

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

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

Message Six

**A Mutual Abode**

Scripture Reading: John 1:14; 14:1-6, 20, 23; 15:4

- I. The Gospel of John reveals how in Christ and through Christ God comes into man and brings man into Himself—1:14; 14:6, 20:**
  - A. Christ's coming through incarnation was to bring God into man—1:14.
  - B. Christ's going through death and resurrection was to bring man into God—14:2-3, 6, 20.
- II. In John 14:1-6 we see Jesus going through death and Christ coming in resurrection to bring us, the believers, into the Father:**
  - A. The Lord Jesus was going not to a place but to a living person, the Father Himself—vv. 12, 28.
  - B. The Lord was going to the Father, and His intention was to bring His disciples into the divine person of the Father—vv. 5-6, 12, 20:
    1. The Lord came from the Father by incarnation to bring God into man, and He went to the Father in order to bring man into God—1:14; 14:20.
    2. The way of His going was by death and resurrection, and the purpose of His going was to bring man into the Father—v. 6.
  - C. The words *I go* in verse 2 mean that the Lord was going through death and resurrection to bring man into God for the building up of God's dwelling place; this is the building of the church mentioned in Matthew 16:18.
- III. "My Father's house" in John 14:2 is the Body of Christ, the church as the house of God:**
  - A. In 2:16 *My Father's house* refers to the dwelling place of God on earth, the temple; the temple is a type, or figure, of the body of Jesus, which in resurrection has been enlarged to be the Body of Christ—vv. 19-22.
  - B. *My Father's house* in 14:2 refers not to heaven but to God's dwelling place on earth—the Body of Christ, the church.
  - C. In the Epistles the revelation that the Body of Christ is the church and that the church is the house of God is fully developed—1 Tim. 3:15-16; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:21-22.

- D. The Father's house in the Gospel of John and in the whole New Testament is the Body of Christ, which is the church as the dwelling place of God on earth—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15-16.

**IV. "In My Father's house are many abodes"—John 14:2:**

- A. The many abodes are the many members of the Body of Christ, which is God's temple—Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 3:16-17.
- B. All the believers in Christ are the abodes in God's building, the Father's house; this building is the Body of Christ, and all the abodes are members of the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27.

**V. *I go to prepare a place for you* means that the Lord would prepare a place, accomplish redemption, open up the way, and make a standing for us to enter into God—John 14:2-3, 6:**

- A. By death and resurrection the Lord Jesus paved the way and prepared a place so that we might be brought into God—v. 20.
- B. By His death and resurrection He prepared a standing for us in God; in this way He prepared a place for us in God—vv. 2-3, 6.
- C. The standing in God, being enlarged, becomes the standing in the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27.
- D. As believers in Christ, we all have a place in God and a place in the Body, and now we should live in the place prepared for us through the death and resurrection of Christ—John 14:2-3, 20; 1 Cor. 12:27.

**VI. "Abide in Me and I in you"—John 15:4:**

- A. The result of Christ's coming and going is the mutual dwelling of God and man:
  - 1. By His coming in incarnation, Christ brought God into man, and by His going through death and resurrection, He brought man into God—1:14; 14:20.
  - 2. Now God and man, man and God, become a mutual abode; we abide in God, and God abides in us.
- B. In Christ and through Christ, God is in man; God becomes our abode, and we become God's abode mutually.

**VII. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him"—v. 23:**

- A. Here we see that a mutual abode is built up by the Father and the Son's visitation to those who love Him:
  - 1. The Father and the Son visit us to do a building work in us.
  - 2. Eventually, we and He, He and we, become a mutual abode—15:4.
- B. The Triune God's making His abode with the believers is for the building of His habitation—Eph. 2:21-22:
  - 1. The building of God's habitation today is altogether dependent upon this experience described in John 14:23.
  - 2. It is in this way that the Lord does the building work of God among us—Matt. 16:18.