

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message One : The Enjoyment of the All-inclusive Christ as the Unique Solution to All Problems in the Church**

### **I. Overview:**

First Corinthians is a book on Christ as the unique solution to all problems in the church; we should concentrate on Christ, not on any persons, things, or matters other than Christ. Our goal is the fullest enjoyment of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ. First Corinthians reveals that God has given the all-inclusive Christ, with the riches of at least twenty items, to us as our portion for our enjoyment; the secret of the Christian life and the church life is for us to enjoy Christ. God is faithful in calling us into the fellowship, into the enjoyment, of His Son, but many times we are unfaithful to His calling us into His intention. God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to dispense Himself into us for our satisfaction and enjoyment. Although we are unfaithful, God is faithful, but His faithfulness is not according to our natural understanding or concept; He may take away our idols, allowing us to have troubles so that we may drink Christ. First Corinthians reveals that the way to enjoy the Lord is to love Him and to love one another; the Lord's recovery is a recovery of loving the Lord Jesus with the first love and of loving one another.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Explain the word in 1 Corinthians 1:9.

Into the fellowship in 1 Corinthians 1:9 denotes to partake of the fellowship of the union with God's Son, Jesus Christ, and of the participation in Him. God has called us into such a fellowship that we may enjoy Christ as our God-given portion. This word, like the word in verse 2 concerning Christ's being theirs and ours.

B. Expound that First Corinthians unveils to us what the riches of Christ are.

He is the portion given to us by God. He is God's power and God's wisdom as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption to us. He is the Lord of glory for our glorification. He is the depths of God, the unique foundation of God's building, our Passover, the unleavened bread, the spiritual food, the spiritual drink, and the spiritual rock. He is the Head and the Body. He is the first-fruits, the second man, and the last Adam; and as such He became the life-giving Spirit that we may receive Him into us as our everything.

Day 2 —

A. Expound to think the one thing in Philippians 2:2.

The way the Philippians could make Paul's joy full was to think the same thing, even the one thing. According to the context of the entire book, the one thing must refer to the subjective knowledge of Christ and experience of Christ. Christ alone should be the centrality and universality of our entire being. Our thinking should be focused on the excellency of the knowledge of Christ and the experience of Christ. Focusing on anything else causes us to think differently.

B. Explain the significance of Philippians 3:14.

Paul was pursuing toward the goal for the prize. Christ is both the goal and the prize. The goal is the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ, and the prize is the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom as a reward to the victorious runners of the New Testament race. To reach the goal for the prize, Paul was exercised to forget the things which are behind and to stretch forward to the things which are before.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the purpose of God's economy in Jeremiah 2:13.

In Jeremiah 2:13, God's purpose in wanting to be the fountain of living waters for His elect to drink is that He would be increased and enlarged. God needs to be the fountain of living waters to His elect because He has an economy, and His economy is to produce a counterpart, a bride, for Himself. The purpose of God's economy is that God would no longer be alone but would have a wife to be His increase, His enlargement, and thus to match Him as the Husband.

B. State our natural understanding of God's faithfulness.

In 1 Corinthians 1:9 Paul says, "God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." God is faithful in this matter, but He may not be faithful to provide you a large house or a well-paying job. My point is that God's faithfulness is not according to our natural understanding.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the true condition of the Israelites.

Instead of drinking of God as the fountain of living waters, Israel drank of their idols. Therefore, God used the Babylonians to deal with these idols and also to destroy Jerusalem and even the temple, which had become an idol to them. We need to see that we are not better than Israel. Anything can become an idol to us. But God is faithful in fulfilling His economy. In His faithfulness He deals with our idols that we may drink of Him.

B. Explain the words in Lamentations 3:22-25 to make man hopeful.

Lamentations 3:22-25 was written after the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem, burned the temple, and carried away many into captivity. Surely, the people of Israel must have felt that God had given them up. The princes, the prophets, and the priests had failed, but God's compassions do not fail; rather, they are new every morning. Jeremiah could even declare that Jehovah was his portion.

Day 5 —

A. Testify in order to realize the deep and hidden things that we must love Him.

To realize and participate in the deep and hidden things God has ordained and prepared for us requires us not only to believe in Him but also to love Him. To love God means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength—absolutely on Him. In this way we have the closest and most intimate fellowship with God, and we are able to enter into His heart and apprehend all its secrets and hidden things of God.

B. Expound that we need the present presence of Jesus.

Life is not knowledge, it is not gifts, neither is it power. Life is a wonderful, unique, and strong person. Since Jesus as our life is a person, we must contact Him. We must forget about our knowledge and past experiences. We even need to forget all that we know about Jesus. It means little. We need the present presence of Jesus.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that we need to fan our gift into flame.

Paul says that we need to fan our gift into flame. The main gift that God has given us is our regenerated human spirit with His Spirit, His life, and His nature. We must fan this gift into flame. This means that we have to stir up our spirit so that our spirit will be burning. We should be burning in spirit; we must have a burning spirit of love.

B. State love prevailing.

Love prevails. We should love everybody, even our enemies. If the co-workers and elders do not love the bad ones, eventually, they will have nothing to do. We must be perfect as our Father is perfect by loving the evil ones and the good ones without any discrimination. We must be perfect as our Father because we are His sons, His species.

### **III. Conclusion:**

God is faithful, but we are neither faithful nor chaste, instead of having many other husbands. When we fail and fall short to God, we may receive some mercy and grace so that we repent and mourn, and God rejoices when we repent and mourn. However, after we repent, we should begin to drink of the living water, praising God, thanking Him for everything, and enjoying Him. This is what God wants. God is not interested in anything except the enjoyment of Christ. We need to be fully focused on Christ. When we are fully occupied with Christ, there is no room for anything else. God's economy and the desire of His heart is to have Christ as our portion. We need to be concentrating only with this portion. The way to close the door to different opinions is to let go of our concepts and return to Christ to enjoy Him as God's unique inheritance.