

The Chariot of His Everlasting Covenant

Song of Solomon 3:9-11; Hebrews 12:2

November 10, 2019

Greg L. Price

What hinders your communion with and delighting in Jesus Christ? Unrepentant sin will do so, for you can't enjoy Jesus while cherishing the very sin for which Jesus died to redeem you? You can't.

But let me also submit that forgetfulness will also hinder you communion with and delighting in Jesus Christ! How? If you have forgotten what makes it possible for you to commune with Jesus Christ, you will find the spark and glow of that communion fade.

Just as remembering and delighting in the love that you expressed to one another when you were married and came under the promises of covenantal love is a means of rekindling that loving communion with one another throughout your marriage, so remembering and delighting in the unfathomable love that Jesus lavished upon you and the unbreakable promises He made to you when you were united to Him by faith alone is a means of keeping the fire of loving communion burning in your heart for Him through all the wilderness of trials and heartaches that you face in this life. Our hearts grow cold because we do not remember.

The end/goal of your union with Jesus is your communion with Jesus now and for all eternity. But you will not fully enjoy that communion with Jesus if you forget the glory and the love of Jesus that drew you to Him and united you to Him. Your communion with Christ is enriched as you remember and delight in His love and grace that brought you to Him.

This is the truth that the Holy Spirit reveals to us through His Word and Spirit this Lord's Day. The main points are: (1) Communion with Jesus Is Carried by the Chariot of His Everlasting Covenant (Song 3:9-10); (2) Communion with Jesus Is Enriched in Beholding His Gladness When You Became His Bride (Song 3:11).

I. Communion with Jesus Is Carried by the Chariot of His Everlasting Covenant (Song 3:9-10).

A. The picture that is painted for us in this section is of the king traveling with his bride in a beautiful carriage surrounded by 60 mighty warriors. This carriage has within it a bed/couch upon which the king and the bride can rest and enjoy one another as they pass through the hot, barren, dangerous wilderness and finally arrive in Jerusalem where the daughters of Jerusalem (professing Christians) proclaim in amazement the words we find in Song 3:6. She was stunning in beauty, especially since she had just emerged from the wilderness of this world with all of its trials, sorrows, heartaches, and tribulations. Instead of bitterness, anger, hate, fear, discontent, and a readiness to quit from her travel through the desert, she was radiant. How was this possible?

1. The bride herself points to Solomon's bed which had brought her into precious nearness to the greater Solomon—Jesus Christ (Song 3:7). That delightful communion with Jesus on His bed was what beautified the bride, though traveling by carriage through the wilderness of this dangerous world.

2. Her communion with the Lord on His bed was only enhanced as she was assured of His protection of her soul through His angels and ministers who defended her against the fear of enemies under the cloak of darkness (Song 3:8). Dear ones, to the degree that you are on the bed of Jesus near Him (you enjoying Him and He enjoying you), to that degree you will pass through the wilderness and yet be beautified by trials rather than hardened and calloused by them.

B. Now in Song 3:9-10, the beloved bride is not finished with her description of Solomon's (Christ's) beautiful carriage which carried His bed where she enjoys the nearness of communion with Him. It

would be better to identify this as a carriage (coach) than a warring chariot; for it has within it Solomon's (Christ's) bed of communion. Why spend time describing Solomon's (Christ's) carriage?

1. Dear ones, it is this glorious coach that carries the bed of communion with Christ. It is not the bed of communion with Christ that carries the coach. So to what does the coach/carriage point by way of spiritual reality? It points to the Covenant of Grace which is the gospel of Christ's salvation (from eternity to eternity) that carries your communion with Jesus Christ.

2. There is no nearness and no communion with Jesus Christ apart from that most blessed and beautiful covenant and gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why the bride here turns her attention from the bed to the carriage that carries the bed. She wants the daughters of Jerusalem (the Visible Church) never to forget the love of Jesus Christ that purchased His bride from her spiritual harlotry and bondage to sin in which she served her master (the devil) at that time doing his bidding in fulfilling the lusts of her flesh with all her lovers (despising the Lord and His holy law which call us to purity). That was our spiritual condition before the Lord Jesus (by His gracious covenant) effectually called us to Himself, gave us faith to embrace Him, washed us from all of our filthiness and sins, and brought us into a spiritual marital union and communion with Him.

