

THE CHURCH POSSESSED BY CHRIST

(Part One)

TEXT: Song of Solomon 4:16; 5:1

INTRODUCTION: In this peerless, timeless love poem, at least 2500 years old, a Shulamite maiden is loved by a shepherd. King Solomon is introduced in chapter three as one who tries to win her to his harem by elaborate overtures. He flatters her for her physical beauty in the opening verses of chapter four. She evidently resists his advances because verse eight seems to be a call to elope by her true lover who praises her for her character and inner charm. Solomon is now gone from the scene. The Shulamite has escaped with her true lover. She is now referred to as his bride (“spouse”). She wants to be all he hopes of her and says, *“Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.”* There is no real division between 4:16 and 5:1, so if we see Christ in *“all the Scriptures,”* including this inspired writing, these two verses must picture Christ’s delight in His prized possession and Bride, the Church.

OUTLINE: We have in 4:16 the Bride’s **prayer** and in 5:1 the Bridegroom’s **response**.

I .The Bride’s PRAYER (4:16)

1. For the **breath** of Heaven (*“Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow...”*)
 - A. The “north wind” of adversity
 - B. The "south wind" of favor
2. For the **Lord** of heaven (*“Let my beloved come...”*)

II.The Bridegroom’s POSSESSION (5:1)

1. A garden cultivated by Him (*“my garden”*)
2. A Bride endeared to Him (*“my sister, my spouse”*)
 - A. Inwrought graces delighted in by Him (*“my myrrh...spice...honeycomb... honey...wine... milk”*)
 - B. Friends invited by Him to share (*“eat, O friends, yea, drink abundantly...”*)

CONCLUSION: If Christ finds His chief delight in us, should **we** not delight in **Him**? Should not our principal pleasures derive from spiritual things? We can never become “so spiritually minded that we are no earthly good.” We can never get too much of Jesus or be too happy in Him. Let us enter fully *“into the joy of our Lord.”* Let us *“drink abundantly”* from the only well that satisfies!