

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message One : Propagating the Resurrected Christ as the Firstborn Son according to the Promise Made to the Fathers

I. Overview:

The word concerning Jesus in Acts 13, Paul says that He is the seed of David according to God's promise, a Savior to Israel, promising to the fathers, and God having fulfilled this promise by raising up Jesus. He was begotten by God in His resurrection to be the firstborn Son of God among many brothers and to be the life-dispenser for the propagation of life. Through His becoming the firstborn Son of God in resurrection, the divine life has been dispensed into all His believers to bring forth the propagation of the life that is embodied in Him. The resurrected Christ is the holy and faithful things of David as the gift from God. Through the One who is the firstborn Son, forgiveness of sins has been announced to us, and through this One we are justified.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What is God's intention we have seen in 2 Samuel 7:12?

Here God was actually telling David that instead of building something for God, David needed God to build His Son into him. God's desire was to work Himself in Christ into David's humanity to be his life, nature, and constitution. In this way Christ, the Son of God, would become everything to David, including his house and his seed.

B. Expound what the spiritual significance is in Psalms 2:7.

Christ as the Firstborn of God was promised to the fathers, and God fulfilled this promise to their children in raising up Jesus. Resurrection was a birth to the man Jesus. He was begotten by God in His resurrection to be the firstborn Son of God among many brothers. We need to realize that the Lord's resurrection was His birth.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what the two births of the Lord Jesus are.

First, He was born of Mary to be the Son of Man. Then thirty-three and a half years later He was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. Through resurrection He had a second birth. Therefore, in His first birth He was born of Mary to be the Son of Man, and in His second birth He was born in resurrection to be the Son of God.

B. Why do we say "God is triune-Father, Son, Spirit-and all three are eternal"?

Being eternal means having no beginning and no ending. A circle has no beginning and no ending, and it's difficult to tell whether one point on a circle comes before or after another point. In the same way the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are all eternal, having no beginning or ending. Hebrews 7:3 tells us that the Son of God is eternal, having neither beginning of days nor end of life. The Bible says that all three are eternal.

Day 3 —

A. How do we see Acts 13:33, Christ was born as God's son in resurrection?

The only begotten Son of God in eternity past possessed only divinity without humanity. However, through the process of incarnation He put on humanity. In resurrection He still remained the Son of God according to His divinity, but the humanity that He put on in incarnation was also brought into resurrection to share in the sonship, as well to be God's firstborn Son with both divinity and humanity.

B. What are the two respects of Christ being the Son of God today?

He is God's only begotten Son, and He is also God's firstborn Son. If He were only God's only begotten Son, He could not have any brothers. However, in His incarnation Christ put on humanity, and through resurrection He brought this humanity into sonship. He became God's firstborn Son with both divinity and humanity. Now we are the many sons of God being conformed to the image of His firstborn Son.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the meaning with purpose of His being born as God's firstborn Son.

Through His becoming the firstborn Son of God in resurrection, the divine life has been dispensed into all of His believers to bring forth the propagation of the life which is embodied in Him. Through His birth in resurrection, Christ became the firstborn Son of God for the propagation of the divine life. We all need to see that being born as the firstborn Son of God was a great work.

B. Why do we say that Paul's thought in Acts 13:33 and 34 is very deep?

The resurrected Christ, who is God's firstborn Son brought forth through His resurrection, is the holy and faithful things. Here Paul indicates that the resurrected Christ is not only our Savior bringing us God's salvation and that He is not only the firstborn Son of God. This resurrected One is also the holy and faithful things as a gift given to us by God.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the holy and faithful things are all the aspects of what Christ is.

According to the New Testament, Christ is life, light, grace, righteousness, holiness, sanctification, and justification. He is also the bread of life and the living water. Furthermore, the holy and faithful things include all the aspects of Christ unveiled in 1 Corinthians. We see many more aspects of Christ in the Gospel of John. Oh, how much Christ is to us as the holy and faithful things!

B. How's in the Old Testament the holy and faithful things regarded as mercies?

Mercy implies both love and grace, but it reaches further than love. Where love and grace cannot reach, mercy can reach. All the holy and faithful things are Christ Himself as mercies to us. Life is a mercy, and light is also a mercy. A husband's love for his wife and the wife's submission to her husband are Christ as mercies to us.

Day 6 —

A. Who is this One, of whom Paul in Acts 15:38-39 speaks?

This is the One who has been resurrected to be God's firstborn Son, the many holy and faithful things. Therefore, through the One who is the holy and faithful things as God's mercies to us, we are forgiven and justified. Through the One who is the firstborn Son, forgiveness of sins has been announced to us. And through this One we are justified from all the things.

B. How's both forgiveness and justification being mercies from God to us?

These mercies are aspects of the resurrected Christ. Both forgiveness and justification are aspects of Christ Himself as mercies from God to us, and these mercies are holy and faithful things. To be sure, forgiveness and justification are gifts of God, and they certainly are holy and faithful things. You shall see that forgiveness and justification are not common, rather they are holy.

III. Conclusion:

This message emphasizes very much on the difference between the only begotten Son of God and the firstborn Son of God. The only begotten Son of God possessed only divinity without humanity as the embodiment of the God's divine life. But through the process of incarnation, He put on humanity to become a God-man, that is His first birth. In this first birth, Christ was born as the Son of Man having no any brothers. In His second birth He was born as the firstborn Son of God through His resurrection. And also He brought this humanity into sonship to become God's firstborn Son with both divinity and humanity. We His believers as God's many sons also possess both the human nature and the divine nature. Now day by day we are being conformed to the image of God's firstborn Son.