

“WORD OF LIFE”

October 04, 2026

59. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (39)

U. IN THE CHURCH

8. The Nourisher and the Cherisher

Suggested Hymns: # 509 & # 538 / # 1110 / # 17

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

- Eph. 5:26 - That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
Eph. 5:27 - That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
Eph. 5:29 - ..., but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
1Thes. 2:7 - But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother would cherish her own children.

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

- ❖ In the church Christ is the Nourisher and the Cherisher (Eph. 5:29).
 - Christ nourishes the church with all the riches of the Father.
 - All the riches of God are in Christ, the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead (Col. 2:9).
 - He nourishes the church with the very riches of the Godhead
 - In John 15, the Lord Jesus is the vine, the Father is the husbandman, and we are the branches.
 - God the Father is the soil, the water, and everything to Christ as the vine.
 - The vine absorbs the riches from the soil and the water, and then transmits them to the branches.
 - This is nourishing – the vine nourishes the branches with what the vine absorbs from the soil.
 - By nourishing the church, Christ meets the inward need of the church.
 - Christ nourishes the church with His life and His word.
 - What Christ receives of the Father becomes the life and life supply that are embodied in the Word.
 - we need to abide in Him to absorb His content into our being as life and life supply.
 - we daily need to contact the living Word, for the Word is the embodiment of life and of the life supply.
 - As we are nourished by Christ, we are cleansed and transformed.
 - The nourishment we receive brings about an inner cleansing from the defects caused by the natural life.
 - The nourishment we receive bring a metabolic cleansing of our disposition.
 - Christ’s care of the church includes cherishing as well as nourishing.
 - The Lord cherishes us with His tender warmth.
 - His cherishing comforts us, soothes us, and calms us.

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

- ✚ Christ’s nourishing of the church also causes transformation. We become what we eat. If we eat Christ, we shall eventually be constituted of Christ. We shall be transformed by the element of Christ that has been dispensed into us. Through Christ’s nourishment we are transformed and thereby become a new person with a new element and substance.
- ✚ Christ’s presence in the church produces an atmosphere of tenderness and warmth to cherish our very being. In the church we enjoy the atmosphere of the Lord’s cherishing. When we are in this atmosphere, we experience the rest, warmth, comfort, and encouragement that come from Christ’s cherishing of the church.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 59 letter T-8)
[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 509 Experience of Christ— Abiding in Him

1 A flowing river and a tree,
Eden's outstanding features are,
Man to **supply with food and drink**
That he may **live** fore'er.

Chorus:

God is in **Christ** to be my supply,
God as the **Spirit nourisheth** me;
If upon **Christ** in spirit I **feed**,
Filled with His life I'll be.

2 The **tree** the glorious **Christ** does show
As living food to man supplied,
That he **God's riches** may enjoy,
Thus to be satisfied.

3 The river does the **Spirit** show,
Coming man's spirit to supply,
That with **God's riches** he be filled,
Holy to be thereby.

4 The **Christ** of glory is my **life**,
He as the **Spirit lives in mine**,
That I with **God** be fully blent
And in His image shine.

5 I would **exalt** this **glorious Christ**,
Ever the **Spirit** I'd obey,
Making His glory fully known,
Filled with His **grace** for aye.

Joh 21:15-17 –

... **Jesus** said to Simon Peter, ...,
do you love Me more than these?
He said to Him, Yes, Lord,
You know that I love You.
He said to him, **Feed My lambs**.

He said to him again a second time, ...,
do you love Me?
He said to Him, Yes, Lord,
You know that I love You.
He said to him, **Shepherd My sheep**.

He said to him the third time, ...,
do you love Me? ...
And he said to Him, Lord,
... **You know** that I love You.
Jesus said to him, **Feed My sheep**.

The **fruit-bearing** is the outflow of the **riches**
of the inner life. To **feed the lambs** is to
nourish them with the riches of the inner life.
To **feed** others, we need to **enjoy** the **riches**
of the **Lord's** divine life.
This **requires** that **we love Him**.

To **believe** in the Lord is to **receive** Him;
to **love** the Lord is to **enjoy** Him.
The **Lord** came as **life** and the **life supply** to
us. We need to **have faith** in Him and **love**
toward Him.

