

FINAL NOTES - THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/21-22/2023 Song of Solomon (Son 2:8-3:5)

Classroom Location and Zoom – Sign In information, below at end of the notes;

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OPENING PRAYER

Review: (Son 2:4-7) *He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love. [5] Sustain me with cakes of raisins, Refresh me with apples, For I am lovesick. [6] His left hand is under my head, And his right hand embraces me. [7] I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.*

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- **At the close of the first section we left the bride satisfied and at rest in the arms of her Beloved**, who had charged the daughters of Jerusalem not to stir up nor awaken His love until she pleases. We might think that a union so complete, so satisfying, so full, would never be interrupted by failure on the part of the happy bride. But unfortunately the experience of most of us shows how easily our communion with Christ may be broken.
- **In this section the bride has drifted back from her position of blessing into a state of worldliness.** (1Jn 2:15-16) *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. (Heb 2:1) Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away*
- **In the passage before us the bride still loves Him truly, though not wholly, not completely.** There is still a power in His Word which is felt, though she no longer renders instant obedience. To her, worldliness seems as but a little thing. She has not realized the solemn truth of many passages in the Word of God that speak clearly of the folly, the danger, the sin of friendship with the world. (2Co 6:17) *Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."*
- **We have to take our choice: we cannot enjoy both the world and Christ.** She observes with joy the approach of the Bridegroom.

We shall find it helpful to consider the book in six sections:

- I. The Unsatisfied Life and its Remedy. (Chap. 1:2 – 2:7)
- II. **Communion Broken. Restoration.** (Chap. 2:8 – 3:5)

The Bride Adores Her Beloved

Son 2:8 *The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills* (vigorous, not slow or weary, in anticipation and pleasure.)

- **The further we proceed through the Song, the more exquisite the poetic language becomes.** These verses break new ground for sheer beauty. As far as chapter 2 is concerned, the believer has rejoiced in the person (v. 3) and the work (v. 4) of her beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ. She has been completely overwhelmed by His love, desiring more of Him, not less! (vs. 5-6)
- **The heart of the bride leaps on hearing the voice of her Beloved**, as He comes in search of her. He has crossed the hills, drawing near to her. He stands behind the wall, He even looks in at the windows with tender and touching words. He wooed her to come forth to Him, without reproach. His lovingkindness sinks deeply in her memory. (Joh 10:27) *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*
- **It seems like such overpowering manifestations of the love of Christ to a soul cannot be borne without interruption.** Consequently in His love and in His wisdom, there are times when the Lord Jesus withdraws somewhat. Times when the intensity of things between bride and groom is not so strong, even though deep,

and mutual love continues. Christ now comes to His loved one again. The Shulamite continues to be the speaker throughout this section. This is the believer's record of what transpired: His coming (vs. 8-9) and His speaking (vs. 10-13).

- ***My beloved!*** This was a golden name which the ancient Church in her most joyous moments was wont to give to the Anointed of the Lord. When the time of the singing of birds was come, and the voice of the turtle was heard in her land, her love-note was sweeter than either, as she sang, "My beloved is mine and I am His: He feedeth among the lilies." Ever in her song of songs doth she call Him by that delightful name, "My beloved!"
- Even in the long winter, when idolatry had withered the garden of the Lord, her prophets found space to lay aside the burden of the Lord for a little season, and to say, as Esaias did, "Now will I sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved touching His vineyard." Though the saints had never seen His face, though as yet He was not made flesh, nor had dwelt among us, nor had man beheld His glory, yet He was the consolation of Israel, the hope and joy of all the chosen, the "beloved" of all those who were upright before the Most High.
- We, in the summer days of the Church, are also wont to speak of Christ as the best beloved of our soul, and to feel that He is very precious, the "chiefest among ten thousand, and the altogether lovely." So true is it that the Church loves Jesus, and claims Him as her beloved, that the apostle dares to defy the whole universe to separate her from the love of Christ, and declares that neither persecutions, distress, affliction, peril, or the sword have been able to do it; nay, he joyously boasts, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." that we knew more of Thee, Thou ever precious one! My sole possession is Thy love;
- In earth beneath, or heaven above, I have no other store; And though with fervent suit I pray, And importune Thee day by day, I ask Thee nothing more. (Spurgeon – 3/20 morning)

Son 2:9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, Gazing through the lattice.

