

The Vision of the Glorious Christ as the Son of Man Walking in the Midst of the Golden Lampstands

We do not care merely for doctrine. We care for **the Lord's recovery** and the Lord's way. May the Lord's grace bring us up to date in His recovery. May we see the proper ground of the church, which is the ground of locality, the unique ground of genuine unity, that we may have the proper way for the practice of the church life. May we see **the vision unveiled** in the **last seven epistles** of the Lord to His church and hear what the Spirit speaks to the churches, that we may not join the Catholic Thyatira, nor stay in the Protestant Sardis, neither fall into the Brethren Laodicea, but absolutely remain in the brotherly-love Philadelphia, which is **the church that has returned to the orthodoxy of the apostolic church**. What we urgently need today is to **come back** to the **orthodoxy** of the beginning and stand firmly on the ground of locality. The time is short! The Lord is coming! May we prepare ourselves to meet Him in and through the proper church life! Amen! *(Excerpt from The Orthodoxy of the Church, Introduction)*

The whole Bible reveals Christ; the book of Revelation especially, as the conclusion, completion, and consummation of the whole Bible, is "the revelation of Jesus Christ." Although this book also reveals many other things, **the focus of its revelation is Christ**. [There are] several aspects concerning Christ, such as the vision of Christ as the High Priest in the midst of the churches, **caring for them in love yet** with a **judging attitude** (vv. 13-16),... *(Revelation 1:1, footnote)*

The Son Of Man is ancient, but He is not old. He is eternally ancient. He is the One in the beginning without a beginning. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us" (John 1:1, 14). Christ was **in** the beginning that **did not** have a beginning. Jesus, the man of Nazareth, is ancient because He is God Himself. He is the God-man, the mingling of divinity with humanity. In the Bible God is called the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:9, 13, 22). Christ is the Son Of **Man, yet** He is unveiled as the eternal **God**. *(Excerpt from the Conclusion of the New Testament, Chapter 3)*

Christ is administering God's purpose among the churches [by] exercising a priestly care for the churches (1:11-18). In chapter one, Christ is revealed as the Son of Man clothed in the robe of the High Priest. Today, in God's administration, Christ exercises His priestly care among the churches. Among the churches, He is clad in a priestly robe. Furthermore, He is "girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle" (1:13). It is interesting to note that He is not girded about the loins but about the breasts. This indicates that **all His work has been accomplished** and that now He is exercising **a loving care** for His beloved churches. Today, Christ no longer works, but He cares for us. He even rebukes and chastises us in love. He is the loving Priest caring for His churches today. *(Excerpt from the Life-study of Revelation)*

[T]he Lord Jesus has nothing in His mind and heart but Himself and His church. We have been greatly distracted from Christ and the church by so many religious things, political things, and matters concerning the sound faith and how to interpret the Bible. Years ago, the interpretation of the Bible was my favorite occupation and a real temptation. When a person came to me with one verse, I would expound fifty to him. But if you come to me today with a verse, I will reduce your verse to nothing but the living Christ. Forget about the interpretation of the Bible.

Sometimes the dear saints ask when the Lord Jesus will return. All I can answer is simply that He will return. Sometimes they ask what the signs of His coming are. All I can say is that the signs are simply the signs. Would

you be willing to forget about all this and care only for the living Christ? Whether He comes today or tomorrow, with this sign or with that sign, it matters little. Just care for Christ; then you will be ready for His coming. Whenever a person asks concerning any matter, I would eventually say, **“What do you think concerning the Christ?”**

Look at Christ today. He is **the exalted One**. Hallelujah! He was God in the beginning, who was incarnated and passed through all the human living on this earth. He experienced crucifixion and resurrection and was raised to the peak of the universe in ascension. Now, after His ascension, He is here as the Spirit of life and power, moving on this earth **to establish His churches**. He is the Son of Man walking in the midst of all the local lampstands. He is here among us. This is the very thing for which we must care. He cares for the growth in number in the local churches, and **He cares even more** for the growth in life. He would say to us, *“Do not be foolish like the chief priests, elders, Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees. Forget all the things they cared for, and concentrate on Christ and the church.”* If we do not understand some passage of the Bible, we simply do not understand it. We do not care for the **mere understanding** of the Bible. If we do not know what portion or chapter is the greatest in the Bible, we simply do not know. We do not care merely for knowing that. **But** we know that Christ is there and Christ is within us and Christ is among us. Oh, we care for the ascended Christ! He is not only the Son of Man but also the Son of God. He is not only the seed of David but also the root of David. Why is it then that in the local churches we are dealing with the Bible all the time, we are pray-reading the Bible continually? Not merely for learning or understanding anything but for eating Christ. *(Christ versus religion, chp 5)*

When you study the Gospels, do you sense that the Lord served His disciples step by step? You may be amazed and think that Christians ought to serve the Lord and wonder why the Lord would come to serve Christians! Why does the Lord want to serve the Christians? "For who is greater, the one who reclines at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table?" (Luke 22:27). This verse exposes the human concept. The Lord is **in our midst as the One who serves**. He is able to serve man because He is so great and is even the greatest. The greater we are, the more we can serve. The smaller we are, the less we can serve. Whoever is the smallest may not be able to serve a single person. The Lord is great; He is infinitely great and can therefore serve man in an infinite way.

The Lord says, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). What can serve man better than light? Whoever follows this light no longer walks in darkness but shall receive the light of life. The Lord says, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:48). What can serve man better than bread? Whoever eats this bread shall live forever. Whatever the Lord does is for the purpose of serving. Hallelujah! We have a Lord who serves us. When we face a difficulty or when we do not have any way to work out a problem, it gives the Lord an opportunity to serve us. He is so great that He is able to **serve us in everything**.

I wonder how many people know how to enjoy the service of Christ. Many times, we are misled to think that we should serve Christ. **Have we ever asked Christ to serve us?** Some brothers have said that their prayers are too cold and that they have to do something to stir themselves up again. At such times, they should realize that Christ can serve them in that very matter. Some have felt that they have no interest in the Bible and worry about what they should do the next day. They should realize that in that very matter, Christ can serve them also.

God has given Christ to us for the purpose of serving us. From the day that Christ was crucified on the cross until eternity, **Christ will serve us**. Although we do not quite understand this, we can enjoy it. We should imitate the disciple John, who reclined on the Lord's bosom and let the Lord do everything for him,... *(Excerpt from Collected Works of Watchman Nee, The (Set 1) Vol. 17: Notes on Scriptural Messages (1), Chapter 20, p. 194)*