

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Three : Christ as the Son of Man Walking in the Midst of the Golden Lampstands

I. Overview:

In order to see the vision of Christ as the Son of Man walking in the midst of the golden lampstands, we must be on the ground of the church as fellow partakers in the tribulation, kingdom, and endurance in Jesus. The practice of the church life in the early days was the practice of having one church for one city. There are four characteristics on the genuine ground of oneness; there should be no divisions among them, God's people should gather in the unique name, we must exercise our spirit in our meeting, and we must worship God with Christ alone. The kingdom is the church life, in which the faithful believers live for their growth in life and transformation in life. Christ is the High Priest, Revelation 1:13 "girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle", to cherish the churches in His humanity and nourish them in His divinity. He dresses the lamps of the lampstands to make them proper. He trims the wicks of the lamps of the lampstand, cutting off all the negative things. The Lord's eyes being like a flame of fire is mainly for His judgment. The Lord's feet are like shining bronze, as having been fired in a furnace, signifying that His perfect and bright walk qualifies Him to exercise divine judgment. Christ is the Holder of the messengers of the churches and the messengers are the spiritual ones in the churches, the ones who bear the responsibility of the testimony of Jesus.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

- A. Explain that the people of God should always be one according to the Chapter 12 of Deuteronomy. First, the people of God should always be one. In order to preserve the oneness of the children of Israel, God did not allow each of the twelve tribes to have its own worship center. In His wisdom God did not allow His people to have their own choice or preference but required them to take His choice and to come three times a year to the unique worship center, even though travel to that place was inconvenient for many of them.
- B. Expound that God's way to keep the oneness of His people is to have a place with His name, the unique name.

Second, God's way to keep the oneness of His people is to have a place with His name, the unique name. Today Christians should be gathered together into only one name, the name of the Lord Jesus. However, Christians are accustomed to being gathered into other names, such as Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and Methodist.

Day 2 —

- A. Explain the words in Revelation 1:9, and how to carry out it. The phrase in Jesus governs the words tribulation, kingdom, and endurance, and we must pay close attention to it. According to the facts of His life, His name, Jesus, denotes a suffering person, a man of sorrows. When we say that we are fellow partakers of the tribulation, kingdom, and endurance "in Jesus," this means that we are suffering and are being persecuted as we follow Jesus the Nazarene.
- B. Why are the believers suffering persecution? Because we do not cooperate with religion, it persecutes us. The persecution that we are suffering today is the persecution in Jesus. He is now suffering persecution with His followers. When Saul of Tarsus was traveling to Damascus with the intention of arresting all those who called on the name of Jesus, the Lord Jesus thought Saul was persecuting Him.

Day 3 —

- A. Explain the meaning of the cherishing people. To cherish people is to make them feel happy and comfortable. To nourish them is to feed them, to give them something to eat. As the Son of Man, Christ as the High Priest is taking care of all the churches as lampstands. On the one hand, He is cherishing the churches in His humanity; on the other hand, He is nourishing the churches in His divinity. When we visit people or contact people, we must be one with Christ to cherish and nourish them.
- B. Expound Christ being the best model of cherishing and nourishing.

Christ is taking care of the lampstands by being the Son of Man with a long garment. This garment is the priestly robe, which shows that Christ is our great High Priest. He is also girded about at the breasts, a sign of love, with a golden girdle. The golden girdle is one piece of gold to become a belt. The Son of Man is in His humanity, and the golden girdle signifies His divinity.

Day 4 —

A. Indicate Christ's nourishing in His divinity.

Christ, as the High Priest, takes care of the churches as the lampstands in His divinity with His divine love, signified by the golden girdle on His breasts, to nourish the churches. Christ is not only human but also divine. He is the Son of Man wearing a golden girdle, signifying His divinity as His divine energy. His divinity as the divine energy nourishes the churches in many ways.

B. Explain that Revelation 2:7 shows clearly a prophecy referring to the kingdom age.

We may say that Revelation 2:7 is a prophecy referring to the kingdom age, in which the overcomers will enjoy Christ as the tree of life in God's Paradise. But if we do not enjoy Christ as the tree of life in the church life today, surely we will not participate in the tree of life in the kingdom age. If I do not eat Christ here today, I will not eat Him in the kingdom age.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the hair in Song of Songs 5:11 being black and in Revelation 1:14 being white.

The black hair with which the Lord is depicted in Song of Songs 5:11 signifies His unfading and everlasting strength, but the white hair with which He is depicted in Revelation 1:14 signifies His ancientness. In Revelation 1 we see that His head and His hair were as white as white wool and as snow. White wool issues from the nature of life, and white snow comes down from heaven.

B. Expound in Revelation 1:14, "His eyes are like a flame of fire."

In Song of Songs 5:12 the eyes of Christ are like doves. That is for the expression of His love. In Revelation 1:14, His eyes are "like a flame of fire." This is for Him to observe and search that He may exercise judgment by enlightening. His eyes are not two but seven. Seven is the number of completion in God's move. Hence, Christ's eyes in this book are for God's operation.

Day 6 —

A. Explain in Revelation 1:16, "He had in His right hand seven stars."

The messengers are the spiritual ones in the churches bearing the responsibility of the testimony of Jesus. Like stars, they should be of the heavenly nature and in a heavenly position. In the dark night of the church's degradation, the shining of both the collective churches and the individual messengers is needed. As Christ walks among the churches, He holds the leading ones in His right hand.

B. Expound in Revelation 1:16, "out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword."

This is His discerning, judging, and slaying word. The words of grace are for His supply of grace to His favored ones, whereas the sharp two-edged sword is for His dealing with negative persons and things. Remember that the speaking Spirit today is just this Christ who speaks with a two-edged sword. There is judgment here, and we all have experienced this.

III. Conclusion:

Many times, the Lord comes to us with His eyes that pierce through us. Perhaps we need to conceal certain things from others, and at such moments the Lord's seven eyes shining upon us to pierce through our entire being and revealing our true condition. When we are engaged in arguing with others, especially those who close to us, the shining eyes of Christ come upon us, making it impossible for us to continue speaking. His light halts our words. When the Lord observes us with His seven eyes, we feel how pitiful and unworthy we are in His presence. As a result, we felt humbled, judged, and repentant, acknowledging our own failures. Through His tender care and fire of judgment that purified us, day after day, came to realize how wretched and unclean we were. Consequently, we desperately needed His mercy.