

THE VINE

- I. **The vine typifies the sacrificing Christ, the Christ who sacrificed everything of Himself, and out of His sacrifice He produced new wine to cheer God and man**—Deut. 8:8; Judg. 9:13; Psa. 104:15a:
- A. Christ is the wine producer, sacrificing Himself to produce wine to cheer God and others.
 - B. As the vine, Christ produces happiness for God and happiness for others.
- II. **If we contact the Christ typified by the vine and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize us to live a life of sacrifice, producing wine to make others and God happy**—Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2; 2 Cor. 1:24:
- A. Under the Lord's sovereignty, we may be put into situations where we need to sacrifice ourselves to make others happy—Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2:
 - If in the midst of such a situation we contact the Lord, we will experience Him as the wine-producing vine, as the One who gives cheer to God and to others—Phil. 3:1a.
 - The issue of experiencing Christ as the vine is that in Him, by Him, with Him, and through Him we become a vine that produces something to cheer God and man.
 - B. If we experience Christ in this aspect of His all-inclusiveness, we will have much wine to drink, and we will be “drunken” and “mad” with Christ, filled with joy in the Lord— John 15:11; Acts 5:41; 13:52; Phil. 3:1a; 4:4.
 - C. In ourselves we are not able to live a life of sacrifice, for our life is a natural life, a selfish life— Job 2:4; Matt. 16:25:
 - Only the life of Christ is a life of sacrifice.
 - Christ as the sacrificing Lamb lives in us, energizing us to sacrifice ourselves for others to bring them cheer and to make them happy—2 Cor. 4:12; Eph. 5:2.
 - If we contact the Lord and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize and strengthen us to sacrifice for God and for others— John 1:29; 20:22; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; Phil. 4:13; Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2:
 - The more we experience Christ as the vine with His sacrificing life, the more we will be energized to sacrifice ourselves to make God and others happy.
 - We will be “drunken” with happiness, realizing that the happiest person is the one who is the most unselfish.
 - We will bring happiness to those who contact us, and we will bring cheer to God—2 Cor. 1:24; 5:13a.

- III. By experiencing Christ as the wine-producing vine and by being filled with Him as the new wine, we may become a drink offering in Him and with Him**—Gen. 35:14; Exo. 29:40-41; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6:
- A. The drink offering typifies Christ as the One poured out as the real wine before God for His satisfaction—Exo. 29:40-41:
- The drink offering was in addition to the basic offerings, and it was poured out on one of the basic offerings—Num. 15:1-10; 28:7-10.
 - The wine of the drink offering was poured out for God’s satisfaction; it was poured out for God to drink—Exo. 29:40-41:
 - Christ poured out His being unto God—Isa. 53:12.
 - Christ is the heavenly, spiritual wine poured out to God for His pleasure; He poured Himself out as wine to make God happy.
- B. The drink offering typifies not only Christ Himself but also the Christ who saturates us with Himself as heavenly wine until He and we become one to be poured out for God’s enjoyment and satisfaction and for God’s building—Matt. 9:17; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6:
- The drink offering is a type of Christ as the heavenly wine who is enjoyed by the offerer, filling him and causing him to become wine to God—Phil. 2:17:
 - By experiencing Christ as the offerings, we become persons who are filled and saturated with Christ—Eph. 3:17; Gal. 4:19.
 - The Christ whom we experience subjectively as the offerings becomes wine in us, causing us to be ecstatically happy and joyful—Matt. 9:17; 2 Cor. 5:13a.
 - Eventually, we are saturated with Christ as the heavenly wine and are one with the wine and even become wine; in this way we are qualified to be a drink offering—Matt. 9:17; 2 Cor. 5:13a; Eph. 5:2; Phil. 2:17.
 - Jacob poured out a drink offering on the pillar at Bethel, indicating that the drink offering is for God’s building—Gen. 35:14:
 - The wine poured out at Bethel is not the direct wine from the winepress; it is the indirect wine from those who enjoy Christ as wine and who are saturated with Christ as wine.
 - In Bethel, in God’s house, the church as the Body of Christ, we eventually need to be poured out as a drink offering—2 Cor. 12:15a.
- IV. The apostle Paul became a drink offering that was poured out upon the sacrifice and service of the saints’ faith**—Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6:
- A. The wine of the drink offering in Philippians 2:17 and 2 Timothy 4:6 is the Christ (wine) of Matthew 9:17 who had saturated Paul and had made him wine.
- B. Paul became a drink offering for the church; this indicates that the drink offering is not only for the worship of God but especially for God’s building.
- C. Based upon the principle that the drink offering required a basic offering, Paul regarded the sacrifice and service of the believers’ faith as the basic offering upon which he could pour out himself as a drink offering—Phil. 2:17:
- Faith here includes all that the believers have experienced and enjoyed of Christ; ultimately, it includes what the believers themselves are.
 - The basic offering upon which Paul could pour himself out as a drink offering was the faith of the believers in Philippi:
 - It is the believers’ faith, not the believers themselves, that is a sacrifice.
 - Faith, the word, and the Spirit are one—Rom. 10:17; 8:9.
 - Faith in Philippians 2:17 is the sum total of our experience, enjoyment, and gain of Christ:
 - Our experience, enjoyment, and gain of Christ become a sweet sacrifice offered to God.
 - Through the enjoyment of Christ, we experience Christ, gain Christ, and possess Christ, and our being is constituted of Christ; in this way our faith becomes a sacrifice, which can be offered to God and upon which the drink offering can be poured.

