

KNOWING THE BODY—THE WORK OF THE BODY

Evening Session—Message Two

The Intrinsic Element of Our Work

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:22; 3:17a; 4:4, 12, 16; 1 Cor. 3:9-10, 12; Phil. 2:13

- I. God's eternal purpose is to work Himself in Christ into us as our life and our everything that we may live Him and express Him; this is the desire of God's heart and the focal point of the Bible—Eph. 1:9; 3:11; Phil. 1:20-21a; 2:13.**
- II. God's desire is to work Himself in Christ into us and to reconstitute us with Himself that we may become His corporate expression—the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem—Eph. 3:17a; 4:4; Rev. 21:2.**
- III. The central work of God is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people, making Himself one with them and making them one with Him—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19:**
 - A. God created us and redeemed us for the purpose of working Himself into us—Gen. 1:27; 2:7; Rom. 8:10b, 6, 11:
 1. The proper priority is not for us to work for God but for God to work Himself into us—Eph. 2:10; 3:17a; Phil. 2:13.
 2. The principle in God's work is to gain persons and by gaining them to have a way to go on—Acts 9:15.
 - B. The Bible was written according to the principle of the Triune God wrought into His redeemed people as their enjoyment, their drink, and their fountain of life and light; we need to be constituted with this principle so that it governs whatever we speak, teach, and preach—Psa. 36:8-9; Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19.
- IV. The intrinsic element of our work is that we minister the building and builded God into others for the building up of the Body of Christ—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:17a; 4:4, 12, 16:**
 - A. The goal of our work should be to minister the building and builded God into others; this is the crucial matter in our work in the Lord's recovery—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:22.
 - B. We should reconsider the work we are doing for the Lord and ask how much of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God has been wrought into those whom we have brought to the Lord—Col. 2:9; 1:28; Gal. 4:19.
 - C. We need to pray that the Lord will teach us to work in the way of ministering the processed and consummated Triune God into others—2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 3:9-10, 12.
 - D. As we endeavor to carry out the God-ordained way in the four steps of begetting, nourishing, perfecting, and building, our work must be based upon the processed and consummated Triune God, who is building Himself into His redeemed people and building them into Him.