

Sabbath School Lesson #9 – The Source of Life – 23-29 November 2024

Christ is our Life, and not only the source, but our very life. Thus, John tells us, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6). When Christ proceeded and came forth out of His Father, the Father ordained that Christ should have the same life original that is in God His Father; and hence: ‘In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. “He that hath the Son hath life.” 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life’ (DA 530.3, 1898). Does proceeding and coming forth from the Father reduce the life in Christ to borrowed life? Absolutely Not! Ellen White also said: ‘In Jesus is our life derived. In Him is life, that is original, unborrowed, underived life. In us there is a streamlet from the fountain of life. In Him is the fountain of life. Our life is something that we receive, something that the Giver takes back again to Himself. If our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall, when Christ shall appear, also appear with Him in glory. And while in this world we will give to God, in sanctified service, all the capabilities He has given us’ (Letter 309, 1905; MM 7.3). Ellen White should be understood as: contrasting the life which the Son of God inherits naturally from His Father with the life that is bestowed on the adopted sons of men. “In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God.’ (1SM 296.2). The Bible is clear about the “life, original, unborrowed, underived” that is in Christ: “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself” (John 5:26). In other words, the Father has immortality (that is, “life, original, unborrowed, underived”) in Himself; and the Father in turn has given that same life to His Son. This life, ‘immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God’, Christ has in Himself by inheritance (Heb 1:4) from His Father who possessed and brought Him forth (Proverb 8:22-25; John 8:42). This is all consistent with what Jesus Himself said in John 10:17-18: “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” Christ is saying the power and authority of laying down and taking life back is given Him by His Father, who has ordained that “as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself” (John 5:26) and Christ clearly says the “commandment” to lay down and take that life again He “received of [His] Father.” It is clear that the life that is “in Christ” is the same life that is in God the Father. “For as the Father has life in Himself, so has He given to the Son to have life in himself” (John 5:26). The Father is “the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God” (1Tim 1:17), “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only has immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man has seen, nor can see” (1Tim 6:15-16), for “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18), “The Father Himself which has sent me...you have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape” (John 5:37), “not that any man has seen the Father save he which is of God” (John 6:46). Because the Son of God is “of” or “from” God, he has “by inheritance” (Heb 1:4) “Jesus knowing that the father had given all things into his hands” (John 13:3), All things: His life (John 5:26; 6:57), His name (Heb 1:4; Phil 2:9; Exodus 23:21-23), His glory (John 17:22), His throne (Rev 3:21), and His power of authority (John 10:18; Matt 28:18). All things, Christ has received from the original life, God the Father “the great Source of all” (DA 21.2).

Sunday: In Him Was Life – Why was the life of Christ given? “God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Then Christ gave His life that we might have life. Where is that life? And where can we get it? In John 1:4 we read, “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.” He alone has life, and He gives that life to as many as will accept it (see John 17:2). Then Christ has the life, and He is the only one who has it, and He is willing to give it to us. Now what is that life? Verse 3: “And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” Has a person who knows Christ eternal life? That is what the Word of God says. God has put eternal life in His Son — “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” (1 John

5:11). All Scriptures testify that life eternal is in the Son of God — “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39). All were written so that we believe in the Son of God to have life eternal — “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:31). Whoever has the Son of God has life — “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12).

Monday: The Words of Eternal Life – Who has the words of life and how shall we hear? In John 6:66-68 when many of Christ’s disciples turned from Him because they could not receive His sayings, and Jesus had asked the twelve if they also would go away, Peter said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” There was none other than Christ who had the words of eternal life; there is none other now. And those who hear His words, believe and are sure that He is the Son of God. They have a knowledge that is possessed by none others. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me” (John 10:27). When the true Shepherd “putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him; for they know His voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers” (verses 4-5). The true Shepherd “callest His sheep by name.” This is how they know His voice. He speaks directly to them, to each one individually, and they know it. This is how we know the voice of the Son of God.

Tuesday: Believing and New Birth – Who is a Christian? “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8:9). The possession of the Spirit of Christ is not optional with the Christian. Many seem to think that the receiving of the Spirit merely marks a higher state of Christian experience, – one which is very desirable, but yet not absolutely essential. They talk much about the higher Christian life, as though there were two kinds of Christian life, one all ordinary, everyday life, and the other special and extraordinary, marked by being filled with the Spirit. A Christian is one who belongs to Christ and who is hence filled by the Spirit of Christ. “What is Christianity? God’s instrumentality for the conversion of the sinner. Jesus will call to account every one who is not brought under His control, who does not demonstrate in his life the influence of the cross of Calvary. Christ should be uplifted by those whom He has redeemed by dying on the cross a death of shame. He who has felt the power of the grace of Christ has a story to tell. He seeks to put in operation methods of work which will diffuse the gospel of Christ. Humanity, drawing its efficiency from the great Source of wisdom, is made the instrumentality, the working agency, through which the gospel exercises its transforming power on mind and heart” {14LTMs, Ms 56, 1899, par. 16}.

Wednesday: Rejecting the Source of Life – How do we, like the Jews, reject life? Take the principles of health reform, plant-based diet, do we realise that these are simply drawing us to Divine Life? There were priests who claimed to be very pious, but they nailed the Lord Jesus to the cross. Why? Because they did not know. Paul says: “We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, ... which none of the princes of this world knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8). Suppose we do not discern the Lord’s body in healthful living, what do we do? We trample it underfoot. That is a terrible thing; but we do worse than that; for life has been manifested, and we have seen it, and yet we say, ‘I do not think there is any use of being so full of it; I know there is more life in it than there is in what I am using, but this is good enough for me.’ What do we do? We reject life; we crucify the Son of God afresh. The priests did not know, they put the Saviour to death. O, what a fearful responsibility we take upon ourselves when we reject what we have seen and known to be good! It is the same as saying, ‘I know that is the Lord Jesus, and that he is perfect, but something a little less than perfect is good enough for me.’ We reject the source life. “Far better give up the name of Christian than make a profession and at the same time indulge appetites which strengthen unholy passions” {RH May 27, 1902, Art. A, par. 15}.

Thursday: Condemnation – Why is there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ (Romans 8:1)? Because He received the curse of the law, that the blessing might be ours. Nothing can come to us while we are in Him, without first passing through Him; but in Him all curses are turned to blessings; sin is displaced by righteousness. His endless life triumphs over everything that comes against it. We are made “complete in Him” (Col 2:10).