

Spiritual Readjustment - Everything According to Christ

by Phil Beach Jr.

The sermon emphasizes the importance of spiritual readjustment, recognizing that we are members of Christ's body and that He is the head, and living by His life, which is the only life that satisfies God.

Duration: 1:06:45

Scripture: Ephesians 5:29

Topics: "Christian Life", "Identity in Christ", "Spiritual Readjustment"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the necessity of spiritual readjustment in our lives, urging believers to recognize that they are members of the body of Christ, which belongs to Him. He illustrates the struggle of allowing Christ to rearrange our lives, akin to someone intruding into our homes, and stresses that true Christianity involves a transformation where our old selves are crucified and we live through the life of Christ. The sermon calls for humility and dependence on the Holy Spirit to enable this transformation, highlighting that the church must reflect the character of Christ as its head. Ultimately, Beach Jr. encourages believers to embrace their identity in Christ and to allow Him to manifest His life through them.

Transcript

The Lord wants to take his framing hammer and discover what's not like Him in our life. And in His own wonderful way, in His own powerful way, He wants to readjust us. Let's bow our hearts, beloved, please.

Let's bow our hearts, let's bow before the Lord. And let's look to Him, let's look to Him. Because there's a definite message that the Lord has for each one of us this morning.

But we are in desperate need of His enabling. We are in desperate need of His Holy Spirit. Dear Father, we come to You on the basis of Jesus Christ alone.

We come to You, Lord, on the grounds of what Christ has done. His finished work, His death, burial, resurrection and ascension. Lord, we come to You on the basis of Jesus Christ.

We ask, Lord, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, You would open up our hearts. This morning, open up our hearts and enable us to perceive, enable us to understand. That burden, Lord, that message, something from Your heart this morning, that will equip us, Lord, that will add to our spiritual apprehension of what You are saying to us.

Lord, we ask that it's not a message, but we ask that it's life, transforming life from the Word of God. Lord, make us humble. We know that You do resist the proud and the haughty, but You give grace, abundant grace and multiplied grace to the humble, the poor, the broken, the contrite, the one who comes to You naked, spiritually speaking, looking to be clothed in Christ.

We commit this time of fellowship into Your hands and pray You'll bless it. For Christ's sake, we ask this. Amen and Amen.

Some of you ladies here this morning and some of you gentlemen, listen closely, please. Firstly, the ladies, you would have a very difficult time this morning if having arranged your house in such a very wonderful way, having placed the furniture exactly where you know it goes best in your living room and your kitchen, having arranged your bedroom and the dressers and the bed in the manner and fashion in which you are pleased, you would have a difficult time if somebody came to your house this afternoon and walked in and in a very audacious way began to say to you, Well, you know, I think you got it all wrong. Well, unless you had a pretty good measure of grace working in your life, the first thing you would do is inside you'd rise up and say, Wait a minute, honey.

This is my house, not yours. I've got to live in this house, not you. And frankly, I have it the way I like it.

You'd even have a harder time if this person expressed their opinion about the displeasure of your house and then actually proceeded to rearrange things in your presence. Well, I think we might have a little war. Men, what about your tool shop? What about your tool shop or something that you take pride in? How would you like it if somebody came and started telling you that you got it all wrong, Charlie, something about your home, something about the way you arrange your garage, maybe the way you have your house or the way you have your car? Somebody came and tried to say, Listen, you got it all wrong.

You'd say, Well, I'm sorry, but this is just the way I like it. Now, can we relate to the feelings that we would have if something like this happened in our home? How about you young mothers with young children putting your heart into raising your kids and putting your heart and your prayers into asking the Lord to lead you and guide you in the way that would be best for your children and somebody comes and looks at you and says, You got it all wrong. You're just making a mess of your whole family.

Well, again, you would have to have a pretty good measure of grace in order not to become upset. Beloved, the title of the message this morning is spiritual readjustment, spiritual readjustment. Now, we're going to have to realize that there would need to be a real adjustment of your heart attitude if you were going to joyfully allow someone to come in your home and rearrange your furniture.

And you can imagine the conflict that was going to occur if you would not be willing to let yourself be readjusted. And now, may I use that analogy and apply it to a spiritual truth. We have to get one thing straight this morning.