[Hymn # 538 - As the Subjective One]

Hymn 1110 Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

1 O Jesus Lord, when present at Thy table,
And on the bread and on the wine we gaze;
We praise Thee, Lord, that Thou as food art able
To be enjoyed by man in many ways.

Chorus 1:

So all our being sings in praise to Thee,
How small Thou art, how small Thou art!
And Thee we'll eat through all eternity;
How small Thou art, how small Thou art!

2 O what a shame—
when Christ with all His **riches**,
Has come into the world, **life to supply**—
That man would live,
not by Him, **but** by teachings,
So powerless these riches to apply.

Chorus 2:

But all we need to do is eat the Lord;
He's marvelous, He's wonderful!
And as we eat, we're inwardly restored;
Christ grows in us, grows to the full.

3 O Jesus Christ, Thou camest not to mankind
To be a king, to rule us outwardly.
But Thou hast come as food to satisfy us,
And by Thy life to guide us inwardly.

(repeat - First chorus)

4 We praise Thee, Lord,
for all Thy glorious grandeur,
For all Thy strength and majesty replete;
And yet, O Lord,
what special thanks we give Thee,
That all Thou art is small enough to eat.

Exo. 12:25-26 –

... you shall observe this **service** (*the feast*).

Exo. 12:27 –

..., It is the **passover** sacrifice to **Jehovah**,

1Co 5:7 –

... for our **Passover**, **Christ**, also has been
sacrificed.

1Cor. 5:8 –

So then **let us keep the feast**, ...

FEASTING BY EATING CHRIST

The **Passover** has two aspects:
the aspect of the **blood** for **redemption** and
the aspect of the **meat** for **eating**.
At the **Passover**, the people of Israel firstly
sprinkled the blood on the doorposts of their
houses and then **ate the meat** of the **Lamb**
inside the house. The **sprinkling** is for the
eating, and the **eating** is for **walking** out. By
their eating they had the strength to leave
Egypt. **We all have to feed on Jesus**. We have
to eat the Lamb with the unleavened bread.
We are **feasting** by **eating Christ**.

Hymn 17 Worship of the Father – As the Source of Life

1 My **Father God**, when on Thy **vast creation**,
The wonders of the heav'n and earth, I **gaze**,
Things great and small,
beyond enumeration,
Which manifest Thy **pow'r** in untold ways;

Chorus:

Then all my being **sings in praise** to Thee,
How marvellous! How **great** Thou art!
And this I'll sing through all eternity,
How marvellous! How **great** Thou art!

2 As I enjoy the **grace** of Thy salvation
And contemplate how
Thou Thy **Son** hast sent,
Who **died** that we
might be Thy **new creation**,
Thy life expressing to the full extent;

3 When in the **church**, in **blest participation**,
I see how millions Thine own **life possess**,
How they are **built** to form Thy habitation,
Containing Thee, Thy fulness to express;

4 As I expect the **coming age of fulness**
And hope to share the new Jerusalem,
With all the heavens
and the earth in **newness**
And all Thou art **expressed** in all of them;

1Ch 29:10-11 –

... You are **blessed**, O Jehovah, ..., from
eternity to eternity.

Yours is the **greatness** and the **power** and the
splendor and the **victory** and the **majesty**,
indeed all that is in heaven and on earth;
Yours, O **Jehovah**, is the kingdom, and You
are **exalted** as Head over all.

Psa 145:3-11 –

Great is **Jehovah**, and much to be **praised**;
And His **greatness** is unsearchable.

One generation will laud Your **works** to
another, And they will **declare Your mighty**
acts.

Upon the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And upon Your **wondrous works** I will **muse**.

And men will speak of the might of Your
awesome deeds,
And I will declare Your **greatness**.

They will utter the memory of Your **great**
goodness
And will **sing** for joy of Your **righteousness**.

Jehovah is **gracious** and **compassionate**,
Long-suffering and **great** in lovingkindness.

Jehovah is good to all,
And His **compassions** are **upon all His works**.

All Your **works** will **praise** You, O **Jehovah**;
And **Your faithful ones** will **bless** You.