- **Those glimpses that I get of the Lord, those insights that the Spirit gives me.** We see the vigor and attractiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ to the believer's soul. The heart of the bride leaps on hearing the voice of her Beloved, as He comes in search of her. He has crossed the hills! He draws near to her. Christ is standing behind the wall, looking through the windows and gazing through the lattice, conveying the manifestations to the soul. From being further off, He comes closer; then once at close quarters again and is seen more clearly. He addresses precious and gracious words to His bride.

Son 2:10 My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away.

- ***Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away.*** Lo, I hear the voice of my Beloved! He speaks to me! Fair weather is smiling upon the face of the earth, and He would not have me spiritually asleep while nature is all around me awaking from her winter's rest. He bids me "Rise up," and well He may, for I have long enough been lying among the pots of worldliness. He is risen, I am risen in Him, why then should I cleave unto the dust? From lower loves, desires, pursuits, and aspirations, I would rise towards Him. He calls me by the sweet title of "My love," and counts me fair; this is a good argument for my rising. If He has thus exalted me, and thinks me thus comely, how can I linger in the tents of Kedar and find congenial associates among the sons of men? He bids me "Come away." Further and further from everything selfish, groveling, worldly, sinful, He calls me; yea, from the outwardly religious world which knows Him not, and has no sympathy with the mystery of the higher life, He calls me.
- **"Come away"** has no harsh sound in it to my ear, for what is there to hold me in this wilderness of vanity and sin? Oh my Lord, would that I could come away, but I am taken among the thorns, and cannot escape from them as I would. I would, if it were possible, have neither eyes, nor ears, nor heart for sin. Thou callest me to Thyself by saying "Come away," and this is a melodious call indeed.
- **To come to Thee is to come home from exile, to come to land out of the raging storm, to come to rest after long labour, to come to the goal of my desires and the summit of my wishes.** But Lord, how can a stone rise, how can a lump of clay come away from the horrible pit? O raise me, draw me. Thy grace can do it. Send forth Thy Holy Spirit to kindle sacred flames of love in my heart, and I will continue to rise until I leave life and time behind me, and indeed come away. (Spurgeon – 4/25 morning)

Son 2:11 For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone.

- **This the only appearance of “winter” in the Old Testament**, being very much in the rainy season in Israel. Once this was over, however, the whole of creation was clothed with the beauty of a new-born freshness. A literal translation of (2:11b) *the rain is over and gone*, would be “the rain has passed, it goes to itself.” The spring flowers appear, in all their loveliness and profusion.

Son 2:12 *The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land.*

- **The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land.** Sweet is the season of spring: the long and dreary winter helps us to appreciate its genial warmth, and its promise of summer enhances its present delights. After periods of depression of spirit, it is delightful to behold again the light of the Sun of Righteousness; then our slumbering graces rise from their lethargy, like the crocus and the daffodil from their beds of earth; then is our heart made merry with delicious notes of gratitude, far more melodious than the warbling of birds-and the comforting assurance of peace, infinitely more delightful than the turtle's note, is heard within the soul. Now is the time for the soul to seek communion with her Beloved; now must she rise from her native sordidness, and come away from her old associations. If we do not hoist the sail when the breeze is favourable, we shall be blameworthy: times of refreshing ought not to pass over us unimproved.
- When Jesus Himself visits us in tenderness, and entreats us to arise, can we be so base as to refuse His request? He has Himself risen that He may draw us after Him: He now by His Holy Spirit has revived us, that we may, in newness of life, ascend into the heavenlies, and hold communion with Himself. Let our wintry state suffice us for coldness and indifference; when the Lord creates a spring within, let our sap flow with vigor, and our branch blossom with high resolve. O Lord, if it be not spring time in my chilly heart, I pray Thee make it so, for I am heartily weary of living at a distance from Thee. Oh! the long and dreary winter, when wilt Thou bring it to an end?
- Come, Holy Spirit, and renew my soul! quicken Thou me! Restore me, and have mercy on me! This very night I would earnestly implore the Lord to take pity upon His servant, and send me a happy revival of spiritual life! (Spurgeon – 4/24 evening)

