

E. Description:

1. Occupation with Christ is developed through continuous spiritual growth to the point of personal love for Him. It is the result of an ongoing inculcation of doctrines in the Christology category of Systematic Theology.
2. This requires an ongoing accumulation of pertinent doctrines in the *kardía*, their facilitation into paths of least resistance, and their application in the believer's spiritual life.
3. Application of doctrines associated with one's occupation with Christ results in a lifestyle of wisdom, characterized by personal love for Him.
4. Jesus Christ has been absent from this earth since June of A.D. 33. Our physical presence with him will not occur until this life is over because of physical death (2 Corinthians 5:8) or because of the Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18):

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body [by physical death] and to be at home, [face to face] with the Lord. (NASB)

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

v. 17 Then, we who are alive and remain [doctrine of the immanency of the Rapture] will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (NASB)

5. Consequently, to love someone who is invisible requires a system of communication which is based on thought from the study of information inspired by God the Holy Spirit to biblical writers whose revelations are recorded in the pages of the Tanakh and New Testament.
6. There is no inerrant information communicated by God to man except in those texts that make up the canon of Scripture. Advancing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the development of personal love and occupation with Him can only occur through spiritual growth.
7. These advances can only occur through spiritual growth which requires first hearing the Word taught and then becoming a doer of the Word.

(End JAS2-49. See JAS2-50 for continuation of study at p. 491.)



Ephesians 3:19 and to come to know the love of Christ which surpasses *gnōsis*, that you might be filled up to all the fullness from God. (EXT)

1 Peter 1:8 and though you have never seen Him, you continue loving Him, with reference to Whom at the present time you continue not seeing Him, yet you keep on believing with sublime unalloyed happiness that is inexpressible and full of resplendent glory. (EXT)

8. Sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ always coordinate together. You cannot enjoy one without the other.
9. The resplendent glory of divine truth with which you are filled is an extremely high inventory of biblical absolutes that you have converted into working objects for the execution of divine thought in your life.
10. This is the application of your “vindication by works,” the conversion of the process of “hearing the Word” into the function of “doing the Word.”

F. Imperative Moods:

1. The phrase, “Occupation with Christ,” is actually a mental attitude by which the believer is commanded to focus his attention on Jesus Christ in order to appropriate His character traits.
2. The word “occupation” has numerous definitions but the one used here needs definitions and we go to two sources:

That which occupies or engages, the time and attention.¹

A particular course of action in which one is engaged, especially habitually. To engage a person or the mind or attention.²

3. The term refers to one focusing his attention on the “author and finisher of our faith” for guidance, example, protection, leadership, problem-solving, encouragement, and accompanied with mercy and grace.
4. In the combat of the Invisible War, Jesus Christ is the General of the Armies and Scripture issues guidelines on how to engage in battle with the Dark Side.
5. Hebrews 12:1–3 may be characterized as a three paragraph field orders for believers to deploy during their spiritual lives. Verse #1 gives the Reason to Advance, #2 the Attack’s Objective, and #3 Occupied with Christ.

¹ Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary (1953), 2d ed., s.v., “occupation.”

² The Oxford English Dictionary, (1971), s.vv., “occupation, occupy.”



Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we also keep having and holding such a great cloud [νέφος (*néphos*): **battalion**] of witnesses supporting us [as examples; see Hebrews 11's list of faith-rest heroes], having removed every impediment and all ensnaring sin, let us advance on the run with endurance in the conflict set before us,

The Reason to Advance:

1. The particle “Therefore” resumes the idea stated in Hebrews 10:39 while Chapter 11 presents illustrations that highlight the spiritual exploits of Old Testament winners.
2. This storied lineup of super-grace heroes is presented as an encouragement to each Church Age believer to stay the course God has designed for him.
3. We have the completed canon of Scripture both Old and New Testaments. Those celebrated in Hebrews 11 only had portions of the written Tanakh while Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah functioned on none at all, although Theophanies provided first hand revelations from the Lord.
4. The “removal of every impediment” refers to worldly distractions that hinder the consistent inculcation of the Word of God. None of these are classified as sin, but they serve the purpose by preventing one’s spiritual advance.
5. Sin is a major league distraction that also robs the believer of fellowship with and mentorship of the Holy Spirit and calls a halt to the spiritual life until rebound puts him back in the battle.
6. The final clause is an illustration from warfare, “let us advance on the run with endurance in the conflict set before us.” When the bugler sounds “charge” the army moves toward the enemy on the run using his artillery of thought to “extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one” (Ephesians 6:16).
7. The “conflict set before us” is the Angelic Conflict waged in the scrum of the Invisible War. The battle being waged can be individual or collective: (1) a believer’s own personal situations that require his soul’s divine artillery to extinguish or (2) collectively with other members of the Pivot to fight the good fight of faith against the relentless forces of the Dark Side within one’s client nation.

Ephesians 6:13 Take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (NASB)