And this one all-consuming, all-governing truth is going to determine, that is, how much we can apprehend it, how much we can see it, how much we can comprehend it, how much it can be before our eyes day and night. To the degree that this all-consuming truth gets a hold of us, it will be to that degree that we will go on with the Lord and let Him bring us to spiritual maturity. Now, the question you might be asking is, what is that all-consuming truth? I'd like to, if I may, bring you to the book of Ephesians.

And we're going to look at one verse in chapter 5 of the book of Ephesians. And then we're going to apply that verse to the little story that we spoke of this morning. Ephesians chapter 5, verse number 29 and 30.

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church. Verse number 30. For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

Now, beloved, we need to pray that the Holy Spirit will shine light on this particular portion of Scripture. As I said, your apprehension of this one truth is going to determine the degree of inroad that Christ will have in your life. Now, there's many different Scriptures that we could use in order to cross-reference this one all-consuming truth.

But basically, beloved, listen closely. This Scripture is signifying that the church is the body of Christ. The church is the body of Christ.

The church has been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians chapter 6. Know ye not that ye are the temple of the Lord? 1 Corinthians chapter 6, verse number 15. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Beloved, this is not simply a theological statement.

This is not simply some kind of a doctrinal affirmation. But this is realer than we could ever imagine. When the Bible says, Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? That particular Scripture correlates with and is a cross-reference to Ephesians chapter 5, verse number 30.

For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. Beloved, one of the most incredible supernatural miracles has occurred in the life of every true blood-washed, born-again child of God. The most incredible miracle that mankind has ever, ever seen.

It is a miracle that when it is understood by the church afresh and it is so understood that it devastates the church and destroys their sense of individuality, their sense of independence to do what they want, and they wake up and realize that they through the new birth have become a living member of the body of Christ Himself. That is, the new birth constitutes a total change of who you are. You are no longer just an individual person walking around doing your own thing, but you have been mystically connected to the living Christ who is in heaven and He considers you now one of the members of His very body.

The body is the place where the head expresses His wishes. Lives His life. Christianity is not some kind of an ecclesiastical organization.

Christianity is a miracle whereby God draws sinners to the place of the cross where they realize their guilt before God and they are made new creatures in Christ. Notice, may the Holy Spirit of God just enable us to see this. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid.

What? This is a familiar term that Paul uses in his epistles. He often says, know ye not and what? These two terms signify that there was a lack in the Corinthians' spiritual understanding of who they were as Christians. This lack of spiritual understanding resulted in wrong conduct.

It resulted in wrong behavior. It resulted in sinful behavior. I believe the Apostle Paul or the Holy Spirit through Paul uses this phraseology, what? Know ye not? Eight times in the first epistle.

Eight times. So therefore, I would think that using the term what or know ye not is a very important attention getter. Every time you read in the Corinthian letters what or know ye not, you should stop and reread the statement that the Apostle's trying to make until it dawns on you what he's trying to say.

Because it is not understanding these essential and fundamental elementary truths that has resulted in a great spiritual decline in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's simply becoming reacquainted with the living reality of the Word of God. Now remember, we're still on the body of Christ.

We're still on the body of Christ. Remember the illustration that we used. You ladies, you men, you wouldn't like it if somebody came in and said, we're going to readjust your home.

We're going to readjust your garage. Hey, your garden's all wrong. We're going to uproot your garden because we want it planted over here.

Oh, I'm sorry, that's not where I want it. May I say to you that this is the problem that Christ is having in his church. We are members of Christ.

We are members of his body. He is the head. He is the preeminent one.

He is the resident king. He is the resident Lord. He is the resident master.

He is the resident one in charge. And he is right now through the Holy Spirit in this late hour, he is moving throughout the entire realm of Christendom and he's finding all who will recognize his claim on their life as being Christians, as being members of his body, and he is engaging in a spiritual readjustment. But beware.

If we have not awakened to the fact that we don't belong to ourself anymore, that Christ has the rights over us now, and Christ is obligated to make his body after himself in nature, in disposition. It is his body. But now the problem comes when we have not understood Christ's claim over our life.

