

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Two : Experiencing the Grace of God in the Economy of God

I. Overview:

God's eternal economy is to gain a group of people, that the Triune God may dispense Himself into them to be their life and everything for His corporate expression. The eternal economy of God is the central line of the entire Scriptures. The interpretation of the Scriptures should be strictly governed by this central line. The mark of God's economy is that Christ today is the grace of God in our spirit. Our regenerated spirit indwelt by the Spirit is the focus of God's promised blessing. Our spirit is the only place where we can experience grace. In order to receive and enjoy grace, we need to turn to our spirit and remain there. The receiving of Christ as the Spirit of grace is a lifelong, continuous matter. Grace, mentioned three times in 1 Corinthians 15:10, is the resurrected Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit to bring the processed Triune God in resurrection into us to be our life and life supply that we may live in resurrection. To grow in grace is to grow in this inward source of the supply of life. Grace is God's visitation to us to stay in us and make Himself one with us; we need to grow in such grace for His glory.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound man being the center in the accomplishment of God's eternal economy.

God's eternal economy is to gain a group of people that He may dispense Himself into them to be their life and everything so that they may be filled with Him for His expression. For this, God created the universe and various living creatures. All these things were created for the existence of the man whom God created. Hence, man is the center of God's created universe.

B. Explain the Christian life, what kind of life we should live.

The Christian life is not just to live an ethical life with the human virtues, as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, for the glory of God, but to live a life that is Christ Himself with His divine attributes expressed in His human virtues to be a part of His organic Body for the universal consummation of the eternal economy of God.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the believers' experience of the grace in God's economy from Hebrews 4:16.

In their experience of the grace in God's economy, the believers come forward with boldness to the throne of grace to find grace for timely help. Whenever we turn to our spirit, we touch the throne in heaven, and this throne is the throne of grace to us. When we come forward to the throne of grace, we receive Christ as grace for our timely help.

B. Expound how we from the throne of grace receive grace and enjoy grace.

We need to see that the throne of grace is in our spirit. Whenever we come to the throne of grace by turning to our spirit and calling on the name of the Lord, we should enthrone the Lord, giving Him the headship, the kingship, and the lordship within us. If we enthrone the Lord Jesus within us, the Spirit as the river of water of life will flow from the throne of grace to supply us and we will receive grace and enjoy grace.

Day 3 —

A. Why do we say that we need to receive the Spirit continually?

Receiving the Spirit does not take place once for all. Like breathing, it is a lifelong matter. This is the reason that in 3:5 Paul uses the present tense. Here Paul does not say that God supplied the Spirit or that He shall supply the Spirit; he says that God is supplying the Spirit. Because God is continually supplying the Spirit, we need to receive the Spirit continually.

B. Explain what the revelation of the three verses in the New Testament mentioning two spirits is.

John 3:6 says, "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit"; 4:24, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit"; Romans 8:16, "The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit." First Corinthians 6:17 tells us that he who is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. This is a clear indication that the two spirits have become one, that we may enjoy the Lord in our spirit.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that grace is the central thought of 1 Corinthians.

Grace is the central thought of 1 Corinthians. In verse 9 Paul says that God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. This means that God has called us to participate in, or to partake of, the Son. The fellowship, the enjoyment, and the partaking of Christ are grace. Thus, grace is the Triune God becoming life and everything to us.

B. Explain the difference between God in creation and God in resurrection.

God in creation is for our worship, but God in resurrection is not only for our worship but also for our enjoyment. The Jews know how to worship God only as their Creator; however, we enjoy our Triune God as the life-giving Spirit. God in resurrection is for enjoyment.

Day 5 —

A. Testify when the disciples and apostles experienced Him subjectively, they were living.

All the disciples and apostles who saw the resurrected Christ not only saw Him objectively but also experienced Him subjectively. When the day of Pentecost came, this was the reason they were living, energetic, and operative. The resurrected Christ was in them. In such a Christ, Paul was empowered to do all things. This is the grace of God.

B. Explain what the spiritual significance of the words in 1 Corinthians 15:10 is.

Grace is something of God which is wrought into our being and which works in us and does things for us. It is nothing outward. In 1 Corinthians 15:10 Paul says, "By the grace of God I am what I am." This means that the grace of God had been wrought into his being, making him that kind of person. Grace is not outside of us or beside us. It is a divine person, God Himself in Christ, wrought into our being to be the constituent of our being.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that the Christian living must be the living of the experience of grace.

The everyday experience of the believers must be grace. If it is not grace, it is not the believers' experience; if it is not grace, it is not the Christian living. The Christian living must be the living of grace, the experience of grace. Grace is God's embodiment—Christ. Hence, the grace experienced by the believers is Christ, the embodiment of God.

B. Explain the words in 2 Peter 3:18 and what the spiritual meaning is.

In 2 Peter 3:18, Peter tells us to grow in grace. This proves that grace is not material things. Grace is something living, something in which we can grow... This grace is the divine person, the very Triune God who has been imparted into us as our life for our enjoyment. This is the grace in which we grow. May the Lord grant us all to grow in the divine person who is grace.

III. Conclusion:

In Second Corinthians 15: 10, the grace spoken of three times is the resurrected Christ who became the life-giving Spirit; this processed Triune God is brought into us in resurrection to be our life and life supply so that we may live in resurrection. Saul of Tarsus, being the foremost of sinners, was by this grace to make him become the foremost apostle, and labored more abundantly than all of the other apostles. His ministry and life by grace is an undeniable testimony to the resurrection of Christ. Throughout the centuries, all the living believers have the resurrected Christ living in them to enable them to do things that they can never do in themselves. They may experience of persecution and opposition, and they may also suffer a lot; but with the resurrected Christ in them, even the more opposition they encountered, the more living and energetic they were.