

Sermon ~ Sunday, August 7, 2022

Text: John 1: 12, 13

Title: "Receiving CHRIST JESUS!"

KJV – "But as many as received HIM..."

Receive, verb, *dechomai*, (dekh'-om-ahee), meaning, warmly receptive; with ready reception what is offered.

Receive, verb, means to come into possession of; to acquire, to accept, to encounter, to get, to gain, it's a great privilege given.

"Receiving CHRIST JESUS!"

Do you have a shout of *Praise* this morning, over the thought that **CHRIST JESUS**, received us before we received HIM!

O yes, **HE** received us as *sinners*, wrongdoers, evil-doers, offenders and repeated offenders, criminals, trespassers, liars, murderers, delinquents, adulterers, idolaters, effeminate, abusers of ourselves, drunkards, whoremongers, sorcerers, thieves/robbers, hypocrites, born in *sin* but never did nor do any wrong... Maybe you would admit,

I came to **JESUS** just as I was... *Though a sinner*, **HE** *forgave* me and constrained by **Divine GRACE**, I opened my heart and **CHRIST JESUS** came in, to *dwell* with me, to *Reign* and *Rule* over/in me... **The Friend WHO** knocked at the door of my heart, came in as **GOD The HOLY GHOST** and **HE** sups with me and I *with* HIM!

"Receiving CHRIST JESUS!"

Why this *thought*? This *thinking*? This *reasoning*? This *pondering*? This *consideration*?

Q. What is it, for The *SINNER* to Receive **CHRIST JESUS**?

Answer. It's *more*, much *more* than what **The Sacred SCRIPTURES** *reveal*!

We are taught over and over again, that **CHRIST JESUS is EMMANUEL**...

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name **EMMANUEL**, which being interpreted is, GOD with us." (Matthew 1: 23)

***GOD** manifest in the flesh... "And **The WORD** was made flesh and dwelt among us..."

(John 1: 14a)

***JEHOVAH'S** *equal* manifested in flesh amongst men... "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **GOD** was manifest in the flesh, justified in **The SPIRIT**, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (I Timothy 3: 16)

***HIS Glory** was beheld... "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of **The WORD of Life**; (For **The Life** was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with **The FATHER**, and was manifested unto us;)

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with **The FATHER**, and with **HIS SON JESUS CHRIST**."

(I John 1: 1, 2, 3)

* Though **HE** thought it not robbery to be equal with **GOD**,” yet, “**HE** made of **HIMSELF** no reputation, but took upon **HIMSELF** the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2: 6, 7)

* **HE** is *really* and *truly* both **GOD** and *man*... “And **The WORD** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld **HIS Glory**, **The Glory** as of the only begotten of **The FATHER**,) full of **GRACE** and **TRUTH**.” (John 1: 14)

Q. What is it, for The SINNER to **Receive** **CHRIST JESUS**?

Answer. It’s more, much more than **The Sacred SCRIPTURES** reveal!

--It’s NOT just a Doctrine we *believe*... a *Lovely Character* we read and reread about...

a *Moral Teacher* of Super-Excellence per me (you)... Some prophet, greater than ever who came before him—NOT so, “**JESUS** said unto them (Jews), **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM.**” (John 8: 58)

All this is well, but it is not enough, you/I *must* also **receive**, **HIM**—**HE WHO** as man was born of a Virgin, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child...” (Matthew 1: 23a) And ‘dandled’ upon her lap at Bethlehem, “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and **The GRACE of GOD** was upon **HIM**.” (Luke 2: 40)

Receive **HIM WHO is GOD, The Everlasting LORD** without beginning of days or end of years.

“I John...your brother, and companion in tribulation, in **The KINGdom** and patience of **JESUS CHRIST** was in the isle that is called Patmos, for **The WORD of GOD**, and for the testimony of **JESUS CHRIST**. I was in **The SPIRIT** on **The LORD** day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, **I AM Alpha and Omega, the first and the last...**”

(Revelation 1: 9-11a)

2. It’s a Great Privilege given. “But as many as **received** **HIM**, to them gave he power to become *the sons of GOD*.”

“Power” here is translated “*privilege*,” right, advantage, benefit. Much older translators render “power” as “*honor*,” “to them gave he ‘*the honor*,’ to become the sons of **GOD**.”

Now, What is it [for you and me] to be sons of GOD? It did not say, ‘*Seraphim*’ nor ‘*Cheribum*’ some arch-angel, “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou are my Son, this day have I begotten **THEE**? And again, I will be to **HIM** a **FATHER**, and **HE** shall be to me a Son?” (Hebrew 1: 5)

--To be a son of GOD is to be “a dearly beloved of GOD.” To know **HE** Loves me in spite of... Who I was! Who I am right now! Just as I am, without one plea...

--To be a son of GOD is to know I’m intimately related to **HIM**. There’s a union between **GOD** and **HIS sons**. Now, there is the same nature in the *son* as there is in **The FATHER**.

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of **The Divine Nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Peter 1: 4)

--As sons we are *Graciously* treated. “Like as a father pitieth *his* children, so **The LORD** pitieth them that fear **HIM**.” (Psalms 103: 13)

--As sons we are *wisely* educated. Our **FATHER** does not raise no dummies! We are trained in **The School of GOD**! We receive chastisement and made smarter under **HIS rod**.

--As sons our Father’s relationship can never be suspended. (The Prodigal)

3. The Great Work which is Necessary is The Act of **Receiving** CHRIST JESUS.

Everyone who **receive** CHRIST is "*born-again*." I did not say "*trust* CHRIST," "*believe* CHRIST," "*Have Faith* in what **The HOLY SCRIPTURES** *say and said about* CHRIST" ...

The SCRIPTURES declared, "But as many as **receive** HIM..."

Question? If you will, which comes first, "*faith*" or "*regeneration*" in being *born-again*?"

Such question is "unanswerable." It's like asking, which comes first in our human bodies, "*the blood in our veins*" or "*the breath*" heaving in our lungs.

Neither, it happens *simultaneously!*

Point: If we **receive** CHRIST we must also *believe* and *obey* and *follow* HIM.

No *unregenerate* person can ever *believe* in JESUS and never **receive** HIM as **LORD and SAVIOR** of his or her life. And *if* regenerated, we must **receive** and *believe* on JESUS CHRIST, if not, "ye are dead in trespasses and *sins*." (Ephesians 2: 1)

I would like to ask one more question? Have you **received** CHRIST JESUS? "Yes" or "NO!"

[Say, you been Baptized... I didn't ask that. Say, you take **The LORD Supper**...

I didn't ask that neither...] Have you **received** CHRIST JESUS?

My hope is built on no-thing less, than JESUS blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on JESUS' NAME.

When darkness veils HIS lovely Face, I rest on HIS unchanging GRACE;
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.

On CHRIST, The Solid ROCK, I stand, All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.