"WORD OF LIFE"

October 25, 2026

59. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (39)

U. IN THE CHURCH

11. The Holder of the Keys of Death and Hades

Suggested Hymns: # 639, # 540 / # 227 / # 20

"… the words … are spirit and are life.," (John 6:63)

Rev. 1:18 - And the **living One**; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the **keys** of death and of Hades.

Acts 2:24 - Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

Rom. 6:9 - Knowing that Christ, having been **raised** from the dead, dies no more; death lords it over Him no more.

1Cor. 15:57 - But thanks be to God who gives us the **victory** through our **Lord Jesus Christ**.

"… the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord…," (Phil. 3:8)

❖ **Christ** is the One in the church who is the Holder of the keys of death and Hades (Rev. 1:18).

- ➢ Christ abolished death on the cross, and He overcame **Hades** in His resurrection.
  - Due to the fall and sin of man, death has come in and is now operating on earth
    - (Hades is the place where the dead are kept.)
  - Although death tried its best to hold Christ,
    - it was powerless to do so (Acts 2:24).
    - Christ is both **God** and resurrection (John 1:1; 11:25),
    - possessing the indestructible life (Heb. 7:16).
- ➢ Christ is such an ever-**living One**, death is not able to hold Him.
  - He delivered Himself to death, but death had no way to detain Him;
  - instead, death was defeated by Him, and He rose up from it.
  - With Christ, therefore, death has no sting and Hades has no power.
- ➢ In the church life, we are no longer subject to death and Hades.

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

Christ is the One in the church who is the Holder of the keys of death and Hades. In the church life the keys of death and Hades are in the Lord's hand. It is impossible for us to deal with death; we simply do not have the ability to handle it. Let's give the Lord Jesus the ground, the opportunity, and the free way to move and act among us, both death and Hades will be under His control. Death is subject to Him, and Hades is under His control.

*{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament **Ch. 59** letter **T-11**)*
[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]}

Suggested hymns:

Hymn 639
The Resurrection Life– Christ Himself

1 Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
The **life of God** eternal manifest;
'Tis uncreated, indestructible,
'Tis **Christ** Himself, unconqu'rable,
expressed.

2 Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
Though all its force against it may combine;
Death only gives it opportunity
To show the boundless pow'r of life divine.

3 Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
The more interred, the more it multiplies;
All kinds of suff'ring only help it grow
And fruits of life abundant realize.

4 Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
Thru every block and barrier it breaks;
Conqu'ring the pow'r of darkness and of hell,
It swallows death and victory partakes.

5 Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
All of **God's** fullness it will manifest;
God's righteousness and holiness it yields,
His glorious image by it is expressed.

6 Oh, may I know this **resurrection life**,
In every kind of death its pow'r outpoured,
In my experience ever realize
This **life** is nought but **Christ** my living **Lord**.

John 11:25 –
Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

John 11:26 –
And everyone who lives and believes into Me shall by no means die forever ...

1Cor. 15:53-54 –
For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality…
"*Death has been swallowed up unto **victory**.*"

1Cor. 15:26 –
Death, the last enemy, is being abolished.

Rev. 20:14 –
And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

In the first **death**, the soul and spirit of fallen men are separated from their body and perish in the section of suffering in **Hades** (Luke 16).

In the second **death**, their soul and spirit, after being rejoined to their body in resurrection, are cast with their body into the **lake of fire**. This means that the unbelievers' whole being—spirit, soul, and body—will perish in eternal torment in the **lake of fire**.
(footnotes Rev, 20:14)

[Hymn # 540 - As the Emancipator]

Hymn 227
Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

1Through the bread and cup, **Lord Jesus**,
We Thy death exhibit here;
What Thy love has done reviewing,
All Thy suff'ring we revere.
Bread and cup in separation,
Show that Thou thru death hast gone;
Grateful now, our spirit worships,
And to Thee we give our song.

Chorus:
Thine the cup of suff'ring,
Mine the cup of blessing;
For Thy love in Thy redemption,
Praise we ever sing!

2 Thou, in love, hast **shed** Thy blood, **Lord**,
Bringing us to **God** in grace,
That from **God**, no longer severed,
We may ever see His face.
All **God's** righteousness and glory
Have been fully satisfied;
Thru Thy death's abundant merit
We may now with **God** abide.

3 By Thy death the veil was riven,
Opened was the **holiest place**,
All the barriers have been broken;
We approach the throne of grace,
There receiving grace and mercy,
Thus the timely need to meet,
Drinking as of living water,
Tasting **God** Himself replete.

4 Thou in grace hast so redeemed us,
We the priests may be fore'er
To fulfill that holy office,
All **God's** sweetness thus to share.
Such a blessing, such a mercy,
From Thy death for us ensue;
We would ever Thee remember
Till with Thee we drink anew.

Rom 8:38-39 –
For I am persuaded that neither **death** nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in **Christ Jesus** our **Lord**.

The love of God is the source of His eternal salvation. This **love** is **in Christ** and has been **poured out in our hearts** through the **Holy Spirit**. Nothing can separate us from this love of God. In **God's** salvation this **love** to us has become the love of Christ, which does many marvelous things for us ... These marvelous things provoke **God's** enemy to attack us with all kinds of sufferings and calamities. However, because of our response to the love of God in **Christ**, these attacks have become benefits to us. Hence, we more than conquer in all our afflictions and calamities.

Hymn 20
Worship of the Father – His Righteousness

1 God our **Father**, we adore Thee,
For the sake of righteousness;
Thou in **Christ** hast justified us,
Who our conscience can depress?
Thou art righteous, and art faithful,
On Thy righteousness we **stand**;
No unrighteousness is in Thee,
None can turn Thy righteous hand.

2 Thou hast laid our sins on **Jesus**,
By Thy justice He was killed;
All Thy holy law's requirements
For Thy justice He fulfilled.
Recompense from Him receiving,
Thou art fully satisfied;
How couldst Thou, O **God** most righteous,
Claim it once more from our side?

3 Father God, Thou hast accepted
Jesus as our Substitute;
Judged the Just One for the unjust,
Couldst Thou change Thy attitude?
As a proof of perfect justice,
At Thine own right hand He sits;
He, as Thy full satisfaction,
Righteously Thy need befits.

4 Father, through the blood of **Jesus**
We possess Thy righteousness;
By Thy righteousness protected,
None can shake our stedfastness.
Righteousness of Thine Thou mad'st us,
None can ever us condemn;
We'll forever testify this
In the **new Jerusalem**.

Rom 5:1-2 –
Therefore having been **justified out of faith**, we have peace toward **God** through our **Lord Jesus Christ**,

Through whom also we have obtained **access** by faith into this grace in which we **stand** and boast because of the hope of the glory of **God**.

Rom 5:3-5 –
… but we also boast in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance;
And endurance, approvedness;
and approvedness, hope;
And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been **poured out in our hearts** through the **Holy Spirit**, who has been given to us.

The **Holy Spirit**, who is the **Triune God** reaching man, has been not only given to us but poured out upon us richly through **Jesus Christ**, our **Redeemer** and **Savior**, to impart to us all the divine riches in **Christ**, including **God's** eternal life and His divine nature, as an eternal portion for us to enjoy.