

“WORD OF LIFE”

October 18, 2026

59. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (39)

U. IN THE CHURCH

10. The Holder of the Messengers of the Churches

Suggested Hymns: # 501 & # 1182 / # 220 / # 26

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

Rev. 1:16 - And He had in His right hand seven stars; ...

Rev. 1:20 - The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

2Cor. 3:18 - But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

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

❖ Christ is the Holder of the messengers of the churches.

✓ Revelation 1:16 says, “He had in His right hand seven stars,”

✓ Revelation 1:20 makes clear, “the seven stars are messengers of the seven churches.”

➤ These messengers are the spiritual ones in the churches

- bearing the responsibility of the testimony of Jesus.
- Like stars, we should be of the heavenly nature and in a heavenly position.
- We need to see the importance of the spiritual and heavenly reality of the messengers
 - for the proper church life
 - to bear the testimony of Jesus in the darkness of the church’s degradation.

➤ Both the lampstands and the stars are for shining at night.

- A lampstand representing a local church is a collective unit, a corporate life.
- A star representing a messenger of a local church is an individual entity.

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

+ In the dark night of the church’s degradation there is the need of the shining both of the collective churches and of the individual messengers. As Christ walks among the churches, He holds us in His right hand. We should be comforted by the fact that we are in His hand and that He is holding us. In the Lord’s hands, there is no need for us to shrink back. Christ truly takes the responsibility for His testimony.

+ We should be stars shining in this dark and evil age. If we would be shining stars in the church, we need to realize that in ourselves we have no light. Christ is our light. We need to look unto Him with an unveiled face so that we may reflect His glory (2 Cor. 3:18). This causes us to become the stars, the messengers, held by the Lord Jesus.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 59 letter T-10)
[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 501 Experience of Christ— As Life

1 O glorious **Christ**, Savior mine,
Thou art truly **radiance divine**;
God infinite, in eternity,
Yet man in time, finite to be.

Chorus:

Oh! **Christ**, **expression of God**, the Great,
Inexhaustible, rich, and sweet!
God mingled with humanity
Lives in me my all to be.

2 The **fulness of God** dwells in Thee;
Thou dost manifest **God's glory**;
In flesh Thou hast **redemption** wrought;
As **Spirit**, oneness with me sought.

3 All things of the **Father** are Thine;
All Thou art in **Spirit** is mine;
The **Spirit** makes Thee **real to me**,
That Thou experienced might be.

4 The **Spirit of life** causes Thee
By Thy **Word** to transfer to me.
Thy **Spirit** touched, Thy **word** received,
Thy **life** in me is thus conceived.

5 In spirit while **gazing** on Thee,
As a glass **reflecting Thy glory**,
Like to Thyself **transformed** I'll be,
That Thou might be **expressed** thru me.

6 In no other way could we be
Sanctified and share Thy vict'ry;
Thus only **spiritual we'll be**
And touch the life of **glory**.

7 Thy **Spirit** will me **saturate**
Every part will **God permeate**,
Deliv'ring me from the **old man**,
With all saints building for His plan.

John 14:6 –

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the
reality and the life; no one comes to the
Father except through Me.

2Cor. 4:18 –

Because we do not regard the things which
are seen but the **things which are not seen**; for
the things which are seen are temporary, but
the **things which are not seen are eternal**.

Christ is the **reality** of the divine things.
This reality came through Him and becomes
the realization of God to us.

All **things hoped for are things not seen**.
As people of hope, we should aim our life not
at the things that are seen but at the things
that are not seen; for the things that are seen
are **temporary**, but the things that are not seen
are **eternal**. Hence, we **walk by faith**, not by
appearance.

[Hymn #1182 - As our person]

Hymn 220 Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

1 When on Thy **table**, Lord, we gaze,
We marvel at the **signs**:
A **loaf of bread**, a **cup of wine**,
Displayed as **God** designs.

2 The **loaf** portrays the **bread of life**
As heav'nly food to us,
Imparted by Thy mystic **death**
That we may share Thee thus.

3 The portion is the **cup** divine,
Composed of **Jesus' blood**;
This **cup of blessing** we receive
And gain what is of **God**.

4 We **eat** of Thee, the **Bread of life**,
By sharing here this **bread**;
Thus we **remember** Thee in **love**
And with Thyself are fed.

5 We all enjoy the **blessings** gained
By **drinking** of this **cup**;
Thus we **remember** Thee with **joy**,
Till we are taken up.

6 By **feasting** on this **bread** and **cup**
Thy **death we now declare**,
And testify Thou art our life
And all we daily share.

7 We're waiting for that **glorious** hour,
When in the fullest way
We'll feed on Thee and **feast** with Thee
And **worship** Thee for aye.

1Co 11:26 –

For as often as you **eat** this **bread** and **drink**
the **cup**, you **declare** the **Lord's death** until
He comes.

We should take the Lord's supper unto the
remembrance of Him by **declaring** His
redeeming **death** without ceasing until He
comes back to **set up God's kingdom**.
By His first coming the Lord accomplished
His death to carry out an all-inclusive
redemption for the **producing of the church**.
After His **death** He went away to **receive** the
kingdom, and He will come again **with** the
kingdom.

The **church** bridges the gap between the
Lord's first coming and His second coming
and **connects** His death in the past with **God's**
kingdom in the future. Hence, to **declare** the
Lord's death until He comes may imply the
declaring of the existence of the church for
the **bringing in of the kingdom**. When we **eat**
the **Lord's supper** in this way, with a view to
a **continual remembrance** of Him in His first
and second comings, that **supper** becomes a
satisfaction to Him in relation to the
kingdom, God's administration.

Hymn 26 Worship of the Father – His Mercy

1 **God**, we **praise** Thee for Thy **mercy**,
'Tis so great and so profound!
In our **weakness** and our **failures**;
With its greatness it abounds.
We **adore** Thee! we adore Thee!
With such **mercy** we've been **crowned**!
With such mercy we've been crowned!

2 How we marvel at this **mercy**
So far-reaching and so vast!
It has reached us, e'en the **sinners**,
And will ever **hold us fast**.
From this mercy, from this mercy,
What can cause us to be cast?

3 For Thy mercy we are **grateful**,
'Tis so rich, so plenteous!
Thru Thy mercy in **redemption**,
Thou hast richly favored us.
If without this, if without this,
How could we be favored thus?

4 Oh, Thy **mercy**, so inspiring!
Gentle, tender, dear and sweet!
With Thy **patience** and Thy **kindness**,
Us in all our need it meets.
It we **treasure**, it we treasure,
Nothing can with it compete.

5 **Father**, we enjoy Thy **mercy**,
Ever fresh and ever new;
Every morning shed upon us,
It refreshes as the dew.
How we taste it! how we taste it!
Giving Thee the **praises** due.

6 We can never cease to **praise** Thee,
As Thy mercy e'er endures;
All Thy **grace** and all Thy favor,
Ever for us it secures.
Trusting in it, trusting in it,
Thy sure mercy us assures.

Psa. 37:23 –

A **man's steps** are established by **Jehovah**,
And He delights in his way.

Psa. 37:24 –

If he falls, he is **not utterly cast down**;
For **Jehovah** **upholds** him by the **hand**.

Psa. 119:73 –

Your **hands** have **made** me and **fashioned** me;
Give me understanding that I may **learn** Your
commandments.

Psa. 139:10 –

There also Your **hand** will **lead me**,
And Your **right hand** will **take hold of me**.