Son 2:13 *The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines with the tender grapes Give a good smell* (vines give fragrance by the blossom). **Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away!**

- **Again, for emphasis, the Beloved repeats. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away!** There is always a great earnestness on Christ's part, whatever may be the backwardness shown by His bride, the church, which includes me and you! (2Co 6:17-18) Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." [18] "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

Son 2:14 *"O my dove (Christ is speaking,) in the clefts (chagav - to take refuge, a rift in rocks) of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely* (characteristics of beauty, chastity, helplessness, meekness, alluringness)."
(Joh 6:37) *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

- **O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff.** Or in the secrecy of the steep place. Doves take refuge in such places and relish the protection offered there. So those who are loved of Christ, who are often timid and trembling souls, do not flaunt themselves or parade about, but delight to be found close to Christ, in the secret of His presence, under the shadow of His wings, casting all their cares upon Him! Picture the Apostle John. (Joh 13:23) *Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.* The figure of the believer/church leaning upon Christ will appear at (Son 8:5a) *Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved?* (Exo 33:22) *So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you (Moses) in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. "Rock of Ages, cleft for me!"*
- **Wonderful thought! that GOD should desire fellowship with us!** That He whose love once made Him the Man of Sorrows may now be made the Man of Joys by the loving devotion of human hearts. But strong as is His love, and His desire for His bride, He can come no further. Where she now is He can never come.

But surely she will go forth to Him. Has He not a claim upon her? She feels and enjoys His love, will she let His desire count for nothing? For, let us notice, it is not here the bride, longing in vain for her Lord, but the Bridegroom who is seeking for her! Alas that He should seek in vain!

- ***Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice;*** With these loving words He comes to the point. We need to continually bear in mind ***that mutual enjoyment is the key to the Song.*** The believer's enjoyment of Christ is only half the picture. The other part, required for mutuality, is Christ's own desire for and delight in His people, those whom the Father has given Him. (*Joh 6:37*) *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.* (*Eph 1:18*) *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*
- ***For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely.*** The Lord Jesus desires to look upon us, to fill His gaze with us, and to hear the sound of our voice. The same word is used here as was used in verse 12 of the voice, the cooing of the turtledove. This remarkable invitation should be full of encouragement and comfort for every believer! Christ desires to see His people trustful, cheerful, and blessed in Him. He regards it as lovely to see us and lovely to hear us. The world may not think much of either the sight or the sound of the Christian or the church. Yet we can say that the Lord Jesus Christ can never see too much or hear too much from His own. If only we always felt the same about Him!

Son 2:15 Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes.

