Message Two

Knowing the Present Truth, Upholding the Absoluteness of the Truth, and Being Constituted with the Truth for the Church as the Pillar and Base of the Truth

Scripture Reading: John 18:37; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 1:12; 2 John 1-2; 3 John 3; 1 Tim. 3:15-16

I. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the divine truths as revealed in the Word of God—John 8:32:

- A. The truths in the Word have been lost, misunderstood, and wrongly applied; thus, there is the need of the Lord's recovery—2 Tim. 2:15.
- B. The truths in the Bible have both the objective aspect and the subjective aspect; the objective doctrines are for the subjective truths, and the subjective truths are for the producing of the church—2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4, 8.
- C. The recovery has the highest truth—the truth that is the consummation of the truths recovered during the past centuries—2 Tim. 2:2, 15.
- D. The standard of the Lord's recovery depends on the standard of the truth we put out—1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:15; Titus 1:1.

II. We need to know the present truth, the up-to-date truth—2 Pet. 1:12:

- A. Every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is—John 8:32; 3 John 8:
 - 1. During particular periods of time God releases certain truths and causes them to be revealed once more.
 - 2. Although there are many major and crucial truths in the Bible, what we need to know is God's present truth, His up-to-date truth—2 Pet. 1:12.
- B. In the recovery the light of the truth is up to date—John 8:12, 32; 1 John 1:5-6.
- C. We need to release the truth that God became man so that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead, and the truth concerning the New Jerusalem—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; John 1:12-14; Rev. 21:2, 9-11:
 - 1. The New Jerusalem is a composition of God's chosen, redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, transformed, and glorified people who have been deified vv. 2, 9-11:
 - a. On God's side, the Triune God was incarnated to be a man—John 1:14.
 - b. On our side, we are being deified, constituted with the processed and consummated Triune God so that we may be made God in life and in nature to be His corporate expression for eternity—Rev. 21:2, 9-11.
 - 2. In Christ God has become man to make man God in life and nature but not in the Godhead so that the redeeming God and the redeemed man can be mingled, constituted, and incorporated together to become one entity—the New Jerusalem; this is the highest truth—John 1:12-14; 14:20; Rev. 21:2.

III. The truth is always absolute, and God wants us to uphold the absoluteness of the truth—John 14:6; 18:37; 3 John 3-4, 8:

A. Every worker of the Lord must uphold the absoluteness of the truth—v. 8.

- B. Being absolute for the truth means that no personal feelings or relationships are allowed to stand in the way of the truth—John 14:6; Matt. 10:37-39.
- C. Because the truth is absolute, we have to sacrifice ourselves and put ourselves aside—16:24; Rev. 2:13; 12:11b.
- D. We must stand on the side of the truth to oppose ourselves; only in this way can we maintain the truth and not ourselves—John 18:37; Rev. 1:5a.
- E. We are here to follow the truth, not man, and we are here to maintain the absoluteness of the truth—Rom. 3:4; 2 Tim. 2:15, 25; Titus 1:1.

IV. We need to be constituted with the truth—1 John 1:8; 2:4; 2 John 1-2:

- A. We must come to the full knowledge of the truth—a thorough apprehension of the truth, a full acknowledgement and appreciation of the reality of the spiritual and divine things—1 Tim. 2:4.
- B. The best way to learn the divine truths is to study the translated and properly interpreted Holy Scriptures—2 Tim. 3:14-17; Prov. 23:23:
 - 1. The best help in seeing the intrinsic significance of the word of the Bible is the Recovery Version with the footnotes and the Life-studies—Neh. 8:8, 13.
 - 2. We need to study the messages on the high peak of the divine revelation (1994-1997) and learn to speak the high-peak truths according to the new language of the new culture in the divine and mystical realm—1 Cor. 2:13.
- C. To be constituted with the truth is to have the intrinsic element of the divine revelation wrought into us to become our organic constitution—Psa. 51:6:
 - 1. The intrinsic element of the divine revelation must be wrought into and constituted into our being—Col. 3:16; 1 John 1:8; 2:4; 2 John 2.
 - 2. Once the truth enters into us through our understanding and remains in our memory, we will have an accumulation of the truth, and the truth will become a constant and long-term nourishment—vv. 1-2.

V. The church is the supporting pillar and the holding base of the truth— 1 Tim. 3:15-16:

- A. *Truth* in 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the real things in the New Testament concerning Christ and the church according to God's New Testament economy— Matt. 16:16, 18; Eph. 5:32.
- B. The truth is the Triune God, having Christ as the embodiment, center, and expression, to produce the church as the Body of Christ, the house of God, and the kingdom of God—Col. 2:9; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Tim. 3:15; John 3:3, 5.
- C. In particular, "the truth" in 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to "He who was manifested in the flesh" in verse 16:
 - 1. Here *truth* refers to God entering into man and being manifested in man; thus, the truth is God manifested in the flesh.
 - 2. The church is the pillar and base of the truth of God being manifested in the flesh; the church upholds and presents to the universe the fact of God's manifestation in the flesh.

VI. In the Lord's recovery we must take "the way of the truth"—the path of the Christian life according to the truth, which is the reality of the contents of the New Testament—2 Pet. 2:2.