

“He didn’t come to make bad people good. He came to make dead people alive.” (CS Lewis)

1. Christ is the Source of Life (v.1). *The Giver*

- a. He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: (3:1)
 - i. “And from the seven Spirits who are before His throne” (Rev. 1:4)
- b. God is life, has life, gives life. He is the Living God
 - i. “The Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.” (Gen. 1)
 - ii. “In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:25)
 - iii. “Man does not live by bread alone” (Matt. 4:4)
- c. Christ has the Spirit and the Churches in absolute power and perfection. They are completely His, to have and to hold and to take full responsibility for their use and care. God’s full work and energy.
- d. Isaiah 11:2: “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD.”
- e. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:4). For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.” (John 5:26)
- f. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life (1 John 5:12)
 - i. He is the water of life (John 4:14; John 7:37-38)
 - ii. He is the bread of life (John 6:48) He is the light of life (John 8:12)
 - iii. He came to give life and life abundantly (John 10:10)
 - iv. He is the resurrection and the life (John 11)
 - v. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14)
 - vi. He is the vine; abides in me and I in Him, he bears much fruit (15:5)
- g. Apart from Him, we are spiritually dead and disconnected from God and His Spirit and His church. We have been exiled from Eden and the tree of life. We are under the sentence of death. Romans 6:23
 - i. Our need for Him cannot be overstated; cultivate humility, gratitude, and dependence daily. We are given this sacred gift of life to live for His glory.
 1. Dead in our sins and transgressions: (Eph. 2:1)
 2. The one who lives for wanton pleasure is dead even while alive (1 Tim. 5:6).
 3. But inside they are filled with dead men's bones (Matt. 23:27)
- h. Apart from Him we are dead
- i. Apart from Him forever discontented and unfulfilled, for God has set eternity in our hearts, and *He has made us for Himself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Him. (Augustine)*

2. Christ is the Sustainer of Life (v.1-2). *The Renewer*

- a. I know your deeds (He always knows; even when nobody else knows)
- b. You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.
 - i. They had a reputation for life; God alone determines who is alive.
 - ii. But you are dead. Divine diagnosis. God alone can pronounce someone dead or alive. They had a discrepancy between promise and performance. All appearance, no reality. "Pretensions unjustified"
 - iii. No spiritual pulse; where is the fruit of the Spirit? The impact on people?
 - iv. The barren fig tree: Psalm 1; Psalm 17;
 - v. What are dead works? . . . Hebrews 6:1; 9:14
- c. Christ calls, commands, and exhorts: Wake up! (we need a wake-up call)
 - i. Spiritual sluggishness and apathy are addressed throughout the book of Hebrews.
- d. Strengthen what remains: (to firm up; to establish)
 - i. Luke 22:32: "But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail, and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
- e. That was about to die.
 - i. "Although the city of Sardis was considered to be a natural citadel and incapable of capture, there were several times in the city's history that the city fell because of self-confidence and failure to watch"
- f. I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God: more to be and do
 - i. Immaturity, incomplete; unfinished work; more growth and fruit needed
- g. His Word a source of reviving and inspiring: *Revive Us Again*
 - i. God does it through His Word. . the Word creates faith, life
 - ii. God speaking and acting, not just information. Spiritual food for the soul.
 - iii. Lazarus, come forth . . . Tabitha, arise Acts 9:36-42; life where there is not
 - iv. Ezekiel 37: Can these bones live? God raises an army as His Word and His Spirit make dry, dead bones come to life.
 - 1. Christ and His word are the source of continual renewing- day by day.
- h. *His voice was like the sound of many waters* . . drawing me out of my slumber; Speak, exhort these words to your own soul. . . they are reviving . .
 - i. Do the deeds you did at first (Rev. 2:5)
 - ii. Do not fear what you are about to suffer (Rev. 2:10)
 - iii. Hold fast my name (Rev. 2:13)
 - iv. What you have, hold fast until I come (Rev. 2:15)
 - v. Wake up, strengthen what remains (Rev. 3:2)
- i. Look at what you have . . after loss and years, what remains? Start here . .
 - i. Strengthen and fan into flame what remains.

