

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Six : The Church in the Triune God

I. Overview

We come to know the Triune God by experiencing Him and enjoying Him. We need to know the Triune God experientially through the inner enjoyment of the subjective God. The Triune God is not merely the object of our faith; He is dwelling in us as our life and life supply for our experience and enjoyment. He is not only the One on the throne who is universally vast, but He is also the One in our heart. The concern of the New Testament is that we know the Triune God who has come to dwell in our being—the One who dwells in our spirit and desires to spread into all the inward parts of our heart. On the one hand, the church in Thessalonica was of the Thessalonians; on

the other hand, this church was in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a church is born of God the Father with His life and nature and is organically united with the Lord Jesus Christ in all that He is and has done. When Paul speaks of the church in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, he actually means that the church is in the Triune God. If we see the vision of the church in the Triune God, this vision will control our entire life.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the work of the subtlety of the enemy.

One subtlety of the enemy is to deny that the Triune God is subjective to us for experience and enjoyment and to present the Divine Trinity

merely as an objective doctrine for religion. But the Bible reveals that the Triune God is not merely the object of our faith; He is subjective to us, dwelling in us to be our life and life supply.

B. Explain human being can be compared to a transistor radio, enabling us to receive radio waves.

A human being can be compared to a transistor radio. Such a radio has a receiving apparatus that enables it to receive radio waves. When the radio is tuned properly, it will play music. We may say that we human beings are like transistor radios and that the receiving apparatus is our human spirit. When our receiver is properly tuned, we enjoy heavenly music.

Day 2 —

A. Explain knowing God who is in our heart.

John's word in 1 John 3:21 is about knowing God in a very subjective way. Some may speak about the almighty God who rules the universe, but

here John speaks concerning the God who is in our heart. He does not talk about the mighty God, about the great God; instead, he speaks concerning the practical God. Not only is God infinite, and beyond our ability to comprehend; He is also small enough to be in our heart.

B. Expound the words in 1 John 3:20.

In 1 John 3:20 John does not say that God is greater than the universe, but that God is greater than our heart.

This way of writing indicates that

our knowledge of God must be experiential...Is your heart at peace? Is your heart tranquil? Some may say that they know God. But they may know Him in a religious way, in an objective way. We need to know God in our heart, in our conscience.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the words in 1 Thessalonians 1:1.

1 Thessalonians 1:1; this verse mentions the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son, but nothing is said concerning the Spirit. If this verse speaks of the Triune God, where is the Spirit? Here we have one of the many instances where what the Bible does not say is just as important as what it does say, if not more so. Be assured that the very God spoken of in 1:1 is the Triune God.

B. Expound in 1 Thessalonians 1:1 having the Triune God implied.

To be in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ implies that we are also in the Spirit. Hence, in 1 Thessalonians 1:1 we have the Triune God implied. This verse indicates that the church is in the Triune God. It is a rather simple matter to say that the church is of God or of Christ. But it is deeper and more profound to declare that the church is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Day 4 —

A. State the composition of the local church in Thessalonica.

First Thessalonians and the second were both addressed to the local church in Thessalonica, composed of all the believers in Christ in that city. Such a local church is of the believers and is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This indicates that such a local church is born of God the Father with His life and nature and is united with the Lord Jesus Christ organically in all that He is and has done.

B. Fellowship Paul's writing emphasizing the organic union of the believers with the Triune God.

It is a particular characteristic of Paul's writing to emphasize the organic union of the believers with the Triune God. Although 1 Thessalonians 1:1 is written in a simple way, it nevertheless includes Paul's characteristic reference to the organic union. In this verse Paul speaks of the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The preposition in here indicates that the church is in the Triune God.

Day 5 —

A. Prove that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are distinct, but not that They are separate.

We can say that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are distinct, but not that They are separate. We cannot separate the Son from the Father, or the Father and the Son from the Spirit, because all three coexist and coinhere. In the Gospel of John the Son said that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him. Since the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son, how can They be separated?

B. Fellowship that the three—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—not only exist at the same time but also exist in one another.

Although the Father and the Son are one between Them there is still a distinction of "I" and "the Father." We must not disregard this point, because if we do, we would become modalists. The Scriptures show us, however, that the three—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—not only exist at the same time but also exist in one another. These three are distinct but inseparable.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the Father's concern being with sonship.

According to the New Testament, the Father wants many sons. The Father's concern is with sonship. In order to produce these sons, He has been begetting children. God the Father has a definite purpose and a plan. God's selection and predestination are according to His purpose. First, He selected us and then predestinated us. This indicates that God is the unique Initiator and Originator.

B. Expound the different aspects of function in Trine God - the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

The Father is the One who plans and originates. God the Son accomplishes everything that God the Father has purposed, planned, initiated, and originated. God the Spirit is neither the originator nor the accomplisher—He is the Executor. The Spirit does not do anything for Himself or by Himself. Rather, He executes, carries out, what the Father has planned and originated and what the Son has accomplished.

III. Conclusion:

To the young people, although you are young, you must know this. As those who belong to the Lord Jesus, you are part of the church, and the church is a part of the Triune God. If we were to metaphorically represent God as a box, God is placing you inside that box and returning you to Himself. Within that box, you are separated unto God. Such separation is sanctification. In the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, it is evident that we have been born anew and have a new source – the Father God. All things old and negative have come to an end. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we have included the termination of all such things. We have been completely separated from God Himself and are now encompassed by the Lord Jesus Christ. This makes us holy, living a sanctified, separated life. This kind of life is for the church.