Outline of the Messages for the Full-time Training in the Fall Term of 2006

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE REALITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Message Thirteen

Living by the Grace of God for the Reality of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:6-8, 22-23; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; 13:14; Gal. 6:18; Heb. 4:16

I. The consummation of the believers' experience of the grace of God in His economy is the church as the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:6-8, 22-23:

- A. Grace is Christ coming into us to be our full enjoyment—John 1:16; Phil. 4:23:
 - 1. Out of the enjoyment of Christ as grace comes forth the Body of Christ-2 Cor. 12:9; 1 Cor. 12:27.
 - 2. The practical life of the Body of Christ comes forth only out of the enjoyment of Christ as the grace of God—2 Cor. 8:9; 13:14.
- B. Our experience of the grace of God in our living and in our words and actions issues in the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:6-8, 22-23; 2:8; 3:2; 4:4, 16, 29.
- C. Every part of the organic Body of Christ is an issue of our experience of the grace of God in the economy of God—John 1:16; Rom. 5:21; 12:3-8.

II. Grace is the manifestation of the Triune God in His embodiment in three aspects—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—2 Cor. 13:14; Num. 6:22-27; Psa. 36:8-9:

- A. The New Testament is a history of the grace of God as the incarnation of the Triune God in His Divine Trinity, processed and consummated and moving and living in and among the believers—John 1:14, 16-17; Rev. 22:21.
- B. Grace is the Triune God in His incarnation to be dispensed into the believers by the Father as the source, by the Son as the element, and by the Spirit as the application—2 Cor. 13:14:
 - 1. The source of grace, the element of grace, and the application of grace are the three persons of the Divine Trinity to be our everything—Matt. 28:19.
 - 2. In the divine dispensing, grace is called the grace of God, the grace of Christ, and the grace of which the Spirit is—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12; 8:1, 9; 9:14; 12:9; 13:14; Heb. 10:29.
- C. Grace is the embodiment of God, who became a God-man with divinity and humanity, passed through human living, died, resurrected, and entered into ascension; now He has become the life-giving Spirit dwelling in us—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
- D. Without being processed, the Triune God could not be grace to us—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b:
 - 1. God the Father is embodied in the Son, the Son is realized as the life-giving Spirit, and the Spirit enters into us as grace for our enjoyment—Heb. 10:29.

- 2. The processed and consummated Triune God dispenses Himself into us to be our portion as grace so that we may enjoy Him as everything in His Divinity Trinity—2 Cor. 13:14.
- E. Grace means God is everything, God does everything, and God gives everything-1 Pet. 5:10.
- F. Grace is the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit bringing the processed Triune God into us to be our life and life supply so that we may live in resurrection—1 Cor. 15:10.

III. The New Testament believers' living under the grace in God's economy is a total living of experiencing the processed and consummated Triune God as grace—Gal. 6:18; Heb. 4:16; Rev. 22:21:

- A. The Christian living must be the living of grace, the experience of grace; our Christian life is essentially a life of having God as our grace—2 Cor. 1:12.
- B. A total living means that our entire living is a living of the Triune God processed to be grace to us—13:14.
- C. The riches of God's grace surpass every limitation, for they are the overflowing riches of God Himself for our enjoyment—1 Pet. 5:10.
- D. Grace is God Himself as our life to be one with us, to save us, to make His home in us, and to be formed in us—Col. 3:4; Eph. 2:8; 3:17; Gal. 4:19.
- E. To grow in grace is to grow in the increase of God—2 Pet. 3:18; Col. 2:19.
- F. Because we are saints, the grace of the Lord must be with each one of us in every aspect of our daily life—Rev. 22:21.
- G. We need to learn not to expect to receive anything outwardly or to have anything done for us by the Lord but simply to enjoy the Lord Himself as the grace of God—2 Cor. 12:9.
- IV. If we would enjoy Christ as grace and live by grace for the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be defeated and subdued by the Lord, we need to be vessels open to the Lord, and we need to be pure virgins to Christ, living in simplicity and purity toward Christ according to the principle of the tree of life—2:14; 4:7; 11:2-3.

V. The stewardship of the grace of God has been given to us for the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 3:2-7:

- A. The stewardship of the grace is for the dispensing of the grace of God into His chosen people for the producing and building up of the church as the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 4:1-2.
- B. Out of this stewardship comes the ministry of the apostle, who is a steward in God's house, ministering Christ as God's grace to God's household—9:17.
- C. Paul's ministry was to dispense the riches of Christ as grace to the believers for their enjoyment—Eph. 3:8.
- D. For the Body of Christ, all the saints have a stewardship of grace according to God's economy—vv. 2, 9.