

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Eight : Taking the God-ordained Pathway for the Church— the Way of Philadelphia—according to the Lord's Up-to-date and Ultimate Recovery to Bring Us into a New Revival to Turn the Age

I. Overview:

We need to see the present truth, and we need to hear what the Spirit is speaking to the churches. All the truths are in the Bible, but through man's foolishness, unfaithfulness, negligence, disobedience, and degradation, many truths were lost and hidden from man. These freshly revealed truths are man's new discoveries; the present truth of the Lord's up-to-date and ultimate recovery is to bring us into a new revival to turn the age by our choosing to take the way the present truth. The Lord highly appraised the church in Philadelphia because they kept His word and did not turn away from the teaching of the apostle. The overcomers in Philadelphia is their endeavoring to enter into the God-man living by enjoying the riches of Christ. In the New Testament Christ's replacing of us is altogether a matter of a grafted life. The characteristic of the overcomers in Philadelphia is their brotherly love; love prevails among them so that they may shepherd people. In order to be saved from the way of Laodicea, we need to humble ourselves before God and pay the price to gain more of the Triune God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound what the present truth is.

In 2 Peter 1:12 the "present truth" can also be rendered the "up-to-date truth." Actually, all the truths are in the Bible, but many of them were lost and hidden from man because of man's foolishness, unfaithfulness, negligence, and disobedience. The truths were there, but man did not see them or touch them. 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. Explain the real example of the present truth.

Take, for example, the raising up of Martin Luther in the sixteenth century. God opened his eyes to see the matter of justification by faith. The fact already existed before Luther's time. Luther was merely the one who realized this truth in a stronger way; he was particularly outstanding in this truth. For this reason, this truth became the "present truth" in that age.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the eternal economy of God.

According to His heart's desire, God made His eternal economy to make man the same as He is in life and nature but not in His Godhead and to make Himself one with man and man one with Him, thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression, that all His divine attributes may be expressed in human virtues.

B. Explain the churches' degradation and striking of the three kinds of teachings.

In these seven epistles in Revelation 2 and 3, the striking point of the churches' degradation was three kinds of teachings: the teaching of Balaam, a Gentile prophet; the teaching of the Nicolaitans to build the hierarchy; and the teaching of the woman, the so-called prophetess, Jezebel, full of heresies and fornication. These three kinds of teachings crept in because the churches left the teaching of the apostle.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that Christ is the Steward typified by Eliakim.

Christ is the Steward in the house of God, typified by Eliakim. The Lord Jesus also referred to Himself as the One who has the key of David in Revelation 3:7. He is the One who holds the key of the house of David. The house is the place where a person keeps all his precious things. The house of David was a treasury. Christ is the One who has the key to the house of David.

B. Explain why God fired Shebna and how to apply it.

God fired Shebna, a steward in the house of the king, and replaced him with Eliakim, a type of Christ. In the entire universe everything in God's house and outside God's house should be fired and replaced with Christ. The nations, the steward, and all the bowls and jars in the king's house needed to be replaced. God replaced all of them with Immanuel.

Day 4 —

A. Expound Eliakim's shoulder has the key of the house of God.

God's household is the greatest house in the universe, including all the believers throughout the ages. In this vast divine household, Christ is the unique Steward. He takes care of God's household in every way to serve us. The all-inclusive Christ, as typified by Eliakim, is also the One upon whose shoulder the key of the treasury of the house of God. The treasures today in the house of God are all the riches of Christ.

B. Explain that all of us are like Shebnas who should be fired.

According to Isaiah 22, Shebna was "fired" and replaced by Eliakim as the steward over the king's house. Darby said that Shebna typifies a false Christ. He should be removed and replaced by Christ. Christ should not be replaced by us. Instead, we should be replaced by Christ. All of us are "Shebnas" who should be removed and replaced by the real Eliakim.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the three names of the pillars in the temple of God.

This is the way for us to become pillars built into the temple of God, on which bear three names; the name of God, the name of the city of God, and the Lord's new name. The name of My God indicates that the pillar is God; the name of the city of My God indicates that the pillar is the New Jerusalem; and My new name indicates that the pillar is Christ in a new significance. The overcomer as a pillar becomes God, the New Jerusalem, and Christ.

B. Expound the meaning of "the key of David."

David defeated all the enemies and gained the ground to build the temple. Because God gave the key of authority to David, it is called "the key of David." Then David had a descendant, Christ, who inherited this key. Today Christ is the real David, to whom God has given the key of authority. He and only He has the unique key to open the door for His recovery.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the meaning of the Lord saying that she had "a little power."

What pleases the Lord is not that we are strong, but that we use our little power to do the best we can. Do not try to be strong. Simply spend what you have received from Him. Do not usurp the Lord's grace. You must spend that grace, using it to do your best. If you do this, the Lord will appreciate you.

B. Fellowship the church in Laodicea being a distorted Philadelphia.

Once Philadelphia fails, it becomes Laodicea. Laodicea is a distorted Philadelphia. When brotherly love is gone, Philadelphia immediately turns into the opinions of many. This is the meaning of the word Laodicea. As soon as Philadelphia becomes degraded, the "brothers" become the "many people," and its "brotherly love" becomes "the opinions of the many."

III. Conclusion:

The Lord has only one requirement for Philadelphia: "Hold fast what you have." What you have done is right, but do it again. What you have done with God's blessing, you will do it again. If Philadelphia does not hold fast to what she has, God will raise up others to take her crown. The crown has given to you, and if you give up what you have, someone else will come and take your crown. This is the only warning to us. There is only one way of the Lord's way and that is Philadelphia. The greatest temptation to follow the way of Philadelphia is pride. Pride soon falls to Laodicea. Those who follow the Lord are not proud. The proud, the Lord spews it out. If we do not speak proudly, we will always live before God. Only those who have been living in front of God can not see themselves rich, can not be proud.