

# WEEK 9 — OUTLINE

## The Lord's Recovery versus the Present Evil Age and the Eschatology of the Church

Scripture Reading: Gal. 1:4; 5:4; 6:13-15; Rev. 11:15; 19:7-9; 21:2, 10-11

### « DAY 1 »

#### I. The Lord's recovery is versus the present evil age—the evil age of religion (Gal. 1:4):

- A. Galatians 1:4 says that the Lord Jesus Christ “gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father”:
1. An age refers to a section, an aspect, the present or modern appearance, of the world as the satanic system, which is used by Satan to usurp and occupy God's people in order to keep them away from God and His purpose (Eph. 2:2; 1 John 2:15-16).
  2. According to the context of Galatians, the present evil age in 1:4 refers to the religious world, the religious course of the world, the Jewish religion; this is confirmed by 6:14-15, which speaks of the religious world which to the apostle Paul was crucified.
  3. The purpose of Christ's giving Himself for our sins was to rescue us, to pluck us, to extricate us, out of the present evil age (1:4).

### « DAY 2 »

4. Christ's death on the cross to deliver us from the present evil age was according to the will of God, which concerns Christ and the church (Col. 1:9).
- B. Religion is something formed by the human mind under Satan's instigation and inspiration in order to oppose God's economy (1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 1:10; 3:9):
1. Religion is something for God and for the benefit of people, yet it is without Christ and apart from the Spirit of Christ (Gal. 5:4-5; 3:1, 5, 14, 24).
  2. To be religious is to worship God and serve God without Christ or the Spirit; whenever we become religious, we become ensnared in the present evil age.
  3. Satan formed the religious world to keep us away from God, the will of God, and God's eternal purpose (1:4; 5:4):

### « DAY 3 »

- a. Satan utilizes religion to keep people from Christ and the church as God's will.

- b. As long as Satan can keep us away from Christ and His Body as the will of God, he is satisfied (Col. 1:9; 4:12; 1:18; 2:19):
- (1) The religious age is evil because it keeps people from Christ and the church (Eph. 5:32).
  - (2) Nothing is more evil in the sight of God than that which keeps us from Christ (Gal. 1:4; 5:4).
  - (3) The religious snare deprives us of all the benefits of the indwelling Christ (1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19).
4. The Lord has no way to fulfill His purpose in religion, including Judaism, Catholicism, and Protestantism.
  5. Between us and religion is the cross; religion as a world has been crucified to us, and we have been crucified to religion (6:13-14).
- C. For Paul, the present evil age was Judaism; for us today, the present evil age is deformed and degraded Christianity (1:4; Matt. 13:31-33, 44-46):

#### « DAY 4 »

1. We need to realize how much we need to be delivered from the influence of religion in the present evil age.
2. The church is the living Body of Christ, but what surrounds us today is a religion—deformed and degraded Christianity—full of traditions, organizations, performances, and falsehoods; the Lord cannot accomplish His purpose in this situation.
3. We all need to be delivered from religion, from Christianity as the present evil age; we must come out of Babylon, and Babylon must come out of us (Ezra 1; Rev. 18:4; Zech. 3:1-4).
4. The history among us in the Lord's recovery has been a history of coming out of Christianity—a history of coming out of and being outside of the present evil age (Gal. 1:4; Heb. 13:12-13).
5. Because the Lord's recovery is different from today's religion—deformed and degraded Christianity—it is impossible for there to be reconciliation between the recovery and Christianity (Matt. 13:31-33, 44-46; Rev. 18:4; 19:1-3, 7-9).
6. We need to maintain the gap between the Lord's recovery and Christianity; the wider this gap is, the better, because it is a gap between us and the present evil age (Gal. 1:4).

#### « DAY 5 »

**II. There is not only an eschatology of the world, the study of the end of the world, but also an eschatology of the church (Rev. 11:15; 12:10; 21:2, 10-11; 22:16):**

- A. The eschatology of the church involves the Catholic Church, the Protestant church, and the original and recovered church.
- B. The expression the recovered church refers to the original church, the church according to the divine revelation in the Scriptures (Matt. 16:18; 18:17; 1 Cor. 1:2; Rev. 1:11):
  - 1. The apostles established the original church, but even while Peter, John, and Paul were still living, the church fell from its original state to a degraded state, a deformed state, even a transmuted state (1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:18-21).
  - 2. As indicated by 2 Timothy, 2 Peter, and 2 and 3 John—letters of recovery—the recovered church came into being not long after the original church had been established (Acts 14:23).
- C. The real condition and end of the Catholic Church are revealed in Revelation 17.

