

WEEK 2 — OUTLINE

Serving with a Vision, according to Revelation, and in the Body for the Building Up of the House of God

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-6, 15, 20-22; 22:6-10, 14-15; 26:16, 18-19; Gal. 1:13-14; Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 2:21-22

« DAY 1 »

I. Our service to God must be with a vision and according to revelation (Acts 9:1-6, 15, 20-22; 22:6-10, 14-15; 26:16, 18-19):

- A. Before the Lord appeared to Paul and a light from heaven shined upon him, his zealous service to God was actually in opposition to God and according to Satan's instigation (9:1; Gal. 1:13-14):
1. It is possible for us to repeat Paul's mistakes, for our service to God can be used as an instrument of Satan to destroy God's move (John 16:2).
 2. Before Paul encountered the great light on the road to Damascus, he had tradition, knowledge of religion, and zeal but no vision or revelation (Gal. 1:13-14).

« DAY 2 »

3. Paul asked the Lord two questions: the first—"Who are You, Lord?"—relates to knowing the Lord; the second—"What shall I do, Lord?"—relates to receiving the Lord's vision (Acts 22:8, 10).
 4. In Acts 22:10 Paul began to have a vision that cut him off from his previous service and brought him into the New Testament service.
 5. Paul's way of serving God came from a heavenly vision; when he saw this vision, the things of the Old Testament came to an end, and he began to take the New Testament way (26:18-19).
- B. Our service to God may be according to revelation, or it may be natural (Gal. 2:1-2; Eph. 1:17; 3:3, 5):
1. Service according to revelation involves meeting God, being shined on by God, receiving revelation from God, and being burdened in spirit by God (Acts 26:16, 18-19; 22:14-15).
 2. Natural service is according to our own ideas, views, traditions, or regulations; it may also come from imitating others, and it is often initiated simply to meet the need of a certain situation (1 Cor. 2:14).
 3. We should not have outward acts of service to the Lord without inward revelation; our inward revelation must govern our outward acts (Gal. 1:13-14; 2:1-2).

« DAY 3 »

- C. Vision and revelation are the way and the life of service (Acts 26:19; Eph. 3:3, 5, 9):
1. We need a vision for the way of service and a revelation for the life of service; the way to serve God comes from the vision, and the life to serve God comes from revelation.
 2. It was necessary for Paul to change both his outward way and his inner life; his old way was unacceptable, and his old life had to be terminated (Phil. 3:4-8).
 3. The way of Paul's preaching came from the heavenly vision, and the content of his preaching came from revelation; his way was heavenly, and his content was the living Christ Himself (Acts 22:14-15; 26:16, 18-19).

II. As believers in Christ, we are members of the Body of Christ, and we serve God in the Body (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:14-27):

- A. When we come to the matter of serving the Lord, we need to be clear that we need the Body; it is crucial for us to realize that we cannot serve without the Body or have spiritual life outside the Body (Rom. 12:4-5; Phil. 1:19).
- B. The entire Christian living is a living in the Body, and the entire Christian serving is a service carried out in the Body (1 Cor. 12:12-13).

« DAY 4 »

- C. In the New Testament the service is not touched clearly and definitely until Romans 12; it is here that the matter of service is revealed, and it is presented as a matter of the Body and in the Body (vv. 4-11).
- D. With respect to serving in the church, the emphasis is on the setting for service, but with respect to serving in the Body, the emphasis is on the coordination in service.
- E. According to the New Testament, the believers are members one of another and are coordinated in one Body (vv. 4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12, 14; Eph. 5:30):
1. To know the Body of Christ is to realize that we are only members and that we cannot do anything without others.
 2. A Christian is not a complete entity; he is merely a member of the Body, a part.
 3. When we serve the Lord, we should serve in the position of a member, in coordination with others (1 Cor. 12:18).
- F. If we have seen the Body, we will no longer be divisive, we will not be individualistic or independent, and we will be willing to be blended, without any complaining, murmuring, or criticism but with love, forgiveness, sympathy, forbearance, and long-suffering; it is with such a Body life that there is a real impact in our service (Eph. 1:17-23; 5:23, 30).