3. Christ is the Way of Life (v.3-4) *The Pathway*

- a. The Walk of Life: You will show me the path of life . . . I Am the way, truth and life
 - i. Christ is present now for us to follow . . . Psalm 16:11; Jer. 6:16
 - ii. What is the way to strengthen what remains and to finish the work He has begun? What kind of daily life will prevent us from becoming sluggish?
- b. What are the steps? We follow Him, and His wisdom and counsel and guidance
 - i. Remembrance: Remember what you have received and heard
 - 1. What do you have that you have not received?
 - 2. 1 Cor. 15:1-2
 - ii. Repentance: Keep it and repent - a life of repentance
 - 1. How are your deeds?
 - 2. What needs correcting? I am wrong; I agree with God; change me.
 - iii. Reverence: Or else, I will come to you . . . Heed the warning
 - 1. Like a thief in the night; this is a warning to be watchful
 - 2. You will not know at what hour I will come; an unfixed hour
- c. You have **a few** who have not:
 - i. Soiled their garments . . . sin makes an absolute mess of sacred things
 - 1. Sin is impurity; it is uncleanness that makes a mess (Luke 15, The Prodigal Son)
 - 2. Sin is staining; pollution
 - 3. Beautiful white has been soiled... a life of holiness, purity is required.
 - 4. "It has been often noted that since the manufacture and dying of woolen goods was a principal trade in Sardis, an allusion to defiled garments would be immediately recognized. It is unlikely, however, that any more than a general reference to the danger of contaminating the Christian witness by accommodation to the prevailing standards of a pagan city is in mind"
 - ii. They will walk with me in white . . . Psalm 23 - a life of His restoration
 - 1. A relationship with the Good Shepherd . . . how's your walk??
 - iii. For they are worthy: my righteousness is dung. Filth... so how? alien!!
 - 1. This is a relationship of purity.
 - a. We repent and turn to Him in faith.
 - b. We receive forgiveness and cleansing, not just once but constantly. 1 John 1. "His blood continually cleanses"
 - c. What can wash away my sins?
 - d. Psalm 51; Gal. 2:20; Ephesians 5:1-14; Jude 24
 - i. 'Wake up, O sleeper'
- d. Essentially put, it is first dying to self. Surrendering all; the end of me; Jn. 3:30
 - i. I die daily. (1 Cor. 15) Deny self, take up your cross and follow Him. A daily surrender; unless a seed goes into the ground and dies. (John 12)

4. Christ is the Preserver of Life (v.5-6): *The Promise*

- a. He who overcomes: “Has already passed from death to life” John 5; John 17:3
 - i. Again, enduring until the end. Eternal life is both a quantity and quality . .
 - 1. We overcome by holding onto Him, the preserver of life
 - 2. I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore
 - a. Love Lifted Me!
- b. Will thus be clothed in white garments: made pure by Him; from unclean . .
 - i. clothed in purity; victory, celebration and banquet
- c. I will not erase his name from the book of life: permanently kept on record as a citizen of heaven
 - i. A double negative: No, I will not erase your name
- d. I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels:
 - i. Who will introduce me?
 - ii. Praised and welcomed and claimed, and part of the eternal victory celebration; praise from the praiseworthy
 - iii. We overcome because He has gone before us
 - 1. To forgive us, to form us and to secure our future glory
 - 2. Jesus completed and finished the work.
 - 3. The pure Lamb of God was stained. .bloodied and soiled
 - 4. So that we could be forgiven and cleansed...
 - a. (Naaman: 2 Kings 5, dipped in the muddy water seven times and his leprosy was healed, skin was like a boys)
 - 5. There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners washed beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains
- e. He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
 - i. Spiritual endurance is an incredible gift of strength to us personally
 - ii. And it makes an impression and creates endurance in others
 - iii. Be ready and watchful, and unafraid to be one of the “few” who cast their lives on the work of Christ, then cultivate a walk with Christ
 - iv. In other words, you will become a giver and sharer of life; imparting life into others as you run your race
- f. The Perfection of Life (Rev. 21-22) New Jerusalem comes down like a bride; the tree of life, the river of the water of life; no more death. Life is eternally pure and permanent; no more hunger or thirst, no need for the sun; because we will eat of the tree of life (hunger) and drink from the river of the water of life (thirst) forever

Christ is our life; To live is Christ, to die is gain; I am the resurrection and the life; the one who lives and believes in me shall never die; Because I live, you too shall live. These are words of life which purify us, and give us the endurance we need to finish well.