We almost take our Christian life and try and own it and control it like we would our own house. So that when someone comes into our house and says, I want to rearrange some things, we become adamantly upset in our hearts and we don't want them to. So likewise, when the Spirit of the Lord and the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ begins to put his finger on our life, we forget that it is his house, not ours.

It is his sanctuary, not ours. It is the body of Christ, not ours. Children, for the children's lessons.

So, beloved, let me ask you a question this morning, alright? Let me ask you a question. Has the all-consuming truth dawned on you? Is it dawning on you every day? You are a member of Christ. You are a member of his body.

Whose body is it? His. Who has the rights over it? He does. Why does he have the rights over it though? Because it's his.

He bought it. Now, listen. Listen, beloved.

We've got to think about these things now and let the Holy Spirit make them known to us. The church, biblically speaking, is the embodiment of Christ. That's what the church is.

You see, God has no interest in showing you to the world. He doesn't want to show you to the world. He has no interest in showing you to the world.

God's interest is to reveal the loveliness of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Being called into fellowship with God through Christ is a holy calling because what it does is it snatches us from the idea of being an independent, individualistic person who will live according to the pleasures of the flesh and walk according to the drumbeat of the world. It delivers us, it rescues us drastically from such a mentality and through the supernatural working of God we are actually joined to the living Christ in heaven, in spirit.

We are joined to him. We have exchanged the life after the flesh which is a sinful life. We have exchanged that life for Christ who is our new life.

Therefore, beloved, the child of God must understand the Christian life as an actual change from one identity to another. We are now identified as living members connected to the head, the Lord Jesus Christ. We must understand our Christian life in relation to Christ who is the head of the church, who is the author of our salvation and who is God's son in whom he wants to reveal himself through the church.

In this age and in the age to come, in a most marvelous way, the body of Christ, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh. Verse 19, chapter 6, 1 Corinthians. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own.

Now you see it? The body of Christ, wow! It's not the body of a denomination. It's not the body of a certain ecclesiastical leadership who guides us and leads us and tells us what we can or can't do. The church is the embodiment of Christ.

That is what he is in his lovely nature. The Holy Spirit brings to each individual member and each individual member is to, through the transforming power of grace, reflect and demonstrate the glory of Christ, the body of Christ. It's the place where Christ lives.

It's the temple. It's the city. Living stones, 1 Peter chapter 2. Christianity is not a change of mind.

Well, I think I'll do better. Christianity is not, well, I think I'll start going to church and I'm going to stop doing this and I'm going to stop doing that and on the basis of what I do, I'm going to become a Christian. No, no, no, a thousand times.

Christianity is a miracle where God gives sinners a new heart, a new spirit and causes himself to come and dwell in that new spirit. That's the spirit of Jesus that comes and dwells in us. And then that individual becomes part of an incredibly large body of believers from the very beginning on up to this time who make up the body of Christ.

Who make up the body of Christ. And it's God's intention to save you that he might then reveal to you, but through you, the beauty and glory of his Son who is in heaven. It's the doing away of one whole kind of person, that is, you after the flesh, what you are in yourself.

The Bible says that what you are in yourself is filthy rags to God. The Bible says that a man's own righteousness, that is, if you try and present anything in your flesh to God and expect to gain his approval, you are mistaken. You cannot gain approval.

You cannot gain acceptance in the eyes of God, offering anything in yourself to him. If that could be possible, then Jesus died in vain. If there was something in us that we could present to God, then why did Jesus die? He died because God said, I have to reject the whole human race the way it is.

That is, the human race constituted as it is, fallen, sinful flesh, filled with inordinate desires. Now, you know, a few weeks ago we did a whole teaching on the flesh. What it was, the nature of the flesh, the sins of the flesh.

And we saw that in the cross of Jesus Christ, when we become a Christian and God saves us, we are identified with Christ in his death. That means what I am in myself is crucified with Christ. Galatians 2.20, remember? I am crucified with Christ.

In other words, the cross is the place where one kind of a person is completely done away. One kind of a person. And a whole other kind of a person gains the ascendancy.

Well, that first person that's done away is Adam and all that he did to us or all that we got from him. The life after the flesh is done away, crucified, rejected of God, set aside. There's only one life now.

Oh, beloved, see it. May God help us. There's only one life that satisfies God now.

There's only one. There's only one. Now, you know who that life is.