<< DAY 5 >>

III. Our service is for the building up of the house of God (2:21-22; John 2:14-17; 14:2; Hag. 1:2-11):

- A. God wants saved and edified believers to be coordinated and built together as His dwelling place (Eph. 2:21-22):
1. Leading people to be saved and leading believers to grow in life are merely procedures; God's ultimate goal is the building up of His house.
 2. God's built-up house reveals and expresses God, gives Him the glory He deserves, and accomplishes His will so that He can have rest (John 14:2).
 3. God wants the gospel to be preached fervently, and He also wants the believers to pursue spirituality so that His house, the church, the Body of Christ, may be built up.

<< DAY 6 >>

- B. We need to care for the building up of God's house (2:14-17; 2 Cor. 11:28):
1. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, the center of His work was to build a house for God; hence, He was devoured by the zeal of God's house (John 2:17).
 2. The apostles labored for the building up of the house of God (2 Cor. 11:28).
 3. Most believers take care of their personal needs and consider themselves to be the center and the starting point (Phil. 2:20-21):
 - a. Concerning both the material realm and the spiritual realm, human beings are selfish and always want to gain something for themselves instead of considering what God desires (Matt. 6:8-13, 19-34).
 - b. If we want to be Christians who match God's desire and meet His need in this age, we cannot be trapped in ourselves; we must come out of ourselves to care for God's need (Hag. 1:2-11):
 - (1) God desires that we come out of ourselves and be delivered from our selfishness in order to care for the building up of His house (Phil. 2:21; Hag. 1:2-11).
 - (2) Instead of focusing on ourselves, we must care for the house of God.
 4. We must not focus on anything other than the work of God to build His house (Eph. 2:21-22).
 5. We serve God with a vision, according to revelation, and in the Body for the building up of the church as the house of God (John 14:2; 1 Tim. 3:15).

<< WEEK 2 — DAY 1 >>

Morning Nourishment

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

Gal. 1:12 ...Neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation by Jesus Christ.

A person who serves and works for the Lord must be called, and he must have a vision and revelation. Seeing a vision and receiving revelation are necessary matters for all the Lord's serving ones.

Paul is a pattern of a worker for the Lord in the New Testament, and he often spoke of his service....[Acts 26:19] shows that his service and work came from a vision. In order to serve God, one must have a vision from God. (The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, p. 7)

Today's Reading

To the church in Sardis the Lord said, "You have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead" (Rev. 3:1). Everything in Sardis was near the point of death (v. 2). This is the condition of the church today; it is living in name but weak to the point of death. Such a condition proves that Satan has influence in the church.

Paul's zealous service to God was actually in opposition to God and according to Satan's instigation. Some local churches are waning like the setting sun. Only a person without revelation could boast of his prayer and of his love for the Lord in such a situation. Such boasting is an indication that his zeal may actually be in opposition to God.

It is possible for us to repeat Paul's mistakes. We have been trained for many years in the church, and we serve more zealously than most Christians. Not only do we regard ourselves in this way, but even others have such a regard for us.

Satan was the source of Paul's zealous service. When we say this, some religionists will argue that Satan does not want man to be zealous for God. No one questions Satan's influence on a person who indulges in going to theaters and nightclubs. But if a person zealously attends meetings, serves God, and is an elder in the church, no one would dare speak of this activity as being from Satan. However, the Bible indicates that it is possible to zealously serve God under Satan's influence.

In John 16:2 the Lord Jesus said, "They will put you out of the synagogues; but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God." Although serving God may not be motivated by Satan, killing always comes from Satan. However, in this verse the Lord Jesus connected serving God with killing. Satan can motivate people, who believe that they are serving God, to kill. In other words, Satan can delude people into thinking that killing is a service to God.

In Paul's zealous service, he did many things contrary to the name of Jesus in order to overthrow His name, and he persecuted the church to the extent that he bound and delivered men and women to prison (Acts 8:3; 22:4). He even punished the believers in the synagogues (26:11), casting a vote against them when they were being done away with (v. 10).

In the same principle, our service to God can be used as an instrument of Satan to destroy God's move. We are not indifferent Christians who do not love or serve God; we all love and serve God zealously. However, we must bring our love for God, our service to God, and our being for the church to the Lord to see whether or not we are fulfilling His heart's desire or opposing it.

