

# THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST

## Chapter 1

# Slaves of Christ Jesus to all the saints in Christ Jesus (1:1)

- 1. One who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other.
- 2. Metaphorically spoken of voluntary service, a servant, implying obedience and devotion.

# Fellowship Unto the Furtherance of the Gospel (1:5)

- 1. Participation or communication in the furtherance of the gospel or in caring for others because of something which you have in common, i.e., Christ.
- 2. Financial contributions both in the gospel and in meeting the needs of those who are in Christ.

# Defending and Confirming the Gospel (1:7)

- 1. Giving an answer or speech in defense of oneself relative to the gospel.
- 2. To make firm or reliable so as to warrant security and inspire confidence, to strengthen, make true, corroborate and fulfill, thus to confirm.

# Longing after the saints in the inward parts of Christ Jesus (1:8)

- 1. The inward parts signify one's inward affection or tender mercy and sympathy which are according to Christ.
- 2. Our inward parts should long for the saints according to the grace we have received since this is Christ's heart.

Love Abounding in full knowledge  
and all discernment, approving by  
testing the things that differ (1:9-10)

- 1. Not loving in ignorance
- 2. Discerning different people, teachings and practices as under sunlight,
- 3. Moses did not discern properly his calling and how to carry it out until God revealed the way to him.

# Filled with the fruit of righteousness (1:11)

- 1. Righteousness is the way God carries out His doings or activities.
- 2. If we experience Christ in everything we do, then all our activities are done in a righteous manner.

# Christ being announced (1:18)

- 1. Rejoicing in whatever way Christ is announced.
- 2. Knowing what is in pretence or truth and not taking the wrong way.

# Petitioning for the saints and receiving the bountiful supply of the spirit (1:19)

- 1. Knowing the saints well enough to petition for them in a meaningful way.
- 2. Opening to the bountiful supply of the Spirit to know the humanity of the suffering Jesus and the divinity of the all-inclusive Christ.

# Christ magnified in the body in life or death (1:20-21)

- 1. The highest experience of Christ is to magnify Him in whatever circumstances we may have.
- 2. The most precious life is to live for Christ in life or in death.

# Remaining in the flesh for the progress and joy of the faith of the saints (1:24-25)

- 1. It is better to die and be with Christ and to not suffer in the flesh.
- 2. Nevertheless, we should choose to remain to be on earth only for the benefit of the saints and this is the most rewarding experience of Christ.