

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Six : Knowing and Spreading the Up-to-date Truth of the Highest Gospel of God's Eternal Economy

I. Overview:

The particular recovery and work that God is doing in one age is the ministry of that age; the ministry of the age ministers the present truth to God's people. The present truth, the highest peak of the divine revelation given to us by God through the ministry of this age, is the revelation of the eternal economy of God; the gospel of God's eternal economy is "the gospel of the promise made to the fathers". Romans 1:3-4 is the fulfillment of the prophecy in typology in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, unveiling the mystery of God becoming man to make man God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. In resurrection His humanity was sonized, meaning that He was designated the Son of God in His humanity, becoming the firstborn Son of God and possessing both divinity and humanity. In resurrection Christ in His humanity was designated the Son of God, and by means of such a resurrection we also are in the process of being designated sons of God. The more we grow in life and pass through the metabolic process of transformation, the more we are designated the sons of God. We need to be constituted with and spread the highest truth of God's eternal economy by using the Life-studies and the Recovery Version with the footnotes; they are for the multiplication and spread of the church.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the "present truth" in 2 Peter 1:12.

The "present truth" in 2 Peter 1:12 can also be rendered the "up-to-date truth." Actually, all the truths are in the Bible; through man's foolishness, unfaithfulness, negligence, and disobedience many of the truths were lost and hidden from man. Not until the fullness of time did God release certain truths during particular periods of time and cause them to be revealed once more.

B. Why do we say that God's truths are cumulative?

We know that God's truths are cumulative; later truths do not negate earlier ones. All the past truths of God form the foundation of the truths today. What we see today are the cumulative revelations of God. When God opens our eyes to see this fact, we begin to realize that we are living in the tide of God's will.

Day 2 —

A. Expound how Paul talked about a gospel in Romans 1:1.

In Romans 1:1 Paul said that he was "separated unto the gospel of God," and then he goes on to say that the gospel of God concerns God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. This indicates that the gospel of God is a gospel of sonship. The goal of this gospel is to transform sinners into sons of God for the formation of the Body of Christ. What glad tidings.

B. Explain how to preach an uplifted gospel.

We must exercise our faith to preach an uplifted gospel. We should not preach a gospel that has been lowered down to what we think is the level of people's understanding. We need to realize that within man there is a God-created talent, ability, to receive God and to receive and understand His gospel. We should preach an uplifted gospel and never lower the concept.

Day 3 —

A. Explain how the words in Romans 1:3-4 to fulfill the prophecy in 2 Samuel 7:12-14.

God told David that He would build One to be David's seed and that this seed would be called God's Son. This seed would be both divine and human. Romans 1:3-4 tells us that in resurrection the seed of David was designated the Son of God. In their intrinsic significance, 2 Samuel 7:12-14a and Romans 1:3-4 reveal to us a human and divine person.

B. Explain how the part of Jesus in His humanity is designated the Son of God.

Jesus in His humanity, in that part, was not the Son of God. He was of the old creation, the old man, having the flesh, which is involved with Satan, sin, and the world. So this part had to be made divine, to be sonized, designated, that it might become a part of the Son of God. His resurrection uplifted the humanity of Jesus into the level of divinity. This is what it means to designate, and this is to sonize.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that we are designated the sons of God by Christ's resurrection.

We are designated the sons of God by a change in life through the process of resurrection. The day is coming when we shall reach the stage of "full blossom." That will be the time of the redemption, the glorification, of our body, which is the full sonship. The life of the Son of God has been implanted into our spirit. Now we must pass through the process of death and resurrection.

B. Explain how we are designated, taking a carnation seed as an example to illustrate.

A carnation seed is designated, not by being labeled, but by being sown into the earth and by growing gradually into a mature, blossoming carnation plant. The full blossoming of a carnation flower is its full designation. Like the carnation seed, we all are in the process of designation. The more we grow and are transformed, the more we are designated the sons of God.

Day 5 —

A. Expound what are the four aspects of the process of resurrection.

In this process of resurrection there are four aspects; sanctification, transformation, conformation, and glorification. In Romans 12:2 Paul speaks of transformation, 8:29 of conformation, and 8:30 of glorification. Our future glorification will be the ultimate step of resurrection; it is resurrection as applied to the body. It will get fuller and fuller until it reaches the peak at the time of our glorification.

B. Explain how God is building Himself in Christ into our being.

God is building Himself in Christ into our being through the metabolic process of transformation. Because Christ is the Spirit, He can dwell in us, and we can fellowship with Him in our spirit. We should look to Him, behold Him, and reflect Him, opening to Him the three layers of our being—our spirit, our heart, and our mouth. Then we will spontaneously reflect Him as a mirror.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the intention and the goal of the publishing the Life-study messages.

I have made an attempt to open every book of the New Testament to you, but I have left the further digging to you. I have only "opened up the mine," but I have not dug that much. I picked up the burden to write the expository footnotes for the Recovery Version in order to open each book of the New Testament to the seeking saints. I believe that the Lord will continue this digging work either through you or through some others.

B. Expound the importance of the spiritual education.

If we continue to take our old way, I am afraid that after another ten years we will be in the same condition. If the saints are not properly constituted with the truth, they cannot live a proper life. If they live only by inspiration and not by the constitution of the truth, I do not trust in that kind of living to be a testimony of the Lord. We must educate our spiritual children.

III. Conclusion:

The up-to-date truth, the present truth, is the gospel of the eternal economy of God according to the ministry of the age. It would be outdated for us to repeat today what Luther Martin said five hundred years ago. God's present truth has moved forward to show us higher things, even reaching the highest peak; wanted us to know God became man so that man may become God in life and nature, but not in the Godhead. That is what we're going to repeat and preach. The Lord has commissioned us with His recovery, and He did unveil the New Testament, revealing to us many precious and valuable truths. Therefore, the Lord's recovery is commissioned with the great affairs to spread the truth. Just open the recovery version Bible and read some footnotes with the hungry ones. If we preach these truths, we will be faithful servants, giving God's people food of their portion at the proper time. Then we will fulfill the commission of the Lord's recovery.