Remember what God said when Jesus was raised up from the waters of baptism in the Jordan River? The Father said to His Son, This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. God, listen, God in His Son not only secured a sacrifice for sins so that we can be forgiven, but He also secured in His Son a kind of a life, a kind of a nature that alone, exclusively, is accepted by Him. And guess what He does when He saves a sinner? He imputes, He gives that life that is in the Son to that sinner.

And now, He makes that person a new creation. So therefore, as Christians, we are a new creation, 2 Corinthians 5.17. God has given us a new life. What life is that? The life of the Son, which is the only life that can please Him.

And then, we become part of the body of Christ. Are you getting it now? The body of Christ. That is, the church is the embodiment of Christ.

The embodiment of the life that comes from Christ. The life that comes from Christ. The life that God secured in His Son.

You see, we can't present our own life. We can't present our own righteousness to God. So, God had to secure a new life.

And He secured it in His Son. And now, the whole basis of the church's standing before God is in Christ. In Christ.

In Christ. We have been recreated in Christ. We have received spiritual blessings in Christ.

We are members in Christ. It's all in Christ now. It's on the basis of His life.

Now, it is the church's calling to become more and more and more under the life and control of Christ so that that life, which is in the Son and given to the church through the Holy Spirit, might be the life that we

live by. In that life is perfect love. In that life is perfect forgiveness.

In that life is perfect peace. In that life is perfect righteousness. In that life is everything that the church needs.

In herself, she can present nothing. When the church, when the Christian gets off the ground of Christ my life, Colossians chapter 3, verses 1 through 3, Paul teaches it right there. When the church gets off the ground of Christ is my life and I must learn and look to God to be enabled to live by Him now who is my new life.

When the church gets off that ground, she gets entangled in the old life. And the old life is cursed. The old life is crucified.

The old life is set aside. The old life cannot serve God. The old life cannot be made religious.

The old life cannot present itself to God. It's got to be a broken heart depending on the new life who is Christ. Now you see why it is so essential to remember we are the body of Christ.

We all share the same life. And it's God's will that we all be made more and more to live by that life. Now I'd like for you to turn your Bibles to 2 Corinthians chapter 12.

And I want to show you something in the Bible. And I hope that God will help us to see. Now in light of these facts, a true Christian is a member of the body of Christ.

A true Christian has a brand new life. And it's God's intention that we would mature in that life so that it would only be that life that is manifesting itself in all that we say and do. And what we are after the flesh is daily reckoned dead.

Rendered inoperative. See, there's a part of you that the Bible says is a dying corpse. It's the old, and you should have nothing to do with it.

It's desires, it's impulses, it's wishes, it's aspirations will never lead you to God. And now, it's being slain, killed, dying with Jesus, and living exclusively in the newness of what? His life. So now, tell me, what do you think the standard is that God is using to judge the church? Christ Himself.

We are His body. He has given us His life. And now, God is always looking to see, and here's what He says, what do I see of my son going on in this group of people that profess my name? Remember, when the church falls from that, they're no longer a church in God's eyes.

God saves us for one purpose, to give us the life of His Son so that that life can be seen in His body. Doesn't that make sense? It's His body, therefore, it ought to be His life. God is looking, and God is saying, and the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, is saying, what is it that I see that's of Christ? You want to know when God will have a controversy with you as His child? Do you want to know what it is that God is after in your life as His child? I'll tell you.

It can be summed up in this simple way. Just whatever in you is not after Christ. Just whatever in you is not fit to be manifesting itself in the temple of God.

That's what the Lord's after. Because remember, the temple, the church, the body, has to be a continued revealing of more and more and more of what Christ is in heaven as to His nature, not His deity. We don't

become gods.

We become made in the image and likeness of the beloved Son as to that perfect, lovely, God-like character. That's what God was always wanting from the beginning. And Adam blew it.

And now Jesus secured for God what Adam blew. And now He gives that life to every blood-washed child of God. And you know what the devil's full-time business is in this late hour? Turning the church from the head, Christ.

Turning the church from recognizing that Christ owns them and their life after the flesh is set aside and now God's whole interest is to fashion them according to Christ so that Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, His righteousness, His holiness, His loveliness, His purity might more and more and more control us in everything. Now, 2 Corinthians chapter 12. Are you ready for this now? Are you ready for this? Remember the message, the title.

