

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophecy

Message Twelve: The Processed Triune God, His Work, and the Result of His Word

I. Overview:

Leviticus 26:1 and 2 speak of not making idols, keeping Jehovah's Sabbaths, and reverencing His sanctuary. We should not have idols; this signifies that besides that we should have no other goals that we are seeking after, so that we may not lose the position to enjoy Him. The Processed refers to the steps through which the Triune God has passed in the divine economy; the consummated indicates that the process has been completed. We should keep God's Sabbaths; this signifies that we should know that the work of God was done entirely by Himself that there is no need for us to do any work. We need to highly regard the work of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. We need to reverence God's sanctuary. The church is God's house, the dwelling place of God. Seeing these three visions will constitute us into obedient ones who will receive God's blessing.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the words in I John 5:21.

In 1 John 5:21 John says, "Little children, guard yourselves from idols." The word guard means to garrison ourselves against attacks from without, like the assaults of the heresies. Idols here also refer to anything that replaces the real God. We as the children of God should be on the alert to guard ourselves from all vain replacements of our real God, with whom we are organically one.

B. Explain the Triune God passing through processes and consummation.

The Triune God took several crucial steps in being processed to be the life- giving Spirit. The word consummation indicates that a work or a process has been completed, or finished. This may be illustrated by the cooking of food. Before His incarnation God was "raw," but now He is no longer the "raw" God; He is the consummated and completed Triune God with all elements.

Day 2 —

A. How to prove that God has nevertheless passed through a process?

Was not incarnation a process? From eternity past until the incarnation of Christ, God did not have a body of flesh. But when He was born in a manger, He was the mighty God incarnated as a baby. Likewise, were not the crucifixion and resurrection a process? God certainly was processed through Christ's incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection.

B. Explain John 7:39 speaks of the Spirit that's not yet before the Lord's resurrection.

John 7:39 speaks of the Spirit, telling us that before the Lord Jesus was crucified and resurrected the Spirit was not yet. After His resurrection, the Spirit of God became the Spirit of the incarnated, crucified, and resurrected Jesus Christ. Even though, before Christ's death and resurrection, the Spirit of God was the Spirit of Jehovah and the Holy Spirit, the Spirit was not yet.

Day 3 —

A. Explain how the Spirit is the blessing of God's New Testament economy.

The Spirit is the consummation of the Triune God in the Bible. However, this is not the Triune God apart from the process through which He has passed. The Spirit is the Triune God after He has passed through the process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Having passed through this process, the Triune God is now this consummate Spirit as the blessing of the New Testament. Thus, the Spirit is the blessing of God's New Testament economy.

B. What does it mean to keep His Sabbath?

We should take God's work and rest because of it. However, most people neglect God's work and, instead, try to do something by themselves. But it is an insult to God to ignore what He has done for us that we may rest in Him and in His work. To rest in God and in His work is to keep His Sabbath.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the God's work as revealed in the New Testament.

Our God is a working God. In the New Testament we see God's work in eternity past, in His old dispensation, new dispensation, and eternity future, with many aspects. After God made His eternal plan, He chose the believers. God's work in eternity past also included His predestinating—marking out—the believers before the foundation of the world.

B. Expound Christ's work in the New Testament.

Through His work in incarnation, Christ brought God into man. Through Christ's work in His incarnation not only was God brought into man, but God was also made one with man. Christ has accomplished the great work of making God one with man, of making the two—God and man—one person with two natures, divinity and humanity.

Day 5 —

A. How can we see the work of the Spirit in John 16:8?

The Spirit always convicts the world concerning the three matters of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Sin entered through Adam, righteousness is the resurrected Christ, and judgment is for Satan. We were born of sin in Adam. The Spirit works in the believers by regenerating them. Regeneration is God's dispensing of Himself in His life and nature into our being.

B. Explain which three matters are covered fully in the Bible.

Three matters—God, God's work, and the result of God's work—are covered fully in the sixty-six books of the Bible. First, we have the processed Triune God and His work for our rest, and then, as the result of His work, we have the church as the expression and the enlargement of the consummated Christ. Seeing these three things will give us a strong basis for obeying, going along with, God.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the significance in 1 Peter 2:5, "The church is the house of God."

This Greek word *oikos* means not only the house, the dwelling, but also the household. Both the house of God and the family of God are one entity, that is, a group of regenerated, called ones, indwelt by God Himself. These called ones, who have been regenerated by God with His life and who are being indwelt by this living God with all that He is, are both God's dwelling place and His family.

B. Expound the significance of the living God as the church is the house of living God.

The living God who lives in the church must be subjective to the church and not merely objective. The God who not only lives but also acts, moves, and works in His house, the church, is living. Because God is living, the church is also living in Him, by Him, and with Him. A living God and a living church live, move, and work together.

III. Conclusion:

When Leviticus reaches chapter 25, it speaks of the high peak of the feast as the jubilee. According to our natural concept, the words of Moses in this book can be ended, but he gives us a warning by chapter 26. It mentions that we should not make idols for ourselves; this signifies that God Himself must be our unique goal. We especially need to know and enjoy Him as the processed and consummated Triune God. We should keep God's Sabbaths; this signifies that we should stop the work by ourselves, instead of receiving and enjoying what God has done. We need to reverence God's sanctuary; this signifies that seeing the consummated result of God's economy is to gain the church as God's house and His dwelling place. Brother here reminds us that we should not be late habitually in Lord's table meeting every Lord's day if we really reverence the church.