

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Seven : The Factor of Blending for the Reality of the Body of Christ

I. Overview:

The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ. Romans 12:5, "in Christ" is a matter of the organic union. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion, the overcomer, as the reality of the Body of Christ. Love is the most excellent way for the building up of the Body of Christ. The elders should shepherd one another and love one another to be a model of the Body life; the elders and their wives also need to love one another with their children. God has blended the Body together; to be blended for the reality of the Body of Christ, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit to dispense Christ to others for the building up. Blending means that we should always stop to fellowship with others, that is, we should not do anything without fellowshiping with the other saints. The reality of the Body of Christ is the Spirit of reality, who is the Spirit of Jesus, mingled with our spirit; the Spirit of Jesus includes the reality in Jesus, by learning Christ according to His model to be exactly the same as the living of Jesus.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that the reality of the Body of Christ is organic.

The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ. We know the term the Body of Christ, and may even have seen the revelation of the Body of Christ. Yet we can see very little of the reality of the Body of Christ. This reality has nothing to do with any kind of organization or with anything that remains in the nature of organization. The reality of the Body of Christ is absolutely and altogether organic.

B. Explain that the Body is the top point of God's entire revelation.

Paul's writings are the completion of the divine revelation; this completing ministry is altogether focused on the Body. From these writings of Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 1 and 4, and Colossians 1 and 2, we can see the top point, the ultimate point, of God's divine revelation, the Body. The Body is the ultimate item of God's continual working, so the Body is the top point of God's entire revelation.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the relationship between the Body of Christ and church.

Corporately, the many sons of God produced in resurrection are the church; organically, they are the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is the church, the house of God, the kingdom of God, and the bride, the counterpart, of Christ. In each aspect the church takes the Body of Christ as its organic factor. Without the Body of Christ, the church is lifeless and is a mere human organization.

B. Expound the Body being the church's intrinsic significance.

Paul says that God raised up Christ, seated Him in the heavens, subjected all things under His feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church. Right away in the following phrase he says, "Which is His Body", that indicates the Body being the church's intrinsic significance. The church without the Body means nothing.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the reality of the Body of Christ being the totality of a living of God-men.

The reality of the Body of Christ is the totality of such a living by a group of God-men. This kind of a living, which is the reality of the Body of Christ, will close this age, the age of the church, and will bring Christ back to take, possess, and rule over this earth with these God-men in the kingdom age. They were perfected, completed, and consummated in the church age.

B. Explain that today the God-men who were perfected and matured are Zion.

Today in the church age, the God-men who were perfected and matured are Zion, the overcomers, the vital groups within the churches. But in the new heaven and new earth there will be no more Zion, only Jerusalem, because all the unqualified saints will have been qualified to be Zion. In other words, the entire New Jerusalem will become Zion.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that God has blended the Body together in 1 Corinthians 12:24.

The word blended also means “adjusted,” “harmonized,” “tempered,” and “mingled.” God has blended the Body, adjusted the Body, harmonized the Body, tempered the Body, and mingled the Body. The Greek word for blended implies the losing of distinctions. In order to be blended, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit, dispensing Christ to others for the sake of the Body of Christ.

B. Expound that fellowship is a practical way to have the blending together.

Fellowship tempers us, adjusts us, harmonizes us, and mingles us. We should not do anything without fellowshiping with the other saints who are coordinating with us. In our coordination in the church life and in the Lord’s work, we all have to learn not to do anything without fellowship. Learning to be blended, the churches should come together frequently to be blended.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what the last three chapters of Romans 14-16 show us.

We need to reign in life particularly in two crucial matters. The first matter is in imitating the apostle to bring the local churches into the fellowship of the Body of Christ; the second matter is in following in the apostle’s footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ. It is in such a life that we can truly reign in life.

B. Explain what shows us by recommendations and greetings of apostles.

Apostles brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ. Such recommendations and greetings show both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches we will be able to enjoy the rich grace of Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Describe the life of God-man Jesus on the earth.

The God-man, Jesus, was a genuine man, but He lived not by man’s life but by God’s life. He kept that genuine man on the cross. Then, in the sense of resurrection, He lived God’s life. God’s life with all its attributes was lived within this God-man Jesus and expressed as this God-man’s virtues.

B. Explain the reproduction of Jesus the God-man’s living.

Such a life was there originally just in an individual man, Jesus Christ. But this life has now been repeated, reproduced, in many men who have been redeemed and regenerated and who now possess the divine life within them. All of them have been nourished, sanctified, transformed, and perfected not just to be matured Christians but to be God-men.

III. Conclusion:

What has come out of God’s work through the ages is ultimately a Body. The Head of this Body is Christ, and it is the Body that will be produced. The body is the ultimate goal of God’s constant work, and therefore the Body is the top point of God’s entire revelation. And the reality of the Body of Christ is the highest peak of God’s economy. In order to remain in the organic union with Christ, to exercise living the God-man living for being overcomers in the church life, we need to have a genuine blending with the saints, to lose distinction, to gain one accord, to have practical service through fellowship. We must follow in the apostle’s footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ. Living in a mingled spirit by the spirit of reality, we should live according to the model Jesus as the reality in Him to learn from Christ as Jesus lived on earth in the four Gospels.