

# Outline of the Messages for the Memorial Day Conference

May 24-27, 2013

## GENERAL SUBJECT: THE COMPLETING MINISTRY OF PAUL

### Message Five

Hymns 203

### Five Aspects of the Church

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 3:15-16; Gal. 6:10, 16

- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.
- Gal 6:10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.
- Gal 6:16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.

#### I. The church of God is the house of the living God—1 Tim. 3:15:

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

##### A. The house of God is the household of God—Eph. 2:19:

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

1. The dwelling place—the house—and the family—the household—are one entity—a group of called, regenerated ones indwelt by God Himself—1 Pet. 1:3; 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:16.

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

2. The household of God is composed of the many sons of God as the many brothers of Christ, the firstborn Son of God—Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10-12.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Heb 2:12 Saying, "I will declare Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the church I will sing hymns of praise to You."

3. Just as Christ is not separate from the members of His Body but dwells in them, the Father is not a separate member of His household but is in all the children—Rom. 8:10; 12:4-5; 2 Cor. 6:16.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- 2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, even as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people."
4. In speaking of the church as the house of God, Paul refers to God as the living God; because God is living, the church as the house of God is also living in Him, by Him, and with Him; a living God and a living church live, move, and work together—1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 3:16.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- B. As the house of God, the church is the dwelling place of God—the place where God can have His rest and put His trust—Eph. 2:22.
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- C. The church as the house of the living God—the Father's house—is the enlarged, universal, divine-human incorporation—John 14:2, 20.
- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

## **II. The church is the supporting pillar and the holding base of the truth—1 Tim. 3:15:**

- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- A. The truth is the Triune God, having Christ as the embodiment, center, and expression, to produce the church as the Body of Christ, the house of God, and the kingdom of God—Col. 2:9; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Tim. 3:15; John 3:3, 5.
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- B. Truth in 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the real things revealed in the New Testament concerning Christ and the church according to God's New Testament economy—Matt. 16:16, 18; Eph. 5:32.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- Matt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
- C. The church bears Christ as the reality; the church testifies to the whole universe that Christ, and Christ alone, is the reality—John 1:14, 17; 14:6.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

- D. As the pillar, which bears the truth, and the base, which upholds the pillar, the church testifies the reality, the truth, of Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ—Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4.

Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,

Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,

### **III. The church is the manifestation of God in the flesh—the mystery of godliness—1 Tim. 3:15-16:**

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

- A. God's manifestation was first in Christ as an individual expression in the flesh—v. 16; Col. 2:9; John 1:1, 14.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

- B. God is manifested in the church—the house of God and the Body of Christ—as the enlarged, corporate expression in the flesh—Eph. 2:19; 1:22-23:

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

1. The manifestation of God in the flesh, which began with Christ, continues with the church, which is the increase, enlargement, and multiplication of the manifestation of God in the flesh—John 14:9; 1 Tim. 3:15-16.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how is it that you say, Show us the Father?

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

2. This is Christ lived out of the church as the manifestation of God—God manifested in the flesh in a wider way according to the New Testament principle of incarnation—1 Cor. 7:40; Gal. 2:20.

1 Cor 7:40 But she is more blessed if she so remains, according to my opinion; but I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- C. The great mystery of godliness is that God has become man so that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce a corporate God-man for the manifestation of God in the flesh—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; Eph. 4:24.

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,  
 Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,  
 Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
 Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

#### IV. The church is the household of the faith—Gal. 6:10:

- Gal 6:10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.

- A. The believers are the members of the family, the household, of the faith; the house of God, the eternal Bethel as the desire of God's heart, is the house of faith—Gen. 28:11-12, 16-19a; Gal. 6:10.

Gen 28:11 And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and he lay down in that place.  
 Gen 28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.  
 Gen 28:16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.  
 Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.  
 Gen 28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put under his head, and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.  
 Gen 28:19a And he called the name of that place Bethel, ...  
 Gal 6:10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.

