

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Message Five

(Friday—Second Morning Session)

The Unique Flow of the Divine Stream for the Unique Blending of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:10-14; Rev. 22:1; 1 Cor. 12:24; 16:10; Rom. 14:3; 15:7; 16:1-25

- I. In the Scriptures the concept of the divine stream, the unique flow, is crucial—Gen. 2:10-14; Psa. 46:4a; John 7:37-39; Rev. 22:1:**
 - A. The Bible reveals the flowing Triune God—the Father as the fountain of life, the Son as the spring of life, and the Spirit as the river of life—Jer. 2:13; Psa. 36:9a; John 4:14; 7:37-39.
 - B. The source of the flow is the throne of God and of the Lamb—Rev. 22:1.
 - C. In the Scriptures there is only one flow, only one divine stream:
 1. The divine stream, which has been flowing throughout the generations, is uniquely one—Gen. 2:10-14; Rev. 22:1.
 2. Since there is only one divine stream and since the flow is uniquely one, we need to keep ourselves in this one flow.
 - D. Where the divine stream flows, we have the life of God, the fellowship of the Body, the testimony of Jesus, and the work of God.
- II. The divine stream, the unique flow, is the stream of the Lord's work—1 Cor. 16:10:**
 - A. There is a stream, which we may call the stream, the current, of the work; where the stream flows, there is the work of God.
 - B. The book of Acts reveals that in the move of the Lord there is only one stream and that we need to keep ourselves in this one stream—cf. 15:35-41:
 1. The flowing of the divine life, which started on the day of Pentecost and has been flowing throughout all generations to this day, is just one stream.
 2. The history of the church shows that throughout the generations there has been one stream of the Holy Spirit flowing all the time; many have been working for the Lord, but not all have been in the flowing of that one stream.
- III. The divine stream, the unique flow, is a stream of fellowship—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor. 10:16:**
 - A. The fellowship of the Body of Christ is the stream of the divine life; the divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—Rev. 22:1; 1 John 1:3.
 - B. What is needed today among the churches is more divine circulation, more fellowship—Act. 2:42; 2 Cor. 13:14.
- IV. We need to imitate the apostle to bring the local churches into the fellowship of the Body of Christ (Rom. 14:3; 15:7-9, 25-33), and follow the apostle's footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ (ch. 16):**
 - A. The last three chapters of Romans show us the blending and fellowship of the Body life brought forth through the apostle's receiving the believers

according to God and Christ in order to demonstrate, show forth, and maintain the oneness of the Body of Christ—14:3; 15:7.

- B. We need to follow the apostle's excellent pattern of bringing all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ through his recommendations and greetings, which show both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches—16:1-16, 20-25.
- C. Among us we should have the blending of all the individual members of the Body of Christ, the blending of all the churches in certain districts, the blending of all the co-workers, and the blending of all the elders—1 Cor. 12:24.
- D. We must have the reality of the fellowship and blending of the Body of Christ; otherwise, regardless of how much we pursue and how simple and humble we are, sooner or later there will be problems, even divisions, among us:
 - 1. The unique relationship, fellowship, and blending of all the local churches should be as much as practicality allows, without boundaries of states, provinces, or nations.
 - 2. The clustering and moving together of neighboring churches should be as much as possible, without the abolishing of the local administrations in business affairs.
 - 3. All the local churches on the entire globe should be absolutely one by being in the oneness of the Spirit and in the one accord of our spirit, soul, and mind—Eph. 4:3-4a; Acts 1:14; Phil. 1:27.
 - 4. All the local churches should be absolutely one in the realm of five crucial things:
 - a. The growth of life for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The preaching of the gospel.
 - c. The spreading of the Lord's recovery.
 - d. The building up of the Body of Christ.
 - e. The accomplishment of God's eternal economy.

V. For the Lord's move in His recovery both locally and universally, we all need to be Body-conscious in one accord and Body-centered in oneness:

- A. "In our consideration the Body should be first and the local churches should be second....All the local churches are and should be one Body universally, doctrinally and practically. Otherwise, where is the unique church of God and the unique one new man for the fulfilling of God's economy!" (*One Body and One Spirit*, p. 24).
- B. Not one local church is the Body; every local church is a part of the Body; there are many local churches but there are never many bodies—Eph. 4:4a.
- C. "The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ. I treasure the local churches, as you do. But I treasure the local churches because of a purpose. The local churches are the procedure to bring me into the Body of Christ. The churches are the Body, but the churches may not have the reality of the Body of Christ. Thus, we need to be in the local churches so that we can be ushered or brought, into the reality of the Body of Christ" (*The Practical Points concerning Blending*, p. 10).