

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Eight : The Status of the Church -- the New Man

I. Overview :

The church, the Body of Christ, is the one new man to accomplish God's eternal purpose; the one new man fulfills the twofold purpose of expressing God and dealing with God's enemy. The one new man was created through Christ's death on the cross; first our natural man was crucified by Christ, and then through the crossing out of the old man, Christ imparted the divine element into us, causing us to become a new entity. In this new man Christ is all and in all. In the one new man, Christ is all the members and is in all the members. we need to see that all the local churches in the different countries are one new man. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to bring forth the one new man, who will conclude this age, usher in the kingdom of God, and bring Christ, the King, back to this earth.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Explain the man in Gen. 1:26 typifying the new man in a new creation to fulfill God's purpose.

God's creation of man in Gen. 1 is a picture of the new man in God's new creation. God created man in His own image and then gave man His dominion. God's positive intention is that man would express Him, whereas God's negative intention is that man would deal with God's enemy, Satan. God will not deal with Satan directly Himself; instead, He will deal with him by the new man.

B. How to be seen in Eph. 2:15, on the cross Christ created one new man?

In Eph. 2:15, the cross of Christ not only destroys and kills but also generates and brings in something divine. The new man was created by Christ with two kinds of materials. The first is the redeemed created man; the second is the divine element. On the cross Christ put these two materials together to produce a new man.

Day 2 --

A. Expound in Eph. 2:15, the phrase "in Himself".

Apart from being in Him, we could not have been created into the new man, because in ourselves we do not have the divine essence, which is the element of the new man. It is possible to have this essence only in Christ. In fact, Christ Himself is this essence, this element.

B. Explain the purpose of Paul writing the book of Colossians.

The main point in the book of Colossians is the fact that in the eyes of God nothing counts except Christ. This fact excludes both good things and bad things, both sinful things and cultured things. The book of Colossians teaches us that in the church life Christ must be all and in all.

Day 3 --

A. What does Paul impress us in 1 Corinthians 1:1-9?

In God's economy, Christ is the unique centre. God's intention is to make Christ His Son the center of His economy and also to make Him everything to all the believers. For this reason Paul tells us that Christ is both theirs and ours and that we have been called into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

B. How can we have the reality of the new man?

If you are not in Christ, you are through with this new man. If you are not in Christ, you have no share, no part, in this new man. Even if you are in Christ, yet you do not live by Christ, you have a problem related to this new man. We are here living Christ. Christ is our life, Christ is our nature, and Christ is our person.

Day 4 --

A. What do these words imply that in the new man Christ is all?

In the church as the new man, Christ is everything. This implies that He is every brother and every sister. This also implies that every brother and sister must be constituted of Christ. In the new man there cannot be Jewish members and Gentile members; there can only be Christ-members. He will be every member, every part, of the new man.

B. Expound the spiritual significance in Colossians 3:11.

In the new man there is no place, no room, for any natural person. There is no place for regional, cultural, or national distinctions. In the new man there cannot be Chinese or Americans. Likewise, in the new man there is no room for any race, nationality, culture, or social status. In the one new man there is room only for Christ. Christ surely is all the members of the new man.

Day 5 --

A. Why do Paul say that Christ is all and also need to say that Christ is in all?

If Paul did not say that Christ is in all, only that He is all, then we may think that in the new man Christ is needed and that we are not needed. On the one hand, the Bible does say that in the new man there is no place for the natural person because Christ is all the members. Yet, on the other hand, Paul says that Christ is in the members. The fact that Christ is in the members of the new man indicates that the members still exist.

B. When we practise the new man, what to do on the alert and reminders?

Every Christian denomination is a "nation". Even every free group is a nation, an empire. In this situation there could never be the oneness. In the Lord's recove, among all the local churches, there should be no "nations". On the whole earth all the local churches are not "nations" but one new man. If we have many "nations", spontaneously there will be organization. But if we do not have such nations, we will be simply, singly, and uniquely the one new man.

Day 6 --

A. Why do we need a vision of a new man for saving us from all other than Christ?

There will be no need to merely speak about oneness. We will simply live out Christ. This will be the ultimate church life, a universal new man living out Christ. This will conclude this age, usher in the kingdom, and bring Christ back. Today is the day to have a new man constituted with all the local churches, including all the saints as one in Christ, who is all and in all.

B. Explain how to put off the old man and put on the new man?

To put off the old man is to put off the divided and scattered man. To put on the new man is to put on the gathered and one new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality. We all must be renewed in the spirit of their mind to become the one new man, taking Him as their person and living by Him. This is what the Lord wants today.

III. Conclusion :

The church is the Body of Christ, taking Christ as its life and also for expressing God to fulfill God's purpose. The church is the new man, which is its highest revelation; it takes Christ as its person and also for God's move to deal with the enemy and bring in God's kingdom. In Gen. 1:26, the man God created is just a type. Actually the real man is the new man Christ created on the cross, who does fulfill the twofold purpose of having God's image to express Him and His dominion to represent Him. The new man is shown in Colossians 3:11, here we see that there is no place for any race, nationality, religion, culture, or social status, but only Christ is all and in all; in these processes are to put off the old man, to put on the new man, to be renewed in the spirit of our mind, and to spread the spirit into the mind of the soul by exercising our spirit.