3. Note how the beloved bride describes this carriage.

a. **"King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon" (Song 3:9).**

(1) King Solomon made the carriage—Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). From beginning to end salvation is of the Lord (Ephesians 1:4-7,11-13; Ephesians 5:25-27). There is no room for boasting on the part of mankind (1 Corinthians 1:29), for all are by nature dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1), and all our righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). All religion crafted by man, all worship innovated by man, and any way of salvation that does not come through the Jesus of the Bible alone is cursed (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

(2) Also note that this carriage (Covenant of Grace) is made of the cedars of Lebanon (just as in the temple), for this wood was strong and durable which points to the unchangeableness, strength, and everlasting nature of Christ's Covenant of Grace with His beloved bride (Hebrews 13:20-21). Everything in this wilderness of life is changeable, but that which is unchangeable and is everlasting is Jesus Christ and His everlasting covenant with you, dear child of God.

b. **"He made the pillars ... purple (Song 3:10).**

(1) Each of these parts of the carriage (or Covenant of Grace) is fitly and orderly placed and is precious and most valuable (silver, purple, and gold). It was not with the blood of bulls or goats that you were redeemed, dear bride of Jesus Christ, but it was with that which is infinitely more valuable than all of the wealth of the universe combined—the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

(2) Nothing else could have delivered you from God's righteous wrath and the eternal fire of hell. And now having given His life for you, what good thing will He withhold from you (Romans 8:32)? Is communion with Jesus, nearness to Him, and enjoying Him a good blessing? It is yours (now and for all eternity) through His perfect obedience, His sacrificial death, and His glorious bodily resurrection (which confirms your forgiveness, resurrection, and everlasting life).

c. **"The midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem"**

(Song 3:10).

(1) If silver, purple, and gold are valuable, what is supremely and infinitely more valuable is Christ's love for you, dear Christian (regardless of your battles, struggles, and failures). The carriage (Covenant of Grace) is entirely paved or lined within with the love of Jesus Christ. He did not have to love you and rescue you from destruction. He chose to do so because He freely placed His love upon you. You weren't more desirable than others. His incomprehensible love to you, dear believer, is not a duty He owes, but a mercy He bestows.

(2) Christ's love makes you (the one loved) so precious that nothing short of laying down His life to atone for your sins will do. God's justice demanded it, but His love carried and bore it

from beginning to end. And if He loved you and redeemed you when you were His enemy, much more now that you are His beloved bride will He ever shower upon you His love forevermore (Romans 5:8-9). It is the love of Jesus Christ that has saved you and that causes you to persevere and nothing can separate you from that love (Romans 8:35-39). It is only this precious carriage (this Covenant of Grace and gospel) that will carry you to that heavenly Jerusalem after your wilderness wandering is completed. Elijah could not construct his own chariot to take him to heaven—only the chariot of Jesus could carry Elijah to the glories of heaven. It is no different for you and your soul at death. You must be carried there or not at all in the chariot of Christ's Covenant of Grace.

II. Communion with Jesus Is Enriched in Beholding His Gladness When You Became His Bride (Song 3:11).

A. The elect bride now having shown the splendor of Solomon's carriage (Christ's beautiful marital covenant of love with her), declares in effect to the daughters of Zion (the Visible Church) to be not sluggish, lazy, indifferent, or stubborn. Do not procrastinate, but rather **"Go forth"** now and **"Behold King Solomon."** When the gospel is declared to you through the Word of God, you cannot wait for a better time like Felix or Agrippa to whom Paul preached. Now is the day of salvation! Now is the day of faith, repentance, love, and obedience—not tomorrow. There may not be a tomorrow for you. What possible reason could you delay, except you simply will not submit to King Jesus—you will do it your way?

B. King Solomon (Jesus) is here crowned with a crown by His mother on the day of His marriage to His bride. This most likely refers to the Christ's marriage to His elect bride when they come to receive Him and His Covenant of Grace by faith alone. His mother as was already noted is the Visible Church (Song 3:4). What is the crown? Jesus is crowned by the Visible Church when He is acknowledged to be Lord and King by His elect when they come to Him in faith. The crown and rule over one's life is removed from her own head and in faith placed upon the head of Jesus Christ. He is already truly King and Lord, but here at her marital union with Christ, she is brought by Him to willingly and lovingly own Him as her King and Lord. Dear ones, you do not simply receive Jesus as Savior from sin so that you can escape the condemnation of hell, but you must also receive Jesus as Lord to whom you submit your life, your family, your possessions, your dreams, and your career and submit your will to follow His will and commandments from this time forward. This will be fully realized in the glories of heaven (Revelation 4:10).

C. We would certainly expect that the elect bride would be filled with exceeding joy at her marital union with Jesus Christ, but that is not the emphasis here. It is not your gladness that is in view here, but the unsurpassed gladness of King Jesus in His own heart. Jesus is the one who is rejoicing with exceeding gladness in being united in marriage to you, His elect bride.

1. This joy of all joys will transform your times of communion with Jesus Christ (Isaiah 62:5; Zephaniah 3:17). It is one thing for you to rejoice (which you should), but your greatest joy will come from seeing by faith Jesus rejoicing over you.

2. If the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that comes to Jesus Christ (Luke 15:10), can you imagine the celebration and joy of the Lord Jesus (your Heavenly Husband) as He draws and carries you to Himself by means of His everlasting covenant of grace and love. That is what the Lord Jesus wants you to remember and never forget as you commune with Him on His bed privately and publicly in His ordinances.

Copyright 2019 Greg L. Price.