- **He continues. The enemies may be small, but the mischief done is great.** A little spray of blossom, so tiny as to be scarcely perceived, is easily spoiled, but thereby the fruitfulness of a whole branch may be forever destroyed. How numerous the little foxes are! Little compromises with the world; disobedience to the still small voice in little things; little indulgences of the flesh to the neglect of duty; little strokes of policy; doing evil in little things that good may come; and the beauty and the fruitfulness of the vine are sacrificed! Little sins that we hold in good standing! (*Son 1:6c*) *But my own vineyard I have not kept.* (*Psa 139:23-24*) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; [24] And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*
- ***Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines.*** A little thorn may cause much suffering. A little cloud may hide the sun. Little foxes spoil the vines; and little sins do mischief to the tender heart. These little sins burrow in the soul, and make it so full of that which is hateful to Christ, that He will hold no comfortable fellowship and communion with us. A great sin cannot destroy a Christian, but a little sin can make him miserable. Jesus will not walk with His people unless they drive out every known sin. He says, "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."
- Some Christians very seldom enjoy their Savior's presence. How is this? Surely it must be an affliction for a tender child to be separated from his father. Art thou a child of God, and yet satisfied to go on without seeing thy Father's face? What! thou the spouse of Christ, and yet content without His company! Surely, thou hast fallen into a sad state, for the chaste spouse of Christ mourns like a dove without her mate, when he has left her. Ask, then, the question, what has driven Christ from thee? He hides His face behind the wall of thy sins. That wall may be built up of little pebbles, as easily as of great stones. The sea is made of drops; the rocks are made of grains: and the sea which divides thee from Christ may be filled with the drops of thy little sins; and the rock which has well-nigh wrecked thy barque (ship), may have been made by the daily working of the coral insects of thy little sins. If thou wouldst live with Christ, and walk with Christ, and see Christ, and have fellowship with Christ, take heed of "the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes." Jesus invites you to go with Him and take them. He will surely, like Samson, take the foxes at once and easily. Go with Him to the hunting. (Spurgeon – 5/30 morning)
- (*Heb 12:1-2*) ***Therefore we also, since we are surrounded*** by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Son 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies.

- (*Son 6:3*) ***I am my beloved's, And my beloved is mine.*** He feeds his flock among the lilies. (*Son 7:10*) I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. The very heart of the song! Literally, "my beloved to me and I to Him!" The language of possessing and being possessed, which is the intimate belonging of Christ and

His people together and their interest in one another. Not only is Christ everything to me, but also I have everything in Him!

- *(Jer 31:33) But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*
- **My position is one of security. I have no need to be concerned about it.** He is mine, and I am His! Nothing can alter that relationship. I can find Him now at any time. He feeds *His flock among the lilies.* While the sun of prosperity shines upon me, (1Jn 2:8) Again, *a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.* I may safely enjoy myself here without Him. Should trial and darkness come He will be sure not to fail me.

Son 2:17 *Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag Upon the mountains of Bether* (division or separation – separation from the world, separation to Him).

- **My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies. Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag Upon the mountains of Bether.** Surely if there be a happy verse in the Bible it is this-"My Beloved is mine, and I am His." So peaceful, so full of assurance, so overrunning with happiness and contentment is it, that it might well have been written by the same hand which penned the twenty-third Psalm. Yet though the prospect is exceeding fair and lovely-earth cannot show its superior-it is not entirely a sunlit landscape. There is a cloud in the sky which casts a shadow over the scene. Listen, "Until the day break, and the shadows flee away."
- There is a word, too, about the "mountains of Bether," or "the mountains of division," and to our love, anything like division is bitterness. Beloved, this may be your present state of mind; you do not doubt your salvation; you know that Christ is yours, but you are not feasting with Him. You understand your vital interest in Him, so that you have no shadow of a doubt of your being His, and of His being yours, but still His left hand is not under your head, nor doth His right hand embrace you. A shade of sadness is cast over your heart, perhaps by affliction, certainly by the temporary absence of your Lord, so even while exclaiming, "I am His," you are forced to take to your knees, and to pray, "Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my Beloved."
- "Where is He?" asks the soul. And the answer comes, "He feedeth among the lilies." If we would find Christ, we must get into communion with His people, we must come to the ordinances with His saints. Oh, for an evening glimpse of Him! Oh, to sup with Him tonight! (Spurgeon – 6/19 evening)
- **Careless of His desire, she lightly dismisses Him, with the thought: A little later I may enjoy His love;** and the grieved Bridegroom departs! Poor foolish bride! She will soon find that the things that once satisfied her can satisfy no longer; and that it is easier to turn a deaf ear to His tender call than to recall or find her absent Lord. The day became cool, and the shadows did flee away; but He did not return! Then in the solemn night she discovered her mistake. It was dark, and she was alone. Retiring to rest she still hoped for His return. She still has not learned the lesson that worldliness is an absolute blockade to full communion!
- **Until the day breaks, that glorious day of the Lord and the shadows flee way.** We no longer see through the glass darkly but then face to face. The days of His presence on earth are precious indeed, but the eternal day of His presence in heaven will be precious beyond words! Lord until that day breaks, that glorious day of the Lord, *be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of Bether*, no division or separation.