Before Paul encountered the great light on the road to Damascus, he had knowledge, religion, tradition, training, and zeal but no revelation.

In Acts 22:11 he said, "I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus." It is a great blessing to have a sense of our need to be led by others; it proves that we have light. The only thing that matters is having revelation and light. Being zealous in our love for the Lord or being an elder or a co-worker does not matter. (CWWL, 1975-1976, vol. 2, "The Central Vision for Serving the Church," pp. 12, 8-9, 12-13)

Further Reading: Our Vision—Christ and the Church, ch. 1; The Central Vision for Serving the Church, ch. 1

<< WEEK 2 — DAY 2 >>

Morning Nourishment

Acts 22:8 And I answered, Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you persecute.

10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.

When the Lord called Saul, He flashed a light around him that caused him to fall on the ground (Acts 9:3-4)...As soon as the light of God's New Testament flashed around him, he could not stand; he fell completely. His entire being and all that was constituted into his being also fell. The Old Testament fell, Judaism fell, and the law fell. Everything within him fell. (The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, p. 8)

Today's Reading

After Saul fell, he asked two questions. First, he asked, "Who are You, Lord?" (Acts 9:5; 22:8). Saul was not an atheist. He believed in God; we may even say that he believed in God very much. His belief in God was the source of his zeal for persecuting the believers. Although he was very zealous for the God of his forefathers, he did not truly know God. This shows that it is possible to have much biblical knowledge but not know God....[Saul] was zealous for God, and he knew the Scriptures, but he did not know God....Apparently, he was serving God; actually, he was opposing God. The Lord told him that he was kicking against the goads, like an ox that does not submit to its master's yoke (26:14). Saul's knowledge of God was so limited that when the light flashed around him and he fell, he did not know who was speaking to him from the heavens. He asked, "Who are You, Lord?" The Lord replied, "I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you persecute" (22:8). Saul thought he was persecuting Christians, but the Lord said that he was persecuting Him, because the Lord was living in the Christians whom Saul was persecuting....Saul thought that he was persecuting Christians, but the Lord told him that he was persecuting the Lord Himself.

With this realization, Saul immediately asked a second question: "What shall I do, Lord?" (v. 10). The first question relates to knowing the Lord; the second relates to receiving the Lord's vision. The Lord said, "Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do" (v. 10). From this point forward he began to have a vision. This vision cut him off from his previous service and brought him into the New Testament service.

Paul's way of serving God came from a heavenly vision. When he saw this vision, the things of the Old Testament came to an end, and he began to take the New Testament way. (The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, pp. 8-9)

Our service to God can be divided into service that is according to revelation or service that is natural. Service according to revelation involves meeting God, being shined upon by God, receiving revelation from God, and being burdened in spirit by God. This kind of service is not initiated by us but by God; it is not out of ourselves but out of God. We must meet God and contact God in order to have service that comes from God as the source.

Natural service is different. Natural service is according to our own ideas, views, traditions, or regulations. It also comes from copying or imitating others, and it is often initiated to simply meet the need of a certain situation. Such service comes out of ourselves or out of others but not out of God. This kind of service does not require us to meet God or contact God; it is service that we can do apart from God.

The only service that is of value is service that is done according to revelation. The most important matter in a person's serving of the Lord is revelation. Every act of our service should come out of revelation. We should not have outward acts of service to the Lord without inward revelation from the Lord. Our inward revelation must govern our outward acts. (Serving according to Revelation, pp. 7-9)

Further Reading: Serving according to Revelation, ch. 1; The Spirit and Service in Spirit, ch. 8

<< WEEK 2 – DAY 3 >>

Morning Nourishment

Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you.

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

We need a vision for the way of our service and a revelation for the life of our service. Saul's way of serving God was not sinful, but it was a way that was according to the Old Testament, Judaism, and the law. When the heavenly light flashed around him, he knew that he could no longer take his old way. His old practices had to be abandoned, and he turned completely in his way of serving God....Nevertheless, it was not enough for him to change his outward way; his inner life also needed to change. His old way was unacceptable, and his old life had to be terminated. (The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, p. 10)

Today's Reading

Many in Christianity focus on the light that flashed around Paul on his way to Damascus, but few focus on the light of life that he received. Many speak of Paul's not being disobedient to the heavenly vision, but they miss his word in Galatians 1:16 concerning God revealing His Son in him. Working for the Lord involves more than an outward way or practice; it involves the matter of an inner life as well....We need vision for our outward way and revelation for our inner life. Our way must be heavenly, whereas our life must be Christ....Although the church walks on the earth, she is not earthly; she walks a heavenly way on earth. The life of the church is also heavenly; it is Christ Himself. The church has a heavenly way and the life of Christ.

