

**Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**  
**Message Two : The Apostolic Ministry in Cooperation with Christ's Heavenly**  
**Ministry to Shepherd the Church of God as His Flock for the Building Up of**  
**the Body of Christ**

**I. Overview :**

Psalms 22 through 24 reveals Christ's death, resurrection, producing His church, being the Shepherd to shepherd the church, and coming back as the King to regain the entire earth through the church as His Body. John 21 reveals the apostolic ministry in cooperation with Christ's heavenly ministry. In John 10 the Lord unveiled that He was the good Shepherd and commissioned Peter to feed His lambs and shepherd His sheep after His resurrection and before His ascension. In Acts 20 Paul told the elders in Ephesus, "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock,...to shepherd the church of God." To pasture the flock is even referred to in Song of Songs, we must take the shepherding way to preach the gospel and revive the church and the organic maintenance of the golden lampstand is for producing the overcomes through His organic shepherding.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment :**

Day 1 --

A. Explain how Psalms 22-24 reveals Christ?

In Psalm 22 we see Christ's death, His resurrection, and His many brothers produced in His resurrection to form His church. Psalm 23 is concerning Christ as the Shepherd. This Shepherd today is in His resurrection. Psalm 24 is concerning Christ as the coming King in God's kingdom.

B. Expound the apostolic ministry in cooperation with Christ's heavenly ministry in John 21.

In His Heavenly ministry Christ is shepherding people, and we need to cooperate with Him by shepherding people. Without shepherding, our work cannot be effective. We must learn all the truths, then contact people to shepherd them. This is the way to be fruitful, to have the multiplication and the increase.

Praying Verse: John 21:16.

Day 2 --

A. Explain the Lord's shepherding in His earthly and heavenly ministries.

Firstly in His earthly ministry, the Lord saw the Israelites like sheep not having a shepherd. The Lord prayed, and God told Him to appoint twelve apostles that they might take care of the sheep of God. Secondly in His heavenly ministry, He took care of the church of God, issuing in His Body.

B. What are the main purpose and goal of the apostolic ministry incorporated with Christ's heavenly ministry?

The main purpose and goal are to build up the Body of Christ, which will consummate the New Jerusalem for the accomplishment of the eternal economy of God. In view of the eternal economy of God, there is the tendency through the whole writing of John to have the church of God issuing in the Body of Christ for the accomplishment of God's eternal economy.

Praying Verse: I Peter 2:25.

Day 3 --

A. Describe the shepherding referred to in Song of Songs, Old Testament.

In Song of Songs 1:7a says, "Tell me, you who my soul loves, Where do you pasture your flock?" 2:16 says, "My beloved is mine, and I am his; He pastures his flock among the lilies." 6:3 says, "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine; He pastures his flock among the lilies." To shepherd the believers is very crucial for their growth in life.

B. How can we flock people whom we have shepherded together?

The Lord would join Gentile believers together with the Jewish believers to be one flock. We should learn to feed, to shepherd, and to flock together. All the churches have to learn how to flock together so that they can be blent together and to be subdued.

Praying Verse: Heb. 13:20.

Day 4 --

A. How do we see that Christ is the best model of cherishing and nourishing in Revelation 1?

Verses 12 and 13 show that Christ is taking care of the lampstands by being the Son of Man with a long garment. This garment is the priestly robe, which shows that Christ is our great High Priest. He is also girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle. The Son of Man is in His humanity, and the golden girdle signifies His divinity. This golden girdle is on His breasts, which are a sign of love.

B. Compare the different of being girded at the loins and at the breasts?

To be girded at the loins is to be strengthened for the work. Christ has finished His divine work in producing the churches. Now by His love He is caring for the churches which He has produced. This is why He is girded at the breasts. Today Christ is our High Priest taking care of His churches with the girdle not on His loins but on His breasts, signifying love.

Praying Verse: Rev. 1:13.

Day 5 --

A. How does Christ care for the lampstands by trimming the wicks of the lamps?

When the wick was burned out, it became charred and black, so the priest had to come to cut off the black part of the wick. The charred part of the wick, the snuff, signifies things that are not according to God's purpose which need to be cut off, such as our flesh, our natural man, our self, and our old creation. He is the High Priest in His humanity taking care of us by cherishing us.

B. How do we experience that every morning the priests need to trim the charred wicks, and keep them supplied with oil?

To trim is to cut off the charred ends; to add oil is to supply what is needed. Our old religious concepts are against God's economy and need to be trimmed away. These concepts are black, charred, dark, lukewarmness, religion, worldliness, and the evils of Jezebel.

Praying Verse: Exo. 25:38.

Day 6 --

A. Today in which two ways He is taking care of the churches in the recovery?

He sympathizes with our weakness because He was tempted in all respects like us. He is cherishing us in His humanity. Meanwhile, He is nourishing us in His divinity with all the positive aspects of His person revealed in the seven epistles to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3.

B. What will you experience if Christ comes and walks through your church?

You will be enlightened and rebuked. The walking Christ became the speaking Spirit. Christ is the Spirit. By His speaking you are supplied with the tree of life and the hidden manna. Then you are transformed. Little by little the muddy things become a white stone, justified, accepted, and approved by God for the building up of His dwelling place.

Praying Verse: Rev. 2:7.

### **III. Conclusion :**

John 21 is the completion and consummation of the Gospel of John; it consummates the entire Gospel of John by showing that Christ's heavenly ministry and the apostles' ministry on the earth cooperate together to carry out God's economy. Here, the Lord commissions Peter, that means to commission us as well. Note that it is when the Lord called Peter, he was going back to do his old fishing job with his six brothers in a weak, backslide spiritual condition. This should change our concept that we always think we must be mature in life, strong and prevailing in spirit, then we may shepherd others. Praise the Lord! We all can feed His lambs (new believers and young ones), shepherd His sheep (middle age saints), and feed His sheep (older saints) in the church.