

Hidden Treasures 208

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

THROUGH DEATH TO LIFE

We read in 1 Corinthians 15:36 : What you sow is not made alive unless it dies." (NKJ).

This is a law of nature which people are able to understand. But many do not know that this is also the case in the spiritual realm. Here most people lack understanding. Therefore, they have no peace, no joy, and no hope.

In verse 47 it is written: "The first man is of the earth, earthly."

It is obvious that earthly things are what is most important for people. They take an interest in these things, they worry about them, and quarrel a lot over them. They fight for their earthly reputation, and want to get as much splendour as possible here on earth. They want to be respected and attain a high position. But in this battling and

striving they are never satisfied. Many people are fools and have no understanding of what is really going on.

What you sow is not made alive unless it dies. Earthly things are perishable. Everything that meets the eye will one day decay and rust. Therefore, earthly things have no lasting value.

"The second man is the Lord from heaven." (verse 47). That is Jesus. He came to make our spirit alive so that we can receive the image of what is heavenly. That is an imperishable, real treasure, something which is truly valuable.

Many people are so preoccupied with earthly, visible matters that they are not aware of the fact that they have a spirit which is to be made alive. If we look at a grain of wheat, we can only see something which is perishable. If the grain of wheat is to preserve its outward appearance, then it will have to stay just a grain of wheat. It will just lie there.

If, however, we want to see the living germ that is in the grain, it must be put into the earth. There it will lose its outward form. In this way, however, life can come forth,

the true treasure which was not visible beforehand. When the grain of wheat remains in the earth, it receives new life because of the sprout which comes forth. It bears much fruit.

It is the very same way with us. If we only think about what our bodies can enjoy, and how we can be dressed nicely, then we will have no hope. When we die, and our bodies are laid into the earth, then all our efforts and worries will have been in vain. All of our plans and expectations stop at the grave. How poor we are then. Therefore, many are afraid of death. People are in slavery their entire lives because they are afraid of dying.

If someone is willing, however, like the grain of wheat, to lose his earthly image - the visible splendour - that death will become the nourishment that is necessary for his spirit to live, which is the true life that God gave to everyone. What I formerly did not know, see, nor understand, I now am able to both see and learn to know. My spirit has been made alive. I have the hope of resurrection.

Formerly, I was dead to God's workings and was alive to that which my lusts demanded.

Through my lusts, Satan had power over me, and from that came quarrelling, fighting, worrying, and restlessness, no matter what I did. But now, if I die to the demands of my lusts, then my spirit will be made alive for the eternal life. From that life, righteousness, peace, and joy comes forth in everything I do.

"It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body: It is raised a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:43+44.

When we lose the earthly image which people look up to and adore, then dishonour comes over us. Jesus had no form nor comeliness. His kingdom was not of this world. And so it is with us. It is sown in dishonour, but it will be raised up in glory. That is why Jesus received a name which is above every name. (Philippians 2:9+10). Before Him every knee shall bow and there is salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12). He is the true grain of wheat that died to give us life. His blood can cleanse us from all sin. Therefore, let us no longer be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Let us now in this time of grace bow our knees before Jesus, and accept Him as Lord in our hearts.

If we take Jesus' reproach upon ourselves, then we will receive a heavenly image. In the resurrection we will then be made glorious with Him. To the human eye, it looks pitiful during the time that we are sowing, but the resurrection will be in power.

"For one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead." verse 41+42.

To the degree that I have lost my earthly image and my spirit has been made alive, so accordingly great will be my glory in the resurrection of the dead. Then I will receive an incorruptible body which fits to my spirit.

Therefore, let us no longer be unwise but rather go on the narrow way that Jesus paved through death to life. The sooner we begin, the more we can attain of Christ's glory. On this way, we discover that the fear of death fades away. Death is swallowed up in victory, and at the resurrection we will be able to say: "Death, where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory?" (v.55).

"Christ is our life and death is our gain." Philippians 1:21. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

"Be not deceived: God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7+8.

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