We must have vision and revelation in order to serve God. The way to serve God comes from the vision, and the life to serve God comes from revelation.

God must reveal His Son in us so that we may know the Son of God who is our life. This was the content of Paul's preaching. The source of his preaching came from a heavenly vision, and the content of his preaching came from revelation. His way was heavenly, and his content was the living Christ Himself. (The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, pp. 10-12)

Prior to Romans 12 there is no mention of how Christians should serve and live. These chapters show only that Christians were formerly sinners and that they have been justified by God and crucified with Christ in order to live in the Holy Spirit. These may seem to be individual matters. However, the Christian life and living are matters entirely related to the Body. If we truly live in the Spirit, we will immediately see that we are members of the Body (Eph. 4:4). This is the reason Romans 12 begins by telling us how to serve God in the Body, live the Body life, and function as members one of another. Even the loving of others and the prayer spoken of in verses 9 through 12 are matters in the Body. (The Ground of the Church and the Service of the Body, p. 75)

When we come to the matter of serving the Lord, we all need to be very clear that we need the Body, and we need a heavenly vision concerning the Body. May the Lord grant us all such a vision that will bring us into a full realization that we need to be in the reality of the Body, even that we cannot serve without the Body, and, in fact, that we cannot live, we cannot exist spiritually in life, outside the Body. Only by such a heavenly vision of the Body can we be brought into the genuine service of the Lord. (CWML, 1969, vol. 1, "To Serve in the Human Spirit," p. 7)

The entire Christian living is a living in the Body, and the entire Christian service is a service carried out in the Body. To function as members in the Body is not only to serve but even to live. This is the Christian living and service spoken of in Romans 12 through 16. (The Ground of the Church and the Service of the Body, p. 75)

Further Reading: The Vision, Ministry, and Leading of the Lord's Serving Ones, ch. 1; The Ground of the Church and the Service of the Body, pp. 71-76

<< WEEK 2 – DAY 4 >>

Morning Nourishment

Rom. 12:4-5 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

Strictly speaking, in the New Testament the service is not touched clearly and definitely until Romans 12. In this chapter both the words service and serving are used. In Romans 12:1 Paul exhorts us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is our reasonable service. In verse 7 he mentions the service, and in verse 11 he speaks of serving the Lord as a slave. It is not until Romans 12 that the matter of service is so definitely revealed to us. From this chapter we can realize that, as Christians, our service to the Lord must be in the Body. The Christian service is not something individual; it is something corporate. The Christian service is something of the Body, in the Body, with the Body, and for the Body. (To Serve in the Human Spirit, p. 7)

Today's Reading

If we are going to serve the Lord, our service must be in the Body. We are burdened that all of us may be brought into this heavenly vision, the vision that no one can serve the Lord without the Body. All of our service must be in the Body because, as Christians, we all have been regenerated to be members of the Body. Each one of us is one member of the Body. Not one of us is a complete unit, a complete person, a complete being—not one of us alone is the Body. All of us have been re-created, regenerated, to be members of the Body. (To Serve in the Human Spirit, pp. 7-8)

In order to serve God, we...need to be in the Body. In fact, to be in the church is to be in the Body because the church is the Body of Christ. However, there is a slight difference. With respect to serving in the church, the emphasis is on the setting for service, but with respect to serving in the Body, the emphasis is on the coordination in service. If we have the setting, we will not be aimless, and if we have the coordination, we will not be individualistic. If we do not serve in the church, we are a person without a proper setting, serving aimlessly, and if we do not serve in the Body, we are a person who is without coordination, serving individualistically. (Lessons for New Believers, p. 275)

According to the New Testament, the believers are members one of another and are coordinated in one Body. A Christian is not a complete entity; he is merely a member of the Body, a part. Hence, when we serve the Lord, we should serve in the position of a member, in coordination with others. Just as a member cannot function apart from the other members in a body, so also we cannot have an individualistic service in the church.

