

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Eight : Reigning in Life

I. Overview:

God's complete salvation is for us to reign in life by the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness. The gift of righteousness is for God's judicial redemption; grace is for us to experience God's organic salvation. The highest attainment of pursuing Christ is to reign with Christ in His divine life through His abounding grace. To reign in life is to conquer, subdue, and rule over Satan, the flesh, and all the environmental circumstances. In experience, to reign in life means to be under the ruling of the divine life. Christ is a pattern of reigning in life by being under the ruling of the divine life of the Father. Reigning in life is the key to everything in Romans 6—16. The issue of our reigning in life, under the ruling of the divine life, is the real and practical Body life expressed in the church life. Romans 16 gives us an excellent pattern of the apostle Paul in bringing all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ; it is in such a life that we can truly reign in life, Paul's recommendations and greetings express both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the judicial and the organic sides in Romans 5:10.

We were redeemed, justified, and reconciled to God through the death of Christ. This is on the judicial side. However, Romans shows that God's salvation has not only the judicial aspect but also the organic aspect. The organic salvation is referred to what in Romans 5:10 much more we will be saved in His life. Today we are passing through the processes of God's organic salvation in order that we may be saved in His life.

B. Explain in Romans 5:17, the judicial aspect and the organic aspect.

In Romans 5:17, the abundance of the gift of righteousness refers to judicial redemption, and the abundance of grace is the processed Triune God. The life that we have received enables us to reign over all things. We have received righteousness objectively, but we still need to receive continually the abundance of grace that we may reign in life subjectively.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that believers who have the kingly life may reign.

A justified person should reign because he has the divine life, a kingly life, with which to reign. Without the kingly life, no one can reign. When we were redeemed by Christ, forgiven of our sins, and washed by the blood of Christ, we were justified. In addition, we were regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life. Thus, we are now able to reign in life as kings.

B. Expound the conditions from reigning in life.

Reigning in the divine life of Christ saves us from all kinds of insubordination. It saves us from many kinds of negative things. We reign over sin, the world, Satan, the natural man, self, and individualism for the accomplishing of the building up of the organic Body of Christ in fulfilling the New Testament economy of God.

Day 3 —

A. Explain reigning in life, we may connect to the things in Romans 6 through 16.

When we are reigning in life, we are being soaked and saturated with the holy nature of God for sanctification in our disposition, and our mingled spirit spreads into our mind to renew our mind. When we are reigning in life, we can be conformed to the image of God's firstborn Son and glorified through the sealing of the indwelling Spirit throughout our entire life.

B. State when we reign in life, we more than conquer the environmental hardships.

When we reign in life, we more than conquer the environmental hardships and sufferings by having God being for us, who did not spare His own Son, who gives us freely all things with Him, and who has chosen us and justified us; by having Christ who died for us, who was raised, and who is sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us; by being captivated by the love of Christ to be faithful to God.

Day 4 —

A. Explain all items mentioned in Romans 12-13 are for the living of the Body life.

For the living of the Body life, each item requires us to be ruled by the divine life. To present our bodies a living sacrifice, not being fashioned according to this age but being transformed by the renewing of the mind, proving what the will of God is. When we are controlled by the divine life, we surely will think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith. Our thinking about ourselves is bridled.

B. Expound that Romans 12:9-21 is a section on living a life for the Body of Christ.

When you are ruled by the divine life, you will serve faithfully in their particular service. As we are under the ruling of the divine life, we are able to teach, exhort, give in simplicity, lead in diligence, and show mercy in cheerfulness. Likewise, when we are under the ruling of the divine life, we will take the lead in showing honour one to another. By living a life under the ruling of the divine life, we are able to live the Body life with these virtues.

Day 5 —

A. Explain living the church life for the living of the Body life.

We see how Paul set up a pattern of living the church life for the living of the Body life. When we are under the ruling of the divine life, we will spontaneously preach the gospel.

Paul first preached the gospel to the Gentiles and then brought them into the fellowship of the Body of Christ with the Jewish churches through their giving in love to provide for the necessities of the saints in Jerusalem.

B. Expound that in Ephesians 4:4, one Body and one Spirit.

The one Body, the one universal church, comprises all the local churches. In Ephesians 4:4 Paul says, "One Body and one Spirit." The Body mentioned among us is related to the Body and is for the Body. Furthermore, the one Body is determined by the one Spirit. Because there is one Spirit, there is one Body. We must keep the unique oneness of the Body because the Body and the Spirit are one.

Day 6 —

A. Describe what the pattern Romans 16 gives us.

The apostle in bringing all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ. It is in such a life that we can truly reign in life. We must follow in the footsteps of the apostle. He brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ.

B. Explain what revelation in Romans 16 the apostle Paul's greetings has.

In Romans 16 the apostle Paul greeted the saints generally. Such recommendations and greetings show both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches. Paul spoke about our sister Phoebe, who served others at any price and at any cost. We also need to serve the church and care for it regardless of the cost.

III. Conclusion:

To be one with the saints in the building is an aspect of reigning in life. It is difficult to overcome our temper, but it is even more difficult to overcome our divided nature. To be a man one must be a Christian, and to be a Christian one needs to be in the church. This is the best way to go advanced in the Lord. To remain in the church life and to be one with the saints is to reign in life. Only in the divine life, not in our human nature, can we keep the genuine oneness. We must have the reality of the fellowship and blending of the Body of Christ; otherwise, no matter how much we pursue and humble ourselves, sooner or later there will be problems and even division. Therefore, we must be controlled by the vision of the Body and follow in the footsteps of the apostles to bring the saints in the churches into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ. That is to reign in life.