

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Six : The Joy Set before Christ and the Joy Set before Us

I. Overview:

For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame. Colossians 2:15 portrays the warfare that took place at the time of Christ's crucifixion. In His crucifixion Christ was working to accomplish redemption, and God was working to judge sin. At the same time the rulers and authorities were busy in the attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ. While God was judging sin, the evil rulers and authorities were very active. In stripping off the rulers and authorities, God made a display of them openly, putting them to shame and triumphing over them in the cross. The joy set before us is the Lord Jesus, the Bridegroom, coming for His bride, who has made herself ready. The readiness of the corporate bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers. Christ lived out of the saints as their subjective righteousness becomes their wedding garment. The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church. In Ephesians 5 the word is for nourishment that leads to the beautifying of the bride, but in Ephesians 6 the word is for killing that enables the church as the corporate warrior to engage in spiritual warfare. Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride as His army to fight against Antichrist.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the words in Ephesians 5:25.

Ephesians 5:25 tells us that Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Christ's loving the church and giving Himself up for her was for redemption and for the impartation of life. According to John 19:34, blood and water came out of the Lord's pierced side. The blood was for redemption, and the water was for the impartation of life so that the church might come into existence.

B. Expound the difference between Christ's offering and priests' offerings in Old Testament.

The priests in the old covenant stood daily and offered the same sacrifices again and again, because what they offered could not take away sins. It was Christ's offering of Himself that has accomplished the taking away of sins. Christ has put away sin by offering Himself to God as the unique sacrifice for sin. His sitting in heaven is a sign and proof that the taking away of sins has been accomplished.

Day 2 —

A. Explain according to Colossians 2:15, "God stripped off the rulers and authorities..." While Christ was on the cross, God was there judging sin and nailing the law to the cross. As He was doing this, the rulers and authorities gathered around God and Christ. God made us alive together with Christ, nailed the ordinances to the cross, stripped off the rulers and authorities, made a display of them openly, and triumphed over them.

B. Expound our seeing of the economy of God's salvation in Colossians 2:15.

In the economy of His salvation God enlivens us, nails the law to the cross, and strips off the evil rulers and authorities. Because God has removed the law and the angels, we, His chosen people, are alone with Him. What we need today is the enlivening One, the life-giving One. This is the economy of God's salvation.

Day 3 —

A. State the spiritual significance of the bride in Revelation 19:7.

The wife of the Lamb in Revelation 19 is the aggregate of all the overcoming saints from Abel until the Lord's return. The aggregate of all the Old Testament and New Testament overcomers is the wife who will be ready for Christ's wedding. The readiness of the bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers. Furthermore, the overcomers are not separate individuals but a corporate bride. For this aspect, building is needed.

B. Expound that the church as the bride of Christ must be the golden lampstand.

This indicates that we need to live out the life of Christ. We need to care for the tree of life, the Triune God, and Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit. Whether we are at home with our family or in the church meetings with the brothers and sisters, we all need to live out Christ. If we live by Christ, what we live out is God, who is Spirit, signified by the pure gold that shines forth the light.

Day 4 —

A. Explain while the church is under degradation, the overcomers should be to live Christ out as the subjective righteousness.

While the church is under great degradation, we should be the overcomers to live Christ and even live Him out as our subjective righteousness day by day. Here the righteousnesses of the overcoming saints are subjective and enable us to meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ. Hence, the fine linen indicates Christ, as our overcoming life, whom we live out of our being.

B. Expound the righteousnesses in Revelation 19:8.

The righteousness that is Christ Himself is sufficient for us to be justified and saved; this righteousness is singular in number. However, the use of righteousnesses in Revelation 19:8 is in the plural, and proves that what is mentioned in this verse is righteous deeds, the daily walk, the Christian living, which Christ as our life works out through us. This outworking of the inner life is the white linen with which we are clothed.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the relationship between Revelation 19 and Ephesians 5.

Apart from Ephesians 5, there is no way for the bride to be prepared, and hence no way for Revelation 19 to be fulfilled. It is crucial that we experience the nourishing, cherishing, sanctifying, and purifying riches of Christ to remove our oldness and defects. When all such things have been removed, we will become a church that is holy, glorious, and without blemish. Then we will be the bride in Revelation 19.

B. Expound the beauty in Ephesians 5 is for the presentation of the bride.

The church as Christ's bride must also be beautiful. When Christ presents the church to Himself, the church will not be a strong man; she will be a beautiful bride. Christ is the universal man. As this universal man, He needs the church to be His bride to match Him. In order to be the bride of Christ, the church must become beautiful and have all the spots and wrinkles removed.

Day 6 —

A. State according to Revelation 19, the church is both the bride and the warrior.

After the wedding, all the guests will become the army. As the bride, we must be beautiful, without spot or wrinkle, and be clothed in fine linen. As the warrior, we must be equipped to fight against God's enemy. It will be the bride of Christ who will follow Him as His army to fight and destroy Antichrist and his army.

B. Expound the overcoming saints having two garments.

The overcoming saints have two garments, one for salvation and the other for reward. The fine linen here is the second garment. This second garment of the overcomers qualifies them both to attend the marriage dinner of the Lamb and to fight with the Lord against His enemy. Thus, the wedding garment becomes the fighting garment. The second garment qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army.

III. Conclusion:

According to our experience; We are to be strengthened, enriched, healed, and uplifted through the meetings.

What for? The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the doctors will tell you that if you are joyful all day you will not always be sick. According to typology, the church is a group of people gathering together, and the reality of the church life is the meeting life. Our Lord despises endurance for the joy of His kingdom, but what about us? Brothers and sisters, have you ever been tempted to forsake the glory of the coming kingdom? Through the all ages, I do not know how many believers, because they want to get the glory of the kingdom, they left everything to follow the Lord, then you? Then Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him, and they crossed over, weary yet pursuing. We are either being weary or running. " May we all run to the end of the course.