

**Aspects of a Person
Who Is Living in the Holy of Holies (1)**

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 2:14-16; 3:3-6, 13-18; 4:3-11, 16-18; 5:4-5, 9-10, 13-17, 20

- I. Second Corinthians gives us a full portrait of a person living in the presence of God, that is, in the Holy of Holies; Paul mentions a number of aspects of such a person who is living in the presence of God, in the Holy of Holies, all the time.**
- II. The first aspect of a person living in the Holy of Holies is that of a captive—2:14:**
- A. If we are going to live in the Holy of Holies, to enjoy Christ as the good land, to be in the spirit, we must first be captured by Christ; Christ has to conquer us, subdue us, and capture us:
 - 1. In so many things and nearly in all things, we are not subdued or conquered by Christ; it may be that our will, the human will, the self-will, has never been conquered.
 - 2. On the one hand, we as believers are slaves to Christ, but on the other hand, we are still opponents, enemies, to Christ because even until now our will has not been subdued or conquered.
 - B. Second Corinthians is not a book of doctrine but the autobiography of a person who considered himself as a captive in the train of the triumphal procession of God's celebration of Christ's victory over His enemies.
 - C. Today what the church needs is not a spiritual giant but a little captive; we have to be willing to be Christ's captives.
- III. The second aspect of a person who lives in the spirit, the Holy of Holies, is that he is a letter—3:3:**
- A. Christ has been put into you (Col. 1:27), and as the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17) He is within you to write the elements, the riches, of Christ into your whole being:
 - 1. A letter is something that has been written; but if you have never been captured by Christ, you could never be written on by the Spirit of the living God.
 - 2. To be captured by Christ means that your emotions are subdued, your will is subdued, and even your desires are captured; then the Spirit has a free way to write on you whatever He wants to write of Christ.
 - B. The inner working of the indwelling Christ is an inner writing; the Spirit of the living God is within you waiting all the time for a chance to write something of Christ into your being, into your inward parts.
- IV. Second Corinthians 3:18 tells us that we need to be mirrors beholding and reflecting the glory of the Lord:**
- A. A mirror reflects whatever it beholds; when we are beholding the Lord, we reflect the Lord.
 - B. With a mirror there is the need of an unveiled face; there is also the need for the mirror to be turned in the right direction—v. 16.
 - C. We all have to be delivered from the veil of religion; to behold the Lord with an unveiled face is to be freed from all religion—v. 17.
 - D. As we solely take care of the Spirit living within us, day by day and hour after hour, we will be transformed into the same image of Christ.

V. We are the vessels to Christ—4:7:

- A. As vessels we contain a wonderful treasure, the Christ of glory, who is the embodiment of God to be our life and our everything:
 - 1. This vessel is exactly the same as a camera—vv. 1-10.
 - 2. Four main items needed for a camera to take a picture are the lens, the film, the shutter to open the camera, and the light.
 - a. In the spiritual realm, the mind with all the thoughts is the lens.
 - b. A right spirit in a right heart is the film within.
 - c. Then you need the shutter, which means you need to open yourself to the Lord.
 - d. When you open yourself to the Lord, when your mind with the thoughts is open, and you have a right spirit in a right heart, the divine light brings Christ into your spirit and impresses Christ into your spirit.
 - e. Now within you there is a picture, an image, and this image is the very treasure contained in these earthen vessels.
- B. After we allow Christ to come into us, the vessel needs to be broken so that the treasure might be expressed—vv. 8-10, 16:
 - 1. The Lord wants to break our outer man, the natural man, including the soul and the flesh.
 - 2. To know what the natural man, the flesh, and the soul are is one thing, but to experience the breaking of the outer man, the holy brokenness, is another thing.

VI. We need to become a representative of Christ on this earth to deal with the earthly nations as an ambassador—5:20:

- A. The highest authority is Christ as the Head, and we as members of the Body have to be representatives of the Head; as representatives of the Head, we are ambassadors:
 - 1. If we are going to represent Christ on this earth as His ambassadors, we have to be clear that we are mortals, that whatever we can do, whatever we are, and whatever we have will die—v. 4:
 - a. We should not have any trust in ourselves, nor should we live by ourselves.
 - b. We need to realize that someone else is within us. This person is the eternal life, the divine life—John 15:4.
 - c. We should trust in this life, live by this life, and behave ourselves by this life; this life qualifies us and equips us to be the ambassadors of Christ.
 - 2. If we are going to be an ambassador of Christ, there must be one day in this whole universe in which we make a decision, calling the heavens and the earth to be the witnesses, that we are now absolutely for Christ, that we have only one ambition—to please Christ—2 Cor. 5:9.
 - 3. Another item which equips us to be the ambassadors of Christ is the constraining love of Christ—vv. 14-15.
 - 4. To recognize things and realize persons not according to the outward appearance in the flesh but according to the measure of Christ in the spirit is the fourth qualification of an ambassador of Christ—v. 16.
- B. The church needs a group of people who can practically represent Christ on this earth.