The Bride's Dream

Son 3:1 *By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him.*

- **The first part of this third chapter recounts a bad dream experienced by the bride.** It was more of a nightmare, one which she could remember all too vividly. It is implied that it occurred during sleep. She has just rejoiced in the language of full assurance, expressing her desire and longing for her Beloved in the most passionate terms. But then, upon going to bed and falling asleep, she has the most terrible dream, because her Beloved had gone, disappearing completely from her life. Her fear was that she had lost Him.

As the dream proceeds, she goes out into the city, at night, looking for Him, then eventually finding Him, taking Him to her mother's house.

- ***I sought him, but I did not find him.*** Tell me where you lost the company of Christ, and I will tell you the most likely place to find Him. Have you lost Christ in the closet by restraining prayer? Then it is there you must seek and find Him. Did you lose Christ by sin? You will find Christ in no other way but by the giving up of the sin, and seeking by the Holy Spirit to mortify the member in which the lust doth dwell. Did you lose Christ by neglecting the Scriptures? You must find Christ in the Scriptures. It is a true proverb, "Look for a thing where you dropped it, it is there." So look for Christ where you lost Him, for He has not gone away. But it is hard work to go back for Christ. Bunyan tells us, the pilgrim found the piece of the road back to the Arbor of Ease, where he lost his roll, the hardest he had ever travelled. Twenty miles onward is easier than to go one mile back for the lost evidence.
- Take care, then, when you find your Master, to cling close to Him. But how is it that you have lost Him? One would have thought you would never have parted with such a precious friend, whose presence is so sweet, whose words are so comforting, and whose company is so dear to you! How is it that you did not watch Him every moment for fear of losing sight of Him?
- Yet, since you have let Him go, what a mercy that you are seeking Him, even though you mournfully groan, "O that I knew where I might find Him!" Go on seeking, for it is dangerous to be without thy Lord. Without Christ you are like a sheep without its shepherd; like a tree without water at its roots; like a sere leaf in the tempest-not bound to the tree of life.
- With thine whole heart seek Him, and He will be found of thee: only give thyself thoroughly up to the search, and verily, thou shalt yet discover Him to thy joy and gladness. (Spurgeon – 1/19 morning)
- (Jer 29:13) And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Son 3:2 "I will rise now," I said, "And go about the city; In the streets and in the squares I will seek the one I love." I sought him, but I did not find him.

Son 3:3 The watchmen who go about the city found me; I said, "Have you seen the one I love?"

- **This is strong language though this whole section.** *I sought* (2x), *I will rise...I will seek...I sought and Have you seen?* This is earnest, careful, practical, thorough, methodical searching, in her continuing dream. The bride gets up out of bed and sets off to look for her missing Beloved. There can be no more delay. Enough time has been lost and wasted already. It is a solid mark of a soul who is alive in Christ and who loves Him that such a one cannot possibly be content for things to continue with Him absent. It is a most precious mercy to be aroused afresh to seek Him.
- ***I will rise now, I said,*** announces the beginning of the task, and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares. ***I will seek the one I love.*** In dreams, things move very quickly. We always desert Christ before He ever deserts us! We do so when we leave our close communion with Him, in terms of grace when we stray away from the safe and clear paths of His word, which He has given for His glory and for our good. When we exchange what we know to be the goodwill and pleasure of Christ for the deceitful and carnal imaginations and desires of our own hearts and passions, and forget that in (Gal 5:24) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. As a result we have no one to blame but ourselves. If we know what is good for us, we shall initiate a search. Is that not what is always necessary to do if something is lost? A search is made for it. So the believer searches for Christ. No Christian who has the least shred of spiritual health left about him or her can rest content in such a state as is envisioned in this dream. There is the urgent need to get up and to immediately begin the search! Every possible place is to be checked out, examined, and questioned. Where might I have offended Him? Where could the trouble have set in? What did I do or neglect to do which grieve Christ so much? Where might He have gone? At first the search gets nowhere.
- ***I sought him but I did not find Him*** is the initial sad result. Christ is not always immediately found again in order that our earnestness in seeking Him may be tested and proved. ***The watchman who goes about the city found me.*** As before the believer feels no need to name Christ to whom it is said, ***Have you seen the One I love?*** *The One I love* will suffice, as if all the world should know immediately of whom she speaks. This can only be that One! There is no substitute for Christ's own provisions. We neglect them at our own peril. We are not intended to function without them. All earnest Christian souls will prize them!
- **How different her position from what it might have been!** Instead of seeking Him alone, desolate and in the dark, she might have gone forth with Him in the sunshine, leaning upon His arm. She might have

