

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying

Message Four : Christ as the Center of the Processed Triune God

I. Overview:

Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Into the name denotes the person. To be baptized is to be baptized into the name, the person, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, into the organic union with the processed Triune God. The name is singular in the original text. Although God is uniquely one, yet there are three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Christ is the center of the processed Triune God. Processed refers to the crucial steps through which the Triune God has passed, including divinity, humanity, human living, the all-inclusive death, the powerful resurrection, and the transcendent ascension. As the consummation of the processed and consummated Triune God, the Spirit is the blessing of God's New Testament economy. The Triune God in Revelation is the building and builded God. The Bible consummates in the New Jerusalem; God is fulfilling His desire to build Himself in Christ into our being and to build us into His being; eventually, the outcome of this building will be the New Jerusalem.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound Matthew 28:19 revealing the divine Trinity.

This charge in Matthew 28:19 was given by the Lord Jesus after He had entered into resurrection, which was the consummation of the process of the Triune God. The Triune God has passed through a process that began with incarnation, included human living and crucifixion, and consummated with resurrection. In resurrection Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, became the life-giving Spirit. Now this Spirit is the consummation of the Triune God.

B. Explain what the two aspects of the baptism.

Baptism has two aspects: the visible aspect by water and the invisible aspect by the Holy Spirit. The visible aspect is the expression, the testimony, of the invisible aspect, whereas the invisible aspect is the reality of the visible aspect. Without the invisible aspect by the Spirit, the visible aspect by water is vain; and without the visible aspect by water, the invisible aspect by the Spirit is abstract and impractical. Both are needed.

Day 2 —

A. Why do we say that the Triune God - the Father, the Son, and the Spirit - is a mystery?

It is, in fact, a mystery of mysteries! Many things relating to the matter of life are not within the comprehension of men; men can only have a general idea of them.

For instance, though we have life in our physical body, no one can explain it thoroughly, for life is a mystery. Furthermore, there is a spirit within us; this is even more of a mystery. We are not able to comprehend such a comparatively small mystery as man, to say nothing of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

B. Explain the Scriptures in Old Testament and in New Testament telling us that God is uniquely one.

The Scriptures in many instances and in many ways tell us that God is uniquely one. First Corinthians 8:4: "There is no God but one." Isaiah 45:5: "I am Jehovah and there is no one else; / Besides Me there is no God". In these passages God repeatedly said, "There is no God besides Me." He did not say, "There is no God besides Us," but, "There is no God besides Me." Me is singular, indicating only one. These repeated declarations of God strongly prove that God is uniquely one.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the process of the Triune God having passed through.

The process of the Triune God is clearly revealed in the New Testament, but this matter has been missed by most Christians. Although such words as process and Trinity cannot be found in the Bible, the facts that these words describe are definitely revealed in the Bible. Theophilus of Antioch, one of the early church fathers, was the first to use the word Trinity in his writings.

B. Explain the Father, the Son, and the Spirit being not three separate persons.

Actually they are one God, one reality, one person. Hence, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are denoted by one name. The name denotes the person, and the person is the reality of the name. The name of the Divine

Trinity is the sum total of the Divine Being, equivalent to His person. God is triune; that is, He is three-one. He is one God, with the Father, the Son, and the Spirit as His reality, His person.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the holy ointment in Exodus 30.

In Exodus 30 an ointment was prepared, and this ointment was called a compound ointment because it was made from oil compounded with four different spices. This compound ointment is a type of the compound Spirit, who is the Triune God compounded with humanity, the all-inclusive death of Christ, the all-powerful resurrection of Christ, and the transcending ascension of Christ.

B. Explain the words in John 7:39, and its significance.

John 7:39 speaks of the Spirit, telling us that before the Lord Jesus was crucified and resurrected, the Spirit was not yet. The Spirit of God was there from the beginning, but the Spirit as the all-inclusive Spirit of Jesus Christ was “not yet” at the time of John 7:39, because the Lord Jesus had not yet been glorified. After His resurrection, that is, after He had been glorified, the Spirit of God is the Spirit eventually.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the New Jerusalem is a composition of divinity and humanity.

The New Jerusalem is a composition of divinity and humanity blended and mingled together as one entity. All the components have the same life, nature, and constitution and thus are a corporate person. This is a matter of God becoming man and man becoming God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. These two, God and man, man and God, are built up together by being blended and mingled together. This is the completion, the consummation, of God’s building.

B. Explain the vision of the God’s building.

If we see God’s building, we will not try to help others to be more humble or gentle. I would ask you to consider the case of Job, a person who had the highest attainment in building up himself in integrity, uprightness, and perfection. Eventually, God stripped Job of all his attainments in order to show him that his only need was God Himself. The goal of our work should be to minister Christ to others so that the Triune God may build Himself into their being.

Day 6 —

A. State the words in Revelation 22:17, and its significance.

Revelation 22:17a reveals that the Spirit as the totality of the processed Triune God has become one with the believers, who are now fully matured to be the bride. Hence, the Spirit is the ultimate expression of the processed Triune God, and the bride is the ultimate expression of the transformed tripartite man. By the time of Revelation 22:17, the processed Triune God—the Spirit—and the transformed tripartite man—the bride—will be one and speak as one.

B. Explain in Revelation 22:17 there being two consummations.

First, the Triune God has gone through a process—through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension—to become the Spirit, the totality, the consummation, of the Triune God to be the Bridegroom. Second, the believers also have gone through a process—redemption, regeneration, and transformation—to become the consummation of God’s chosen, redeemed, regenerated, and transformed people to be the bride.

III. Conclusion:

When we call upon “Oh, Lord Jesus,” we experience the processed Triune God. When we say, “Oh, Lord Jesus,” it is in that moment that we deeply feel the indwelling Spirit. We call upon the name of the Lord, and the Spirit comes. The name is Lord Jesus, but the person of that name is truly embodied in the Spirit. Moreover, when we call upon Lord Jesus, the Spirit comes, and we also sense that the Father, who loves us very much, is present as well. This is the Triune God, who processed, embodied in the name of Lord Jesus, as our enjoyment. The three of the divine Trinity are all embodied in that name. Matthew 28:19 speaks of an amazing fact in the universe; our believers have been baptized into the Triune God. This verse states that we have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. The name of the Triune God signifies the person of the Triune God.