

Morning Nourishment

Rev. And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as 22:1-2 crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life...

In Revelation 22:1 and 2 there is the river of water of life and the tree of life. These verses portray the flowing out of the Triune God. God and the Lamb are on the throne, and the river of water of life, a symbol of the Spirit, proceeds out of the throne. The tree of life, signifying Christ, lives and grows in the river of water of life. If the river does not reach us, neither will the tree of life reach us. Since the tree of life is in the water of life, the way to enjoy the tree is to drink the water. When we drink the water of life, we enjoy the Triune God. Today we should not only speak of Christ and teach Christ—we also need to drink of Christ as the life-giving Spirit.

[In Ephesians 4] Christ is the element of the Body and the Spirit is the essence of the Body. If we have only the element without the essence, what we have will be something merely objective, having nothing to do with us in our experience. No matter how much we may know about Christ as the element, if we do not have the essence, this element will not be related to us subjectively and experientially. But when we have the Spirit as the essence, we will also have Christ as the element. The essence of the tree of life is in the water of life. If we would enjoy Christ as the tree of life, as the element of life, we must drink Him as the water of life, as the essence of life. (*Life-study of Isaiah*, p. 75)

Today's Reading

The Lord needs to bring us into the understanding of the Scriptures in an inner and living way to see what is on His heart. After the creation of man, God presented Himself to man as the tree of life for man to eat. The only thing God desired man to do was to feed on Him, to partake of Him as the tree of life.... Without eating, a person cannot exist. You may have life, but your life cannot last without your eating. In presenting Himself to man as the tree of life, God's intention was for man to learn how to live by

depending on God, by taking God as his daily supply and as his entire supply.... We live, exist, by eating. God did not command man to do anything but to eat. Man has to take care of his eating. If he eats in a right way, he will be right. If he eats in a wrong way, he will be wrong. If you eat something of life, you will have life. If you eat something of death, you will have death. The Christian life is not merely a matter of doing or working, but a matter of partaking of God as the tree of life.... In John 6... [the Lord] said that He was the bread of life (v. 35) and that the one who ate Him would live because of Him (v. 57). (*The Tree of Life*, p. 56)

This simple picture of man and two trees... [indicates] that man was not created independent. Because he had to eat, he was dependent upon others. If God had created Adam with a self-sustaining, unending life, he would not have needed to eat. But man could not live by himself in an isolated way, because he was designed to need food. He was destined to be dependent.

The two trees represent two ways for man to turn to have his need met. The tree of life represents God. The other tree signifies Satan. God's supply is simple—life. Satan's supply is complicated—the knowledge of good and evil.

Notice that good does not belong to the category of life. Good pertains to knowledge, just as evil does. Both belong to Satan and issue in death. If you do not depend upon God, you are depending upon that second source. Do not think that you can depend upon knowledge or upon what is good. If you are not depending upon God, your trust is in something that has Satan as its source. However much you struggle to be independent, you are waging a losing battle against your destiny.... If you depend upon God, the issue is life; if Satan, it is death. We have only God and Satan to choose between for the source of our supply. (*Life Messages*, vol. 1, p. 234)

Further Reading: Life-study of Isaiah, msg. 11; *The Tree of Life*, chs. 5-6; *Life Messages*, ch. 26; *The Divine Economy*, ch. 5; *The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man*, ch. 8; *Our Urgent Need—Spirit and Life*, ch. 2

Enlightenment and inspiration: _____
