

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophecy Message Two : God Calling Us according to His Own Purpose

I. Overview:

Second Timothy 1:9, "God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose". We need to view the purpose of God's salvation from God's perspective; salvation is for His created and redeemed ones to have the sonship, that is, to have the life of the Son and be conformed to the image of His Son so that the Son would be the Firstborn among many brothers. The gospel saves us out of the human life that is without meaning into the meaning of the universe. The book of Job leaves us with a twofold question concerning the purpose of God in creating man and in dealing with His chosen people. The answer to this question is the economy of God, which is God's eternal intention with His heart's desire to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity into His chosen people to be their life and nature. God's eternal purpose is to have the church to be the organic Body of Christ for the manifestation of His multifarious wisdom. Mathew 7:21 reveals that if we would enter into the kingdom of the heavens, we must do the will of God. Not only we would call the name of the Lord but also do the will of our Father, that is, we need to enter in through the narrow gate and walk on the constricted way.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the words in 2 Timothy 1:9.

God has not only saved us to enjoy His blessing, but also called us with a holy calling, a calling for a particular cause, to fulfill His purpose. The purpose here is God's plan according to His will to place us into Christ, making us one with Him to share His life and position so that we may be His testimony.

B. State the gospel bringing us back to the meaning of the universe.

The gospel unveils the meaning of the universe. The gospel is not simply that the Lord Jesus was crucified to shed His blood and die for us. The entire Bible, from Genesis 1 through Revelation 22, is a gospel message. The gospel of God saves us out of a human life that is without meaning into the meaning of the universe.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the book of Job leaving us with a crucial twofold question.

This is concerning God's intention in His creation of man and in His dealing with His chosen people. The answer is found not in the Old Testament but only in the New Testament. This answer is altogether concerned with the Triune God Himself. The New Testament unveils to us that God's intention in His creation of the universe and of billions of items including man is to work Himself into man to be man's content, nature, life supply, and element.

B. Describe the Bible being written according to God's move.

One day, God came out of eternity and entered into time, entering into the womb of a human virgin first, then He came out of that womb, becoming the God-man to live a genuine human life on earth. After Christ finished His work on the cross, He rose up from the dead. Through His resurrection He brought His humanity into divinity. He was also born to be the firstborn Son of God to be the leading One of the many sons of God.

Day 3 —

A. Expound Church as a vessel of God to fulfill His purpose and to solve all His problems. God is merciful and full of grace; He sent His Son to save us. His purpose is to make these men a Body that He may dwell in them and manifest Himself through them by mingling Himself with them. However, Satan came in, and death followed him; where death is, there is darkness. Following darkness there is confusion. Where there is light, however, we do things under the control of the light.

B. Explain what God came to do after the corruption of His creation.

This corruption in the whole of creation came from darkness, darkness came from death, and death came from Satan. God has a purpose to fulfill, and He has an enemy and many problems—death, darkness, confusion, corruption, slavery, and vanity. God is working Himself into us and mingling Himself with us so that

we may be holy, absolutely sanctified by Him. Every bit of our human nature will be mingled with the divine nature.

Day 4 —

A. Explain to be filled with the full knowledge of God's will.

To be filled with the full knowledge of God's will simply means to have the revelation of God's plan so that through this revelation we know what God plans to do in this universe. The revelation of God's plan opens the way for us to have more experience of Christ. Thus, we need to spend more time to learn about Christ in the plan of God.

B. Expound how to see God's planning to do from the entire Scriptures.

The Bible opens the universal curtain, the universal veil, to show what is in the mind of God and what it is that God plans to do in this universe. This plan is to make His Son everything. God's desire, plan, and mind is to make Christ everything. This is the content of the entire Scriptures.

Day 5 —

A. Explain Matthew 7:21 referring to the manifestation of the kingdom.

Matthew 7:21 does not refer to the reality of the kingdom of the heavens today but to the coming manifestation of the kingdom in the future. To enter into the kingdom of the heavens we need to do two things: call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father. To call on the Lord suffices for us to be saved, but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens we also need to do the will of the heavenly Father.

B. Expound that the ultimate issue of the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens is to accomplish the will of the heavenly Father.

In this last section of the kingdom constitution, it is no longer a negative matter, but it is absolutely a positive matter of doing the will of the Father who is in the heavens. The kingdom people are not for anything other than doing the will of the Father. In order to do the will of the Father, we need to walk on the constricted way. In the last section of the constitution it is not only a matter of life but also a matter of the will of the Father.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what kinds of people in Matthew 7:23 "Workers of lawlessness" are.

Certain works may be done in the Lord's name and yet not be done according to the will of God. Are you doing this kind of work, or are you doing God's will? We must have the assurance in whatever we do that we are doing the will of the heavenly Father. Otherwise, the Lord Jesus will say to us, "Workers of lawlessness." Even prophesying in the Lord's name, but not according to the will of the Father, is a type of lawlessness.

B. Expound that the runners in any race must run in the proper lanes.

The runners in any race must run in the proper lanes. Although you may run faster than others, your running will not be recognized if you run outside the lines of your lane. Today the work of many Christian workers is not restricted by the heavenly lines. In their own eyes they have done a great deal in the Lord's name and for the Lord. In the eyes of the Lord, however, their work is lawlessness.

III. Conclusion:

To enter into the kingdom of the heavens we need to do two things: call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father. To call on the Lord suffices for us to be saved, but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens we also need to do the will of the heavenly Father. The Father's will is to build the church upon the Son as the rock, and this will can only be accomplished through His life. We need to live in the life of Heavenly Father and live by His life. This life is for carrying out the will of heavenly Father. There are constricting lines in the Lord's recovery, and we must be constricted in our running. We also have a limited runway within us, which is the runway of the divine life and divine nature. We can know the will of the heavenly Father through His life and nature within us. This inward divine nature will guide and limit us as we run within the runway He has measured for us.