

Message Three

The Issue of the Second Step of Reconciliation

(1)

**Enjoying the Lord in Full
and Becoming the Righteousness of God in Christ**

Scripture Reading: Heb. 10:19-20; 4:16; 2 Cor. 5:21

- I. **According to the divine revelation in the Scriptures, God desires to be one with His chosen and redeemed people and to make them one with Him; we do not have the full understanding of how intensely God longs to be one with us and to make us one with Him—Eph. 1:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:6.**
- II. **In His salvation God brings His people not only to Himself but also into Himself; thus, God's intention in His salvation is to bring His chosen and redeemed people to Himself and even into Himself—John 14:3, 11a, 20.**
- III. **God's dwelling place—the Holy of Holies—is the place for Him to be the enjoyment of His people; it is also the place where God's chosen and redeemed people participate in the full enjoyment of God Himself—Heb. 10:19-20:**
 - A. The blessings of God can be found in the Holy Place, but God Himself is in the Holy of Holies; in order to have God Himself, we must come into the Holy of Holies—4:16.
 - B. In the Holy Place we have spiritual enjoyment, but this is not the direct enjoyment of the Lord Himself; we may enjoy the Lord's nourishment and enlightenment, but we do not have God Himself or His direct speaking—Exo. 25:10-22; Num. 7:89; Psa. 99:1; 80:1.
 - C. Those who have been brought back to God in the Holy of Holies will enjoy Christ to the uttermost—2 Cor. 3:18.
- IV. **The ministry of reconciliation brings us back to God to such an extent that we become the righteousness of God in Christ—5:21:**
 - A. Not only are we justified by God (Gal. 2:16)—we actually become the righteousness of God.
 - B. When Christ died on the cross as our Substitute, God considered Him not only the sin bearer but sin itself; now in resurrection Christ comes into us as life, and this life lives within us to constitute us into the righteousness of God.
 - C. In substitution Christ was made sin for us; now in His constitution we become the righteousness of God in Him—2 Cor. 5:21:
 1. The phrase *in Him* means in union with Christ, not only positionally but also organically in resurrection.
 2. When Christ died on the cross, God condemned Him in the flesh as sin for us (Rom. 8:3; John 3:14) so that we might be one with Him in His resurrection to be God's righteousness; therefore, in the organic union with Christ we are made the righteousness of God.

3. In the organic union with Christ, those who have been brought thoroughly back to God not only become righteous—they *are* the righteousness of God; they not only become righteous persons—they become righteousness itself.
 4. Since righteousness is an attribute of God, to become God's righteousness in Christ is to become this divine attribute; in this sense, we become what God is.
- D. To become the righteousness of God in Christ is a matter of being right with God in our being; this is to have an inner being that is transparent and crystal clear—an inner being in the mind and will of God—2 Cor. 5:21.
 - E. To become the righteousness of God in Christ is the highest enjoyment of the Triune God in Christ; to have this enjoyment is to be on the peak of God's salvation, on the peak of our holy Zion.