

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message One : The Ultimate Goal of God's Economy— God Became Man that Man Might Become God in Life and in Nature but Not in the Godhead for the Building Up of the Body of Christ to Consummate the New Jerusalem

I. Overview:

The "diamond" in the "box" of the Bible is the revelation that in Christ God has become man in order that man might become God in life and in nature. God became a man in order to have a mass reproduction of Himself and thereby to produce a new kind, that is, God-man kind. Our becoming God was initiated by God's sanctification in His holy nature dispensing into us, and this holy nature becomes the holy element with which the Holy Spirit sanctifies us. The sanctification is the holding line because every step of God's work with us is to make us holy; the carrying out of the eternal economy of God is by the Spirit's sanctification. The divine sanctification is carried out by Christ as the speaking Spirit; whatever He speaks is the word that washes us; this refers to rhema, which denotes an instant word, the word that the Lord presently speaks to us. One thing that we always treasure is that the Lord still speaks to us personally and directly today; true growth in life depends upon our receiving the word directly from God; whenever He speaks, we realize His presence within us.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the "diamond" in the "box" of the Bible.

The "diamond" in the "box" of the Bible is the revelation that in Christ God has become man in order that man might become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. If we read the Bible without paying attention to this crucial point, then, in a very real sense, the Bible is to us an empty book.

B. Explain that the mingling of God with man is the conclusion of the entire Bible.

God became man so that man may become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. This is my unique burden, my unique message. God and man will become one entity, and that one entity is the mingling of divinity with humanity. This mingling will consummate in the New Jerusalem, which is the conclusion of the entire Bible.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the New Testament is a record of God's move.

The New Testament, a record of God's move, shows us that God can never move apart from man. In the beginning of the New Testament, God moved into man, gained man, and became a man. He moved as the God-man. God's move is in man and through man. God's move is to deify man, making man God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.

B. Explain the difference of God's move between in the four Gospels and in Acts.

In the four Gospels Christ was just one person, but on the day of Pentecost, after His death, resurrection, ascension, and descension, He was enlarged and expanded from one person into thousands of persons. A large group of people began to move in the divine move. In the four Gospels God moved in man's move, but in Acts man moved in God's move.

Day 3 —

A. Expound these two phrases, "to be holy" and "unto sonship".

Sanctification is for sonship. To be holy results in the sonship. God's sonship comes to us through the Holy Spirit's sanctification. Divine sanctification is not for sinless perfection, but is for the sonship and results in the sonship. We call it the divine sanctification because it is a matter of the Spirit Himself. It is a matter of the Triune God.

B. Explain how God makes us holy for His sonship.

Without dispensing His holy element into our being, how could God make us holy? Especially for God's sonship, there is the need for God to dispense His life and nature into our being. Such a divine sanctification is carried out by the sanctifying Spirit. The divine sonship is accomplished by the regenerating Spirit, who is the Spirit of the Son of God.

Day 4 —

A. Explain sanctification being the holding line in the carrying out of the divine economy.

God's economy is the intention of His heart's desire, and God made this intention a purpose. Sanctification is the holding line in the carrying out of the divine economy. We say that sanctification is the holding line because every step of God's economy in His work with us is to make us holy. We were convicted, and we repented and believed. Then we were regenerated in order for us to continue on the holding line of the divine sanctification.

B. Expound the divine sanctification holding all our spiritual experiences.

The divine sanctification holds all our spiritual experiences from our repentance to our glorification. It goes through our regeneration, renewing, transformation, and conformation unto the redemption of our body. Such a sanctification is to "sonize" us divinely, making us sons of God in order that we may become the same as God in His life and in His nature so that we can be God's expression.

Day 5 —

A. Differentiate the washing of the redeeming blood from the washing of water.

The washing of such water is different from the washing of the redeeming blood of Christ. The redeeming blood washes away our sins, whereas the water of life washes away the blemishes of the natural life of our old man, such as "spot or wrinkle or any such things". In sanctifying the church, the Lord first washes away our sins with His blood and then washes away our natural blemishes with His life.

B. Explain how God's Word cleanses us.

Because we are fallen, contaminated, and defiled, we today need to be cleansed. Furthermore, we have many spots and wrinkles from which we need to be cleansed.

The cleansing is the sanctifying. The cleansing by the washing of the water of life is in the word. This indicates that in the word there is the water of life, which is typified by the laver between the altar and the tabernacle.

Day 6 —

A. Distinguish the logos and the rhema.

The Greek word rendered "word" in Ephesians 5:26 is not logos, the constant word, but rhema, which denotes the instant word, the word the Lord presently speaks to us. As the life-giving Spirit, the Lord is not silent; He is constantly speaking. If you take Him as your person, you will discover how much He desires to speak within you. The indwelling Christ is always speaking.

B. Explain that the Spirit is the water that washes us.

Every time He speaks within us, we should experience cleansing. This cleansing is a metabolic cleansing that removes what is old and replaces it with what is new. It is by the inward, metabolic cleansing that we have transformation. By the metabolic cleansing that comes from the speaking of Christ as the life-giving Spirit, we are truly changed, transformed.

III. Conclusion:

Brother Nee told the parable of drawing water in a bamboo basket. Although the basket did not hold the water, both the basket and the rice were washed. He applied this example to the reading of the Word of the Lord. There may be nothing left of what we read, but we are washed and made clean. We must see that Satan hates the high peak of the divine revelation concerning the ultimate goal of the economy. It is that God became man to make man God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce the Body of Christ for the fulfillment of God's economy to end this age and to bring Christ back to establish His kingdom. Where is the body of Christ on earth today? Who today understands, preaches, and practices the Body of Christ? God became flesh to become man in order to make man God in order to produce the organic Body of Christ for the carrying out of God's economy.