

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message One : Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Loving His Appearing and Not Loving the Present Age**

### **I. Overview:**

If the Lord's second coming is precious to us, we will love His appearing. We should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing; this causes us not to be discouraged but to remain faithful to the end. We need to realize that those who love the world are enemies of God. The world is an evil system arranged systematically by Satan. The world is against God the Father, the things in the world are against the will of God. The whole world comprises the satanic world system and the people of the world, the fallen human race. An age is a part, a section, or an aspect of the world system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and occupy people and keep them away from God and His purpose. If we love the present age, we will take sides with the world; if we love the Lord's appearing, we will take sides with Him and fight with Him for His interests. Those who love the Lord Jesus, take Him as our life, live Him, and magnify Him should await His coming and love His appearing; loving the Lord's appearing is a proof that we love the Lord and live for Him today; hence, it also becomes a condition for us to receive His reward.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Explain the relationship between the loving Lord's appearing and the kingdom.

By loving the Lord's appearing, we can be rewarded with an entrance into the kingdom of the heavens. Loving the Lord's appearing cannot be separated from loving the Lord Himself. If we really love the Lord, we will love His appearing. If we love the Lord's appearing, we will be like John on the island of Patmos, who was for the Lord and said, "Come, Lord Jesus!". If we love the Lord's appearing like John, we also will partake of the Lord's kingdom.

B. Expound how we can live if we live in the light of the appearing of the Lord.

According to Paul's charge in 2 Timothy 4:1, Timothy was to live in the light of the appearing of the Lord and His kingdom. The apostles lived with the appearing of the Lord in view. The Lord's appearing was constantly a warning to them and regulated their living. They did not dare to do certain things because they believed that the Lord could appear at any time.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the Lord's words in Revelation 22:12, and what our response should be.

In Revelation 22:12 the Lord said, "Behold, I come quickly." In verse 20 He also said, "Yes, I come quickly." Our loving response should be, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" We should always call for His coming. This becomes our response to His return. Since we know that the Lord's second coming is so precious, we should love the Lord's appearing.

B. State what kind of life we should live if we love the Lord's appearing.

Since we love the Lord's appearing, we should earnestly wait for His coming. Our living should indicate that we have no other hope on earth. Our hope is in the coming Lord. He is our eternal destiny. In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul says, "Brothers, the time is shortened; for the fashion of this world is passing away." Christ is our real hope.

Day 3 —

A. Expound how the Lord dealt with the world.

By His death on the cross the Lord judged the world and cast out its ruler, Satan. This evil system, the kingdom of darkness, was judged when its ruler, Satan, was cast out by the Lord's crucifixion in the flesh. By judging Satan in this way, the Lord also judged the world, which is hanging on Satan. Hence, the Lord's being lifted up caused the world to be judged and its ruler, Satan, to be cast out.

B. Explain what we should have our knowledge for the world.

The Greek word for world, kosmos, denotes the material universe as a system created by God. In John 1:29, it denotes the fallen human race corrupted and usurped by Satan as components for his evil world system. In 1 Peter 3:3, it denotes adorning, ornament. In 1 John 2:15, it denotes an order, a set form, an orderly arrangement. The whole of such a satanic system lies in the evil one.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the words in 1 John 5:19, and how we should apply.

The whole world lies, that is, remains passively in the sphere of the evil one's influence, under the evil one's usurpation and manipulation. While the believers are living and moving actively by the life of God, the whole world is lying passively under the usurping and manipulating hand of Satan, the evil one, who refers to one who affects others, influencing them to be evil and vicious.

B. Expound that Satan is making the things in the world to head them up to antichrist.

Politics, education, literature, science, art, law, commerce, music—such are the things that constitute the kosmos, and these are things that we meet daily. In studying the history of mankind we have to acknowledge marked progress in each of these departments. Satan is utilizing the material world, the men of the world, the things that are in the world, to head everything up eventually in the kingdom of antichrist.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the words of “not to be fashioned according to this age.” in Romans 12:2b.

In Romans 12:2 Paul charges the believers not to be fashioned according to this age. The Greek word translated “age” can be rendered “modern.” The age is the present, practical part of the world that we contact. To be conformed to this age means to adopt modern fashions outwardly. The combination of all people, activities, and things outside of God is called the world.

B. Expound what Demas giving a warning to us in 2 Timothy 4:10 is.

In 2 Timothy 4:10 we find the reason Paul charged Timothy to come to him quickly: “For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age...” Due to the attraction of the present age, Demas forsook the apostle. If we love the Lord's appearing, we shall take sides with Him and fight with Him for His interests. But if we love the present age, we shall take sides with the world.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the significance of the 2 Timothy 4:8.

We will receive a reward because we love His appearing. To love the Lord's appearing and to love the Lord Himself are inseparable. If we truly love the Lord, we will love His appearing. All those who love the Lord and forsake everything for Him love also His appearing, that they may receive His reward; those who do not love the Lord, but love the world or love sin, are afraid of the Lord's coming.

B. Fellowship that if we genuinely love the Lord, we must love His appearing.

If we genuinely love the Lord, we must love His appearing, that is, His coming. John 21 reveals the matter of loving the Lord. There the Lord asked Peter three times whether he loved Him. 2 Timothy 4:8 reveals the matter of loving the Lord's appearing. If we genuinely love someone, we will eagerly expect that one's coming. If we love the Lord, we will surely love His appearing.

### III. Conclusion:

We, living in this world, often contaminated with the filth of the world unconsciously secularized. Paul charges us in Romans 12: 2, "Do not be fashioned according to this age..." This age refers to the present, actual part of the world that we contact and live in. Each generation has its own special shape, characteristics, modern, fashion and trend, like a mold, to mold people into its appearance. For this reason, our clothing, everything we use, the simpler the better, as long as it is sufficient to meet our needs. However, it is only when the law of the Spirit of life rules us within that all of us will love the Lord and be simple. Therefore, we should have fellowship with the Lord and live in the law of the Spirit of life, so that our life can be simple and free from worldly entanglements.