THE VINE

- I. **The vine typifies the sacrificing Christ, the Christ who sacrificed everything of Himself, and out of His sacrifice He produced new wine to cheer God and man**
- Christ is the wine producing vine, sacrificing Himself to produce wine to cheer and make God and others happy. [Deut. 8:8] A land of wheat and barley and vines... [Judg. 9:13] But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees? [Psa. 104:15a] Even wine that cheers man's heart, ...
- II. **If we contact the Christ typified by the vine and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize us to live a life of sacrifice, producing wine to make others and God happy**
- When we are put into situations where we need to sacrifice ourselves to make others happy, we need to contact and experience the Lord as the wine-producing vine, as the One who gives cheer to God and to others. Christ's life is the only life of sacrifice, our natural life is a selfish life incapable of living a life of sacrifice. Christ as the sacrificing Lamb lives in us, energizing us to sacrifice ourselves for others to bring them cheer and happiness. The more we experience Christ as the vine with His sacrificing life, the more we will be energized to sacrifice ourselves to make God and others happy. The issue of experiencing Christ as the vine is that in Him, by Him, with Him, and through Him we become a vine that produces something to cheer God and man. Experiencing Christ in this aspect of His all-inclusiveness provide us with much wine to drink, be "drunken" and be "mad" with Christ, filled with joy in the Lord, bringing happiness to those who contact us, and bringing cheer to God. [John 15:5] I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. [Rom. 12:1] I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. Eph. 5:2] And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

DRINK OFFERING

- III. **By experiencing Christ as the wine-producing vine and by being filled with Him as the new wine, we may become a drink offering in Him and with Him**
- The drink offering was poured out on one of the basic offerings in addition to the basic offering, typifying Christ poured out His being as the real heavenly, spiritual wine before God for His pleasure and happiness; and for saturating us, the offerer, with Himself until He and we become one to be poured out as wine for God's enjoyment and satisfaction, and for God's building. By experiencing Christ subjectively as the offerings, we are saturated with Him and be one with the heavenly wine to even become wine that is qualified to be a drink offering.
 - Jacob's drink offering poured out on the pillar at Bethel indicates the drink is for God's building. This poured out wine is not the direct wine from the winepress but is the indirect wine from those who enjoy and are saturated with Christ as wine. In Bethel, in God's house, the church as the Body of Christ, we eventually need to be poured out as a drink offering. [Exo. 29:40-41] And with the one lamb a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering. And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering... [Matt. 9:17] Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved. [Gen. 35:14] And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. [2 Cor. 12:15a] But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. ...
- IV. **The apostle Paul became a drink offering that was poured out upon the sacrifice and service of the saints' faith**
- In Phil. 2:17 the Christ (wine) had saturated Paul and had made him wine that he became a drink offering for the church indicates that the drink offering is not only for the worship of God but especially for God's building. According to the principle of the drink offering, Paul regarded the sacrifice and service of the believers' faith as the basic offering upon which he could pour out himself as a drink offering. Faith here includes all that the believers have experienced and enjoyed of Christ to gain, possess and be constituted of Christ to become a sweet sacrifice upon which the drink offering can be poured and not the believers themselves. [Phil. 2:17] But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all. [2 Tim. 4:6] For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.

What must be done to the grapes to make them wine? They must be pressed. To make God and others happy, you must be pressed. You rejoice to learn that Christ is the barley, the resurrected Christ within you, and that He is enough to meet every situation. You say Hallelujah! But do not say Hallelujah too easily, for immediately following the barley is the vine. The grapes must be pressed to bring cheer to God and man. You too must be pressed. The more you drink the wine of Christ, the more you will realize that you must be pressed. You must be broken in order to produce something in the house of the Lord to make others happy.

<Excerpts from “The All-Inclusive Christ”, Chapter 5, “The Goodness of the Land—Its Unsearchable Riches (2) Food (1)”>

Both the believers’ faith as the basic offering and the drink offering are something which has been constituted over a period of time. Faith does not grow and develop suddenly, for it is a constitution of the believers’ enjoyment of Christ and spiritual experience.

In the eyes of God, this faith is so excellent, beautiful, and marvelous that He considers it a sacrifice offered to Him. Paul, after experiencing the Lord for so many years, especially during his imprisonment, became a constitution of heavenly wine that could cheer God and make Him happy. The sacrifice of the believers’ faith was satisfying to God, and the drink offering was cheering to Him.

The two constitutions we see here—that of the believers with respect to their faith and that of Paul with respect to his becoming a drink offering—represent two peaks of the experience of Christ. On the side of the believers, there is the peak of faith, and on the side of the apostle there is the peak of martyrdom. This martyrdom was Paul’s pouring out of himself as a drink offering. As one who loved the Lord Jesus and enjoyed Him to the uttermost, Paul was eventually constituted by Christ into heavenly wine poured out as a drink offering unto God. How meaningful and how marvelous! Both Paul and the saints in Philippi could respond to each other with rejoicing. Paul rejoiced over the believers, and the believers rejoiced over Paul. This mutual rejoicing was also a mutual congratulation. They congratulated one another for their success. Paul congratulated the believers for their success in faith, and they congratulated him in his success in martyrdom. Here in this mutual rejoicing and congratulation we see two peaks of the experience of Christ. May we all go on until we arrive at these peaks in our experience and enjoyment of Christ.

<Excerpts from “Life-study of Philippians”, Message 14, “A Drink Offering Poured out upon the Sacrifice of the Believers’ Faith”>