

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message One : Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ As the Tree of Life For the Accomplishing of God's Eternal Economy

I. Overview

In Genesis 2 we see two choices before man—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree of life signifies Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, as life to man in the form of food for man to enjoy Him and be constituted with Him for His glory. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as the source of death to man. The tree of life causes man to be dependent on God, but the tree of knowledge causes man to be independent from Him. We must stay on the tree of life for God's building in life by our growth in life. We stay on the way of life by living and serving according to the principle of life, by loving the Lord to the uttermost drawing others to run after Him, by eating Jesus through pray-reading the Word to muse on the word, by enjoying the Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life with its divine capacity, and by living in resurrection in the reality of the church as the Body of Christ. The unique way for us to be overcomers is by eating Christ as the tree of life so that we can be transformed in life to become the bride for Christ's satisfaction.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that God is great and He gave man free will.

Although God wanted man to eat of the tree of life, He did not force him to do it. Neither did God put the tree of life into him. Instead, God gave man free will. God created man with freedom of choice. Why did God do this? God is great. He is not small. Only a small man forces people to accept his opinion.

B. Explain when the Lord Jesus came, He did not coerce people into following Him.

When the Lord Jesus came, He did not coerce people into following Him. He presented Himself to people, but always respected their freedom of choice. Some of us may feel that we have been compelled by the Lord's mercy to believe in Him. To a certain extent, I feel the same way. His Lord's mercy to believe in Him. To a certain extent, I feel the same way. His mercy has conquered us, persuading us to receive Him.

Day 2 —

A. Expound regarding the tree of life.

The first of the two choices was the tree of life, which denoted God Himself as life. The content of the tree of life is life. It is life, simply, purely, and absolutely. The nature of this tree and the result of this tree are also life. Life is the content, nature, and result. Everything is life. What is the principle of the tree of life? It is dependence. We all must be dependent.

B. Explain regarding the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The tree was the opposite of the tree of life. It does not matter whether knowledge is the knowledge of good or of evil, it belongs to the tree of knowledge. Although the tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan, it does not signify him directly. It first signifies everything apart from God, and then it signifies Satan indirectly, because Satan is hidden at the back of the things that are apart from God. Thus, the tree of knowledge represents him indirectly.

Day 3 —

A. Expound a seed of the divine revelation with its development.

Nearly everything in Genesis 1 and 2 is a seed of the divine revelation. The two trees are such seeds. These seeds grow in the following books of the Bible and are reaped as a harvest in the book of Revelation. At the beginning of the Bible we find death and life, and at the end of the Bible we again see death and life. Between the two ends of the Bible two lines are set forth—the line of death and the line of life.

B. Fellowship that the tree of life issues in a dependent life.

The tree of life signifies God as life to man. The tree of life issues in a dependent life. If man would take the tree of life, that would issue in a dependent life in man. All the matters related to life are matters of dependence. You cannot graduate from any matter of life. Eating is a dependent matter. You cannot say that you have eaten more than enough, so you do not need to eat anymore.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the principles of these two trees.

The principle of the tree of life and the principle of the tree of knowledge of good and evil are realized throughout the whole Bible. All the negative things in the Bible are on the line of the tree of knowledge, and all the positive things are on the line of the tree of life. I call the first line the line of knowledge and the second line, the line of life. If we follow these two lines, they carry us through the entire Scripture.

B. Expound what the two lines we see from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

We find the same two lines in the New Testament. Although the Old Testament and the law were originally on the line of life, the Jewish religionists treated them as mere knowledge and put them on the line of knowledge. When the Lord Jesus came, the religious leaders were altogether on the line of knowledge. Only the Lord Jesus Himself was on the line of life. Then He brought His disciples to the line of life.

Day 5 —

A. Explain if we would enjoy Jesus as life, we must love Him.

The Lord Jesus is not a doctrine; He is not a set of gifts or a power; He is a person who needs our love, our appreciation, and our affection. We may talk about Christ being our life, but if we do not have the real love toward Him, He is only life to us in doctrine. If we would enjoy Jesus as life, we must love Him. As long as we love Him, we will enjoy life.

B. Fellowship every day early in the morning we must have a new start.

We must enjoy the Lord in the Word every day early in the morning to have a new start each day. According to God's principle in His creation, He ordained to have a new year, a new month or a new moon, and a new day. We may have failed today, but thank the Lord tomorrow is still here waiting for us. Within every twenty-four hours, there is a new chance for us to have a new start.

Day 6 —

A. Why do we say every genuine Christian being a miniature garden of Eden?

The mind of your soul represents your self, sin in your flesh represents Satan as the tree of knowledge, and the Spirit in your spirit represents God as the tree of life. In Genesis 2 the two trees were objective; in Romans 8 they are subjective. We should never say that these two trees are no longer with us. These two laws are the two principles of the two trees in our subjective experience.

B. Explain the revelation of Romans 8:2 and its application.

Who is this "me" in Romans 8:2? It is the switching "me." Paul pointed out that the law had been set up, and the law was still under God's operation, yet it needed Paul's switching on. The installation has been done, and the operation is in progress. They are all here waiting for you to switch on by walking according to the spirit, by setting the mind on the spirit, by killing the practices of the body, by being led by Him, by crying, by witnessing, by groaning.

III. Conclusion:

We must forget everything, love the Lord alone, and stop our efforts and work. Then the divine law of the divine life will have a full opportunity to rule in us so that all the riches of the divine life will be produced. In the church in Ephesus, the first love was lost. Therefore, we must overcome this matter. We need to pray, "O Lord Jesus, I love You. I will love you with the first love, with the best love." To those who overcome this condition in the church in Ephesus, Christ will give to eat of the fruit of the tree of life. This first love will bring us to the tree of life. This is a kind of an exchange. When we give our first love to the Lord, He will give us the fruit of the tree of life to eat. Our love is also His enjoyment, and the fruit of the tree of life is our enjoyment as well.