

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Twelve : The True One

I. Overview:

The Epistle of John reveals that now we are truly one with the Triune God, and He becomes true, real, to us. If we would know the Triune God, we must be in the line of life and in the process of the growth in life; the more we grow in life, the more we will be concerned with the Divine Trinity. The Father is the source of the eternal life; from Him and with Him the Son was manifested as the expression of the eternal life for those the Father has chosen to partake of and enjoy this life. The Spirit of truth in 1 John 4:6 is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of reality. The Spirit is the reality; this means that the Spirit is the reality of all that Christ as the Son of God is. The Greek word translated "true" (alethinos) means "genuine, real," the opposite of false and counterfeit. We are in the True, in His Son Jesus Christ. We not only have the knowledge of Him; we are also in an organic union with Him. To be in the true God is to be in His Son Jesus Christ; this indicates that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the true God. When we are in the true One and Jesus Christ, "this," including the fact that we are in Them, is the true God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Indicate the concern of the apostle John in writing his three Epistles.

The concern of the apostle John in writing his three Epistles was the enjoyment of the Triune God. This is also our concern today. Instead of the enjoyment of the Triune God, Christians have religion with doctrines, creeds, rituals, and practices. With religion there is all manner of vanity. We, however, need to be careful not to merely talk about truth, reality, without having the genuine experience of the divine reality.

B. Expound that in order to understand the Trinity, we must be in the growth in life.

The fact that John's writing is based on the believers' growth in life should cause us to realize that if we would understand the Trinity, we must be in the process of the growth in life. If we are not in the line of life pursuing the growth in life, we will not be able to understand anything concerning the Divine Trinity. The more we grow in life, the more we will be concerned with the Trinity.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the words in 1 John 3:1, and how to experience it.

In 1 John 3:1 John refers to the divine birth and to the begetting Father. 1John 2:29, "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness also has been begotten of Him." He is the source of the divine life, the One of whom we have been born with this life. The love of God was manifested by His sending of His Son to die for us in order that we might have His life and thus become His children.

B. Expound the words in 1 John 4:13, and its significance.

In 1 John 4:13 the words in this mean in the fact that God has given to us of His Spirit, we know that we abide in Him and He in us. The Spirit, whom God has given to dwell in us, is the witness in our spirit, witnessing that we dwell in God and God in us. The abiding Spirit, that is, the indwelling Spirit, is the element and sphere of the mutual abiding, the mutual indwelling, of us and God.

Day 3 —

A. State the word come in 1 John 5:20, and how to apply it.

The word come in 1 John 5:20 indicates that the Son of God has come through incarnation to bring God to us as grace and reality that we may have the divine life, as revealed in John's Gospel, to partake of God as love and light, as unveiled in this Epistle. In 5:20 John says that the Son of God has given us an understanding so that we may know Him who is true, or know the true One.

B. Expound the understanding spoken of in 1 John 5:20, and how to experience.

The understanding spoken of in 1 John 5:20 involves our mind, our spirit, and the Spirit of reality. According to our natural being, our spirit is deadened, and our mind is darkened. How can someone with a deadened spirit and a darkened mind know the invisible God? This is impossible.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the understanding, this knowing ability of God.

The Son of God, who has come to us in incarnation and through death and resurrection, has given us the understanding, the ability, to know the true God. This understanding, this knowing ability, includes our enlightened mind, our enlivened spirit, and the Spirit of reality. To know God is to experience Him, enjoy Him, and possess Him. In this verse the God who is objective becomes the true One in our life and experience.

B. Expound the true One in 1 John 5: 20.

The Greek word translated “true” is genuine, real”, as opposed to false and counterfeit. Actually, the true One is the reality. The Son of God has given us an understanding so that we may know—that is, experience, enjoy, and possess—this divine reality. Therefore, to know the true One means to know the reality by experiencing, enjoying, and possessing this reality.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that this is the true God and eternal life.

This refers to the God who has come through incarnation and has given us the ability to know Him as the genuine God and be one with Him organically in His Son Jesus Christ. This genuine and real God is eternal life to us so that we may partake of Him as everything for our regenerated being. By this we see that the true God and eternal life are one.

B. Expound the true One and His Son Jesus Christ.

Doctrinally, the true One and His Son Jesus Christ may be considered two. But when we are in the true One and in Jesus Christ experientially, They are one. For this reason John uses this to refer both to the true One and to His Son Jesus Christ. To be in the true One is to be in His Son Jesus Christ. This means that in our experience of being in Them, They are one.

Day 6 —

A. State the First John 5:20 indicating strongly.

First John 5:20 indicates strongly that we are now experiencing the true God, and we are experiencing Him by being in Him. We experience, enjoy, and possess Him by being in Him. This, to us, is the true God and eternal life. In verse 20 we have the crucial conclusion of the entire Epistle of 1 John. This Epistle reveals that now we are truly one with the Triune God, and He becomes true, real, to us.

B. Expound the words in 1 John 5:21.

In 1 John 5:21 John goes on to conclude “Little children, guard yourselves from idols.” The word guard means to garrison ourselves against attacks from without, such as the assaults of the heresies. Idols refers to the heretical substitutes for the true God that were brought in by the Gnostics and Cerinthians. The idols here also refer to anything that replaces the real God. As genuine children of God, we should be on the alert to guard ourselves from these heretical substitutes.

III. Conclusion:

1 John 5:20; John speaks of the true one twice. The original meaning of “true” is genuine, real. Actually, the true one is reality. The Son of God has given us understanding so that we can know Him, the divine reality. Therefore, to know the true one means to experience and enjoy this reality, then know the reality. John also says that we are in the true one through we are in His Son, Jesus Christ. We not only know Him but also have an organic union with Him. We are one with Him in an organic way. When we are in the true one and in Jesus Christ, who are the true God and our eternal life. John first speaks of the true one and His Son, Jesus Christ, and then of the true God. We need to live and act in this God and this life.