**<< DAY 6 >>**

- D. In the Protestant church there are many “tares,” false believers (Matt. 13:37-42).
- E. The original and recovered church is the genuine church (1 Cor. 1:2; 3:9, 16-17):
  - 1. In the recovered church we always take the narrow way (Matt. 7:14).
  - 2. Those who participate in the recovered church learn the special lessons of the Christian life:
    - a. To know Christ (Phil. 3:10).
    - b. To know the flesh and the self (Rom. 7:18; Matt. 16:24).
    - c. To learn how to be crucified to live the God-man life (Gal. 2:20).
- F. At His coming back, the Lord will judge and deal with the Catholic Church, the Protestant church, and the original and recovered church:
  - 1. He will summon all His genuine believers in every kind of church to His judgment seat to be judged and dealt with by Him (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5).
  - 2. In that judgment the Lord will discern whether they have built with gold, silver, and precious stones or with wood, grass, and stubble (3:12-15).
  - 3. The overcomers who are transformed into gold, silver, and precious stones will be rewarded to be in the New Jerusalem in the thousand years of the kingdom (Rev. 2:7; 3:12).
  - 4. Religion will be terminated, but the bride of Christ will be prepared (19:1-4, 7-9).
- G. Eventually, all genuine believers will be in the ultimate consummation of God’s purpose—the New Jerusalem (21:2, 10-11).

## << WEEK 9 – DAY 1 >>

### Morning Nourishment

Gal. 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father.

6:14-15 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.

A dictionary may tell us that religion is a good word, but Galatians 1 indicates that religion is versus Christ. It is something that persecutes the church, ravages it, and tries to root it out...Religion is anything done for Christ but not having the presence and reality of Christ. Judaism was a religion founded according to the holy Word, just as today the fundamental things of Christianity are also based on the Word of God. Nevertheless, many in Christianity honor only its outward traditions and holidays without being truly for Christ in a pure way. By this we can see that religion is versus Christ. Today we still need to be delivered from the present evil age of religion. (CWWL, 1972, vol. 3, "Enjoying Christ as the All-inclusive Spirit for the Practical, Genuine, and Real Church Life," pp. 496-497)

### Today's Reading

[Galatians] opens with a word that cannot be found in any other book. In 1:4 Paul says that the Lord Jesus Christ "gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father." Some might expect Paul to say that Christ gave Himself for our sins so that we might be delivered from hell, but Paul does not say this. Paul says that Christ died for our sins so that He might rescue us out of the present evil age. This is according to the will of our God and Father. (The History of the Church and the Local Churches, p. 110)

An age is a part of the world as the satanic system. An age refers to a section, an aspect, the present or modern appearance, of the system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and occupy people and keep them away from God and His purpose. The world system of Satan has different ages, different sections...The present age is the present section of Satan's cosmos, his world system. Whereas sins are devilish, the present age is satanic. As the devil, God's enemy is involved with sins, and as Satan, he is involved with the evil age. God's enemy is subtle, lurking behind sins and the evil age. Apart from the crucifixion of Christ, we have no way to deal with sins, behind which the devil hides, or the evil age, behind which Satan hides. Christ was crucified for our sins so that He might rescue us from this evil age. This indicates that only Christ can save us from the devil and Satan. Both sins and the evil age have been dealt with by Christ crucified. He gave Himself for us on the cross according to the will of God. He died for our sins so that we might be delivered from the present evil age. Therefore, if we would be delivered from this evil age, our sins must be dealt with. If we, through the preaching of the gospel, help others to have the forgiveness of sins, they will begin to realize that they need to be rescued from the present evil age.

