

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Four : Being Renewed Day by Day with the Fresh Supply of the Resurrection Life to Replace Our Culture and to Become the One New Man in Reality by Becoming as New as the New Jerusalem

I. Overview:

Ephesians 4:22 says, "That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man."; the old man refers to our natural life in our soul which was created by God but became fallen. If we continue to live according to the old man, the church life will be seriously damaged; if we truly desire to be renewed, we need to put off the former manner of life, which involves our way of living and our culture. The putting off of the old man and the putting on of the new man are accomplished facts; now we must experience and realize these facts by being renewed in the spirit of our mind. By our loving the Lord and by the exercise of our spirit in prayer and in reading the Word day by day, our mind is filled with the mingled spirit; this changes and renews our mind, making us to get rid of all the old concepts and be made new again. God arranges our environment so that our outer man will be consumed and our inner man will be renewed. God renewed us through four items; the cross, the Holy Spirit, our mingled spirit, and the holy word of God. To seek the things which are above is to respond to Christ's shepherding and being renewed.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the meaning of the old man indicating in the Bible.

The old man refers to the natural life in our soul and is our very being, which was created by God but became fallen through sin, and it is the same as the "I" in Galatians 2:20. It is not the soul itself but the life of the soul, which has been counted by God as hopeless and has been put on the cross and crucified with Christ. Our soul acted as an independent person, with the old man as its life and personality.

B. Why do we say that the old man is a damage to the church life?

Ordinances, doctrine, and the old man are the three main negative things that damage the church life. If we have ordinances, the church life is gone. If we are occupied with doctrine, it will not be possible to have the proper church life. In addition, if we continue to live according to the old man, the church life will be seriously damaged, even terminated.

Day 2 —

A. Getting into the depths of Colossians, shall we see that it deals with man's culture.

Culture is the unconscious living of every human being. What defrauds us of the enjoyment of Christ and frustrates the church life is our culture. Today we are all unconsciously and subconsciously under the influence of culture. When we came into the church life, we brought our culture with us. This culture is now undermining our enjoyment of Christ.

B. Explain the words "cannot be" in Colossians 3:11.

In his Word Studies of the New Testament Vincent says that in the Greek language the words rendered "cannot be" in Colossians 3:11 are very strong and mean that there is no possibility. In the new man there is no possibility for Greek and Jew, Barbarian and Scythian, bondman and free man to exist, because the former manner of life found among these peoples has been put away.

Day 3 —

A. What kind of people being "Gentiles" in Ephesians 4:17 are?

The Gentiles in Ephesians 4:17 are the fallen people, who have become vain in their reasonings. They walk without God in the vanity of their mind, controlled and directed by their vain thoughts. Hence, the basic element in the daily life of fallen mankind is the vanity of the mind. In the new man, we should live not according to the vanity of the mind, but according to the spirit of the mind.

B. Explain the meaning of the inner man in Ephesians 3:16.

In Ephesians 3:16, the inner man is our regenerated spirit with God's life as its life. We need to be strengthened into our inner man... so that Christ will be able to make His home in our hearts. Since our heart is the totality of all

our inward parts and the center of our inward being, when Christ makes His home in our heart, He is able to control our entire inner being and supplies and strengthens every inward part with Himself.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the creation and the renewing of the new man.

In Ephesians 2 we are told that the new man was created, but in Colossians 3:10 we are told that the new man is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. This renewing takes place mainly in our mind. On the one hand, in our spirit the new man was created. On the other hand, in our soul the new man is being renewed.

B. Describe the meaning of using the phrase full knowledge three times in Colossians.

The problem with the Colossians was that they had the wrong kind of knowledge. They had taken in philosophies that were not according to Christ. Concerning the new man, our mind needs to be renewed unto such a full knowledge according to the Christ who is the expression of God. Our mind needs to be renewed to such an extent that we have a clear view of Christ as the image of God.

Day 5 —

A. Expound God having the best provisions to help us to receive the renewing.

The first provision is the cross, the putting to death of Jesus. The second provision is the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 speaks of the “renewing of the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit’s main work is first to regenerate us and then to renew us every day. The third provision God gave us is our mingled spirit, our human spirit mingled with the divine Spirit.

B. How do we receive the washing of the water in the word to be renewed?

In addition to the cross, the Holy Spirit, and our spirit, we have the holy Word. The Head of the Body cleanses the church, His Body, by the washing of the water in the word. We all need to receive the washing of the water in the word daily; the word of God will wash us. There is water in the word to wash us. Washing is a synonym of renewing.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what in Colossians 3:1 said to seek the things which are above.

Colossians 3:1 indicates clearly that we have one position with Christ. How could we seek the things which are above if we were not above also? The way to seek the things which are above is to turn to the spirit and call on the name of the Lord. There is a transmission taking place from Christ in heaven to us on earth by means of the all-inclusive Spirit in our spirit.

B. Expound the meaning of prophesying.

Speaking for the Lord, speaking forth the Lord, and speaking the Lord into others is for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. With only one man speaking and the rest listening, a congregation can be built up, but the Body of Christ as an organism can never be built up. All the members need to speak for the Body of Christ to be built up; we all need to rise up to speak for the Lord.

III. Conclusion:

Ephesians 4:22 says, “That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man.” and 4: 24 says to put on the new man; the key lies in being renewed in the spirit of the mind by 4:23. The old man, who was created by God but became fallen through sin, was born of Adam. Here the former manner of life refers to a walk without God in the vanity of the mind. Ezekiel 25 speaks of the seven kingdoms surrounding the kingdom of Israel; in our church life in the Lord's recovery, what we really have concerned are the 'Edomites,' the old man and 'Philistines,' the natural man. These two kinds of people are really related to the culture and the former manner of life. The way to put off the old man and put on the new man is that our spirit has to be exercised until it can dominate our minds of souls.