exchanged the partial view of her Beloved through the lattice, when she could no longer say “Nothing between,” for the joy of His embrace, and His public confession of her as His chosen bride!

Son 3:4 Scarcely had I passed by them, When I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go (seized, clutched, held tightly), Until I had brought him to the house of my mother, And into the chamber of her who conceived me.

- **Mary Magdeline found the risen Lord!** That feeling of having lost Him, searching for Him, inquiring about Him, and then finding Him and the joy and the excitement. (*Joh 20:15-17*) *Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." [16] Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). [17] Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'* "
- **When I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go.** Does Christ receive us when we come to Him, notwithstanding all our past sinfulness? Does He never chide us for having tried all other refuges first? And is there none on earth like Him? Is He the best of all the good, the fairest of all the fair?
- Oh, then let us praise Him! Daughters of Jerusalem extol Him with timbrel and harp! Down with your idols, up with the Lord Jesus. Now let the standards of pomp and pride be trampled underfoot, but let the cross of Jesus, which the world frowns and scoffs at, be lifted on high. O for a throne of ivory for our King Solomon! let Him be set on high for ever, and let my soul sit at His footstool, and kiss His feet, and wash them with my tears.
- Oh, how precious is Christ! How can it be that I have thought so little of Him? How is it that I can go abroad for joy or comfort when He is so full, so rich, so satisfying. Fellow believer, make a covenant with thine heart that thou wilt never depart from Him, and ask thy Lord to ratify it. Bid Him set thee as a signet upon His finger, and as a bracelet upon His arm. Ask Him to bind thee about Him, as the bride decks herself with ornaments, and as the bridegroom puts on his jewels. I would live in Christ's heart; in the clefts of that rock my soul would eternally abide. The sparrow hath made a house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God; and so too would I make my nest, my home, in Thee, and never from Thee may the soul of Thy turtle dove go forth again, but may I nestle close to Thee. O Jesus, my true and only rest.
- "When my precious Lord I find, All my ardent passions glow; Him with cords of love I bind, Hold and will not let Him go." (Spurgeon – 9/29 evening)
- **And into the chamber of her who conceived me.** Having found Christ again, or having been found of Christ again, the believer now wishes that He be magnified not only in her own heart but throughout the whole church and among her entire family that altogether they may rejoice in Him and all His benefits. Such a believer is a blessing to all. One indication of how dear and precious the Lord Jesus is to us, is evidenced in our desire that others would find Him as dear and precious as we do! The believer would have the whole church rejoice in a felt and present Lord Jesus Christ. There is no selfishness here. The good of the entire church is in view.
- **It is alarming how quickly the shadows can fall in the Christian's experience, such as** between the high experience at the end of chapter 2 and the low experience beginning in chapter 3! There are few children of God, who know their own hearts, which are ignorant of this. One moment the you are walking with Christ in the brilliant sunshine. The next moment you are seeking Him alone in the dark period, yet it is part of His very faithfulness to us that He deals with us in this way allowing us to be troubled. It is for our of benefit.

Son 3:5 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.

