

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

Evening Message Two

Fulfilling the Ministry of the New Testament Priesthood of the Gospel— Teaching and Perfecting the Saints and Prophecy for the Building Up of the Church

Scripture Reading: Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Thes. 2:11; Acts 20:20, 27, 31; Col. 1:28-29; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 14:3-5, 12, 1, 31, 24, 26

I. Meeting with the saints in group meetings that are full of mutuality— Heb. 10:24-25:

- A. Leading and cultivating the saints:
 - 1. To open up and fellowship with one another.
 - 2. To pray for one another.
 - 3. To care for and shepherd one another.
 - 4. To mutually ask questions for learning and teaching the truth.
 - 5. To mutually ask questions for the pursuit and instruction in the growth in life.
- B. Exhorting and consoling the saints as a father—1 Thes. 2:11:
 - 1. Teaching the saints all the counsel of God—Acts 20:20, 27, 31.
 - 2. Presenting the saints full-grown to God in all wisdom—Col. 1:28-29.
 - 3. Equipping and supplying the saints that they may do the work of the New Testament ministry, which is to build up the organic Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12.
- C. Appointing the saints to go forth:
 - 1. To preach the gospel by visiting people.
 - 2. To nourish and care for the new believers.
 - 3. To lead the believers to attend the small group meetings.
 - 4. To lead the believers to attend the bigger meetings of the church.

II. This being the third step for the New Testament saints to minister as the priests of the gospel and the major part of the practice of the church life.

III. Prophecy being the consummation of the ministry of the New Testament priests of the gospel:

- A. Prophecy being to speak for the Lord for the building up of the church—1 Cor. 14:3-5.
- B. This being the excelling gift among all gifts in the New Testament—v. 12.
- C. This being what must be earnestly desired especially by the believers who desire spiritual gifts—v. 1.
- D. This being what every believer can and must do—vv. 31, 24.

IV. This being the goal of the ministry of the New Testament priests of the gospel:

- A. The priests of the gospel preaching to gain sinners to be offered to God being for this one goal.
- B. Their nourishing the new believers and leading them to grow in life and present themselves as living sacrifices to God being also for this one goal.

- C. Their perfecting the saints by teaching them in all wisdom to present them full-grown in Christ to God being also for this one goal.
 - D. The saints who have been perfected to grow into maturity, to be edified in truth, and to have the experience in life being able to prophesy to minister Christ to His members for the organic building up of the church.
 - E. The New Testament believers as the priests of the gospel of God needing to pursue to reach this one goal for the carrying out of God's New Testament economy.
 - F. Needing to have meetings of the church that are full of mutual speaking and listening—1 Cor. 14:26:
 - 1. All attendants having something to minister to the meeting.
 - 2. Everything being for the building up of the saints and the church.
 - 3. Being full of the supply and exhibition of the riches of Christ.
- V. Fulfilling the ministry of the New Testament priesthood of the gospel to carry out the God-ordained way, not by promoting, or arranging, or by big meetings, but by individuals with the vital groups (see appendix).**