Literally, the Greek word translated "rescue" in Galatians 1:4 means to pluck out, to draw out, to extricate. The present evil age in this verse, according to the context of the book, refers to the religious world, the religious course of the world, which at Paul's time was the Jewish religion. This is confirmed by Galatians 6:14 and 15, where circumcision is considered part of the world—the religious world to which the apostle Paul is crucified. Here Paul emphasizes that the purpose of Christ's giving Himself for our sins was to rescue us, to pluck us out, from the Jewish religion, the present evil age. This is to release God's chosen people from the custody of the law (Gal. 3:23), to bring them out of the sheepfold (John 10:1, 3), according to the will of God. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 775-776)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Recovery of Christ in the Present Evil Age," chs. 1-2; CWWL, 1977, vol 1, "The Lord's Recovery and the Present Situation of Religion," ch. 1

## << WEEK 9 — DAY 2 >>

### Morning Nourishment

Gal. 5:4 You have been brought to nought, separated from Christ, you who are being justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Col. 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

At the time of John 10, God's people, His sheep, were in the fold of Judaism. But as this chapter makes clear, Christ came to bring His sheep out of the fold and to form them with the Gentile believers into one flock, the church (10:16). Hence, the fold is religion, whereas the flock is the church....Christ is seeking to rescue His sheep out of the various religious folds and to bring them together as the one flock.

Christ's death on the cross to deliver us from the present evil age was according to the will of God, the Father. To rescue the sheep from the fold is thus according to the will of God.

The Lord Jesus came into the fold, opened the door, and led the sheep out of the fold. The Judaizers crucified Him. But through His death on the cross, the Lord gave Himself for our sins in order to rescue us from the religious fold. (Life-study of Galatians, p. 9)

### Today's Reading

The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man's existence, and man with his spirit is for God. With his spirit man must contact, receive, contain, and assimilate God so that He may be life to man, and man may be His living corporate expression. This is God's intention throughout all the dispensations and generations. This is very clear in the Bible, but in order to see this, we must have a vision....Christianity has the Bible, but many people in Christianity do not see the eternal plan of God. In order that man may see God's desire, God gave him the Bible. However, the enemy of God never sleeps. He came in and utilized all the points in this Holy Book to instigate man to exercise his mentality to form religion. Religion is something formed by the human mentality under Satan's instigation and inspiration in order to oppose God's economy. Apparently, religion is for God, but in actuality, it is fully against Him. (CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Lord's Recovery and the Present Situation of Religion," p. 467)

Religion is something for God and for the benefit of people, yet it is apart from Christ and without the Spirit of Christ. As long as Christ is not in something, no matter how good it may be, it is only religion. Even if we pray or study the Bible but are not in the spirit and do not have the Spirit of Christ, we are in religion, which does not bring forth the church. The Lord's recovery is to bring us back to the proper church life, and Christ as the Spirit is the only element that produces the church. As long as we do things in the spirit and with the Spirit of Christ, we have the church life. (CWWL, 1972, vol. 3, "Enjoying Christ as the All-inclusive Spirit for the Practical, Genuine, and Real Church Life," p. 497)

After man was brought back to God through the holy writings, Satan came in again to cause man to use his fallen mentality to form different kinds of religions based on these writings. In this way the second kind of world—the religious world—came into existence.

Satan's goal is to keep man away from the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose. Originally, it was the first kind of world, the secular world, that kept man away from God's purpose, but after God brought man back to Himself, Satan formed the second kind of world, the religious world, to once again keep man away from God. It may seem that the secular world keeps man away from God and that the religious world helps man to come back to Him. In actuality, however, both aspects of the world, the secular and the religious, keep man away from God. (CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Lord's Recovery and the Present Situation of Religion," pp. 457-458)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1972, vol. 3, "Enjoying Christ as the All-inclusive Spirit for the Practical, Genuine, and Real Church Life," chs. 1-2; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 323

## « WEEK 9 — DAY 3 »

### Morning Nourishment

**Matt. 13:33** Another parable He spoke to them: The kingdom of the heavens is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened.

**44** The kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid, and in his joy goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.

It is difficult to realize that religion is a strong enemy of Christ. Satan utilizes the veil of religion to deceive people.