- B. Faith bears two denotations—objective and subjective—1 Tim. 1:19; 2 Pet. 1:1:

1 Tim 1:19 Holding faith and a good conscience, concerning which some, thrusting these away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith;  
 2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

1. In the objective denotation, “the faith” refers to the things in which we believe—Acts 14:22; 1 Cor. 16:13; Jude 3, 20; Eph. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:7.

Acts 14:22 Establishing the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith and saying that through many tribulations we must enter into the kingdom of God.  
 1 Cor 16:13 Watch, stand firm in the faith, be full-grown men, be strong.  
 Jude 3 Beloved, while using all diligence to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you and exhort you to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.  
 Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,  
 Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,  
 2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

2. In the subjective denotation, “faith” refers to the believing action of the believers, the act of believing—Gal. 2:20; Rom. 1:17.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Rom 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."

- C. The faith of the believers is actually not their own faith but Christ entering into them to be their faith—3:22; Gal. 2:16.

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction;

Gal 2:16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.

- D. Faith is to believe that God is; to believe that God is, is to believe that He is everything to us and that we are nothing—Heb. 11:6; John 8:58; Eccl. 1:2.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I am.

Eccl 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; / Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

- E. Our spirit of faith is the organ we must exercise to substantiate everything of the unseen God, transferring all that He is objectively into us to become our subjective experience—John 4:24; Heb. 11:1, 27; 1 Pet. 1:8; 2:7; 2 Cor. 4:13.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he persevered as one seeing the unseen One.

1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,

1 Pet 2:7 To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,"

2 Cor 4:13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

- F. We all have the same faith in quality, but the quantity of faith we have depends upon how much we contact the living God so that we may have Him increased in us—Rom. 12:3; Acts 6:5; Col. 2:19.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Acts 6:5 And the word pleased all the multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch,

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

## V. The church is the Israel of God—Gal. 6:16:

Gal 6:16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.

- A. The apostle Paul considers the many individual believers in Christ collectively as the Israel of God—vv. 8, 16:

Gal 6:8 For he who sows unto his own flesh will reap corruption of the flesh, but he who sows unto the Spirit will of the Spirit reap eternal life.

Gal 6:16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.

1. The Israel of God is the real Israel including all the Gentile and Jewish believers in Christ, who are the true sons of Abraham and the household of the faith—Rom. 9:6b; 2:28-29; Phil. 3:3; Gal. 6:15-16, 10; 3:7, 29.

Rom 9:6b ... for not all who are out of Israel are Israel;

- Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.
- Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, in spirit, not in letter, whose praise is not from men, but from God.
- Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,
- Gal 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.
- Gal 6:16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.
- Gal 6:10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.
- Gal 3:7 Know then that they who are of faith, these are sons of Abraham.
- Gal 3:29 And if you are of Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise.
2. The real Israel, the spiritual Israel, is the church—6:16; Matt. 16:18.
- Gal 6:16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
3. In God's New Testament economy we have been made both the sons of God and the Israel of God; our destiny is to be sons of God expressing God and also kings reigning in the kingdom of God—Gal. 3:26; 6:16; Rev. 21:7; 22:5b; 12:5a.
- Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- Gal 6:16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.
- Rev 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.
- Rev 22:5b ... and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.
- Rev 12:5a And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; ...
4. As the Israel of God, we represent God, exercise His authority, and carry out His administration on earth for the fulfillment of His purpose—Gen. 1:26, 28; Luke 10:19; Rev. 12:5, 7-11.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- Luke 10:19 Behold, I have given you the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.
- Rev 12:8 And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven.
- Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.
- Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
- Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

5. God's New Testament economy is not only to make us sons of God but also to make us the Israel of God; we need to be such an Israel, a prince, to execute God's government on earth—Eph. 1:5; Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:14, 19; Gal. 3:26; 4:6-7; 6:16; Matt. 6:9-10.

Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!

Gal 4:7 So then you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, an heir also through God.

Gal 6:16 And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.

Matt 6:9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

- B. The church as the Israel of God is a miniature of the coming New Jerusalem, which will be the ultimate consummation of the Israel of God—Rev. 21:2.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.