

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Three : Loving the Lord Jesus Christ in Incorruptibility

I. Overview:

Grace is needed for us to live a church life that fulfills God's purpose and solves God's problem with His enemy. For the proper church life we need to love the Lord in incorruptibility. We need to love the Lord Jesus in all the divine, spiritual, heavenly, and incorruptible things concerning the Triune God, the divine life, what Christ is to us, what He has done, and the church. The church in Ephesus failed in the matter of loving the Lord; such a failure became the main reason for the failure of the church throughout the ages. The genuine ministry of the New Testament always stirs us up to love the Lord Jesus with the first love, strengthening us in the simplicity of enjoying Christ as our life supply. We need to love the Lord in incorruptibility in the spiritual experiences that match the church life as unveiled in each chapter of Ephesians; such as Chapter 1 unveils our being chosen in Christ to be holy and without blemish before God in love and chapter 2 unveils our being God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain

Grace is the enjoyment of the Lord. Grace is needed for us to live a church life that fulfills God's eternal purpose and solves God's problem with His enemy. The enjoyment of the Lord as grace is to those who love Him. For the proper church life we need to love the Lord in incorruption, that is, in a condition which is incorruptible. Our love for the Lord must be incorruptible, immortal, and imperishable. Such a love is genuine and sincere.

B. Expound the love in Ephesians 1:4.

Love here refers to the love with which God loves His chosen ones and with which His chosen ones love Him. In such a condition and atmosphere of love, we are saturated with God to be holy and without blemish as He is. In this love, a mutual love, God loves us, and we return this love to Him. It is in this kind of condition that we are being saturated with God.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that Ephesians 4:2 says, "... bearing one another in love."

Our natural humanity does not have the ability to bear others, especially troublesome ones. To bear others in love is not merely to tolerate them. To love only certain kinds of saints is not to bear others in love but to make choices according to our preference. If we are in the divine love, loving the Lord with this love, we will not care for others' criticism. The way to bear one another is by being in love.

B. Expound in Ephesians 4:15, "But holding to truth in love..."

To hold to truth is to hold whatever is real, whatever is true. According to Ephesians, the true, real things are Christ and His Body. Thus, to hold to truth is to hold to Christ and the church. We need to do this in love. We must love the Lord and the church, His Body, with the divine love. In this way our love can be in incorruptibility.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the meaning of "incorruptibility" in Scriptures.

In 1 Timothy 1:17 Paul says that God is incorruptible, and in 2 Timothy 1:10 he says that the Lord "nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel." All the things of the old creation are corruptible. This is proved by Romans 8 where we see that the whole creation is groaning under the slavery of corruption. Everything of the old creation is corrupting. Only the new creation is not.

B. Explain what incorruptible things included in Ephesians 6:24.

Ephesians 6:24 is a total conclusion of the entire book of Ephesians. Christ is incorruptible; the church is incorruptible. We must love the Lord in these incorruptible things. We have to love the Lord according to the Father's predestination unto sonship. We have to love the Lord according to the Son's redemption. We have to love the Lord according to the sealing and the pledging of the Spirit.

Day 4 —

A. Expound what the warning words implies in Ephesians 6:24.

Paul's words in Ephesians 6:24 foreshadow a problem that would arise; the love in the church in Ephesus would fade, as indicated by the Lord's rebuke in Revelation 2:2-5. Therefore, the concluding word of Ephesians 6:24 adds a condition to the presence of grace: loving the Lord in incorruptibility. This seems to imply that if the Ephesians did not love the Lord in such a way, the grace of the Lord would no longer be with them.

B. Explain that the word in 2 Corinthians 11:2 is very touching.

Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:2 says, "For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ." This verse touches our heart in a deep way and stirs up our love for the Lord Jesus. Very often the Life-study messages touch our hearts in the same way. After reading a few pages of a message, the tender feeling within you for the Lord Jesus is stirred up, and you realize afresh how dear and precious He is.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the revelation of the church in Ephesians having two main aspects.

The first aspect is the work of the ministry to build up the Body of Christ. The second aspect is our spiritual life, which comprises many spiritual experiences that enable us to live a life that matches, or is worthy of, the church life. All the gifts are given to perfect the saints to do the work of the ministry, which is to build up the Body of Christ.

B. Fellowship how to shepherd new believers in incorruptible things.

We need to learn how to shepherd new believers for the building up of the Body of Christ in order to love Him in incorruptibility. One day we will stand before the Lord and give an account concerning how we loved Him. In order to endeavor to learn something new, such as how to shepherd new believers, it seems that we will have to pay a price, but we will actually enjoy the Lord and receive His supply.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that we should love the Lord in incorruptibility.

We can still love the Lord if we remain in our soul, but to love the Lord in our soul is not to love Him in incorruptibility. When we are strengthened into our spirit and allow the Lord to make His home in our heart, we are loving Him in incorruptibility. We need to love the Lord by turning to our spirit. This is to love Him in incorruptibility, and this kind of love edifies the saints and builds up the Body of Christ.

B. Explain the key to experiencing this supporting grace is in verse 16.

Where the apostle prayed for us to be strengthened into the inner man. It is when we are in the inner man that Christ makes His home in our hearts. If Christ is making His home in us, everything He is and has will be available in us for our enjoyment. As He abides and settles down in us, He is gracing us, giving us all the riches of His grace.

III. Conclusion:

Paul concludes in Ephesians 6: 24 by saying, "Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility." To love the Lord in incorruptibility means to love the Lord in the new creation. All the old creation are corruptible. Rom. 8 reveals that all the old creation groan under the slavery of corruption. Every thing in the old creation is gradually corrupted, but the new creation is not corrupted. In Ephesians 6, Paul shows us the incorruptible things, including the Triune God, the divine life, what Christ is to us, the divine, spiritual, and heavenly things of the church, and all things in resurrection. When we practice the new way, what we do in gospel preaching, nourishing saints, perfecting saints, and building up the Body of Christ will also be incorruptible. Preaching the gospel gives the eternal God to people, home meetings minister Christ to others, small group meetings teach the truth, transfusing what Christ is and does to people, and encourage saints to prophesy for God and Christ, speaking forth God and Christ into people.