

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophecy Message Five : Knowing and Experiencing the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ as the Mystery of God

I. Overview:

The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the mystery of God, which indicates something incomprehensible and inexplicable. As the mystery of God, Christ is the definition, explanation, and expression of the mystery of God. Christ is the history of God; the whole "story" of God is in Christ and is Christ. God's history refers to the process through which He passed in Christ, and in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. Christ is the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead. Before His incarnation the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Christ as the eternal Word. After He became incarnate, clothed with a human body, the fullness of the Godhead began to dwell in Him in a bodily way. Because all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ and because we have been put in Him, we have been made full in Him, filled up with the divine riches. We need to have a full realization of what we have in Christ and to exercise faith to partake of all that is ours in Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound Colossians 2:2, "full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ."

This means that, as God's story and God's everything, Christ declares God in full. As the mystery of God, Christ is the Word of God; Christ is the definition, explanation, and expression of God. Moreover, as the mystery of God, the mysterious story of God, the all-inclusive Christ is the history of God; the whole story of God is in Christ and is Christ.

B. Explain that the Christ whom we have received is the history of God.

The Christ whom we have received is the mystery of God and the history of God. The Christ whom we have received is God with His wonderful history; God who passed through the process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and enthronement. As the history of God, Christ is the mystery of God. Apart from Christ, there is neither the history of God nor the mystery of God.

Day 2 —

A. How do we experience Christ as our wisdom?

We need to experience Christ as our wisdom in how we spend our time and our money. Christ is real wisdom. When we live by Christ, He is our wisdom. We are not wise when we do not live by Christ. When Christ lives in us, He becomes our wisdom.

B. Expound God being the unique source of wisdom and knowledge.

All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in the very Christ who is the mystery of God. Because the church at Colossae had been invaded by pagan philosophy, Paul was helping the Colossians trace wisdom and knowledge to their true source in God. Christ is the mystery of God, who alone is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. The fact that wisdom and knowledge are embodied in Christ.

Day 3 —

A. Expound Colossians 2:9, the meaning of the word 'dwell' and the word 'bodily'.

In Colossians 2:9 the word dwells indicates that the fullness of the Godhead must be a person; the fullness of the Godhead is personified. The fullness of the Godhead dwells as a person in the incarnated Christ bodily, that is, in Christ with a human body. Hence, the word bodily in verse 9 points to the physical body that Christ put on in His humanity, indicating that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ as One who has a human body.

B. Explain the significance of all the fullness of the Godhead in Colossians 2:9.

All the fullness of the Godhead in Colossians 2:9 refers not only to the entire Triune God of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit but also to all that the entire Triune God is, has, does, knows, can do, has done, has obtained, has accomplished, and has attained; all this fullness dwells in the Son bodily.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the difference between the riches and the fullness.

The riches are the quantity of an object, whereas the fullness is the flowing out, the overflow, of the object to become the expression of the object. God's fullness is the overflow of His riches, and this overflow is God's expression. God is abundantly rich. He is so rich that His riches overflow. This overflow is the expression of God.

B. Expound what means of that grace upon grace in John 1:16.

John 1:16 that grace upon grace can be compared to the waves of the sea, which roll in wave upon wave without interruption. In this verse grace does not refer to the riches of grace but to the fullness of grace. The riches of grace are in God, but the fullness of grace is in Christ Jesus. Hence, the grace that we receive is the fullness of grace.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that all that He is and has belong to us because we are in Christ.

Because all the fullness of the Godhead is in Christ and because we have been placed in Him, we have been made full in Him. Therefore, we are identified with Him and one with Him. The result is that all He is and all He has belongs to us, and all that He has experienced is our history. Furthermore, because we are one with Him, we partake of all that He has accomplished, obtained, and attained.

B. How do we apply the fact that Christ has accomplished?

Do not believe your feelings about yourself, but look away to Christ. Exercise your faith to realize what He is, what He has passed through, what He has obtained and attained, and where He is today. Since He is in the third heaven and we are one with Him, we are in the third heaven also. Because you are in Christ, you lack nothing.

Day 6 —

A. Explain having been rooted in the good land, what riches we gained.

We have been rooted in the good land, the fullness has become ours, and we are supplied with every positive thing. How rich is the soil in which we have been rooted! It supplies us with everything, and we have no lack. We have the all-inclusive, inexhaustible fullness. This fullness dwells in Christ bodily.

B. Testify failing to absorb the Lord in the morning, you are apt to be troubled by the negative.

If you fail to absorb the Lord in the morning, you are apt to be troubled by "flies" and "scorpions." Many saints can testify that absorbing the Lord in the morning supplies them with the best insect repellent. When you take time to enjoy the Lord, all the elements of the rich soil are spontaneously absorbed into you and all negative things will trouble you no more.

III. Conclusion:

All who believe in Christ have been put into Him, truly "married" to Him; we all are identified with Him and one with Him. As a result, all that He is and all that He has is ours. We should not consider ourselves poor, just as a poor woman who has married a rich man should no longer think of herself as poor. Even though she may feel poor, she must practice applying the fact that the riches of her husband belong to her. It would be a shameful matter to her husband if she looked once again at her own poverty and declared herself pitiful and poor. Rather she would exercise her faith, and know how rich her husband's possessions is, and how she stands in the position of a wife, and enjoys and applies what her husband has. Today, we should exercise our faith to participate in all that we have in Christ. We are perfect and complete, with nothing lacking.