

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Eight: How One Ought to Conduct Himself in the Church in order to Bring Forth the One New Man

I. Overview :

First Timothy 3:15 says, "If I delay, ...you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God". If we want to clearly know what the church is and what God desires to do in the church, so that we may know how we ought to conduct ourselves in the church, we need to understand Ephesians, Colossians, and 1 Corinthians. Eph. 2 is concerning the Gentiles and the Jews becoming one new man in Christ; Col. 3 reveals that we, who are the new man, are one with Christ and that there cannot be anything in the new man except Christ, who is "all and in all"; in 1 Cor. 12 Paul expounds, "...in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, that is, into one new man". We can see the crucial points in the administration of the church by the pattern of Paul; Ephesians 3:16-21 reveals Paul's spirit, attitude, prayer, and faith.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 —

A. What's significant in 1 Tim. 3:15, "...conduct himself in the house of God,"?

That how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God means to know how to administrate and arrange matters in the church. It may seem that Paul was speaking only about being delayed himself, but if we have spiritual insight, we will realize that he was actually referring to the Lord being delayed. Before the Lord comes back, we must know how to administrate the church and how to conduct ourselves in the church.

B. Explain the creation of the new man in Ephesians 2:15.

In the New Testament the new man does not refer to an individual; there is no individual new man, who is a corporate new man. In other words, in the New Testament there is only one new man, just as there is only one old man. In Eph. 2:15, "...the two in Himself into one new man." Formerly, they were separated by the law, but now the middle wall of partition has been broken down through the crucifixion of Christ. Thus, the two were created in Christ into one new man.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the created new man is the Body in Ephesians 2:15-16.

Ephesians 2:16 shows that through the cross Christ broke down the middle wall of partition between the Jews and the Gentiles in the old creation and created the two in Himself into one new man; as a result, the two are one Body. This one Body, the church, is the one new man mentioned in 2:15. It was in this one Body that both the Jews and the Gentiles were reconciled to God through the cross.

B. How has this new man been manifested through us?

When we are saved, Christ enters into us and we put Him on. However, we do not have sufficient knowledge of Christ. Thus, from the day of our salvation, we are being renewed unto full knowledge. The more we believe, the more knowledge we receive; the more we believe, the more thorough our knowledge becomes; and the more we believe, the fuller our knowledge will be.

Day 3 —

A. How did Christ create the new man by the cross?

Formerly we were in the old man, in Adam. In Adam, in our old man, there are many differences. Nevertheless, the cross has dealt with all the differences. On the cross all things in the universe have been terminated. By the cross and by our passing through the cross, Christ has reconciled the redeemed and created them in Himself into one new man.

B. What do we need to know concerning the church as the serving ones?

In this new man there are no differences; there is only Christ. Christ is all and in all. All of the serving ones in the church must see what the church is, what the nature of the church is, what God intends to build, and with what God builds the church. Only when we are clear concerning all these points can we administrate and serve in the church.

Day 4 —

A. What is the significance of the words Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:2?

At that time there were many problems in the church in Corinth; some of the saints were fleshy, some had sinned, some were fervent toward the Jewish religion, some sought signs, some sought philosophical knowledge, and some even sought spiritual gifts, but Paul preached Christ crucified. He hoped only for the increase of Christ in them.

B. What's summed up the ten of administrating the church by Paul's pattern?

Paul saw Christ, announced Christ, his work was Christ, he prayed Christ, his faith was Christ, and all the result of his work was Christ. Christ was central from beginning to end. Christ passed through Paul and reached all those whom he served; Christ was produced in them. We should be people of the New Testament, allowing the Holy Spirit to inscribe these ten points onto the tablets of our heart so that we may live in them.

Day 5 —

A. How do we see Paul's spirit and attitude in Ephesians 3:16-21?

What Paul saw, what he was filled with, what he said, and what he cared about in his heart were related to the vision of God being manifested in the flesh and being mingled with man in order to build the church with Christ. He eagerly expects to work Christ into others and build Christ as the material into others so that they may become a spiritual temple for the expression of the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

B. How should we serving ones have Paul's spirit, attitude, prayer and faith?

Anyone who serve the Lord must see a vision, a revelation to the point that he is absolutely obsessed with it and has the same spirit, attitude, and mood of Paul. Because Paul had such a spirit, attitude, and mood, he spontaneously had this kind of prayer; he also believed that God is able to do superabundantly. All those who serve God in the church must have this kind of spirit and attitude and this kind of prayer and faith.

Day 6 —

A. Exound what Paul speaks in Ephesians 3:17.

In Ephesians 3:17 Paul mentions, "...Christ making His home in our hearts". Galatians 4:19 says, "Until Christ is formed in you." This refers to Christ's making His home in our hearts. Hearts mean that Christ can be sensed in us. He not only dwells in us, but He dwells in our heart, which is the organ of our feeling and emotion.

B. What should our spirit and attitude be in administrating the church?

In administrating the church, all the responsible brothers must take this, an increase in Christ, as their spirit, attitude, and hope. They should not hope merely that all the saints will come to the meetings, preach the gospel, and bring people to salvation. They should know as to what they take as a goal: is it an increase in numbers or in Christ? They should be like Paul, who was totally "obsessed" with this matter.

III. Conclusion :

This portion of Ephesians 3:16-21 unveiled the heart of the hearts in the Bible, especially showing Paul's spirit and attitude in his service. All that what he saw, what he was filled with, and what he cared about in his heart were related to the vision of God being manifested in the flesh and being mingled with man in order to build the church with Christ so that the church would be filled with Christ. In our service of administrating the church, we should have this kind of spirit, attitude, and mood of Paul, expecting that the believers will have Christ in them and that Christ will enter into them. Because Paul was totally obsessed with it, he had such a prayer that the riches of God's glory would enter into the believers and become the strengthening power within them through His Spirit and that God is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power which operates in us; to God be the glory in the church.