

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2018**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
ENJOYING THE RICHES OF CHRIST
FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Message Six

**Experiencing and Enjoying the All-inclusive Christ
for the Church as Revealed in the Gospel of John
(2)**

The Bride, the Flock, the Many Grains, and the Father's House

Scripture Reading: John 3:15-16, 29-30; 10:10b, 16; 11:25; 12:24; 14:2-3

- I. The Gospel of John reveals that the all-inclusive Christ came to be life to us so that the church could come into being—3:15-16; 10:10; 11:25.**
- II. The church as the bride is the increase of Christ—3:29-30:**
 - A. Two crucial words in verses 29 and 30 are *bride* and *increase*; the increase in verse 30 is the bride in verse 29.
 - B. The increase of Christ is produced through regeneration; without regeneration Christ cannot have a bride as His increase—vv. 3, 5-6, 15-16, 29-30:
 1. Regeneration not only brings the divine life into the believers, but it also makes them the corporate bride of Christ's increase—vv. 3, 5-6, 15-16, 29-30.
 2. Regeneration may be described as the divine life in action; the result of this action is the children of God, who possess eternal life and constitute the bride of Christ.
 3. The bride is a corporate person, the church, composed of all the believers in Christ—2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7.
 4. All the believers in Christ, who are the constituents of the church, will eventually be the bride of Christ—21:2, 9-10.
 5. All those who have been regenerated are the increase of Christ, and this increase is the bride who becomes the counterpart of Christ.
- III. Christ is the good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep so that, in the divine life, there would be one flock and one Shepherd—John 10:10b, 16:**
 - A. As the good Shepherd, the Lord shepherds us by feeding us with Himself and in Himself as the pasture—v. 9.
 - B. As the good Shepherd, the Lord is leading, guiding, and directing us in the divine life—v. 14.
 - C. Under the shepherding of Christ as the good Shepherd, "there shall be one flock, one Shepherd"—v. 16:

1. The one flock signifies the one church, the one Body of Christ, brought forth by the Lord's eternal, divine life, which He imparted into His members through His death—vv. 16-18; Eph. 2:14-16; 3:6.
2. The Lord has formed the Jewish believers and the Gentile believers into one flock—the one church, the Body of Christ—under His shepherding—John 10:10-18; Eph. 2:14-16; 3:6.

IV. In John 12:24 the church is implied:

- A. Christ is the one grain of wheat for death resulting in resurrection—v. 24:
 1. As a grain of wheat, the Lord Jesus fell into the ground and died in order to bear much fruit, the many grains.
 2. The “much fruit” in verse 24 became Christ's increase in resurrection—20:17; 1 Pet. 1:3.
 3. The Lord Jesus, the divine seed, produced the many grains (those who believe into Him and receive Him) to become His many members who constitute the church as His organic Body—Rom. 12:4-5.
- B. The many grains brought forth in Christ's resurrection must be ground and blended into flour to make one loaf, the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12, 27:
 1. The many grains need to be broken and ground in order to be blended.
 2. We should not remain as whole grains; we need to be broken and ground into fine flour so that we may be blended with others for making a loaf, the Body of Christ, which consummates in the New Jerusalem—10:17; 12:12, 27; Rev. 21:2.

V. The Father's house, the church, is a divine and human incorporation of the processed and consummated Triune God with His redeemed, regenerated, and transformed elect—John 14:2-3, 6, 23:

- A. In His resurrection the Lord Jesus rebuilt God's temple in a larger way, making it a corporate one, the mystical Body of Christ—2:19-22:
 1. The body of Jesus, the temple, that was destroyed on the cross was small and weak, but the Body of Christ in resurrection is vast and powerful—1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 1:22-23.
 2. Since the day of His resurrection, the Lord Jesus has been enlarging His Body in resurrection; He is still working for the building of His Body under the process of resurrection—John 2:19-22.
- B. The Father's house is a matter of the Triune God, through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, working Himself into the believers in order to be fully mingled with them so that He may build them up as an organism for His dwelling and expression—14:2-3, 23:
 1. The Lord's coming brought God into man, and His going brought man into God; by this coming and going, He builds up the house of God by building God into man and man into God—1:14; 10:10b; 14:2-3.
 2. By the Spirit and through His death and resurrection, the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is building an organism, the church, which is His Body and the Father's house, produced by the mingling of the Triune God with His chosen and redeemed people—vv. 7-24.