Outline of the Messages for the Full-time Training in the Fall Term of 2007

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS

Message Thirty-One

Their Present—Experiencing and Enjoying God as the Father in His Love (2)

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:18b; 3:7-10; 2 Cor. 1:3-5; Phil. 4:7; Heb. 2:10; Rev. 21:10-11

- I. God the Father gives grace to the believers, according to the operation of His power, to announce the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel and to bring to light the economy of the mystery—Eph. 3:7-10:
 - A. God's giving grace to us is a matter of His dispensing Himself into us; dispensing this grace into others is our ministry according to God's economy—vv. 2, 7.
 - B. We announce the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel for the producing of the church as the Body of Christ—vv. 8, 10.
 - C. By the grace given to us, we may enlighten others so that they may see what the economy of the mystery hidden in God is—v. 9.

II. God the Father makes the believers competent to bear the ministry of the new covenant—2 Cor. 3:5-6:

- A. The ministry of the new covenant is for God's New Testament economy, which is to dispense Christ into God's chosen people for the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 3:16-17; 4:16.
- B. The sufficiency, competency, and qualification for this ministry come from the living God Himself—2 Cor. 3:3, 5-6.
- C. Only the Triune God as the all-inclusive Spirit constituted into us is sufficient to carry out the ministry of the new covenant—4:1.

III. God the Father encourages and comforts the believers through Christ so that they may be able to encourage and comfort others—1:3-5:

- A. We are encouraged and comforted by God through the divine dispensing, which brings the divine element into us—v. 3.
- B. In order to encourage others and comfort them, we need to impart to them the divine element which we have received of God, and this element will become in them the element of encouragement and comfort—v. 4.

IV. God the Father, with His peace, guards our hearts and our thoughts in Christ Jesus—Phil. 4:7:

A. The peace of God is actually God as peace infused into us through our fellowship with Him—v. 9.

B. The God of peace patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil; this guarding is a matter of the Father's intimate dispensing—v. 7.

V. God the Father disciplines the believers so that they may partake of His holiness—Heb. 12:5-11:

- A. We should respect the Father, who disciplines us, and be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live—v. 9.
- B. The Father's discipline is related to His dispensing; when He disciplines us, He dispenses His holy nature into us, and we partake of His holiness through this dispensing—v. 10.

VI. The believers may experience and enjoy God as the Father in His love by His answering their cry and avenging them—Luke 18:1-8:

- A. In a sense, the believers in Christ are a widow in the present age because their Husband, Christ, is absent from them—2 Cor. 11:2.
- B. As believers, we have an opponent, Satan the devil, concerning whom we need God's avenging; we ought to pray persistently for this avenging and should not lose heart—Luke 18:1, 3, 7; Rev. 6:9-10.
- C. On the one hand, God is sovereign, and He judges whenever He chooses; on the other hand, we need to bother the Lord by praying persistently, knowing that He will answer our cry and avenge us—Luke 18:7-8.
- D. Even the Father's answering and avenging is a matter of His dispensing; as He answers our cry and avenges us against our enemy, He dispenses Himself into us so that we may experience and enjoy Him in His love—Rom. 5:5.

VII. Through His dispensing, God the Father is making the believers His inheritance of glory—Eph. 1:18b:

- A. The Father desires to inherit what He has dispensed into us of Himself; therefore, whatever God has dispensed into us of Himself becomes His inheritance—3:16-17a.
- B. It is by having the Triune God dispensed into us and wrought into us that we become precious to Him and become His inheritance in reality—2 Cor. 13:14.
- C. God's inheritance in the saints is an inheritance of glory—Eph. 1:18b:
 - 1. The riches of the Father's glory are the many items of God's attributes.
 - 2. Since glory is God's expression, the riches of the Father's glory are the riches of His expression—3:16.
 - 3. The Triune God within us is constituting us His inheritance of glory.

VIII. God the Father is leading the believers as His many sons into His glory—Heb. 2:10:

- A. Through regeneration the seed of glory was dispensed into us; this seed, the life of glory, is Christ in us, the hope of glory—Col. 1:27.
- B. The divine dispensing will cause the seed of glory within us to grow until it blossoms; the blossoming of the seed of glory will be our glorification—Rom. 8:30.
- C. The Father's leading His many sons into glory will be the consummation of the divine dispensing—Eph. 3:21; Rev. 21:10-11.