

CRUCIAL POINTS ON THE LIFE AND PERSON OF A LEADING ONE

Afternoon Message Three

The Living of the Elders and Co-workers in Voluntary Separation and Sanctification to God in Order to Carry Out His Divine Economy

Scripture Reading: Num. 6:1-12

I. As those living in the principle of the Nazarite, elders and co-workers must be rescued from all aspects of the world—Num. 6:1-4; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; Gal. 1:4:

- A. One aspect of the world from which we must be saved is degraded Christianity—one of the “schools” within the “university” of the world:
 - 1. Today’s Christendom is huge and devilishly abnormal; the nature of the constituent of the church has been changed and its size has become abnormal—Matt. 13:31-32.
 - 2. The difference between apostate Christendom and the genuine church is that one is a mixture while the other is pure—Matt. 13:33:
 - a. The entire Christendom has become a corrupted mixture—1 Cor. 5:6.
 - b. The local churches have to be crystally transparent, with no mixture—Rev. 21:18, 21.
- B. “In most Christian work, supposedly carried out for Christ, there is very little life ministered to people”:
 - 1. “To him [Watchman Nee] work did not mean much; life meant everything.”
 - 2. “In my whole life, he [Watchman Nee] is the only person I [Witness Lee] have known who paid more attention to life than to work” (*Watchman Nee—A Seer of the Divine Revelation...*, pp. 85, 87).
- C. As elders and co-workers, we must lead the churches out from all practices containing any traces of the world and anything in the principle of Babylon, thus, keeping the Lord’s recovery away from anything worldly or Babylonian.

II. As those living in the principle of the Nazarite, elders and co-workers must be separated from self-glory and consecrated to the Lord to live under the headship of Christ—Num. 6:5; John 7:18; 1 Thes. 2:6a; 1 Cor. 11:14; Heb. 13:13; Rom. 13:1-2:

- A. A Nazarite separated to the Lord should not cut his hair, but rather bear the shame, long hair being a shame to a man:
 - 1. To have long hair means to be separated from self-glory, thus, having no self-consciousness, self-righteousness, or self-glory.
 - 2. We must “go unto Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach,” being despised by others, without any glory-seeking.
- B. A Nazarite fully consecrated to the Lord must be absolutely under authority, absolutely under headship:

1. The shaving of ones' head signifies the rejecting of the headship of the Lord, the casting off of the Lord authority over us.
2. As elders and co-workers we must respect authority and remain in subjection to the Lord's headship, thus, casting off the rebellious nature that is still within us.

III. As those living in the principle of the Nazarite, elders and co-workers must be delivered from natural affections—Num. 6:6-8; Matt. 12:46-50; Acts 15:39:

- A. A Nazarite consecrated to the Lord must not be defiled by anything dead, especially by the death of a nearest relative:
 1. Our nearest relatives, representing our natural affections, can be a means to deaden us.
 2. We must be separated from our natural affections, which so easily deaden us.
 3. We must overcome our natural affections and not be affected by our mother, our father, our sister, our brother, or even our wife or husband; if not, we will become deadened.
- B. Elders and co-workers must do their best to be kept away from family involvement and entanglement in the church leadership and their work:
 1. The relationship among the co-workers, the elders, and the churches must be altogether in the spirit, not in anything natural.
 2. There must be a line of separation between the leadership and the family.
 3. To bring ones family into the work, eventually, will not be a healthy situation.

IV. As those living in the principle of the Nazarite, elders and co-workers must be saved from touching spiritual deadness—Num. 6:9-12; Rev. 3:1, 4:

- A. Numbers 6:9 shows us that if any man dies suddenly beside you, you are defiled by his deadness:
 1. Anyone's spiritual death can affect us.
 2. Whenever we see or smell the stench of spiritual death, we must run away.
 3. Do not enjoy looking into the trashcans; all homes (churches) have a trashcan.
 4. Learn to taste the good things, not the defiled things such as gossip, criticizing, and murmuring; if not, you will be deadened.
 5. Negative talk kills; learn to keep yourself away from the dead members.
- B. A Nazarite must remain fully sanctified, separated to God from all things, and should continually cleave to God:
 1. It is not easy to avoid the unexpected death of someone near us because that kind of death is often hidden.

2. If we are defiled by unexpected deadness, we need to have a new start.
3. If we are defiled, we need to be cleansed by separating ourselves to the Lord.