

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message One : The Mystery of God's Will in the Universe Ultimately Being to Head Up All Things in Christ through the Church as the Body of Christ

I. Overview:

God's will is what He intends to accomplish and this will is also eternal; God created all things for His will. The will of God is concentrated in Christ to obtain the church as the Body of Christ. According to the good pleasure of His will, God predestinated us unto sonship; according to His will, a council was held by the Trinity to make a counsel, a decision, which is His determined will. Ultimately, God's will in the universe is to head up all things in Christ through the church as the Body of Christ; God will subject all things under Christ by heading up all things in Christ through the church as the Body of Christ. The heading up in the church life is by life and light; God's way of recovery is Christ versus Satan, life versus death, light versus darkness, and order versus confusion. In the new heaven and new earth with the New Jerusalem as the center, all things will be headed up in Christ; this will be the complete fulfillment of Ephesians 1:10.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the mystery of the universe being related to the desire of God's heart.

God's will has a mystery, a mystery that has been hidden through the ages. Why is there a heaven, and why does the earth exist? Why are there so many millions of items in the universe? All these questions are mysteries. The mystery is the will of God, God's intention. God's intention is intimately related to the desire of His heart. Thus, the mystery of the universe is related to the desire of God's heart.

B. Expound the mystery of the universe being the church.

The mystery of the universe is the church, and the church is a group of people into whom God is working Himself. The church will not only be saturated with God, but also mingled with Him to become the very expression of God. The New Jerusalem will be the corporate expression of God. This means that the entire city has the appearance of God and is the expression of God. This is the mystery of the universe.

Day 2 —

A. Expound God predestinated us unto sonship according to His will.

God predestinated us unto sonship according to the good pleasure of His will. In Ephesians 1:4 we see that God has chosen us to be holy. However, to be holy is the procedure, not the goal. The goal is sonship. We have been predestinated unto sonship. In other words, God has chosen us to be holy so that we might be His sons.

B. Explain that to be holy is to be mingled with God.

God sanctifies us by putting Himself into us and then mingling us with His nature. The only way this can take place is through having the divine nature put into our being and mingled with it. In this way, God makes us holy. This, however, is not the goal. The goal is related to being formed or shaped.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Ephesians 1:22 that God gave Christ to be Head over all things to the church. In Christ God is in the process of heading up all things in heaven and on earth. However, without the church as the Body to match Christ as the Head, it will not be possible for God to head up all things in Christ. The heading up of all things is accomplished by the Head, but it cannot be accomplished without a Body for the Head.

B. Expound how to head up all things in Christ.

Whether all things can be headed up in Christ completely depend upon whether or not the church has been produced and has grown up. When the church is fully grown, God is able to subject all things to the

authority of Christ. By means of the church, Christ is able to be the Head over all things. Eventually, the Body with Christ as the Head will be the universal Head over all things.

Day 4 —

A. Explain, in Ephesians 1:22, the meaning of the little word “to” the church.

The little word “to” implies transmission. It indicates that Christ’s headship is being transmitted to the church. This means that, in a sense, we can share the headship of Christ over all things. Although we are not the head, we can share the headship. To put it another way, we are not the king, but we can share the kingship.

B. Why do we say that we, the Body, are also Christ over all things?

Because the church is the Body and because Christ is both the Head and the Body, we may say that, in a sense, we, the Body, are also Christ. We are the Body of the Head, and the Head is the head over all things. We are above all things. The church is under nothing but Christ Himself; we are above everything else because we are the Body of the One who is over all things.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the meaning of the word “oikonomia” rendered in Ephesians 1:10.

The Greek word oikonomia can also be rendered “stewardship” or “household arrangement.” According to ancient custom, there was a steward in the royal family, and his ministry was called a stewardship. Such a stewardship, such a household arrangement, was the best administration. God’s administration as a household arrangement is sweet and as a stewardship is intimate.

B. Expound the stewardship of the Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul.

Throughout the Lord’s ministry, He was dispensing God as the life supply to His chosen ones. This intimate stewardship is continued with the apostle Paul, who had the stewardship of the grace of God. In his ministry Paul was constantly dispensing Christ as life into the believers. Paul’s ministry was a sweet and intimate stewardship, a pleasant household arrangement.

Day 6 —

A. Why are we being headed up with life and light?

When we grow in life, we have the light of life. Under this light, everything is kept in order. Although today’s Christianity is a heap of collapse in death and darkness, we in the church life are in life and under light. With life and light we are being headed up.

B. Explain that the church takes the lead to be headed up in Christ.

The church takes the lead to be headed up in Christ. Eventually, the millennium will come and, following that, the new heaven and new earth with the New Jerusalem. Today we in the church life are taking the lead to be headed up in Christ. For this we need to grow in life and have the light of life.

III. Conclusion:

God's will in the universe is to head up all things in Christ through the church as the Body of Christ. The entire universe is a heap of collapse caused by Satan injecting himself as the factor of death into God's creation. God's salvation is to bring His chosen people out of the collapse of the universe and place them under the authority of the Head of Christ. When the church takes the lead to be headed up in Christ, God will have the way to head up all things in Him. For this we need to grow in life, and the more we grow, the more we will be headed up, and the more we are saved from a heap of collapse universally. At the same time, we need to receive daily dispensing from God's administration, which is a pleasant sweet, and intimate stewardship. The nourishing in morning revival and the shepherding at home meeting are an excellent way of divine dispensing.