Spiritual readjustment. Everything's got to be readjusted in our life continually so that it's more and more after what Christ is in the likeness of what Christ is. That's the work of God in the church.

Now, we're going to read about something. And I don't want you to see this as a story. I want you to see it very real.

We're going to read right now about some things that were going on in God's holy temple. Can you imagine going to President Bush's personal home? You would expect that the man President Bush deserves a measure of dignity, honor, and character, right? Therefore, if you go to his home, you would expect to behave yourself in a particular way, right? Sure. Beloved, let me ask you a question.

What about the temple of God, which we are? What behavior is fit for the temple of God? Only that behavior that is after and according to Christ. Only as He has the ascendancy in our life, as we are being controlled and filled by Him. So we're going to look.

May I say, and I know this is a strong word, but we're going to read right now about how to desecrate the temple of God. Do you know what it means to desecrate the temple? To defile it, to pollute it. You know, beloved, when you try and get anything operating in the church other than the Holy Spirit of God who brings the perfect nature of Christ, the perfect life of Christ living through the believer, when you try and get anything else controlling the church or the individual life, you're desecrating the temple of God.

You're polluting it. God has given the life of His Son for the church. No other life.

Now, here is where we must be readjusted. May I begin reading 2 Corinthians 12, verse number 14. Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be burdensome to you, for I seek not yours, but you.

For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. Paul had a burden for the Corinthians. He was wanting them to see, beloved, that they were the body of Christ, the temple of God, the holy temple of God in which Christ came through the Holy Spirit, and now the only behavior that was fit for the body of Christ was that behavior that was coming out of and in and by the indwelling of Jesus Christ in the believer.

Any other behavior was going to be contrary to the temple of Christ. Now, look at the mess that these people had gotten themselves into. Verse number 20.

For I fear lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I should be found unto you such as ye would not. You know what Paul is saying there? Paul is basically saying this. I'm afraid that when I come, you're not going to be the way I think you ought to be, and because of that, I'm not going to be the way you would like me to be.

It's almost like a kid getting caught in the cookie jar. Why? Why was Paul so concerned? Because they were the temple of Christ, but there was stuff in the temple that didn't belong there. Verse 20, the latter part.

Lest there be debates. Alright, now. That word debate means quarreling.

Now, let me ask you a question. What does quarreling belong to? The first Adam or the last Adam? Does quarreling belong to the life that we have in Christ, or does it belong to that life that's in the flesh? What's it doing in the temple? We're the body of Christ. It is Him and His life who is to be expressed in the temple.

You see why Paul became so concerned? See, remember what I said? Christianity is the act of God in His Son through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, where He sets aside a whole kind of man, a whole kind of life, a whole kind of disposition. He creates a new creation, a new man, a renewed spirit, and then He puts in that renewed spirit the life that He secured in His Son, that perfect life, that holy life. And now He calls the church, you must live on the basis of that new life in your spirit, and you must reckon that old life as dead, buried, crucified, set aside, and you mustn't walk after its desires, and you mustn't allow it to control you in any shape or form because that life has been set aside.

That life is under the curse of God. That life has been annulled in Christ, and now it's Christ's life in the church in order to enable the church to glorify God through that life. That life alone glorifies God.

So what have we got going on in the temple of God? Quarreling, debates. Paul saying, oh no, this doesn't belong in the temple. That's not after Christ.

Envyings. Now this word means to make war against something good that you see in another person. To make war against something good that you see in another person.

This is almost what happened with Cain and Abel. Cain got real angry at Abel. Guess why? Because God said, I accept your offering, Abel, but I reject yours, Cain.

And he saw the good that God pronounced on Abel, and he moved with envy. He made war with that good. Now let me ask a question.

Does envying belong to the new life or the old life? You know what the Old Testament says? That the New Testament would be characterized by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God distinguishing between what is clean and unclean. One of the characteristics of God's passion is to bring the Spirit of Jesus back into the midst of the professing church so the Spirit of Jesus can get a hold of the Word of God and we can start seeing what is clean and what is unclean and have nothing to do with what is unclean and pray through that grace of God that will be enabled. How wonderful, isn't it? God has a body in which He has placed His Son.