As long as Satan can keep someone away from Christ and His Body as the will of God, he is satisfied...The Lord said, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). Satan is truly afraid of the church. If someone seeks after dead and doctrinal knowledge, he can find it in Satan's department of religion, but if some proclaim themselves in a proper way to be the church, Satan trembles. Many good Christians today have been cheated by Satan. They may speak about the Body of Christ, but they have no practice of the Body. (CWWL, 1972, vol. 3, "Enjoying Christ as the All-inclusive Spirit for the Practical, Genuine, and Real Church Life," pp. 494-495)

### Today's Reading

In God's eyes, the old and traditional practices in Christianity without the presence and reality of Christ are a part of the present evil age. The religious age is evil because it keeps people from Christ and the church as God's will. There is nothing as evil in God's eyes as that which keeps us from Christ. (CWWL, 1972, vol. 3, "Enjoying Christ as the All-inclusive Spirit for the Practical, Genuine, and Real Church Life," p. 497)

It is very meaningful that Galatians follows 2 Corinthians....If we would be a person like Paul, living by Christ and taking Him as our person, we must be aware of religion. Whenever we become religious, we become ensnared in the present evil age. If we look at today's Christians, we can see that so many of them are simply in a kind of religion. They have the teachings, the regulations, the traditions, and the ordinances....Religion is simply to worship God, to work for God, to keep the law, and to improve ourselves and do so many good things religiously without the presence of Christ. It may be good, but it is still a religion because it is without Christ. (The Indwelling Christ in the Canon of the New Testament, p. 101)

The darkness of religion overshadows the entire earth. People have been drugged with religion and are fully under its influence. Therefore, the Lord has no way to fulfill His eternal purpose in religion, including Judaism, Catholicism, and Protestantism. Most people have no sense of how dark and evil religion is. If a room is filled with the odor of garlic for a long time, everyone in the room will lose his consciousness of the odor, but if someone comes into the room from the fresh air, he will not be able to tolerate it. (CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Lord's Recovery and the Present Situation of Religion," p. 460)

Between us and religion is the cross. Religion as a world has been crucified to us, and we have been crucified to religion....One day I said goodbye to that religious world. The religious world was crucified to me, and I to that world. (CWWL, 1972, vol. 3, "Enjoying Christ as the All-inclusive Spirit for the Practical, Genuine, and Real Church Life," p. 539)

We need to compare what is seen in the Bible with what is seen today in Christianity. I have to use two words to describe today's Christianity: deformed and degraded....All of Christianity is deformed from the form of the revelation in the holy Word and is also degraded....When we talk about Christianity in such a way, this does not mean that we do not love all Christians. We love all of our brothers and sisters in the Lord, yet we have to admit that today's Christendom is absolutely far off from God's eternal plan. (The God-ordained Way to Practice the New Testament Economy, p. 25)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Lord's Recovery and the Present Situation of Religion," ch. 4; The God-ordained Way to Practice the New Testament Economy, ch. 3

## << WEEK 9 – DAY 4 >>

### Morning Nourishment

Heb. 13:12-13 Therefore also Jesus, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Let us therefore go forth unto Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

We need to exercise our spirit to touch Christ and experience Him as grace in our spirit. This is God's economy, which is versus religion. At Paul's time there was mainly one religion, but today there are many religions that teach people to worship God, to serve God, and to try to please God apart from the experience of the living Christ. If the age at Paul's time was evil, the age today is much more evil. If Paul unveiled to the saints that they should not be under the influence of that religious age, how much more do we need to be delivered from the influence of religion in our own age. (CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Lord's Recovery and the Present Situation of Religion," p. 463)

### Today's Reading

In religion there is no light, life, truth, or reality; that is, there is no Christ. Christ is there only in name, not in His person and living reality. Likewise, there is no church in reality. The church is the living Body of Christ, but what surrounds us today is a religion full of traditions, organizations, teachings, doctrines, performances, and falsehood. The Lord cannot accomplish His purpose in this situation. (CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Lord's Recovery and the Present Situation of Religion," p. 476)

Paul began to see Christ. It had pleased God to reveal Christ into him, and he was rescued out of religion. This is why he said that Christ gave Himself for our sins to rescue us out of the present evil age. Now he is writing that the Galatians might obtain the same deliverance. They had been trapped in a snare of religion and needed deliverance from religion. Now it is not a matter of keeping the traditions but of having Christ revealed in us. And it is not a matter of keeping the law but of having Christ living in us. "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). Christ should not only be revealed in us but also live in us. Christ has to be both our life and our living. (CWWL, 1973-1974, vol. 1, "The Indwelling Christ in the Canon of the New Testament," pp. 604-605)

Because of our standing for the pure church life, others have been offended. But what can we do? Paul says in Galatians 1:10, "If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a slave of Christ." If we were men-pleasers, we would not suffer persecution as Paul did. The history of the Lord's recovery is a history of coming out of and being outside of the present evil age. We have burned the bridges between us and Christianity, but some among us have tried to build a bridge to bring us back. We need to burn all the bridges. There should be no bridge between the local churches and Christianity. Everything should be after its kind. The denominations are after their kind, and the local churches should be after their kind. We should be what we are without compromise or pretense.

