

Message Two

**Living Out the Indwelling Christ
as Our Surpassing Righteousness to Participate
in the Manifestation of the Kingdom of the Heavens**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 6:33; 5:6, 20; 22:11-14; Rev. 19:7-8

I. We need to understand four aspects of righteousness:

- A. Righteousness is being right with persons, things, and matters before God according to His righteous and strict requirements—1 Cor. 15:34.
- B. Righteousness is the outward expression of the Christ who lives in us as the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; Matt. 5:20.
- C. Righteousness is a matter of being right with God in our being—2 Cor. 5:21.
- D. Righteousness is a matter of God's kingdom and is related to God's government, administration, and rule—Matt. 6:33; Psa. 89:14; 97:2; Isa. 32:1.

II. In order to live in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens today and to participate in its manifestation in the future, we need to live out the indwelling Christ as our surpassing and subjective righteousness—Matt. 5:20:

- A. The righteousness in Matthew 5:20 does not refer only to objective righteousness, which is the Christ whom we receive when we believe in Him and are thus justified before God—1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 3:26.
- B. The righteousness in Matthew 5:20 refers particularly to subjective righteousness, which is the indwelling Christ lived out of us as our righteousness that we may live in the reality of the kingdom today and enter into its manifestation in the future.
- C. It is impossible for our natural life to gain this righteousness; this surpassing righteousness can be produced only by a higher life, the resurrection life of Christ.
- D. We need to hunger and thirst after Christ as our surpassing righteousness; then God will grant us the very righteousness that we seek, so that we may be satisfied—Matt. 5:6, 10; 6:33.

III. Christ lived out of the believers as their subjective righteousness becomes their wedding garment—Matt. 22:11-13; Rev. 19:8:

- A. The righteousness we received for our salvation is objective and enables us to meet the requirements of the righteous God, whereas the righteousnesses of the overcoming believers are subjective and enable them to meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ—1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9; Rev. 19:8.
- B. The second garment, the wedding garment referred to in Matthew 22:11-13, is the Christ whom we live out and who is expressed through us in our daily living as our surpassing righteousness—5:20; Rev. 3:4-5, 18.
- C. Only those who have the second garment will be chosen and qualified to attend the wedding feast of the Lamb—Matt. 22:14.