

Message Three

Reigning in Life for the Body Life

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:17, 21; 12:2, 4-5, 11

- I. God's complete salvation is for us to reign in life by the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness—Rom. 5:17, 21:**
 - A. The gift of righteousness is for God's judicial redemption; grace is for us to experience God's organic salvation—1:17; 5:10:
 1. The gift of righteousness is God's judicial redemption applied to us in a practical way.
 2. Grace is God Himself as our all-sufficient supply for our organic salvation—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9.
 - B. The highest attainment of pursuing Christ is to reign with Christ in His divine life through His abounding grace—Phil. 3:13-14; Rom. 5:17, 21.
- II. The experience of God's organic salvation equals reigning in Christ's life—vv. 10, 17, 21:**
 - A. How much we are saved in God's organic salvation determines how much our reigning in life is manifested; our reigning in life is a proof of our experience of God's organic salvation—vv. 10, 17, 21.
 - B. When we reign in life, we can overcome in all circumstances; we are more than conquerors in Christ's victory—8:31-39.
 - C. We reign in life in the spiritual, practical, and experiential union of the Spirit with our spirit and in living a grafted life with Christ—v. 16; 11:17-24.
- III. We were regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life; this life enthrones us to reign as kings over all things—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5; Rev. 5:10; Rom. 5:17, 21.**
- IV. To reign in life is to conquer, subdue, and rule over Satan, the world, sin, the flesh, ourselves, and all the environmental circumstances and to subdue all kinds of insubordination—8:2, 35, 37; 5:17-18.**
- V. In experience, to reign in life is to be under the ruling of the divine life:**
 - A. There is the need for all the believers who have received the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness to practice the restriction and limitation in the divine life—8:6; Rev. 22:1; John 8:12; Prov. 4:18; Matt. 8:9; 2 Cor. 2:14-15.
 - B. As those who love the Lord Jesus, we have come under His pleasant rule, where we are restricted in the sweetness of love—Col. 1:12-13.
- VI. The living and experience portrayed in the revelations in Romans 6—16 are the evidence that we are reigning in life.**
- VII. We need to reign in life to live in the Body of Christ—5:17; 12:4-5:**
 - A. When we live not by our natural life but by the divine life within us, we are in resurrection; the issue of this is the Body of Christ—Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:6, 10-11; 12:4-5.

- B. The function of the Body is to express Christ; the purpose of believers being members one of another in the Body of Christ is that we would live Christ and express Him together—v. 5; Eph. 1:22-23.
- C. Living in the Body of Christ requires that we reign in life over death and Satan—Rom. 5:14, 17, 21; 16:20:
 - 1. If we would reign in life over death, we need the abundance of grace and the living Spirit—5:17; 8:2, 11:
 - a. The only thing that can subdue death is the uncreated life of God; whenever the divine life comes in, death disappears—vv. 2, 9-11.
 - b. We need to open our being to the Lord and allow His grace to flow through us and fill us; the flowing grace will be active in us as the Spirit, who will be life to us, and this life will subdue death and swallow it up—5:21.
 - 2. The only way to reign in life over Satan and to overcome him is to stay in the high tower of our regenerated spirit—16:20; Prov. 18:10; 1 John 5:4, 18.

VIII. The result of reigning in life—that is, living under the ruling of the divine life—is the practice of the Body life in the church life—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:16:

- A. Each aspect of the living of the Body life in Romans 12 requires us to be ruled by the divine life:
 - 1. Being transformed by the renewing of the mind—v. 2b.
 - 2. Not thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think—v. 3a.
 - 3. Thinking so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith—v. 3b.
 - 4. Considering that there are many members in one Body and that all the members do not have the same function—vv. 4-5.
 - 5. Only by reigning in life can we live a life of the highest virtues for the Body life in the church life:
 - a. Loving without hypocrisy and loving warmly in brotherly love—vv. 9a, 10a.
 - b. Not being slothful in zeal but burning in spirit, serving the Lord—v. 11.
 - c. Enduring in tribulation—v. 12b.
 - d. Rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep—v. 15.
 - e. If possible, as far as it depends on us, living in peace with all men—v. 18.
- B. The Body life is expressed in the church life; only by living under the ruling of the divine life, that is, by reigning in life, is it possible for us to live the proper church life—14:1-23; 16:1, 4-5, 16.