

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Message Six

(Friday—Evening Session)

God's Unique Work

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 3:6-9, 12; 15:58; 16:10; Eph. 4:11-12

I. God's economy is centered on one thing—God's unique work—1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10:

- A. Throughout the ages God has only one work, and that is to work Himself into man; God's unique work in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Gal. 1:15-16a; 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:16-17a.
- B. If we realize that God desires to work Himself into His chosen people and if we realize that this is all that we need, then the goal of our work will be to minister Christ to others so that the Triune God may build Himself into their inner being—1 Cor. 3:6-9.
- C. Our work in the recovery today is to minister God into people; we need to practice one thing—to minister the processed Triune God into others so that He may build Himself into their inner man—v. 12.
- D. The one unique work of the ministry is to carry out God's economy to work Himself into man for the building up of the Body of Christ, consummating in the New Jerusalem—Eph. 3:9-11; 4:11-12; Rev. 21:2.

II. All the co-workers should do the same one work universally for the unique Body; the starting point of the work is the oneness of the Body:

- A. The Lord's recovery is to recover the oneness of the Body; this means that in the recovery we must see the universal Body and do everything in the limitation, the regulation, of the one Body—Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12.
- B. The work in the Lord's recovery is for the building up of the local churches unto the building up of the universal Body of Christ—Eph. 2:21-22.
- C. "The church, which is His Body," includes the churches, the ministry, and the work—1:22b-23a:
 - 1. The churches are the Body expressed locally, the ministry is the Body in function, and the work is the Body seeking increase.
 - 2. The church is the life of the Body in miniature; the ministry is the function of the Body in service; the work is the reaching out of the Body in growth.
- D. The basic principle of the churches, the ministry, and the work is the Body:
 - 1. All three are from the Body, in the Body, and for the Body.
 - 2. All three are different manifestations of the one Body, so they are all interdependent and interrelated.
 - 3. The Body is the governing law of the life and work of the children of God today.

III. The co-workers need to carry out a threefold work to build up the Body of Christ—the work in the stage of incarnation, the work in the stage of inclusion, and the work in the stage of intensification:

- A. All the co-workers must see the three stages, the three sections, of Christ: incarnation—the stage of Christ in the flesh; inclusion—the stage of Christ as the life-giving Spirit; and intensification—the stage of Christ as the sevenfold intensified life-giving Spirit—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.
- B. We need to know Christ and to experience, enjoy, and gain Him according to all that He has accomplished and is accomplishing in the three stages of His full ministry—Phil. 3:8-10a.
- C. We emphasize these three words—*incarnation*, *inclusion*, and *intensification*—and stress the facts that incarnation produces redeemed people, that inclusion produces the churches, and that intensification produces the overcomers to build up the Body, which consummates in the New Jerusalem as the unique goal of God’s economy.
- D. If we are carrying out a threefold work according to the stages of Christ’s history and full ministry, we will work not only to produce redeemed ones and work to establish churches but will also work to build up the Body consummating in the New Jerusalem:
 - 1. The foundation is the work in the stage of incarnation, the building up is the work in the stage of inclusion, and the completion of the building is the work in the stage of intensification.
 - 2. “I would urge you to consider this matter of intensification and to pray desperately, saying, ‘Lord, I must advance. I need Your grace to bring me onward. I do not want to remain in the work of incarnation nor even in the work of inclusion. I want to advance from inclusion to intensification. Lord, You have been intensified sevenfold, and I pray that I also will be intensified sevenfold to overcome the degradation of the church that the Body may be built up to consummate the New Jerusalem’” (*Incarnation, Inclusion, and Intensification*, p. 22).

IV. Today there are four kinds of workers:

- A. The first are the co-workers who match the need of the ministry of God in the present age; this is a small group of people who have been dealt with by the Lord and who are in one accord.
- B. The second kind are the younger co-workers; they are willing to receive the direction and to come under the coordination of the older co-workers, and they are willing to follow and to learn in humility.
- C. The third kind are those who are unwilling to submit to the senior co-workers, who do not belong to the denominations, yet who are happy to remain in fellowship with us.
- D. The fourth kind are the preachers and free evangelists among the denominations.
- E. What we need today are the first and second kind of co-workers.
- F. Concerning the third and fourth kind of co-workers, we can only let them choose their own pathway; with some people God has not assigned them to take the same way as we do, and we dare not say anything to them.
- G. Whatever the situation may be, we are here to do the work that God has committed to us; we cannot interfere with others’ work, and we are not here tearing down others’ work.