

Message Two

**Continuing in the Things in Which We See the Lord
and**

Continuing to Propagate the Resurrected Christ as the Kingdom of God

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:3; 8:12; 14:22; 20:25; 26:16, 18; 28:31

Acts 1:3 To whom also He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many irrefutable proofs, appearing to them through *a period of forty days* and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God.

8:12 But when they believed Philip, who announced the gospel of the kingdom of God and of the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

14:22 Establishing the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith and *saying* that through many tribulations we must enter into the kingdom of God.

20:25 And now, behold, I know that you all, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more.

26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this *purpose*, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you.

v. 18 To open their eyes, to turn *them* from darkness to light and *from* the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

28:31 Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, unhindered.

I. If we would be in the continuation of the book of Acts, we need to continue in the things in which we have seen the Lord and the things in which the Lord will yet appear to us—26:16:

- A. Paul did not receive the revelation of things without seeing Christ—Gal. 1:15-16:
 1. Christ did not reveal things to Paul without Himself as the content of those things; thus, in all the visions Paul saw Christ—Eph. 1:17.
 2. As Paul was on the way to Damascus, Christ revealed certain things to him, and in those things Paul saw Christ—Acts 26:12-16:
 - a. The Lord indicated that He would reveal more things to Paul, and in those things the Lord Himself would appear to him—22:14-15.
 - b. Therefore, what Paul saw was not merely the things themselves but Christ as the One appearing to him in all these things—26:16.
- B. We all need to learn the importance of seeing Christ in the things that are revealed to us in the Word—John 5:39-40; Luke 24:27, 45:
 1. We may claim to receive light from the Lord or to see a vision or revelation, but we need to consider whether in the supposed light, vision, or revelation we have seen Christ—Acts 26:16:
 - a. In any light that we receive from the Lord, we must see Christ.
 - b. Christ must appear to us in whatever we see in the Scriptures in the way of enlightenment, vision, or revelation.
 2. The book of Revelation is an excellent illustration of the Lord appearing in the things revealed to the apostle John; he saw a number of visions, but in these visions the Lord Himself appeared to him—1:1, 12-13; 5:6; 10:1.

3. In principle, our experience today should be the same as that of Paul and John.

II. If we would be in the continuation of the book of Acts, we need to propagate the resurrected Christ as the kingdom of God—1:3; 8:12; 20:25; 26:18; 28:31:

- A. The kingdom of God is one of the emphases of the book of Acts, which both begins and ends with the kingdom of God—1:3; 28:31.
- B. The kingdom of God is a sphere of life produced by the propagation of the resurrected Christ—4:33; 8:12; 14:22.
- C. The kingdom of God is the propagation of Christ as life to His believers to form a realm in which God rules in His life—Col. 1:13; 3:4.
- D. The churches are the produce of the resurrected Christ in His ascension; as such, the churches are the kingdom of God—Acts 1:3; 8:1, 12; 13:1:
 1. The propagation of the resurrected Christ is the expansion of Christ to be the kingdom of God—Luke 17:20-21; Acts 28:31.
 2. Three words are synonyms—*propagation*, *churches*, and *kingdom*; the kingdom is the churches, and the churches are the propagation of Christ.
- E. The kingdom of God is the reality of the church brought forth by the resurrection life of Christ through the gospel; regeneration is its entrance, and the growth of the divine life within the believers is its development—Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 4:15; John 3:5; 2 Pet. 1:3-11.
- F. As those who have received the divine life, we not only know what the kingdom of God is—we have become parts of this kingdom—John 3:5; Rev. 1:9.
- G. To enter into the kingdom of God is to enter into the full enjoyment of Christ as the kingdom, and for this, the souls of the believers need to be established—Acts 14:22.
- H. Our ministry is to propagate the resurrected Christ as God's kingdom; however, every city is the kingdom of the devil, and the whole earth is the kingdom of darkness—19:17-40:
 1. Thus, the prevailing ministry for the propagation of Christ is a fighting, a battle, for God's kingdom—Matt. 12:25-29.
 2. Because a battle is raging between God and Satan, we must be certain that whatever we do in our gospel work is absolutely on the side of the kingdom of God and not involved with the kingdom of darkness in any way—Acts 26:18; Col. 1:12-13; Eph. 6:10-12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5.
- I. Paul's proclaiming the kingdom of God was the propagation of the resurrected Christ—Acts 28:23, 31:
 1. The kingdom of God goes together with the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ—v. 31.
 2. To teach concerning Christ is to spread the kingdom of God; therefore, the kingdom of God is actually the propagation of the resurrected Christ.

