

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Fifteen: God's Power and God's Wisdom

I. Overview:

This indicates that the Christ who is the power of God and the wisdom of God for the carrying out of God's economy is the crucified Christ, a Christ who did not do anything to save Himself. The crucified Christ is the power of God. It takes the power of God to defeat Satan, the world, sin, fallen man, the flesh, the natural life, the old creation, and the ordinances. Christ as the power of God strengthens us with a dynamic power, supplying and sustaining us in what we are and what we do; He also sustains us to the point of being unshakable. For Christ to become wisdom to us from God indicates that there is the transmission of Christ as wisdom from God to us for our daily experience. He is our righteousness (for our past), by which we have been justified by God, that we might be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life. He is our sanctification (for our present), by which we are being sanctified in our soul, that is, transformed in our mind, emotion, and will, with His divine life. He is our redemption (for our future), that is, the redemption of our body. It is of God that we participate in such a complete and perfect salvation.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that the Christ who is the power with wisdom of God was crucified.

The Christ who is the power of God and the wisdom of God for the carrying out of God's economy is the crucified Christ, a Christ who did not

do anything to save Himself. In man's eyes, if a person is crucified, he is deemed powerless, because a powerful person would not allow himself to be crucified, yet the Christ who is the power of God was crucified.

B. Why does Paul in 1 Corinthians emphasize the Christ crucified.

In 1 Corinthians Paul does not emphasize Christ's resurrection. Rather, he emphasizes the preaching of Christ crucified. For Jews, this would have been a great miracle. The Greeks may have regarded a word about resurrection as very philosophical. In their quest for wisdom they may have been interested to learn how a dead person could become alive again. Nevertheless, Paul preached a crucified Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Fellowship in the cross of Christ seeing God's power.

In the cross of Christ we see God's power. It takes the power of God to defeat Satan, the world, sin, fallen man, the flesh, the natural life, the old creation, and the ordinances. This power is the power of crucifixion, the power of the wonderful death of Christ. The death of Christ has become the power of God to destroy Satan and to terminate the old creation.

B. Expound this crucified Christ being also the wisdom of God.

In order to accomplish anything, we need both power and wisdom. Wisdom is for planning and purposing, whereas power is for carrying out and accomplishing what is planned and purposed. If we have power without wisdom, we may use our strength in a foolish way. Therefore, we need Christ as both power and wisdom. The crucified Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Day 3 —

A. Explain seeing God's eternal purpose from the book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:9 speaks of God's good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself. In Ephesians 3:11 Paul refers to "the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord." Furthermore, in Ephesians 1:11 Paul says that God "works all things according to the counsel of His will." The crucified Christ as the wisdom of God is related to God's plan according to His good pleasure.

B. Testify by experiencing the crucified Christ, we spontaneously have a way to do God's will.

When we experience the crucified Christ, He becomes to us both the power of God and the wisdom of God. Since we have the crucified Christ as

God's wisdom, there is no need for us to seek a way to carry out God's will. Simply by experiencing the crucified Christ, we spontaneously have a way to do God's will. We become very wise in doing the will of God.

Day 4 —

A. Testify experiencing His wisdom in our daily lives.

Christ as the wisdom of God flows unceasingly from God to us to be our present and practical wisdom in our experience. As we face certain problems and realize that we do not know how to handle them, we should apply Christ as our wisdom. If we remain with the Lord to receive His dispensing, He will be transmitted into us as the wisdom.

B. Explain the wisdom in 1 Corinthians 1:30 being equal to the way in John 14:6.

The Lord Jesus in this verse says, "I am the way." God's way is His wisdom. If we enjoy Christ and participate in Him, we will have Him as our wisdom, as our way. This wisdom comes from our enjoyment of Christ. Day by day and hour by hour we should live in the spirit and exercise the spirit to call on the name of the Lord Jesus.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Christ as righteousness taking care of our past.

In the past we were unrighteous, always doing things unrighteously. Now Christ is transmitted into us as our righteousness to take care of our past in order that in Him we would be accepted by God. Because our past life was sinful, we need Christ to be our righteousness. This is the real remedy, the real cure.

B. Explain Christ as our objective and subjective righteousness.

As our objective righteousness, Christ is the One in whom we are justified by God. Justification is God's action in approving us according to the standard of His righteousness. As our subjective righteousness, Christ is the One dwelling in us to live for us a life that can be justified by God and that is always acceptable to God. When we live this Christ, He becomes our daily righteousness.

Day 6 —

A. Explain Christ as redemption taking care of our future.

Christ as righteousness saved us in that when we believed in Christ and were justified in Him, we were regenerated in our spirit. Christ as sanctification is now transforming our soul, thereby making us holy, yet our body still remains unsaved. In the future our body will be redeemed in Christ; that is, Christ will be our redemption.

B. Expound what the three matters including to redemption is.

Redemption includes three matters: being brought back to God, terminated, and replaced. In our experience we may go astray from the Lord. But when we enjoy Christ and thereby become righteous and sanctified, we are brought back to God. Second, redemption also includes termination. The Christ who dwells in us, supplies us, and becomes our nourishment also terminates us. Third, redemption includes being replaced by Christ.

III. Conclusion:

If we enjoy Christ and participate in Him, we will have Him as our wisdom, as our way. This wisdom comes from our enjoyment of Christ. Day by day and hour by hour we should live in the spirit and exercise the spirit to call on the name of the Lord Jesus. If we do this, we will enjoy Christ and have Him as our wisdom, that is, our way of doing things. Every day, Christ as the power and wisdom of God, are transmitted to us, the enjoyers, from God, the giver. Sometimes we may be weak and fall into sin and darkness, and the transmission is temporarily cut off. But whenever we turn to the Lord and confess our sins, we receive forgiveness and reconnect with the transmission. As soon as the transmission is restored, we enjoy Christ as our power, wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption. We must stay in this transmission.