I am afraid that in the coming years, if the Lord delays His coming, some subtle ones will be used by the enemy again to try to bridge the gap between us and Christianity. We need to maintain such a gap between us and Christianity. The wider this gap is the better because it is a gap between us and the present evil age. Thank the Lord that Brother Nee was a pioneer ahead of us to come out of Christianity into the pure church life to accomplish God's will to have the Body of Christ. (CWWL, 1973-1974, vol. 1, "The History of the Church and the Local Churches," p. 95)

The Lord's recovery is absolutely different from today's religion. We are not concerned with knowing the Bible merely in letters. We are here to carry out God's economy in His recovery. It is impossible for there to be reconciliation between the recovery and Christianity. In the recovery we repudiate the wood, the grass, and the stubble...In the recovery we would rather have a small amount of gold, silver, and precious stones than a huge pile of wood, grass, and stubble. (Life-study of Exodus, p. 967)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1977, vol. 1, "The Recovery of Christ in the Present Evil Age," ch. 4; Elders' Training, Book 6: The Crucial Points of Truth in Paul's Epistles, ch. 5

## « WEEK 9 — DAY 5 »

### Morning Nourishment

2 Tim. 2:19-21 ...Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness. But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels but also wooden and earthen; and some are unto honor, and some unto dishonor. If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

We need to see that there is not only an eschatology of the world, the study of the end of the world situation, but also an eschatology of the church....We believers in Christ are not only in the world but also in the church. The genuine church exists within Christianity. Christianity has become very great and includes mainly the Catholic Church and the Protestant church. The Catholic Church and the Protestant church were not there at the time of the apostle Paul. What was there at his time was the original and recovered church. The recovered church refers to the original church. These two are one. ("The Eschatology of the Church," p. 1)

### Today's Reading

The apostles established the original church within less than fifty years. But while Peter, John, and Paul were still living, the church fell from its original state to a degraded state, a deformed state, and even a transmuted state. This is why the Epistles were written. All the "second" letters of Peter, John, and Paul (e.g., 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, 2 Corinthians, etc.) were letters of recovery. All these letters were for recovering the lost church.

At John's time, some even said that Christ never came in the flesh (1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7). Others said that Christ was not the Son of God but eventually became the Son of God (1 John 2:22-23)....Thus, John wrote to the believers to recover them. At the time of the apostles we can see the original and recovered church.

The recovered church came into being just a little later than the original church. The original church lasted only for a short time. It was born into a sick situation, an unhealthy environment. When the apostle Paul was sent by the Holy Spirit from Antioch to Asia to preach the gospel and to set up churches, the opposing Jews came to frustrate him. After the churches were established, the Gnostics came in to make trouble. Thus, the church became sick either from Judaism or Gnosticism. The original church did not last too long, but God would not let the church be lost without any kind of recovery. This is why the Lord as the Head of the Body charged the apostles Peter, John, and Paul to write their later Epistles to recover the church. We have to realize that the Lord's recovery began at the end of the first century. In every century afterward, the Lord raised up a number of "Ezras" and "Nehemiahs" to recover, to reconstitute, the church.

In the first five centuries, there was only the original and recovered church. Then near the end of the sixth century the Catholic Church came into existence. At that time the pope was recognized as the authority of the Catholic Church. The Protestant church came into existence at the time of Martin Luther during the Reformation in the sixteenth century. Today there are still these three kinds of churches.

The real condition and end of the Catholic Church are clearly unveiled in Revelation 17. The first six verses tell us the condition, and the last three verses tell us the end. The condition is illustrated in a figure of speech by a golden cup (v. 4). A cup signifies something that is presented to a person for him to drink to meet his need. The golden cup signifies that in outward appearance the apostate church does have something of God....The cup which the woman has in her hand is golden, but it is full of abominations and the unclean things of her fornication (Rev. 17:4).

