

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Seven: Being Fully Reconciled to God and Enlarged in Heart to Represent God Rightly in His Economy

I. Overview:

In order to represent God in His economy, we need to be fully reconciled to God. How large our heart is depends on the degree of our reconciliation to God. When we have been fully reconciled to God and have been enlarged in heart, we can represent God rightly in His economy. Because the apostle Paul had been fully reconciled to God and enlarged in heart, he was qualified to be an ambassador of Christ, representing God. We need to learn a serious lesson from the one time that Moses failed to represent God. In being angry with the people, Moses failed to sanctify God; and in striking the rock twice, he did not keep God's word in His economy.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. How were we reconciled to God as we were sinners and enemies of Him?

Before we were saved, we were enemies of God, and there was no peace between us and God. Instead of peace, we were at enmity with God. But when we repented and believed in the Lord Jesus, His blood washed away our sins, and we received God's forgiveness. As a result, we were justified by God and reconciled to Him. Having been reconciled to God in this way, there was no longer enmity between us and God.

B. Explain how Paul was committed with the ministry of reconciliation.

Paul was commissioned with the work of bringing the believers into God in a way that was absolute and practical. Although the Corinthian believers had been saved and born of God, they were not living in Him. For this reason, concerning many items in their daily living, they were outside of God. Therefore, Paul was burdened to bring them into God. This is to reconcile them to God.

Day 2 —

A. What are the two steps for men to be fully reconciled to God?

The first step is as sinners to be reconciled to God from sin. This is the objective aspect of Christ's death. In this aspect He bore our sins on the cross that they might be judged by God upon Him for us. The second step is as believers living in the natural life to be reconciled to God from the flesh. For this purpose Christ died for us. This is the subjective aspect of Christ's death. Christ died for us the persons that we may live to Him.

B. Why's the 2nd step of reconciliation much deeper than the 1st step?

The second step of reconciliation takes place within the Holy Place inside the tabernacle. Instead of taking place once for all, this kind of reconciliation is continuous. In order that we may be reconciled to God in full, the Father exposes our natural life. As a result, we condemn our natural being and apply the cross subjectively. Then as our natural man is crossed out, we experience the second step of reconciliation.

Day 3 —

A. Why do we need to be enlarged in our heart, being fully reconciled to God?

To be enlarged in our heart requires the aspects of the all-fitting life covered in 2 Cor. 6:3-10. It requires the 18 items to experience God's power. It also requires the 3 pairs starting with "through": through the weapons of righteousness, through glory and dishonor, through evil report and good report. And, it requires another 7 pairs with "as": as deceivers and yet true, as...If we have all these characteristics of the all-fitting life, we have truly been enlarged.

B. Expound how large our heart depends on the degree of reconciliation to God.

When we become enlarged in our heart, we should not become loose. Rather, we should continue to be strict and straight concerning ourselves, but we should not apply this principle to others. For example, our attitude may be that if a certain one

makes a mistake, we should have nothing to do with him unless he repents. This is a sign of narrowness, which exposes that we have been reconciled to God only partially. How large our heart is depends on the degree of our reconciliation to God.

Day 4 —

A. Why's a minister of the new covenant qualified to bring believers back to God?

Paul and the other ministers of the new covenant, those who had been constituted of the processed Triune God and who were mature in life, were no doubt in the Holy of Holies. They lived in the spirit, and they were ripe, ready to be raptured. Their only goal was to please the Lord by living to Him. Spontaneously, being such persons, they were able to bring others thoroughly back to God.

B. Why is Christ's ambassador having the highest authority in the universe?

The highest authority in this universe is God, and God has given all authority in heaven and on earth to Christ. For this highest authority there is the need of some ambassadors on this earth who are qualified to represent Him. First, we need to be captured by Christ, and eventually, we need to become a representative of Christ on this earth to deal with the earthly nations as an ambassador.

Day 5 —

A. How did Paul forgive that brother who sinned a gross sin?

In 2 Corinthians 2:10, Paul forgave the sinning brother in the face of Christ. The face was referring to the part around the eyes; the look as the index of the inward thoughts and feelings, which shows forth and manifests the whole person. This indicates that the apostle was one who lived and acted in the presence of Christ, according to the index of His whole person, expressed in His eyes.

B. What does it mean, "Moses failed to sanctify God...."?

Moses who was such a meek person became angry at the children of Israel at one time. God had told him to take the rod and speak to the rock that it may yield its water. However, in his anger Moses said to the people, "You rebels". Moses failed to sanctify God, making Him holy and separating from all the false gods. In being angry with the people, Moses failed to sanctify God, that is, made Him common.

Day 6 —

A. How do you know God-appointed deputy authorities?

God's children must learn to know authority and find out to whom they should submit. God upholds and maintains the whole universe with His authority. He also begets His children with His authority and binds them together with His authority. Therefore, if a man is free from any God-appointed deputy authority, he cannot accomplish God's work on earth today.

B. What are the spiritual qualifications of being a deputy authority of God?

The qualification of an authority is based on one's consciousness of his inability and unsuitability. We should always stand in the position of a slave. The less ambition a man has and the more he humbles himself before the Lord, the more useful he is in the eyes of the Lord. We should not try to seize any fleshly authority with fleshly hands. We should be the servants of all. Then when God commits certain responsibilities to us, we will learn to represent Him.

III. Conclusion:

We need to learn a serious lesson from the experience of Moses in Numbers 20. Especially when we serve and coordinate with the saints in church life, being angered by them, we should not get angry with them or accuse our brothers before God; this would offend God as we failed to sanctify Him. In order to be a deputy authority of God, one of the things is that we may be able to withstand all the opposition. We need to learn how Moses fell on his face in front of God whenever the people of God had been complaining to him, he never vindicated himself but just waiting God's instructions and guidance. We must always practice confessing and forgiving in the church life; you offend people, confessing to them or others have offended you, learning forgiveness which is to forget.