Now the body of Christ growing up into the fullness of Christ, I just want to say this, it is not God reproducing many Christs. It is not God making the church Christ in His Godhead. We are not becoming little gods.

We don't want you to misunderstand this because the devil right now is spreading all this heresy in the body in order to throw people into confusion. It is what Christ is according to His nature and His character that the church is the embodiment of. He is one in heaven and He is revealed by many on earth.

And when He comes again, just think what that revelation is going to be like. All the saints of God throughout all the ages revealing in a corporate body the utter beauty and splendor of the only begotten Son of God who alone is to be praised and worshipped. Wow, what a revealing.

All right, now remember readjustment. The need for spiritual readjustment. We need to be readjusted.

Christ is judging the church after His own character. Since the church is His body where His character lives, He wants to see it. And He's got a controversy with everyone who claims His name but persistently holds on to something that's not according to His character and He'll judge us sternly and severely.

Read Revelation chapter 1, 2, and 3. There Christ is revealing Himself as the judge. All right, we've got debates, envying, wrath. That's hot passion.

Hot passion, anger, strife, backbiting, whispering, swellings, tumults. Now, remember what He's talking about. This is going on in the temple.

And then He goes on to say, unless when I come again my God will humble me among you and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed. This is the third time I'm coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

I told you before and foretell you. As if I were present the second time and being absent, now I write to them which herefore have sinned and to all other that if I come again I will not spare. Since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me which to you word is not weak but is mighty in you.

Verse 5, examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith. Prove your own selves, know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you. There it is.

Jesus Christ is in the church. He's the only Son. He's the one who God is well pleased.

And it's God's intention now to reveal what He is in His nature through the church. Can you feel Paul's concern? Can you feel the concern of the Holy Spirit? Verse number 9, for we are glad when we are weak and ye are strong. In this also we wish even your perfection.

Now, beloved, I tell you, you can understand what the Bible means when it talks about perfection when you understand it in light of what we just preached on. Perfection in the Christian life is simply more and more and more my life is characterized by displaying the beauty of who He is and me getting out of the way more and more and more. You see Paul's burden? Verse 10, therefore I write these things being absent lest being present I should use sharpness according to the power which the Lord hath given me through edification and not through destruction.

Now, you see the power that Paul had? What was it for? What was it for? He was God's man and you know what he did? I might fall. This is what he did. He walked in the churches and he had his spiritual eyes open.

He wasn't looking to see, well, let me see, who's a little overweight here? Who's a little skinny? What nationality are you? No, Paul didn't look like that because Jesus doesn't look like that. Here's what Paul's eyes were set on. Where's Jesus? Where's Jesus because this is his body.

What do I sense that's according to Christ? What do I sense going on in this body? What do I sense going on in your life that's not according to Christ? Paul said, God's given me the power. God's given me the authority in order to confront it and deal with it. That's what he was as an apostle.

God gave him a holy passion for the body of Christ. He saw it as Christ's body and he saw that there was no life fit to express itself through that body but only an ever increasing display of Christ. That's what he did.

And I'll tell you something, beloved. We're going to close now. We're going to close.

I'll tell you something. When you really begin to experience the Holy Spirit in a greater measure, you experience the empowerment of the Spirit, the baptism of the Spirit. But I tell you, I don't even like to say that anymore because people think it's a past experience.

Oh yeah. I got filled with the Spirit yonder back in 72. And that's a true statement.

Back then they were filled. But today they're not. The Holy Spirit's reception comes at new birth.

Then the Lord desires that the believer would acknowledge the Holy Spirit, recognize his role in the believer to reveal Christ, and pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. That is an influx of the Holy Spirit, an infilling so that the believer can just be completely yielded to the Holy Spirit. But that is not a crisis that brings you to an end.

That's the threshold of a whole new life. And then the new life becomes every day we seek a continued refilling of the Holy Spirit. And I'll tell you right now, if you really get a hold of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, God is going to show you his passion for Christ, his desire that Christ might be the exclusive life in the body, and the Holy Spirit's going to give you a hard time with anything in your life that's not after Christ.

