

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Propheying Message Nine : Practicing the Church Life, Speaking the Same Thing, and Doing the One Work in the Consciousness of the One New Man

I. Overview:

In Colossians 4:7-17 we have a practical illustration of the revelation of the one new man and of the consciousness of the one new man. Both the saints in Colossae and Paul had the consciousness of the one new man. Paul's word proves that there was no difference between the church in Laodicea and the church in Colossae; his word implies that there were not merely local churches in various cities but also the one new man in a real and practical way. For the local churches as the universal one new man, we all need to take Christ as our person in the matter of speaking; in the one new man there is one person with one mouth to speak the same things. In the Lord's recovery, all the co-workers should do the same one work for the unique Body, the universal one new man. This will be the ultimate church life, a universal new man taking Christ as his person and living out Christ; this will conclude this age, usher in the kingdom, and bring the Lord back.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. How do we see the practical illustration of the revelation of the new man in 4:7-17?

In 4:7-17 we have a practical illustration of the revelation of the new man given in 3:10-11. Here, different kinds of people are pointed out: Jews, Greeks, circumcision, uncircumcision, slaves, and masters; Paul refers to Onesimus, who had become a "faithful and beloved brother". Hence, Paul's purpose in these verses is to present an illustration of the living of the new man.

B. Expound how Paul had a consciousness of the new man.

Think of how many names are mentioned in 4:7-17; these names indicate that with Paul there was a sense, a consciousness, of the new man. This new man who was living on earth in a practical way was the actual constituent of the new man who is Christ and Christ alone. Because Christ is the unique constituent of the new man, there should be no differences among the believers who are part of this new man.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the changes in the world situation is for the perfection of the new man.

Everything on this earth is for the perfection of the new man. Today with the world politics, scientific inventions, modern transportation and communication, and our understanding of languages, the world has been condensed into a small sphere. There is nearly no hindrance for the new man to be perfected. Today everything is ripe, ready, and prepared for the new man to come forth.

B. Testify that when we are in the spirit, we are in the reality of the new man.

Brothers who live together are not always happy with each other. Even when I was unable to be pleasant, the Spirit within me was able. We do have such a wonderful Spirit in our spirit. We are all one only because Christ as the life-giving Spirit is in our spirit. It is in the spirit that we are one, and it is in the spirit that we are in the new man.

Day 3 —

A. What things will rescue us from if we see the vision of the new man?

We need to see such a vision of the new man. This vision will rescue us from all things other than Christ. If you have seen this vision, you will count all things as refuse compared with Christ. You could not care for anything other than Christ. As we all live Him out, we will see the perfection of the new man on the earth.

B. Why do we say the Lord's recovery being something particular and uncommon?

The Lord's recovery today is not an ordinary Christian work. Rather, it is something particular and uncommon. At this end time the Lord is going to bring forth the new man. The Lord today is going to raise up His believers throughout all the world to seek after Him. When we seek after Him, we will see that what He wants is such a new man.

Day 4 —

A. Expound how tens of thousands of believers can be one accord.

If we only take Christ as our life and Christ as our person, spontaneously we will all speak the same thing. Then practically we will be the new man. We all can speak the same thing, and we all can be attuned in the same opinion. We would have only one concept, Christ and the church.

B. Explain that the church is one new man there can be only one mouth.

The church is one new man. There is only one new man with only one person. In the whole body there is only one mouth, but who controls this mouth? It is the person who controls the mouth. In the new man when anyone speaks, it is Christ who is the person. What is the result? The result is that there is only one mouth.

Day 5 —

A. Explain how to say the same thing in the matter of speaking.

In the matter of speaking, is the Lord the person, or am I the person? If it is I, there will be a problem; if it is the Lord, there will be no problem. There is only one new man, and this one new man has only one person, so the one new man speaks with one mouth and says the same thing.

B. Why is there no freedom to speak in the new man?

In the new man there is no freedom to speak your own things. This is more limiting and restricting than being members one of another. Everyone knows that what limits you the most is the matter of speaking. In the one new man there is only one person. Only this person has the freedom to speak, and our natural man has absolutely no freedom of speech. Only the one person should speak.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that we should do only one work in the Lord's recovery.

All the co-workers in all the regions should do the same one work universally for the unique Body. We should do only one work. There should not be several works in the Lord's recovery. The work should be just one. Even Paul and Peter did not carry out two works, rather they had only one work to build up the Body of Christ.

B. Explain how to fulfill the church as the universal new man on earth.

The Lord's desire is to have the one new man on the earth, so we all need to rise up to take Christ as our corporate person. If we want to make a decision or live a certain kind of life, we cannot decide merely in ourselves; instead, we must take Christ as our person in the new man and with the new man.

III. Conclusion:

Although in 1977 the message of "One New Man" has been released and also been seen by us, the view of people is like a tree, which is still unclear. This time the fellowship feels as if the Lord and the Spirit are going to take the Lord's recovery forward. The Lord gives us higher seeing in the intrinsic revelation and also goes advanced in experience. Over the years, we have put great emphasis on the church as the Body of Christ, with the reality of the Body of Christ, and the highest revelation of the church as the one new man with the highest requirements. To be in one new man with one mouth saying the same thing and doing the same work, is as high as it can ever be. But today, the Lord is doing this, regardless of the inward revelation with experience and outward external environment being ready, we all can see that the time is ripe for the Lord's word to be fulfilled. The Lord is waiting for the bride, and the new man is the mature bride.