

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Twenty-One : The Mystery of the Church

I. Overview:

Ephesians 3:10-11 reveals that we may experience and enjoy Christ as the mystery of the church. The unveiling of this mystery is revelation; the mystery of Christ, the church, was hidden in other generations but has been revealed in the New Testament age. The mingled spirit is the means by which the New Testament revelation concerning Christ and the church is unveiled to the apostles and prophet. If we would see the revelation of the hidden mystery, we need to be strengthened into our inner man, our regenerated spirit, and allow Christ

to make His home in our heart. Christ Himself, the church, the kingdom of the heavens, the gospel, the indwelling of Christ, and the coming resurrection and transfiguration of the saints are all mysteries that were hidden in times of the ages. Christ and the church as one spirit are the great mystery. The church is the hidden mystery in God's eternal economy. The mystery of the universe is God, the mystery of God is Christ, and the mystery of Christ is the church. The great mystery, Christ and the church, is the meaning of the universe and of human life, which should be our Christians' daily life.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Fellowship that Ephesians 3:3-11 reveals of Christ as the mystery of the church.

Ephesians 3:3-11 reveals that we may experience and enjoy Christ as the mystery of the church. Christ as the mystery of the church was not made known to man in other generations but was revealed to the apostles and prophets in their spirit. This mystery is God's economy, which is to dispense Christ, as the embodiment of God, into God's chosen people in order to produce a Body.

B. Expound the greatest mystery in the universe.

Christ, the Son of God, is the embodiment of God. The Son of God as the embodiment of God requires a Body, an increase, an expansion. This expansion can be produced only by God's dispensing of Himself into His chosen people. This is the greatest mystery in the universe. God's economy is to dispense Himself into His chosen people in order to produce the Body for the full expression of God.

Day 2 —

A. State how to receive the same revelation given to the leading apostles and prophets.

We need to receive the same revelation given to the leading apostles and prophets. We must receive it ourselves personally and subjectively by

being strengthened into our inner man. This revelation concerning Christ and the church is the economy of God, the hidden mystery. If we have the revelation of God's economy, we will be followers of the apostles and prophets in God's New Testament ministry.

B. Expound the words in Ephesians 3:6, and how to apply it.

Regarding Christ as the mystery of the church, Ephesians 3:6 says that "in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel." Being fellow heirs is related to the blessing of the household of God; being fellow members of the Body, to the blessing of the Body of Christ; and being fellow partakers of the promise, to the blessing of the promise of God.

Day 3 —

A. Explain there being different types of the hidden mysteries and the unveiled things in the three times of the ages.

In the dispensations from Adam to Moses and from Moses to Christ, everything was unveiled, manifested, and there was no mystery. It will be the

same in the dispensation of the millennial kingdom and in the new heaven and new earth—everything will be unveiled, and there will be no more mystery. But in the dispensation from Christ to the millennial kingdom, everything is a mystery.

B. Expound that Christ will come back to take full possession of the earth in Revelation 10:1-7.

At the completion of His judgment of the world, Christ will come back to take full possession of the earth. The whole earth will belong to Him; not one part of it will belong to anyone else. Today many nations are fighting to increase their territory, but they are fighting in vain, for whatever they gain will eventually belong to Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the three stages of the mystery.

The mystery of the universe is God. The mystery of God, the New Testament reveals, is Christ. The mystery of Christ is the church. Actually, these are simply three stages of one mystery. God is to be found in Christ, and Christ is to be found in the church. The church, then, is the mystery of Christ, who in turn is the mystery of God, who Himself is the mystery of the universe.

B. Expound the church being a mystery within a mystery.

When we consider Ephesians 3:4 in context, we see that the mystery of Christ is the church. God is a mystery, Christ is the mystery of God, and the church is the mystery of Christ. Hence, the church is actually a mystery within a mystery. The first stage is God Himself as the mystery of the universe; the second stage is Christ as the mystery of God; and the third stage is the church as the mystery of Christ.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that Christ is in the believers, but to the worldly people this is a mystery.

The believers have Christ, the mystery of God, dwelling in them, but worldly people do not realize that He is in the believers. To them, this is

a mystery. Such a Christ as the mystery of God produces a mysterious Body, the church. The mystery of Christ—the church—”in other generations was not made known to the sons of men” (Ephesians 3:5).

B. Explain that the mystery of the church was hidden, but it has been revealed in the New Testament age.

In Colossians 1:26, from the ages means from eternity, and from the generations means from the times. The mystery of the church was hidden

from eternity past throughout the Old Testament times, but in the New Testament age it has been manifested to all the believers in Christ. This

indicates that the saints today have the position and privilege to receive that which was not revealed to God's people in the Old Testament.

Day 6 —

A. Expound God creating the heavens, the earth, and billions of items in order to have the church.

There is a relationship between creation and the church. God created all things for the church. God created the heavens, the earth, and billions of

items in order to have the church. God's intention in His creation of all things, including man, was that man would be mingled with God to produce the church. Zechariah 12:1 says that the Lord stretched forth the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him. This indicates that the heavens are for the earth, that the earth is for man, and that man with the human spirit is for God.

B. State that God's heart's desire is to have the increase of Christ.

God's heart's desire is to have the real expression of Christ, the Body of Christ, the increase of Christ.

Furthermore, this is the ultimate satisfaction

of man's spiritual experience. Unless you attain to this ultimate point, you can never be fully and ultimately satisfied. You will never be satisfied until you realize that this Body is the expression of Christ, the increase of Christ, and the enlargement of Christ.

III. Conclusion:

In order to see the hidden mysteries in God's eternal economy, we should not only read God's words with our eyes and understand them with our minds, but also comprehend them with our spirits. We need to open ourselves fully, to be poor in the spirit, and to pray for God's revelation to our spirits. Furthermore, in order to receive the revelation of these hidden mysteries, we need to be strengthened into the inner man, that Christ may make His home in our hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love. This is the key to experiencing the revelation of God's mysteries. We must be strengthened into the inner man to receive this revelation subjectively. Today, as God moves throughout the entire earth, every local church is a mystery, a living organism of Christ, an extension and overflow of Him, a household of God, a golden lampstand, and a bride. Ultimately, in the eternal future, these local churches will become the New Jerusalem.