

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying**

### **Message Four : The Mystery of God—Christ**

#### **I. Overview:**

In the Bible a mystery refers to the things that are hidden in God's heart; this is the principle concerning the mysteries mentioned in the Bible. Colossians 2:2 says, "The mystery of God, Christ"; the mystery of God is manifested in Christ. There are five great mysteries in the Bible; the mystery of the universe and man is God, the mystery of God is Christ, the mystery of Christ is the church, and the mystery of the church is the organism of Christ. In eternity God planned a will, but it was hidden in Him; it was a mystery. God's hidden purpose is the mystery, and the unveiling of this mystery in the mingled spirit is the revelation of the mystery. In this all-inclusive, extensive Christ, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. Fullness in Colossians 2:9 refers not to the riches of God but to the expression of the riches of God. The grace we receive is the fullness of grace; beginning from the time we are saved, we may receive grace upon grace. We need to have a full realization of what we have in Christ and to exercise faith to partake of all that is ours in Christ.

#### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound the universe with man is a mystery.

The first two items listed in the record of God's creation are first the heavens and second the earth. How mysterious are the heavens and the earth!

The universe is too mysterious; its vastness is a mystery. The second great mystery in the Bible is man.

Zechariah 12:1 says, "Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him." Man is as great as the heavens and the earth. Man is great in that there is a mystery in him, a mystery which is of three layers.

B. Explain the third mystery, the fourth mystery, and the fifth mystery.

The third great mystery in the Bible is God. The fourth great mystery is Christ, and the fifth is the church. The universe, man, God, Christ, and the church are the five great mysteries shown to us in the Bible. We are humans standing on the earth with the heaven above us, we have God, we are Christians, and we are in the church. We have a share in heaven and earth, in humanity, in God, in Christ, and in the church.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the relationship between God with man, and a mystery that has two sections.

The true meaning of the universe is a story of God and His relationship with man, and this story, this relationship, is a mystery that has two sections. The mystery of God is manifested in Christ, so Christ is the mystery of God. The mystery of Christ is the church. Christ Himself is a mystery, but all the stories of Christ have been placed in the church; therefore, the church is the mystery of Christ.

B. Expound a great mystery.

We need to make a distinction between these two: the mystery of God is Christ, and the mystery of Christ is the church. Although these two are one, there are particular details concerning each. Colossians speaks of the Head, Christ, and Ephesians speaks of the Body, the church. The head and the body must be put together before we have a complete person; this is a great mystery.

Day 3 —

A. Explain how much we love the Lord depends on how much we know Him.

The book of Ephesians is on the mystery of Christ, which is the church, the Body. Colossians is on the mystery of God, which is Christ, the Head. It is crucial that we know Christ not only as our Savior and Lord but also as the mystery of God. All Christians love the Lord Jesus. How much we love the Lord depends on how much we know Him and how much we realize concerning Him.

B. Expound if we would know Christ as the mystery of God, we need to have our hearts be comforted.

If we would know Christ as the mystery of God, we need to have the full experience of everything covered in Colossians 2:2. In this verse Paul says, "That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ." The word unto means "resulting in."

#### Day 4 —

A. Expound that Christ is the history of God.

As the mystery of God, Christ is the immeasurable, infinite, and eternal God. Although God is eternal, He also has a history. As the history of God, Christ is the mystery of God. As Christ is the history of God, so the church is the history of Christ. As the history of Christ, the church is the mystery of Christ. In the church we are a continuation of this history.

B. Explain that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ.

Paul told the Colossian believers that all the treasures of genuine wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. This is the spiritual wisdom and knowledge of the divine economy concerning Christ and the church. Wisdom is related to our spirit, and knowledge is related to our mind. All the wisdom and knowledge pertaining to God's stories are hidden in this Christ who is the mystery of God.

#### Day 5 —

A. Expound the word bodily in Col. 2:9.

The word bodily Col. 2:9 points to the physical body that Christ put on in His humanity, indicating that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ as One who has a human body. Before Christ's incarnation, the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Him as the eternal Word, but not bodily. From the time that Christ became incarnate, clothed with a human body, the fullness of the Godhead began to dwell in Him in a bodily way.

B. Explain fullness in Colossians 2:9.

Fullness in Colossians 2:9 refers not to the riches of God but to the expression of the riches of God. What dwells in Christ is not only the riches of the Godhead but the expression of the riches of what God is. The Godhead is expressed both in the old creation, the universe, and in the new creation, the church. The Godhead in verse 9 refers to deity, which is different from the divine characteristics manifested by the created things.

#### Day 6 —

A. Explain "full" in Colossians 2:10.

The Greek word translated "full" in Colossians 2:10 implies completion, perfection. Because all the fullness dwells in Him, after we have been put into Christ, we are made full, filled up, with all the divine riches. Hence, we need no other source. In Christ we lack nothing, for in Him we have been perfected and completed.

B. Expound in the prayer not believing our feelings about ourselves, but believing with full assurance.

In their prayers, some Christians like to declare how poor, pitiful, and low they are. This kind of prayer is without faith or assurance. We need to believe with full assurance that we are one with the rich, all-inclusive Christ, with the One who is the embodiment of all the fullness of the Triune God. If we realize this with full assurance, we will never consider ourselves poor.

### III. Conclusion:

As the mystery of God, Christ is also the embodiment of God, the life-giving Spirit. The reality of Christ's being the embodiment of God lies in Christ being the life-giving Spirit. He dwells within our spirits and becomes one with us. Ephesians 3:8; Paul speaks of the unsearchable riches of Christ. We are richer than billionaires, for our riches are incalculable. We cannot imagine how riches of what we possess in Christ. We often pray, "Lord, I am poor and wretched." But we should pray, "Lord, I thank You. I am rich, complete, and full of You. Lord, because I am in You, I lack nothing." We are richer than any billionaire on earth because we are in Christ, whose riches are unsearchable. Since we are one with Christ, we should not consider ourselves poor.