

**Outline of the Messages
for the Chinese New Year Conference
February 18—20, 2000**

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CENTRAL WORK OF GOD

Message One

The Unique Goal of the Central Work of God

Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:16-17a

- I. God's economy is centered on one thing—God's unique work—John 5:17; 4:34; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10a:**
- A. God's unique work in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17a.
 - B. God's economy and goal according to His heart's desire are to build Himself into man and to build man into Him—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. God desires not mainly to do things for us but to work Himself into our being—Eph. 3:17a.
 - 2. God's intention is to have Christ thoroughly worked into our being; however, in our spiritual seeking we may have no concern about this, caring instead only for our intention—Phil. 2:21.
 - 3. We all need to see that God's desire is to work Himself into us and to reconstitute us with Himself so that we may become His testimony—2 Cor. 5:17, 21; Rev. 1:12, 20.
 - C. God's purpose is to work Himself into us, making Himself our inward elements:
 - 1. This purpose is the center of the universe, and apart from this purpose the Christian life is meaningless—Rev. 4:11.
 - 2. The principle in God's work is to gain persons and by gaining them to have a way to go on.
 - 3. The proper priority is not for us to work for God but for God to work Himself into us—Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13.
 - 4. Spiritual progress consists in allowing God to gain ground within us—Col. 2:19; Eph. 3:17a.
- II. God's intention in His economy is to build Himself in Christ into our being—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a; John 14:20:**
- A. God desires to work Himself in Christ into us, and everything that Christ is and everything that Christ has accomplished are for this one thing—Phil. 2:13; Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11.
 - B. We need God to build Himself in Christ into our humanity, working Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our person—Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. As a result, we are not simply persons according to God's heart—we are God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead:

- a. Merely to be a person according to God's heart means nothing, for one may be according to God's heart but still be empty, not having God wrought into his heart.
- b. God wants those who can say, "I am not just a person according to God's heart. I am God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead."
- 2. All the steps, great and small, that God takes in our daily life are to fulfill His intention of building Himself in Christ into our being—Rom. 8:28:
 - a. God's work on us is not to improve us outwardly, but to change our life inwardly.
 - b. God's intention is to work Himself into us through everything that happens to us, that He may become our constitution in us.