INTERNATIONAL CHINESE-SPEAKING CONFERENCE 2009

January 26

Hymns

God Has Called Us for His Purpose

602

- 1 God has called us for His purpose,
His economy so glorious,
For which He was fully processed;
Consummated now is He.
As the Spirit He indwells us
As our God-allotted portion,
Working out His full salvation,
Making us the same as He is.

Oh, may a clear, controlling vision of
The Lord's economy direct my heart
And burn in me until my spirit's wholly set
afire!
With spirit strong and active we'll press on
To consummate God's goal—
New Jerusalem, Hallelujah!
- 2 Jesus lived the God-man pattern,
Set the way for us to follow;
He denied the natural man and
Was obedient unto death.
Once He was the only God-man;
Now we are His duplication.
As the many grains we're blended
As His corporate reproduction.
- 3 Living out His resurrection,
Dying to the flesh and soul-life,
Living by the mingled spirit,
Natural man we will deny.
Now we're living in the Body,
Every day we're overcoming,
Striving for the peak of Zion,
Watching for our Lord's appearing.
- 4 God and man will have one living,
Always in the mingled spirit;
We two are incorporated—
One organic entity!
This the vision of the ages
Will control our daily living
That the Lord may have His Body,
Shining as the holy city.
- 1 O how glorious! O how holy!
God is the eternal life!
Full, unlimited, and pow'rful,
Pure, and merciful, and bright!
In this life are all His riches,
All His nature, love and light.
- 2 O how loving! O how gracious!
God Himself is life to man!
He in man hath made a spirit
That He might fulfill His plan.
'Tis His heart's delight and longing
E'er to be received by man.
- 3 O what love and grace unbounded!
God as life to man doth flow!
He no more is hid in secret
But Himself to man doth show,
First in flesh and then as Spirit
That His life all men may know.
- 4 How approachable! How near us!
God in Christ our life to be!
Christ is God in flesh incarnate,
Manifest for man to see.
Died and risen, now He enters
Into man, his life to be.
- 5 O what wonder! As the Spirit
God as life to man is shown!
'Tis His other transformation,
He as Spirit thus is known;
Men convicting and inspiring,
He within them makes His home.
- 6 O how glorious! O how precious!
Thus the triune God to know!
First the Father in the Son came,
Now the Son as Spirit flows.
When in man the Spirit enters
God as life He doth bestow.
- 7 How mysterious, yet how real!
God Himself now flows in me!
In my heart, with me in oneness,
He has come my life to be.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
I will praise unceasingly!

God's Eternal Economy

God's eternal economy
Is to make man the same as He is
In life and nature but not in the Godhead
And to make Himself one with man
And man one with Him,
Thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression,
That all His divine, that all His divine attributes
May be expressed in human virtues.

497

- 1 Grace in its highest definition is
God in the Son to be enjoyed by us;
It is not only something done or giv'n,
But God Himself, our portion glorious.
- 2 God is incarnate in the flesh that we
Him may receive, experience ourself;
This is the grace which we receive of God,
Which come thru Christ and which is Christ Himself.
- 3 Paul the Apostle counted all as dung,
'Twas only God in Christ he counted grace;
'Tis by this grace—the Lord experienced—
That he surpassed the others in the race.
- 4 It is this grace—Christ as our inward strength—
Which with His all-sufficiency doth fill;
It is this grace which in our spirit is,
There energizing, working out God's will.
- 5 This grace, which is the living Christ Himself,
Is what we need and must experience;
Lord, may we know this grace and by it live,
Thyself increasingly as grace to sense.