- **“Do not disturb!”** This verse, although the same as that of (*Son 2:7*), is no vain repetition. The bride herself addresses the daughters of Jerusalem. These words are so appropriate, now that communion with Christ has been so blessedly restored. It is understandable that the believer would post a “do not disturb” sign upon the door, so that nothing should arise, which would grieve Him again or which would hinder this newfound delight. *Gazelles and does* are timid creatures, easily frightened away and while of course nothing like timidity is ever to be ascribed to Christ, very great care needs to be taken over the preserving and nourishing of our communion with Him, lest He be provoked with to withdraw again.

- **If only we were more taken up with Christ all the time, holding Him and not letting Him go.** Being careful not to offend Him or cause His withdrawing, prizing His company and fellowship as the choices as the most choice thing and clinging more closely to Him. It is impossible to overstate of what the consequences of this would be, whether in our own personal lives, or our family lives or relationships or in the church! Zeal, prayer, faith, love, hope, holiness, mortification, heavenly mindedness, and much more besides, would all be quickened. The gospel so adorned with far greater beauty, the world itself would have to take notice!
- **Those who know Christ best are most anxious not to lose a single moment of opportunity** of communion with Him, and are concerned to keep themselves in the enjoyment of His love. To this end the heart must be guarded, the devil must be resisted, sin must be mortified, and heaven must be cherished.
- **May we all, while living down here, in the world, but not of it, find our home in the heavenly places** to which we are seated together with Christ. Sent into the world to witness for our Master, may we ever be strangers there, ready to confess Him the true object of our soul's devotion.
- **Let me encourage you, as you read, to try to figure out for yourself when the bride is speaking and when the groom is speaking.** As you read it, seek to relate to it in your relationship to Jesus Christ. Ask yourself, "Do I have this kind of an intimate loving relationship with my Lord? Are these the things I feel about Him? Am I so in love, so deeply in love with Jesus that I find myself thinking about Him all the time? Do I find my heart yearning for Him, desiring to be with Him?" As you read the words of the groom for the bride, realize that's just how Jesus feels about you, His tremendous love for you! It is greater than you will ever know.
- **Consider God's love and God's grace and kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.** We read in *(Eph 2:7)* that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Jesus loves you so much; it will take all eternity to reveal it. Throughout the ages to come He will be revealing what is the exceeding richness of His love towards you. Love that is so great, it will take all eternity to comprehend! He loves me with an everlasting love. He's drawn me and because of that love I am compelled or constrained. "The love of Christ" Paul said, *(2Co 5:14a)* For the love of Christ compels me." I'm drawn by it to Him and to service for Him.
- **As we continue in our time in the Song of Solomon, may there continually be revelation for each of you** as the Lord reveals to you a little more of the depth of His love for you in Christ Jesus. That love that is so deep, so rich and so great that it causes Him to be inseparable from you. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" That love that just binds you to Him. May you begin to experience it, may you begin to know it. May, as you read this, there be a new and deeper loving relationship in your heart. As Jesus said to the church of Ephesus, "I have this against you, you left your first love."
- **You left that first love, that intense love. So the call was to repent and to return,** "do your first works over." Remember from whence you have fallen. Remember that loving relationship that you used to have with Him, when you were first saved, when you first came to Christ. You were so excited and so in love and so enthralled with Him. Gradually, through the years, the cares of this life, the desire of other things, it was sort of choked out. Jesus is calling to you as He did to the church of Ephesus, to return to that first love.
- **May the Lord, through His Holy Spirit convict your heart if you have left that place of first love.** That you will be drawn back to that excitement, to that thrill! More than anything, Lord I am Yours! I am available Lord! I want to be with You! Lead me and guide me Lord! His glorious, glorious love! May you experience it! May you come back to it, if you've left it.

CLOSING SONG:

ROCK OF AGES – Augustus Toplady (1740-1778) , Thomas Hastings, sung by Ernie Ford (2:39/2:42)

(Son 2:14) "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely."

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.

Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no languor know These for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. In my hand no price I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyelids close in death. When I rise to worlds unknown, and behold Thee on Thy throne. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Let me hide myself in Thee.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and study *Song of Solomon, Chapters 3-5*

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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