **Through** His **life-releasing death** and with
His **life-imparting resurrection**, Christ
produced a **corporate seed** as the issue of the
travail of His soul, which **seed** He saw in His
resurrection and was satisfied; and
- (7) As the **life of the believers**, the resurrected
Christ is all the members and in all the
members of the **new man**.