

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2015**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE BUILDING WORK OF GOD**

Message One

The Vision of God's Building

Scripture Reading: Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:16; Ezek. 43:10-12

I. In the Bible *vision* denotes an extraordinary scene; it refers to a special kind of seeing—a glorious, inward seeing—and to the spiritual scenery we see from God—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19; Ezek. 1:1, 4-28; Dan. 7:1, 9-10, 13-14:

- A. In order to have a vision, we need revelation, light, and sight—Eph. 1:17-18a.
- B. The heavenly vision governs us, restricts us, controls us, directs us, preserves us, revolutionizes us, keeps us in the genuine oneness, and gives us the boldness to go on—Prov. 29:18a.
- C. Under the heavenly vision we are directed toward God's destination, and our life is controlled according to God's economy—Phil. 3:13-14; 1 Tim. 1:4.
- D. The governing vision of the Bible is the Triune God working Himself into His chosen and redeemed people in order to saturate their entire being with the Divine Trinity for the producing and building up of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem—Eph. 4:4-6; Rev. 21:2, 9-10.

II. The main subject of the Bible is God's building; thus, the entire Bible is a book of building—Gen. 2:22; 28:10-22; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:16; Rev. 21:2:

- A. The central and divine thought of the Scriptures is that God is seeking a divine building as the mingling of Himself with humanity; He is seeking a living composition of living persons redeemed by and mingled with Himself—John 14:20; 1 John 4:15:
 - 1. The principle of God's building is that God builds Himself into man and builds man into Himself; God mingling with man is God building Himself into man, and man mingling with God is man being built into God—Eph. 3:17a.
 - 2. God intends to have a building in which God is built into man and man is built into God so that God and man, man and God, can be a mutual abode to each other—John 15:4a; Rev. 21:2-3, 22.
- B. God's building is the corporate expression of the Triune God—1 Tim. 3:15-16; John 17:22; Eph. 3:19b, 21:

1. God's intention is to have a group of people built up as a spiritual building to express Him and to represent Him by dealing with His enemy and recovering the lost earth—Gen. 1:26; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.
 2. The building up of the saints into one corporate expression is the real testimony—Rev. 1:2, 12, 20.
- C. God's building is the enlargement of God—John 3:29a, 30a; Col. 2:19:
1. The proper building is the enlargement, the expansion, of the Triune God, enabling God to express Himself in a corporate way—Eph. 2:21-22; Col. 2:19.
 2. The building of God is the Triune God as life being wrought into us so that we may become His one expression, the enlargement and expansion of God—Eph. 3:17a, 19b, 21.
- D. To be built up with fellow believers is the Lord's supreme and highest requirement of His faithful seekers according to one of the divine attributes—the divine oneness—John 17.

III. The book of Ezekiel begins with a vision of the appearance of the glory of the Lord (1:4-28) and ends with a vision of the holy building of God; this indicates that God's goal is the building—40:4; 43:10-12:

- A. The Lord instructed Ezekiel to describe God's house—40:4; 43:10-12:
1. God's intention was to check the living and conduct of His people by the house; in the book of Ezekiel, God measured them by the temple.
 2. Because the house of God was to be their regulation, God charged Ezekiel to show them the form of the house:
 - a. The temple of God is a pattern, and if the people examine themselves in light of this pattern, they will know their shortcomings—v. 11; 41:16-20.
 - b. The living of the people must match the temple of God—1 Cor. 3:16-17.
- B. According to the book of Ezekiel, the requirements of the indwelling Christ are according to His house; everyone must be measured and checked according to the measurement of God's house—43:10:
1. Our behavior and conduct should be examined not only according to moral regulations and spiritual principles but also according to the church, the house of God—1 Tim. 3:15-16.
 2. Our main concern should not be with behaving ourselves or with becoming spiritual but with fitting into God's house—1 Cor. 14:12.
 3. If what we are and what we do cannot match God's building, it amounts to nothing in the sight of God—3:10-15.
 4. The Body is the greatest test of our spirituality—12:23-27:
 - a. If we cannot pass the test of the Body life, our spirituality is not genuine—Eph. 4:15-16.
 - b. Spirituality is a Body matter; everything we have is in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body—v. 16.