

Message Five

The Need for a New Revival

Scripture Reading: John 1:14; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 1:19-21a; 1 Cor. 12:31; 13:4-8a

I. We can enter into a new revival by arriving at the highest peak of the divine revelation through the ministry of the age:

- A. The particular recovery and work that God is doing in one age is the ministry of that age:
 - 1. In every age there is the vision of that age, and we have to serve God according to the vision of the age—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19; Eph. 1:17; 3:9.
 - 2. Today we can be in one accord because we have only one vision, an up-to-date, all-inheriting vision, the vision of the eternal economy of God.
- B. The highest peak of the divine revelation given to us by God is the revelation of the eternal economy of God:
 - 1. The entire Bible, which is the explanation of the eternal economy of God, is the autobiography of the Triune God, seen in the two sections of eternity and on the bridge of time—John 1:1, 3, 14, 29, 32, 42, 51.
 - 2. God becoming man that man might become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead is the essence of the entire Bible, the “diamond” in the “box” of the Bible, the eternal economy of God—Gen. 1:26; John 12:24; Rom. 8:29:
 - a. God became man through incarnation by participating in man’s humanity; man becomes God through transformation by participating in God’s divinity—John 1:14; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - b. It is only by God becoming man to make man God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead that the Body of Christ can be produced, the bride can be prepared, and the New Jerusalem can be consummated—Rev. 21:3, 22.
 - 3. “I hope that the saints in all the churches throughout the earth, especially the co-workers and the elders, will see this revelation and then rise up to pray that God would give us a new revival—a revival which has never been recorded in history” (*Life-study of First and Second Chronicles*, p. 15).

II. If we practice living the life of a God-man, which is the reality of the Body of Christ, spontaneously a corporate model will be built up, a model living in the economy of God; this model will be the greatest revival in the history of the church to bring the Lord back:

- A. We need to follow the pattern of the Lord Jesus, bearing the brands, the characteristics of His life—Gal. 6:17.
- B. We need to live Christ for His magnification by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—Phil. 1:19-21a:
 - 1. We live Christ not by our natural human life but by the divine life of Christ in resurrection—Col. 3:4.

2. To live Christ for His magnification is to participate in Christ's salvation in life, being saved from the failure of not living Christ and from the defeat of not magnifying Christ—Rom. 5:10, 17.
 3. The normal experience of Christ is to live Him, and to live Him is to magnify Him always, regardless of the circumstances.
- C. We need to be conformed to the death of Christ by the power of His resurrection—Phil. 3:10.
- D. "We should all declare that we want to live the life of a God-man. Eventually, the God-men will be the victors, the overcomers, the Zion within Jerusalem. This will bring in a new revival which has never been seen in history, and this will end this age" (*Life-study of First and Second Chronicles*, p. 28).

III. We can enter into a new revival by shepherding people according to God, having the Father's loving and forgiving heart and the Savior's shepherding and seeking spirit—1 Pet. 5:2:

- A. We need to shepherd people according to the pattern of the Lord Jesus in His ministry for the carrying out of God's eternal economy—Matt. 9:36; John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4:
1. The content of God's entire New Testament economy in His complete salvation is Christ as the Son of Man cherishing us and as the Son of God nourishing us—Eph. 5:29:
 - a. Christ as the Son of Man came to redeem us from sin, accomplishing His judicial redemption through His death (1 Tim. 1:15; Eph. 1:7)—cherishing.
 - b. Christ as the Son of God came to impart the divine life into us abundantly, carrying out His organic salvation in His resurrection (John 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b)—nourishing.
 2. In His heavenly ministry, Christ as the High Priest, with a golden girdle on His breast, is cherishing and nourishing the churches—Rev. 1:12-13.
- B. We need to shepherd people according to the pattern of the apostle Paul as a good shepherd, taking care of God's flock—1 Tim. 1:16; Acts 20:28:
1. Paul shepherded the saints in Ephesus by teaching them publicly and from house to house (v. 20) and by admonishing each one of the saints with tears even for as long as three years (vv. 31, 19), declaring to them all the counsel of God (v. 27).
 2. Paul came down to the weak ones' level so that he could gain them—2 Cor. 11:28-29; 1 Cor. 9:22; cf. Matt. 12:20.
 3. Paul indicated in his teaching that the church is a home to raise up people, a hospital to heal and recover them, and a school to teach and edify them—Eph. 2:19; 1 Thes. 5:14; 1 Cor. 14:31.
 4. Paul revealed that love is the most excellent way for us to be anything and do anything for the building up of the Body of Christ—8:1; 12:31; 13:4-8a.
- C. "I hope that there will be a genuine revival among us by our receiving this burden of shepherding. If all the churches receive this teaching to participate in Christ's wonderful shepherding, there will be a big revival in the recovery" (*The Vital Groups*, p. 40).