

# THE VISION, THE LIVING, AND THE PRACTICE OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY TODAY

Evening Message One

## **Fulfilling the Ministry of the New Testament Priesthood of the Gospel— Preaching the Gospel to Sinners and Nourishing and Caring for New Believers**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 3:1-6; 1 Tim. 1:16; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rom. 15:16; 12:1; Col. 1:28-29;  
1 Pet. 2:5; Luke 10:1-6; John 21:15; 15:16; 1 Thes. 2:7; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 2:5;  
Luke 2:11; 1 Cor. 15:45b; John 4:24; Rom. 10:12; 1 Pet. 2:2; Acts 5:42

### **I. The direction of the Lord's move today is to recover the New Testament priesthood of the gospel in order:**

- A. To build up the organic Body of Christ as the organism of the processed and dispensing God in His divine trinity for His full expression.
- B. To prepare the bride as the counterpart of the Bridegroom for the eternal marriage of the redeeming God with His redeemed.
- C. To bring in the kingdom of God as the spreading of the divine life for God's eternal administration in the fulfillment of His eternal economy.

### **II. The turn from the Old Testament priestly service to the New Testament priestly service:**

- A. Beginning with John the Baptist:
  1. Although he can be considered the last priest of the Old Testament, he rejected that service and turned to another service—Matt. 3:1-4.
  2. He turned to become the first priest of the gospel in the New Testament:
    - a. Not offering bulls and goats as sacrifices.
    - b. But offering as sacrifices the sinners gained through his preaching of the baptism of repentance—Matt. 3:5-6.
- B. With the gospel-preaching apostles as a pattern—1 Tim. 1:16:
  1. Preaching the gospel extensively to save people and offer them to God as sacrifices—1 Pet. 2:9; Rom. 15:16.
  2. Leading the saints under their care to present themselves to God as living sacrifices—Rom. 12:1.
  3. In all wisdom, presenting the saints full-grown in Christ to God—Col. 1:28-29.

### **III. The initial step for the believers to minister as the New Testament priests of the gospel:**

- A. Being the universal priesthood, not the priesthood of a few people—1 Pet. 2:5.
- B. Visiting people for the preaching of the gospel to save sinners and offer them as sacrifices to God according to God's ordination—Luke 10:1-6.
- C. To thus personally visit people for the preaching of the gospel being to go forth and bear fruit according to God's appointing—John 15:16.

### **IV. Feeding the Lord's lambs—John 21:15:**

- A. That our fruit may remain—John 15:16.
- B. As a nursing mother cherishing her own children—1 Thes. 2:7.

- C. Leading the new believers:
  - 1. To know the Lord:
    - a. As God—Rom. 9:5.
    - b. As man—1 Tim. 2:5.
    - c. As the Savior (including the Redeemer)—Luke 2:11.
    - d. As the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b.
  - 2. To know that they have a regenerated spirit for worshipping God (the Lord)—John 4:24.
  - 3. To call on the name of the Lord, to pray to Him, and to take in His riches—Rom. 10:12.
- D. Leading them to grow in life that they may present themselves to God as living sacrifices—1 Pet. 2:2; Rom. 12:1.

**V. Needing to meet with the new believers in their homes in order to feed them—Acts 5:42:**

- A. This being the pattern revealed in the New Testament.
- B. This being also the second step needed for the New Testament believers to minister as priests of the gospel.