

Message Six

The Direction of the Lord's Move Today

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:12, 16; Rev. 19:7-9; 22:17; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; Rev. 11:15

I. The direction of the Lord's move today is 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—Eph. 3:19; 4:12, 16; John 15:1, 5:

- A. The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ—Eph. 3:9; 4:4-6, 16:
 - 1. God is working Himself into us to make us the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead; eventually, we will become a corporate entity—the Body of Christ—to be one with Him and to live Him for His corporate expression—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11, 29; Eph. 4:4-6.
 - 2. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate, Christ-magnifying, God-man living; this reality will close this age, the age of the church, and will bring Christ back for Him to take, possess, and rule over this earth in the kingdom age—Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:10-14; Gal. 2:20; Rev. 19:7-9; 20:6; Matt. 28:20b.
- B. The Body of Christ is the intrinsic significance of the church; the church of God is the frame, and the Body of Christ is the organism—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27; Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5.
- C. The Body of Christ is a divine constitution of the Triune God with the believers in Christ—Eph. 4:4-6:
 - 1. The Father, the Son, the Spirit, and man are blended and built together to become the Body of Christ.
 - 2. The Body of Christ is an organism, both divine and human, to express Christ—1:23.
- D. The growth of the Body is the building up of the Body—4:16; Col. 2:19:
 - 1. The growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the addition of God, the increase of God, within us—v. 19.
 - 2. The growth of the Body of Christ is the increase of Christ in the church, which results in the building up of the Body, by the Body itself, in love—Eph. 3:17a; 4:16:
 - a. When Christ enters into the saints and lives within them, the Christ within the saints becomes the church—Col. 3:10-11.
 - b. The Body of Christ grows by the growth of Christ within us and is built up this way—1:18; 2:19:
 - (1) To grow up into Christ is to have Christ increase in us until we attain to a full-grown man—Eph. 4:13, 15.
 - (2) First, we grow up into the Head; then we have something that is out from the Head for the building up of the Body—vv. 15-16.
 - c. The love in which the Body builds itself up is not our own love but the love of God in Christ, which becomes the love of Christ in us, by which we love Christ and the fellow members of His Body—1 John 4:7-8, 11, 16, 19; Rom. 5:5; 8:39.

II. The direction of the Lord's move today is to prepare the bride as the counterpart of the Bridegroom for the eternal marriage of the redeeming God with His redeemed—Rev. 19:7-8; 22:17; 21:1-2, 9-10:

- A. The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy, which is to obtain for Christ a bride, the church, through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation in the divine life—Gen. 2:22; Rom. 5:10; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-11.
- B. The church as the bride of Christ is a matter of satisfaction and rest in love—Gen. 2:21-23; Zeph. 3:17.
- C. The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride of Christ, who is composed of all His overcomers—Rev. 19:7-9:
 - 1. All the overcomers will be the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ for one thousand years in its initial and fresh stage—v. 7.
 - 2. Eventually, all of the believers will join the overcomers to consummate and complete the New Jerusalem in full as the wife of Christ in the new heaven and new earth for eternity—21:2, 9-10.
- D. The readiness of the corporate bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers—19:7; Heb. 6:1; Phil. 3:12-15; Eph. 4:13:
 - 1. In the New Testament the word *mature* is used to refer to the believers' being full-grown and perfected in the life of God, indicating that we need to grow and mature unto perfection in the divine life—Matt. 5:48.
 - 2. We need to continue to grow until we are matured in the divine life to become a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ—Eph. 4:13.
- E. The overcomers are not separate individuals but a corporate bride; for this, building is needed—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:15-16:
 - 1. The overcomers are not only mature in life but are also built together as one bride—Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-11.
 - 2. The central and divine thought of the Bible is that God is seeking a building as the mingling of Himself with humanity for His eternal, corporate expression—Gen. 2:22-23; Rev. 21:2, 9-11.
- F. As the bride, the church needs beauty—Eph. 5:27; S. S. 4:7-15:
 - 1. The beauty of the bride is for the presentation of the bride to the Bridegroom—Eph. 5:27.
 - 2. The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church—3:17a.

III. The direction of the Lord's move today is 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—Luke 19:12, 15a; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; Rev. 11:15:

- A. The kingdom of God is Christ Himself as the seed of life sown into us, growing in us, spreading in us, and maturing in us until there is a full harvest—the manifestation of the kingdom—Mark 4:26-29; Matt. 13:43:

1. The kingdom of God is actually the God-man, the Lord Jesus, sown as a seed into the believers and developing into a realm over which God can rule as His kingdom in His divine life—Luke 17:20-21; Mark 4:3, 26-29:
 - a. The Lord Jesus, who is the embodiment of the Triune God, came to be the kingdom of God by sowing Himself as the seed of the kingdom into God's chosen people—Col. 2:9; Luke 17:20-21; Matt. 13:3-23.
 - b. Christ establishes the kingdom by sowing Himself as the seed of life into believing people so that the kingdom may grow; this is absolutely a matter of the growth in life, not of our work—1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 3:9; Matt. 13:3.
 - c. Regeneration is the entrance into the kingdom of God, and the growth of the divine life within the believers is the development of the kingdom of God—John 3:3, 5; 2 Pet. 1:3-11; Dan. 2:35, 44; Rev. 11:15.
2. After this seed has been sown into the believers, it will grow and develop within them into the kingdom of God, which is for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose and also for their blessing and enjoyment—Col. 1:13.
- B. The increase of the stone into a great mountain signifies the increase of Christ in His administration to be the kingdom of God; the church is Christ's increase in life, but the eternal kingdom of God is Christ's increase in administration; hence, Christ is not only the church but also the kingdom—Dan. 2:35, 44; John 3:29-30; 1 Cor. 12:12; Mark 4:26-29; Luke 17:21.
- C. The coming of Christ will be the opening of the eternal kingdom of God; hence, Christ's coming will be the landmark that closes human government and brings in the eternal kingdom of God—Rev. 11:15:
 1. In God's economy, Christ, by His upcoming appearing, will smash and crush the aggregate of human government and establish the eternal kingdom of God—Dan. 2:34-35.
 2. The great human image will be replaced with a great mountain, signifying the eternal kingdom of God, which will fill the whole earth; this means that after Christ comes to crush the aggregate of human government, He will usher in the eternal kingdom of God on earth—vv. 44-45.
 3. The goal of the divine history within the human history is to have the corporate Christ—Christ with His overcomers—as the crushing stone to be His dispensational instrument to end this age and become a great mountain, the kingdom of God—vv. 28, 31-45; Rev. 12:1-2, 5, 10-11; 14:1-5; 19:7-21.
 4. During the church age, Christ is building up the church, the Body, to be His bride, and He will return with His overcoming bride as the smiting stone to crush the aggregate of human government and usher in the age of God's dominion over the entire earth—Matt. 16:18; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; Rev. 11:15-17.