

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Six : The Triune God in Christ Being Life to Us by Shining in Our Hearts

I. Overview :

In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them. Satan, the god of this age, has blinded the thoughts and the minds of the unbelievers so that the illumination of the gospel of Christ's glory might not shine in their hearts. Christ as the image of God is the effulgence of His glory; hence, the gospel of Christ is the gospel of His glory that illuminates, radiates, and shines in our hearts. The illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God is in the face of Jesus Christ; this indicates that the gospel of the glory of Christ is a lovely person on whose face we can see the glory of God. This priceless treasure has made us, the earthen vessels, ministers of the new covenant with a priceless ministry; this is by the divine power in resurrection; the excellency of this power is surely of God. You were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light. We are light because we are one with God in the Lord. God the Father is as goodness, righteousness refers to God the Son, truth is the expression of the fruit of the light.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the words in Second Corinthians 4:5 and how to apply them.

Second Corinthians 4:5 says, "For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake." For explains why the apostles' gospel, which is the gospel of the glory of Christ, should not have been veiled, for they do not preach, exalt, themselves but Christ Jesus as Lord of all, and they conducted themselves as the believers' slaves for Jesus' sake.

B. Expound the thoughts of men having been blinded by the god of this age.

The god of this age is Satan. Those who are blinded or veiled think that they do not worship anything. Actually, their god is Satan. Atheists worship Satan without knowing what they are doing. Nearly all people today, whether primitive or highly cultured, have been blinded by the god of this age.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the words in Second Corinthians 4:6, and how to experience them.

God's shining produces the new covenant ministers and their ministry. The glory of the old covenant is on the surface, but the glory of the new covenant has great depth. The illumination here, which refers to the shining of God's light on others out from those whose hearts have been enlightened by God. God shines in our hearts that we may shine on others so that they may have the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. Compare the face of Jesus Christ with the face of Moses.

The face of Jesus Christ is in comparison with the face of Moses. The glory of the gospel shines in the face of One through whom grace and reality came, issuing in righteousness and life. The glory of the law shone in the face of one through whom the law was given, resulting in condemnation and death. The shining of God in our hearts is to illumine us that we may know not the glory on Moses' face but the glory in Christ's face.

Day 3 —

A. Testify that in our preaching of the gospel there should be an illumination.

This means that while we are preaching, God shines into the hearts of those to whom we are speaking. We also need to help them to call on the name of the Lord Jesus in order that they would be brought to the face of Christ, have personal contact with Him, and experience God's shining in their hearts. To preach in this way is to present not merely a gospel of certain facts but a gospel of glory.

B. Expound that God's shining in our hearts brings into us a treasure.

The Christ of glory, who is the embodiment of God is our life and our everything. Because of the shining in our hearts, we have this treasure, a treasure that is wonderful, precious, and marvelous. The treasure in the weak earthen vessels is the very God in Christ shined into us. A priceless treasure is contained in worthless vessels!

Day 4 —

A. Expound in 2 Corinthians 3:18 the glory being related to the apostles.

In 2 Corinthians 3:18 the glory is related to the apostles, the ministers of the new covenant. This shows that the ministry of the new covenant is not merely an activity carried out by the new covenant ministers; rather, it is what the new covenant ministers are. They are one with their ministry, for the same invisible glory saturates and pervades both their work and their being, so that there is no difference between the two.

B. Explain the words in 2 Corinthians 3:18, and how to experience with its application.

To behold the glory of the Lord is to see the Lord ourselves; to reflect the glory of the Lord is to enable others to see Him through us. We are like mirrors beholding and reflecting the glory of the Lord. This being the case, our face should be fully unveiled that we may see well and reflect properly. Thus we are being transformed metabolically to have His life shape by His life power with His life essence.

Day 5 —

A. Describe the relationship between the light and us.

We were once not only dark but darkness itself. Now we are not only the children of light but light itself. As light is God, so darkness is Satan. We were darkness because we were one with Satan. Now we are light because we are one with God in the Lord.

B. Expound the fruit of the light being related to the Triune God.

Goodness is the nature of the fruit of the light; righteousness is the way or the procedure by which the fruit of the light is produced; and truth is the reality, the real expression (God Himself), of the fruit of the light. The fruit of the light must be good in nature, righteous in procedure, and real in expression, that God may be expressed as the reality of our daily walk.

Day 6 —

A. Explain Revelation 22:4 says, "And they will see His face."

Revelation 22:4 says, "And they will see His face." This is a blessing to God's redeemed in eternity. The His in this verse refers to both God and the Lamb. Seeing His face means seeing the face of God and the Lamb. Being shined upon by the Lord God is another blessing to God's redeemed in eternity. God Himself will shine upon us, and we will live under His illumination.

B. Expound Revelation 22:5 says that the light of the Lord God shall shine forth.

Revelation 22:5 says that the Lord will shine upon His saints. In the future the unlimited glory of God will shine forth as light with Christ as the lamp in the New Jerusalem.

According to Revelation 21:11, the holy city has the glory of God. Here the glory of God is the expression of God, God expressed. When God is manifested, that is glory. We have been ordained for this glory and called to this glory.

III. Conclusion:

The ministers of the New Testament are those who have turned their hearts to the Lord, they are with unveiled face, they enjoy the pneumatic Lord, which sets them free from the dominion of the law, and they are beholding and reflecting the Lord, being transformed into the same image of the Lord. Through this process of transformation, they give the Spirit as the elements of Christ's person and work to constitute the ministers of Christ. All believers should imitate them to become the same person, and to fulfill the same ministry. The fact that we are earthen vessels proves that the transcendent power belongs to God, not to us. The precious treasure of Christ operates in us actively, lively. This treasure not only disturbs us, but also constrains us and urges us. This is the source of our power and strength in our walks, so that we may shine the gospel and exalt the truth.