

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day prophesying

Message Ten : Christ as the Peace between God and God's People for Their Co-enjoyment in Fellowship to Have the Vital-group Church Life and to Consummate in the New Jerusalem as the Ultimate Peace Offering

I. Overview :

The issue of enjoying Christ as our burnt offering, our meal offering, our sin offering, and our trespass offering is the enjoyment of Christ as the peace offering. The only way to have peace is to enjoy Christ every day; we should enjoy Christ today and forget about yesterday and about tomorrow because only Christ is the peace between God and God's people. The peace offering is illustrated in Luke 15 by the fattened calf as a peaceful enjoyment between the father and the prodigal son. Paul considers forbearance and the lack of anxiety as the first two aspects of the expression of a life that lives Christ. The church life as a house of feasting is a feast of Christ as the peace offering. Our enjoyment of Christ as our peace offering in our daily life and in the church life consummates in the New Jerusalem as the ultimate peace offering.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Why will all these offerings eventually issue in the New Jerusalem?

The word in Leviticus concerning the offerings was spoken by the Lord in the Tent of Meeting. Through God's wonderful speaking, that little Tent of Meeting will gradually issue in the New Jerusalem. There in the New Jerusalem we will surely realize that Christ is our burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, sin offering, trespass offering, wave offering, and heave offering.

B. Why is the only way to get peace to enjoy Christ every day?

We should not try to have peace by our own effort. The more we try in ourselves to have peace, the less peace we will have. The only way to have peace is to enjoy Christ every day. In the morning we should take Christ as our burnt offering and offer Him to satisfy God. Then we should take Him as our daily food to meet that day's particular need.

Day 2 --

A. What does it signify that the one who offers the peace offering needs to lay his hand on the head of the offering?

The one who offered the peace offering was to lay his hand on the head of the offering. This signifies the union of the offerer with the offering. Our relationship with Christ is a matter of identification. It is even more than union. We become Him and He becomes us. Our relationship with Christ is a matter not of replacement but of being one with Him.

B. What is implied by Phil. 4:12, "I have learned the secret"?

Learned the secret here in verse 12 refers to a person's being initiated into a secret society with instruction in its rudimentary principles. After Paul was converted to Christ, he was initiated into Christ and the Body of Christ. He then learned the secret of how to take Christ as life, how to live Christ, how to magnify Christ, how to gain Christ, and how to have the church life.

Day 3

A. Explain what forbearance means and how to apply it

Forbearance includes peacefulness, mildness, and gentleness. But to be forbearing means that we are satisfied with less than our due. Alford says that the Greek word for forbearance means to not be strict with respect to legal rights. For example, a certain thing may be ours, but we do not claim it according to strict, legal right. This is forbearance.

B. How is forbearance an all-inclusive Christian virtue?

From the standpoint of our practical Christian experience, the focus of the Christian life is forbearance. Forbearance is an all-inclusive Christian virtue. It includes love, patience, kindness, humility, compassion, considerateness, and submissiveness, a willingness to yield. If we have such an all-inclusive virtue, we shall also have righteousness and holiness.

Day 4 –

A. How to experience forbearance in our speaking?

If we are forbearing, we shall have the wisdom and the ability to supply others with what they need. We shall also have the full knowledge of what to say to them and when to say it. For example, a parent who is forbearing will know how and when to speak to his children. The forbearance we exercise and make known to others comes from God.

B. Why can only Christ be our forbearance ?

The virtue of forbearance is all-inclusive. Only the Lord Jesus lived a life full of forbearance, and only Christ can be our perfect forbearance today. To make known our forbearance is to live a life which expresses Christ; it is to express the Christ by whom we live. Such a life is Christ Himself as the totality of all human virtues. This is Christ as our forbearance.

Day 5 --

A. Explain the significance of that Paul in Phil.4:5 says, “The Lord is near.”

The Lord is near, which refers to the Lord’s presence with us; He is with us. When we live Him, taking Him as our pattern and counting all things loss in order to gain Him, we sense that He is present with us. He is near both in space and in time. In space, He is close to us, ready to help; in time, He is at hand, coming soon.

B. Expound the meaning of Phil. 4:6, " in everything by prayer”

The words in everything refer to the many different things which happen to us day by day. Under the Lord’s blessing, many positive things happen, and we hear good news. However, we also experience negative things and hear bad news. Nevertheless, in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, we should make our requests known to God.

Day 6 --

A. Explain where the peace offering is in the Gospel of John?

In this Gospel, there needs two steps, the initial step and the consummate step. The initial fulfillment is in John 12, where there was a feast prepared in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. When they were feasting, that was a miniature of the fulfillment of the peace offering. The consummate fulfillment of the peace offering was after His resurrection, He came back and said to them, "Peace be to you".

B. Why do we say Jerusalem being the foundation of peace?

The title Jerusalem is composed of two Hebrew words— Jeru means “foundation,” and Salem means “peace.”...Salem refers to peace, and Jeru refers to something founded, something built, something laid as a foundation. Thus, Jerusalem means “the foundation of peace.” Jerusalem is something grounded, founded, and safeguarded in peace.

III. Conclusion :

The issue of enjoying Christ as the four basic offerings is the enjoyment of Christ as the peace offering. The way to get peace is to enjoy Christ every day; we should enjoy Christ today and forget about yesterday and about tomorrow. We have to lay our hand on Him just today and even right now. We need to learn to let our requests be made known to God in any environment; practice speaking with Him and conferring with Him in everything, then spontaneously we will live Christ, magnify Christ, and gain Christ. The Lord is near; with respect to space, He has become the Spirit, as long as call on Him, we may enjoy Him; with regard to time, He is at hand, coming soon. Hymn 303:4 says, "How little opportunity has been given to Him, all opportunities are about to pass, and we must unite with Him in all our perplexities".