We must be clear that our service in the church is the service of the Body. Once we are separated from the Body, there cannot be any service. (Service for the Building Up of the Church, p. 12)

If you have seen the Body, you will no longer be divisive, you will not be individualistic, and you will be willing to be blended, without any complaining, murmuring, or criticism, but with love, forgiveness, sympathy, forbearance, and long-suffering. If such is the case, you will have the Body life. It is with such a Body life that there is a real impact in our service. Although there may be times that the Body is weak, it is only out of the genuine Body life that there can come the service to the Lord with a real impact. In John 17:21-23 the Lord Jesus said that if all the believers would be one as the Triune God is one, as He and the Father are one, the world would believe. This is the impact of the oneness. If the believers are perfected into one, by this the world will know that the Son has been sent by the Father. The oneness is the impact that will cause the world to believe. Being blended together is the power of the service; the real power in the service comes out of being blended together. (CWWL, 1969, vol. 1, "To Serve in the Human Spirit," p. 26)

Further Reading: Lessons for New Believers, Isn. 19; CWWN, vol. 44, "The Mystery of Christ," pp. 794-796

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Morning Nourishment

Eph. 2:21-22 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

It is not sufficient for God's children to preach the gospel and to be spiritual; God wants more than this. He has another category of work. The first two categories of His work are for the third and final category, which is to build up His children into His house in every locality. God wants to establish His house wherever His children are. The church in every locality is an expression of God's house. In this age God wants us to preach the gospel in order to save sinners. He also wants us to lead the new believers to be spiritual for the building up of His house. Preaching the gospel is to gain material for the building of God's house, and leading believers to pursue the Lord and to be edified deals with the material by making it suitable for the building. (The Service for Building Up the House of God, p. 8)

Today's Reading

In order to build a house, a person must first gather and then prepare materials, after which the materials can be built together into a house. God raises up believers to preach the gospel so that He may obtain materials for His building. Through the Spirit and His ministers, God then perfects and edifies the new believers so that they may be fit for His building. Therefore, both leading people to be saved and leading believers to grow in life are merely procedures. God's ultimate goal is the building up of His house.

If the church can be built up in every locality as the house of God, it will meet God's need as well as man's need. Such a house reveals and expresses God, gives Him the glory He deserves, and accomplishes His will so that He can have rest. When believers rise up to pursue God, His house can meet their need and give them satisfaction. In this house people can touch God, sense warmth, and find rest. God's house is the only place that can give man satisfaction. Although a person may have a home, that home cannot satisfy his inner need. It is not until he enters into God's house that his inner being will be satisfied.

When God builds up the believers in every locality into His house, His children can then tell others that in order to meet God, to know God, to receive peace and rest, to obtain spiritual food and satisfaction, to be enlightened, and to know God's way, they must come to this house, which is the church of God. If a church in a locality is built up, people will sense that God is present. They will have rest, be fed, hear His speaking, and be in His presence. Furthermore, they will know God. God is omnipresent, but if we want to meet God, we must come to His house. This is what God desires to accomplish in this age. God wants the gospel to be preached fervently, and He also wants the believers to pursue spirituality so that His house, the church, the Body of Christ, may be built up.

As God's serving ones, we often see only the first two matters. We know the importance of preaching the gospel and of pursuing spirituality, but we do not know the importance of building up the house of God. This may be likened to collecting materials and preparing them without building a house. We often appreciate persons who preach the gospel and pursue spirituality, thinking that this is quite precious, but we do not see the ultimate goal. We do not see that God's desire is to have a house. This is His purpose. God wants saved and edified believers to be coordinated and built together as His dwelling place.

We are not the only persons who are unclear concerning this matter. Nearly every exposition of the Bible and most spiritual writings cover only the first two matters. Pursuing spirituality and living in the Lord are considered to be the peak of the Christian life. Seldom have believers been told that God wants to obtain an expression of His house in every locality. (The Service for Building Up the House of God, pp. 8-9)

Further Reading: The Service for Building Up the House of God, ch. 1; CWWL, 1965, vol. 3, "The Heavenly Vision," ch. 1

<< WEEK 2 – DAY 6 >>

Morning Nourishment

2 Cor. 11:28 Apart from the things which have not been mentioned, there is this: the crowd of cares pressing upon me daily, the anxious concern for all the churches.

