

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message There : God Building Himself in Christ into Our Being

I. Overview:

Second Samuel 7:12-14a is the unveiling of a prophecy through typology showing us that we need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ. In order for God's building to take place, we need to receive, digest, and assimilate the organic, pneumatic Christ. This metabolic process is transformation, and transformation is the building. The believers, who have been regenerated in Christ with God's life, are God's cultivated land, a farm in God's new creation to grow Christ that precious materials may be produced for God's building. This is illustrated by the parable of the sower in Matthew 13; God has created the human spirit with the human nutrients along with the human heart as the soil for the divine seed. The rate at which we grow in life depends on how many nutrients we afford this seed. The apostle's prayer in Ephesians 3 reveals that we need Triune God to build Christ into our hearts. If we minister the building and build God to others for their growth in the divine life, we are building build God to others for their growth in the divine life, we are building up the Body of Christ, which will consummate the New Jerusalem.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound 2 Samuel 7 being the unveiling of a prophecy through typology.

David wanted to build God's house, but God wanted David to realize that he needed God to build Christ into him. Thus, 2 Samuel 7 is the unveiling of a prophecy through typology showing us there is no need for us to build something for God. We simply are not able to do this. We cannot build something for God with ourselves or with our knowledge of the Bible and theology. We need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution.

B. Explain transformation being a metabolic process.

Transformation is a metabolic process that changes us by adding some new element into our being and discharging the old element. This is illustrated by one's having a healthy complexion through the proper, daily eating, digesting, and assimilating of food. This nourishment causes a metabolic process in which a new element is brought in and the old element is discharged.

Day 2 —

A. State the revelation and application in 1 Corinthians 3.

In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul was actually telling the Corinthian believers, "You are plants on God's farm. Now you need to grow Christ. The more you grow, the more you will become gold, silver, and precious stones for God's building...Do not exalt anything, anyone, or any doctrine or practice. Simply build upon the all-inclusive Christ as the unique foundation already laid.

B. Explain that in order to build a holy temple, Christ must have the material.

In order to build a home in us, Christ must have the material. The Triune God has come into us to do a building work with Himself as the element and also with something from us as the material. The word concerning building in these verses implies that God's building Himself in Christ into us has very much to do with what we are.

Day 3 —

A. Expound that we are rooted in Christ so that He may make His home in our hearts.

We are rooted in Christ so that He may make His home in our hearts. In Ephesians 3 the apostle prays that God the Father would grant the believers to be strengthened through God the Spirit into their inner man, that Christ, God the Son, may make His home in their hearts, that is, to occupy their entire being, that they might be filled unto all the fullness of God.

B. Explain our heart being like a house of four rooms.

Our heart has four rooms, which are the mind, the emotion, the will, and the conscience. Christ has the desire to occupy every room of our heart and every corner of every room. As He makes His home downward in our heart, we become strong to apprehend with all the saints the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ. All these dimensions describe the immeasurable Christ, whose dimensions are the dimensions of the universe.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that it is not adequate to be according to God's heart, but having God wrought into our hearts. One may be according to God's heart but still be empty, not having God wrought into his heart. You need Me to be built into your being to make you Me in life and in nature. It is not adequate for you to be according to My heart. You must be able to say, "To me to live is God." The goal of our work will be to minister Christ to others so that the Triune God may build Himself into their being.

B. Explain in the Lord's recovery the crucial matter today being to minister God to people. Our work in the recovery today is to minister God to people. Yes, we need to save sinners and to feed the saints and perfect them. The crucial matter, however, is that we minister God to others. The God whom we minister is not just the building God, but He is also the builded God. If we fail to minister God in this way, our work will be wood, grass, and stubble.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the words in 2 Samuel 7:12-14.

In 2 Samuel 7:12 God spoke of David's seed, and in verse 14a He said, "I will be his Father, and he will be My son." These verses clearly unveil that a seed of man, that is, a son of a man, can become the Son of God. This implies that God's intention is to make Himself man in order to make man God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.

B. Expound the Lord being both the Son of God and the Son of Man.

The Bible reveals a wonderful, marvelous person—Jesus Christ, the God-man. This One is both the Son of God and the Son of Man. On one occasion when the Pharisees were gathered together, the Lord Jesus questioned them, saying, "What do you think concerning the Christ? Whose son is He?" When they said to him "David's," He went on to say to them, "How then does David in spirit call Him Lord...?"

Day 6 —

A. Explain the conclusion of the divine revelation in the Bible being a building.

The conclusion of the divine revelation in the Bible is a building, the New Jerusalem. This building is a blending of divinity with humanity. Verse 3 refers to the New Jerusalem as "the tabernacle of God," and verse 22 says, "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." The New Jerusalem as the tabernacle of God is for God to dwell in, and God and the Lamb as the temple are for the redeemed saints to dwell in.

B. Expound the three aspects of the divine building.

The New Jerusalem is an aspect of the divine building. We need to adorn and consummate the New Jerusalem with God the Father as its golden base, God the Son as its pearl gates, and God the Spirit for its wall of precious stones by drinking the Spirit, and eating Christ with His rich and fresh supply. It is adorned with pure gold, pearls, and precious stones, that is, with the Triune God as the elements.

III. Conclusion:

Since God builds Himself into us in Christ not only according to Him as the element but also according to how much nutrients we supply, we need to be strengthened into our inner being. If we remain in the soul, in the natural man, there will be no nutrients for the growth of the divine seed. But if we strengthen into the inner man and pay attention to our spirit and exercise our spirit, we will be able to supply the nutrients. Then Christ may make His home in what we are. On the one hand, God uses Himself as the element to strengthen us; on the other hand, we provide nutrients. Through these two, God in Christ accomplishes His inward building, His house, in our whole being. The most crucial thing in the Lord's recovery today is to supply the building God and the builded God. Only this work is gold, silver, and precious stones.