

## 11.b. CONSEQUENCES OF FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS SAINTS

Our Spiritual and physical wants and needs are all bound up in Christ. Our future Spiritual and physical needs will be supplied by the Master. And He has also provided for our eternal future.

All through the old dispensation God's people have been expecting and hoping for the Messiah. Right from the time of Adam. (GEN 3:15) through to the time of Simeon, in the temple. The prophet Haggai tells of Christ being the "desire of all nations". And we have spoken of the Shulummite, in the Song of Solomon, as she symbolizes the Church in her love and desire for her bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. "The Shulummite found sweet fellowship with Christ and declares her delight and desire for Him. When once the soul of a believer has come into sweet and real fellowship with Christ, it is to Christ that that soul turns for peace, fellowship, and succour in its time of need.

When we find ourselves at the end of our tether, it is Christ who calms our hearts. We desire to share our troubles and our joys with Him - does He not love us to the extent of shedding His blood for us? When we realise the richness of the treasure of us knowing Him as our bridegroom, this will make us extra careful that we do not loose Him. Carelessness concerning fellowship with Christ is evidence of a false heart.

The Shulummite displayed impatience at the absence of her beloved, desiring a more intimate relationship with Him. "Set me as a seal on your heart" SONG 8:6 A seal is set on a special relationship. The Shulummite sought the continual care and protection of her beloved. Christ has promised that to us. MATT 28:20 "... And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age". Not until things start hotting up at the great tribulation - but to the VERY end of the age.

So, Christ's exalted power is set to keep the soul secure in His love. Christ will not lose one soul whom He has loved from eternity. "Love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave" She seeks an eternal loving relationship with her beloved "If I do not find myself engraved on your heart and arm, I am like one that lies on a bed of coals".

We know that as the redeemed, we have been engraved on the palms of our Master, and in His side. Is our desire for our loving Saviour comparable to the love of the Shulummite for her beloved? Men bewail the loss of that which is most dear to them. We should bewail those periods in our lives when we feel the "loss" of the fellowship of our Lord. SONG 3:1-3 when darkness descends on the soul, then it knows that Christ is not there. Without Christ, there can be no rest or comfort.

When the Shulummite realises that her beloved is not present she is frantic at her "loss". When the soul realises that Christ is not present, it calls itself to account for what it has done - have I been wandering after other lovers? Once we have understood the reason, the soul is aroused to wrath against itself (seeking forgiveness) and searching for the promises for restoration (repentance).

The Shulammite does not give up at the realization that her Beloved is not there "I will rise now and go about the city ...." Seeking the one she loves. We seek Christ in prayer, meditation, self-searching as well as the promises - those wonderful anchors that bind us to Christ. Yet we may not find Him for many a day. Beware then of losing Christ. It may cost you much anguish and bitter searching before you find Him again.

As the Shulammite goes about the city she came upon the Watchmen (Ministers of the Church). These are the under Shepherds of God's flock. In **SONG 5:7**, they turn out to be persecutors of the remnant, forcing upon them the sacraments, confessions, and purgatory. The true ministers of God's Church are the elders that provide, guidance, comfort, and encouragement.

If often happens that when all our searchings for our Lord have not brought us to Him, we are left to wait silently for Him, and to walk humbly until He appears. He has not abandoned us. He cannot abandon us, for He has said "I will never leave nor forsake you". **PSM 40:1** "I waited patiently for the Lord, He turned to me and heard my cry".

**V3** "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God". Once the Shulammite found her beloved. **SONG 3:4** "Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held Him and would not let Him go ...."

May we as the redeemed have these gracious feelings towards the one who has redeemed us. To love Him and not let Him go.