John 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, “The zeal of Your house shall devour Me.”

When the Lord was on the earth, the center of His work was to build a house for God. Hence, He was devoured by the zeal of God’s house. Likewise, when the apostles were working for the Lord on the earth, the center of their work was to build up the house of God...In 2 Corinthians [11:28] the apostle Paul was not referring to the cares of individual saints but to the cares of all the churches. He had an anxious concern for all the churches. Although caring for the churches includes caring for the saints, there is a great difference between caring for the churches and caring for the saints individually. (The Vision, Type, and Practice of the Building Up of the Church, p. 99)

Today’s Reading

According to my observation, most of God’s children listen to His words in the same way that unbelievers listen to the gospel. Most believers take care of their personal needs and consider themselves to be the center and the starting point. They happily receive messages concerning God’s comforting, visitation, deliverance, peace, and prosperity. They also respond to messages concerning how to overcome, be spiritual, be sanctified, be well pleasing to God, or grow in life. However, not many respond to or are interested in a message concerning God’s need for a house or for men to be built up as His resting place. This is because human beings always care for their personal needs. Concerning both the material realm and the spiritual realm, human beings are selfish and always want to gain something for themselves instead of considering what God desires.

From the negative point of view, God’s work and His speaking are concerning man’s need, but from the positive point of view, they are concerning His need. God needs man, and He needs to gain something constituted of man. God’s need is greater than man’s need and has existed in the universe since eternity past. Our need simply reflects God’s need. Our dissatisfaction reflects His dissatisfaction, and our need for rest and joy reflects His need for rest and joy.

It is regrettable that we often take care of only our needs, not God’s need. If we want to be Christians who match God’s desire and meet His need in this age, we cannot be trapped in ourselves. We must come out of ourselves to care for God’s need; otherwise, we will never be built by God...God desires that we come out of ourselves and our selfishness in order to care for the building up of His house. Those who are spiritually experienced know that God will care for us if we are willing to take care of others for His building. But if we do everything for ourselves and take care only of ourselves, we will not be built up in God’s house.

Instead of focusing on ourselves, we must care for the house of God. I enjoy reading the Bible, and if I had the time to do so, I could spend my whole life reading the Bible. However, I cannot do this and also take care of the needs of the saints. There are so many believers who need to be ministered to; hence, I cannot shut myself up in a room in order to read the Bible. I can testify that the light I have received from God far surpasses what I could have received in my personal study.

We must not focus on anything other than the work of God to build His house in the universe. Although we work with the young people, our goal is the building up of the house of God, not the young people...May the Lord have mercy on us so that we would be devoured by a zeal for the house of God and so that we would be concerned for all the churches (John 2:17; 2 Cor. 11:28). (The Vision, Type, and Practice of the Building Up of the Church, pp. 99-101, 103, 107)

Further Reading: The Vision, Type, and Practice of the Building Up of the Church, ch. 9; The Glorious Vision and the Way of the Cross, ch. 1

WEEK 2 — HYMN

For the Church should be our service

Service — For the Church

914

1. For the Church should be our serv - ice, 'Tis the per - fect will of
God; 'Tis the on - ly way of work - ing Which the Lord's a - pos - tles
trod. (C) For the Church should be our serv - ice, Not our aims to sat - is -
fy; This, the per - fect will of God is, And with it we must com - ply.

Chorus

2. For 'tis God's eternal purpose
That the Church His vessel be;
He intends that all our service
Build His Church continually.

3. All the gifted persons given
To the Body by the Head
Are to aid the Church's building,
That to fulness she be led.

4. All the gifts and all the functions,
All the spirit's power shown,
All the ministries are given
For the Church and that alone.

5. All the preaching of the Gospel,
All the teaching ministry,
Every other kind of service
For the church alone should be.

6. Ministry is for the Churches,
Not the Church for ministry;
All the lampstands are the Churches,
Not a form of ministry.

7. This will keep the Church's oneness,
Saving us from every sect;
This will ever test our motives,
And our aim will thus correct.

8. Lord, deliver us from our work,
From the work of any sect;
For Thy Church alone we'd labor
And its building up effect.