

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Six : Doing the Will of God in the Kingdom of God under the Government of God for the Church as the Israel of God

I. Overview:

We need to do the will of God in the kingdom of God; 1 John 2:17: "And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever." In order to enter into the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens in the coming age, we must do the will of our Father in this age. In order to live the Christian life under the government of God, we need to take God's governmental dealings administered through sufferings and we should be humbled under the mighty hand of God. Doing the will of God in the kingdom of God under the government of God issues in the church as the Israel of God. For this we first need God Himself to be wrought into us, then we should live such a mingled life. By living the mingled life of the new creation, we shall be transformed into Israel, representing God, exercising His authority, and carrying out His administration on earth.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the contrast between 'passing away' and 'abiding forever' in 1 John 2:17.

The world is the enemy of God, and its lust opposes the will of God; therefore, the world and its lust will pass away. God and His will are eternal; therefore, those who do His will also abide forever. Whatever we have of the world and its lust will pass away. Whatever we have of God and His will abides forever.

B. Expound since the world has been systematized by the evil one, where our refuge is.

In 1 John 2:15 the world refers to the anti-God world system formed by Satan. Every thing, every one, and every matter have been systematized by the evil one and made a part of his world system. In such a situation, where shall we go? The answer is that we need to go to the Triune God. Only the Triune God has not been systematized by Satan. We also need to go to the Word of God. God's Word is our refuge, our protection.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the proper meaning of the kingdom of the heavens in Matthew 7:21.

In Matthew 7:21 the entering of the kingdom of the heavens refers to the coming manifestation of the kingdom in the future. To enter into the kingdom of the heavens we need to do two things: call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father. To call on the Lord suffices for us to be saved, but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens we also need to do the will of the Heavenly Father and to live by the living of the divine life.

B. What is the issue of the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens told in Matthew?

We are here for the accomplishment of the will of the heavenly Father. In order to do the will of the Father, we need to walk in the constricted way. Our Father has a will to accomplish, but we can accomplish it only by His life. We need to live in the life of the heavenly Father and also by that life. This kind of living is for the doing of the Father's will.

Day 3 —

A. State how we can enter through the narrow gate.

Those who enter the narrow gate must be poor in spirit, mourning, pure in heart, making peace with all men, willing to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness, and willing to be reproached for Christ. Only those with such a nature can enter through the narrow gate. The gate is narrow and the way is constricted; it deals not only with outward conduct, but also with inward motive. To enter the gate is simply to begin walking on the way, a way which is lifelong.

B. Are we walking on the constricted way? Fellowship it through our experience.

As one in the Lord's recovery, are you walking on the constricted way? We are constricted on every side. We must walk in our spirit. Living in spirit and walking in spirit restrict us. Even when we are loving, rejoicing, and happy, we must be under restriction. We must not be like those who throw off all restraint in their excitement. Rather, we must be excited within the limit of the spirit. This must even be true in the meetings.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that God governs by judging to carry out His government.

In his two Epistles Peter is on the subject of God's universal government. God governs by judging. This is the way God carries out His government. As an elderly man who has some knowledge of world history both by study and observation, I can testify that I bow before God. He is the governing One, and He governs by judging; God has judged evildoers.

B. Why is God cleansing, purifying, the universe; He purifies us first?

God will not live or dwell in a place that is unclean. Thus, God is cleansing, purifying, the universe. First He purifies us, His household. We are now the center of His cleaning work. Some saints have problems with their health; others are disappointed with their children. The reason we have difficulties is that God's judgment begins from His own household. You and I are under God's judgment.

Day 5 —

A. Expound "be humbled" in 1 Peter 5:6 with passive and active meaning.

The words be humbled in 1 Peter 5:6 are passive voice, indicating to be made humble by God, mostly through the sufferings of persecutions. This, however, needs our cooperation with God's operation. We must be willing to be made humble, lowly, under the mighty hand of God. Hence, be humbled. We may say that humbled is passive, but be is active.

B. Explain the word casting in 1 Peter 5:7 and its experience.

The word casting in 1 Peter 5:7 means "throwing upon to God" that is, committing to God, giving up to God. The verb denotes a once-for-all act. Sometimes we cast our anxieties upon Him only to secretly take them back a while later. Therefore how I need to pray, "O Lord, forgive me for taking this anxiety back from You. Once again, I would cast my anxieties upon You."

Day 6 —

A. Expound how to be God's Israel to execute God's government on earth.

If we live a new creation, we shall be the real Israel of God. According to the book of Genesis, Jacob, a heel-holder, a supplanter, was transformed into Israel, a prince of God and a victor. As a prince and a victor, he could overcome all negative things. Today we need to be such an Israel, a prince to execute God's government on earth.

B. State what our two status and two kinds of living are.

We are the sons of God and the Israel of God. If we consider as an illustration how a son in a royal family is trained to be king. On the one hand, such a son grows up as a member of the royal family, the son of the king and queen. On the other hand, he must be trained in order to become king in the future. Thus, he must have two kinds of living: the first, as a son in the royal family; the second, as a king-to-be.

III. Conclusion:

How can we live the Christian life under the government of God?

1) by believing into Him; 2) by the inner operating of the Triune God; 3) being sanctified in our daily living; 4) enjoying the milk in the word; 5) coming to Christ as the living stone; 6) becoming a living stone to build a spiritual house; 7) being a reproduction of Christ as the pattern; 8) experiencing the pneumatic Christ as the Shepherd of our soul; 9) doing and living in God's will; 10) living for righteousness; 11) living in the spirit; 12) being good stewards of God's multiple grace; 13) experiencing God as all grace; 14) participating in God's nature; 15) experiencing the growth in life until enter into the eternal kingdom of God abundantly; 16) accepting the salvation of our soul; 17) standing in a position of offering ourselves and not following the age of the world; 18) proving with a renewed mind, according to the word of God, by the sense of the spirit, against the environment.