Revelation 17 also tells us the end of the Catholic Church....Antichrist and his ten kings will persecute the Great Babylon and burn her. That will be the end of the Catholic Church. ("The Eschatology of the Church," pp. 2-5)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1973-1974, vol. 1, "The Indwelling Christ in the Canon of the New Testament," chs. 11-12

## « WEEK 9 — DAY 6 »

### Morning Nourishment

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ...

Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

The Protestant church is full of false believers (Matt. 13:37-42). In Matthew 13 the Lord told us that the kingdom of the heavens is like a man who sowed good seed of wheat in his field, but his enemy then came and sowed tares in the midst of the wheat...The Lord said that at the consummation of this age, He will send His angels to collect all these tares, signifying all the false, nominal Christians in any kind of church, and will cast them into the lake of fire (vv. 40-42)...Their end will be the same as Antichrist and the false prophet. Both of them will also be thrown into the lake of fire directly, without any formal judgment (Rev. 19:20)...The original and recovered church is the genuine church. ("The Eschatology of the Church," pp. 5-6)

### Today's Reading

The church of the recovery is always taking a narrow way. All of those who participate in the recovered church learn the special lessons in the Christian life. They learn to know Christ, to know themselves, and to know the flesh. They learn how to be crucified to live the God-man life. All the members of the church should be God-men because the church is formed with the deified man. The high truth of God becoming a man that man might become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead was discovered by the church fathers in the second century. This was something of the Lord's recovery. With us the Lord's recovery began in mainland China seventy-two years ago. Today there are mainly three kinds of churches on earth: the Catholic Church, the Protestant church, and the original and recovered church. We must choose the original and recovered church because it is genuine.

At His coming back, the Lord will judge and deal with not only the Catholic Church and the Protestant church but also the original and recovered church. He will summon all His genuine believers in any kind of church to His judgment seat (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5) to be judged and dealt with by Him. In that judgment He will discern whether they have built with gold, silver, and precious stones or with wood, grass, and stubble. The work of wood, grass, and stubble will be consumed, and those who have worked with these worthless materials "will be saved, yet so as through fire" (1 Cor. 3:15). On the other hand, those who have built with gold, silver, and precious stones will be the materials for the constitution of the New Jerusalem in the millennium and be consummated in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth.

At the Lord's coming back, the overcomers who are transformed into gold, silver, and precious stones will be awarded to be in the New Jerusalem in the thousand years of the kingdom. Revelation shows us that the New Jerusalem will be the Paradise of God in the thousand years for the overcomers (2:7). But those who produce wood, grass, and stubble will have their work burned at the Lord's coming back, and they will be saved as through fire. They will be disciplined by the Lord for one thousand years. Eventually, through the Lord's patience, they will be perfected and transformed also into precious material for God's building. At the end of the thousand years, they will also join and participate in the New Jerusalem in its consummation. This is the genuine condition and end of the original and recovered church.

Eventually, we will be in the ultimate consummation of God's purpose, the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-11). ("The Eschatology of the Church," pp. 3, 6-8)

Further Reading: "The Eschatology of the Church according to the Divine Revelation of the Scriptures"; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 239

## << WEEK 9 — HYMN

### Hymns, #1281

1

All the meetings Christ appointed  
And attended here on earth  
Were apart from all religion,  
All its rituals, forms, and dearth.  
Resurrection, not religion,  
Must be our reality;  
Let us meet in resurrection,  
From all dead religion free.

2

When the Lord was resurrected,  
All religious things were through;  
Christ is now our living temple,  
Christ is all our offerings too.  
With our Lord in resurrection,  
Hallelujah, we're released!  
Pity all the old religion—  
All our meetings are a feast!

3

Yet religion—oh, how subtle—  
In our blood is hiding out;  
God must give us revelation,  
All that unseen monster rout.  
Lord, we still are too religious—  
Down with our religious soul!  
We would all release our spirit,  
Let each meeting reach the goal.

4

In the meetings, in the meetings,  
On the mountain, at the shore,  
Jesus, Jesus, living Jesus,  
He is here—what want we more?  
Bury all the old religion,  
Even Christianity—  
Jesus, Jesus, we have Jesus,  
He is our reality!