You have a critical spirit? You have a judgmental spirit? You have a little temper tantrum problem that you throw every once in a while? If you get acquainted with the Holy Spirit, you're not going to be able to continue in that. Now, you might resist the Holy Spirit, and then you're going to reap the consequences, but if you have a broken heart, and you say, Lord, I want to know the Holy Spirit from heaven. He's going to give you a hard time with everything in you that's not right.

You got a little greed there? You got a little covetousness? The Lord is going to deal with you. Because you're a stone, a living stone, and the new life is Christ. That's not in Christ.

He doesn't want that in his temple. All right. Spiritual readjustment.

Christ is the head. What he is in character is what the church must display. The church is the embodiment of Christ, the life of Christ.

The readjustment... I'm just going over now in order to bring us to a conclusion. The need for readjustment is when there's something going on in our individual life, or something going on in a corporate fellowship, where there's something going on that's not after Christ, not in accordance to Christ. It must be dealt with.

It can't continue in the temple. So we've got the standard is Christ, his life, his character. He alone is the one in whom God is well pleased.

And if the church is going to please God, the church has got to get in Christ and abide in Christ and be enabled to stay abiding in Christ so that Jesus is controlling them. That's the only life. And now our conclusion is the goal.

We've seen Christ as the standard, the need for readjustment when there's something not according to Christ, and now where are we heading? Turn your Bible to Ephesians 4, and we'll read this in closing. Oh, beloved, I hope the Holy Spirit of God can make these things real to us. This is Christianity.

This is it. It's life with Jesus. It's so lovely.

Now watch this, beloved, Ephesians 4.11. You're going to see Paul bringing the whole thought of what we've just been ministering on as feebly as we've done it, as imperfect as we've done it. Here we go back to the Word, and it's a perfect illustration. Verse 11, chapter 4, Ephesians.

And he gave some apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers. Now watch the purpose. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Here's the goal. Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Listen, unto a perfect man.

Or really, the Greek says, unto perfect manhood. So see, God has redeemed us in order to bring us into perfect manhood in Christ. In other words, the perfection of what He is is to be seen in the church.

And that can happen only as the church abandons itself to Christ and lets His life be the ruling life. Watch this, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Right there it is in the Bible.

God's goal, God's passion, is the measure of Christ's fullness in the church. That is, the entirety of the life of the last Adam manifesting itself in the church and the life after the flesh set aside so that the head can be glorified. One life.

We have one life. The head and the body, one life. One life.

It's an organic creation. One life. Christ our life.

Incredible! That we henceforth, fourteen, be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the slight of men and the cunning craftiness whereby they lay in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, watch this, here we go, may grow up into Him in all things which is the head, even Christ. There it is. To grow up into Him simply means the fullness, while the body is the fullness of Him, the Bible says in Colossians, it simply means that He in heaven may have free course to fully control the church so that the beauty of who He is can be seen in the church.

That's what it means to grow up in Christ. Verse 16, from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth according to the effectual working and the measure of every part maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. There you have it, beloved, Christ, all and in all, our calling to live by the life of another, a heavenly life.

Let's bow our hearts. Dear Lord, we are in great need. We acknowledge that we have drifted, we have lost sight of our Lord in many ways.

But we thank You that You have remained faithful and true and You have not forsaken us. Lord, we just come in brokenness. We see Thy Word this morning and the standard, the call, is beyond our own power, Lord.

We can't live up to it. But Lord, You're not asking us to. You're just simply asking us to acknowledge our need and to cry out to You for the strengthening that comes through the Holy Spirit and the enabling that comes from Your mighty power.

Lord, we confess that we need to be constantly readjusted. Lord, we acknowledge that our old life is crucified in Christ. Help us, Lord, to turn from the deeds of the flesh which bring division, confusion, hard feelings and bring us afresh into a union with Christ whose life is lovely, pure, holy.

Readjust us, Lord, through Your power that Christ only, Christ always may live and rule us. Now, the Holy Spirit, first I want to say anyone has to go, please, feel free. We don't have any formal things here.

Just after one thing. God, have Your way. Now, we're going to sing this song and you're invited to just let the Lord make His Word good.

You're going to let Him come in and rearrange your house? It's His. Let Him rearrange it this morning, okay? Let's sing. What number? Two.

Number two in the chorus book. If you want prayer, please come.

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