

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying

Message Five : The Righteousness of the Bride

I. Overview:

The righteousness of God is what God is in His action with respect to justice and righteousness. Our experience of Christ rests upon the foundation of God's righteousness. The foundation is God's righteousness, the unshakable foundation of God's throne. There are four aspects of the definition of righteousness. Righteousness is to be right with persons, things, and matters before God according to His righteous and strict requirements. Righteousness is the outward expression of the Christ who lives in us. Righteousness is a matter of God's kingdom and it is related to God's government, administration, and rule. Righteousness is a matter of our being right with God in our being. The church life is the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of God is righteousness. To say that righteousness will dwell in the new heavens and new earth means that everything will be in order, headed up, and regulated. There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers. The first aspect is to be the believers' righteousness for them to be justified before God objectively at the time of their repenting unto God and believing into Christ. The second aspect is to be the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified by God subjectively and that is always acceptable to God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain God's holiness and righteousness.

God is righteous as well as holy. Whereas holiness is related to God's inward nature, righteousness is related to God's outward acts, ways, actions, and activities. Everything God does is righteous. The righteousness of God is what God is in His action with respect to justice and righteousness. Whatever God is in His justice and righteousness constitutes His righteousness.

B. Expound the ministry of the new covenant.

The ministry of the new covenant is a matter of the Spirit as the supply inwardly and of righteousness as God's expression outwardly. In 3:8 Paul speaks of the ministry of the Spirit, and in verse 9, of the ministry of righteousness. Righteousness is a matter of being right. When we have the Spirit living, moving, and acting within us in a way that is real and substantial, we are automatically right with God, with others, and with ourselves.

Day 2 —

A. Fellowship receiving the supply of the life-giving Spirit in the church meetings.

Because I receive the supply of the life-giving Spirit in the church meetings, I very rarely miss a meeting. My only desire is to be in the meeting and to receive the supply. During that meeting I am infused and saturated with the Spirit. Afterward, it seems that everything is golden and that within me the tree of life is growing and the river of life is flowing.

B. Expound that as long as we are not doing God's will, we are not right.

Many Christians have the concept that when we do something wrong, we are not right with God. Even when we do not do anything wrong, we still may not be right with God, for our being may not be in the mind and will of the Lord. As long as we are not doing God's will, we are not right.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the words in Romans 8:4, and its application.

When the righteous requirements of the law are fulfilled in us because we walk according to the Spirit, then we have righteousness. When we have righteousness, we have the expression of the God we serve and worship. Because we have this expression as the spontaneous righteousness that we live out by the Spirit of life, others can be convinced and subdued.

B. Expound the way to be conformed to His image.

The way is to walk according to the Spirit of life that the righteous requirements of the law may be fulfilled in us. Then we'll have righteousness, and this righteousness is the very image of the Son of God. Thus, the Spirit produces righteousness, and righteousness is the image. In Romans 8 we have righteousness related to the Spirit of life and issuing in the image of the Son of God. In this chapter the kingdom of God denotes the church life.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the goal and the result of the new covenant ministry.

The goal is to minister the all-inclusive Spirit to of the processed Triune God into others to be their supply. Simultaneously, this ministry dispenses Christ into the believers as their righteousness. Then as the believers live and walk according to the Spirit, they will be in a condition that expresses God and that gives an impression of the Son of God. This is the result of the new covenant ministry.

B. Explain that the holy city will bear the same appearance that God does.

Revelation 21:18, the building work of its wall was jasper. Revelation 4 indicates that God sitting on the throne in the heavens also has the appearance of jasper. Hence, jasper denotes God's image, His expression. The fact indicates that this holy city will bear the same appearance that God does. The entire city will express God. This will be the appearance of jasper in the New Jerusalem.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the words in Revelation 19:7-8, and how to realize it.

The bride in Revelation 19:7-8 refers to redeemed and transformed tripartite mankind. This bride will wear white linen, which is the righteousnesses of the saints. If we would have a share in this bride, who is adorned with bright, shining, clean righteousness, we need to

adorn ourselves with righteousness. Day by day we need to prepare bright linen clothing to cover ourselves.

B. Expound what the two aspects of Christ being righteousness from God to the believers.

The first aspect is that Christ is the believers' righteousness for them to be justified before God objectively at the time of their repenting unto God and believing into Christ. Christ is our beauty given by God to us as our glorious dress. The second aspect is that Christ is the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified by God subjectively.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship in Psalm 45 the queen having two garments.

In Psalm 45 the queen has two garments, one corresponding to the objective righteousness for our salvation and the other to the subjective righteousness for our victory. The latter is equivalent to the wedding garment in Matthew 22. The queen in Psalm 45 signifies the church. Her first garment is inwrought with gold, and her second is embroidered clothing.

B. State in Revelation 19:8 being clothed with fine linen, bright and clean.

The bride in Revelation 19 is clothed with fine linen, bright and clean, the righteousnesses of the saints. This is Christ growing in and living out of

us. When we live out Christ by letting Him grow in us, He will be our living. The only way for Christ to grow in us and live out of us is by our eating and drinking Him all the time.

III. Conclusion:

Matthew 5:20 and Revelation 19:8 both point out that if we want to enter the wedding feast during the millennium, we need a surpassed righteousness. This righteousness comes from our enjoyment of Christ. When we receive the Lord, He comes into us and becomes our enjoyment. When we eat and enjoy Him every day, He has the opportunity to extend into what we are and transform us. Through this, Christ will mature in us. When Christ expands and matures in us, he will become our surpassing righteousness, that is, our wedding garment; this is what we need to attend the wedding feast. Accepting Christ into us makes us qualified to be saved; Christ matures in us makes us qualified to attend the wedding feast. The bride will be the church of the millennium kingdom. Only those who truly manifest Christ as the fine linen in the church life, will be there.