

Message Four

Thinking the One Thing, Being Like-souled, and Speaking the Same Thing as the One New Man with One Person and One Mouth

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:2; 3:12-14; Eph. 2:15; Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Tim. 1:3-4

I. The one thing, the unique thing, in the Lord's recovery is God's eternal economy with Christ as the centrality and universality—Col. 3:10-11:

- A. The one thing that should be focused on, stressed, and ministered in the Lord's recovery is the eternal economy of God—1 Tim. 1:3-4.
- B. The content of God's eternal economy is Christ; actually, Christ Himself in His full ministry of three stages is the divine economy—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.
- C. God's desire is to have a recovery purely and wholly of the person of Christ—Col. 1:17b, 18b; 2 Cor. 12:2a; 2:10; 3:3.

II. The *one thing* in Philippians refers to the subjective knowledge and experience of Christ; the *one thing* is the pursuing of Christ to gain Him, lay hold of Him, and possess Him—1:20-21; 2:5; 3:7-14; 4:13:

- A. Christ and Christ alone should be the centrality and universality of our entire being—Col. 1:17b, 18b.
- B. Our thinking should be focused on the excellency of the knowledge and experience of Christ; focusing on anything else causes us to think differently, thus creating dissensions among us—cf. 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 4:2:
 - 1. "Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the *one thing*"—2:2.
 - 2. "Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but *one thing*: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward"—3:12-14 (lit.).
 - 3. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; but there is need of *one thing*, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her"—Luke 10:41b-42.
 - 4. "*One thing* I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple"—Psa. 27:4.

III. The secret of experiencing Christ is to be like-souled in the Body life, genuinely caring for the things of Christ Jesus—Phil. 1:27; 2:2, 19-20:

- A. If we would experience Christ to the fullest extent in the Body and for the Body, we need to be like-souled and we need to risk our soul—vv. 20, 30; Rom. 16:3-4.
- B. Because Timothy was like-souled with Paul, he was in the position to experience Christ to the uttermost in the Body, just as Paul was—Phil. 2:19-20; 1 Cor. 4:16-17; 16:10.

- C. The things of Christ Jesus are the things concerning the church with all the saints—Phil. 2:21.
- D. The normal seeking after Christ and the genuine experience of Christ will always cause us to care for the churches and saints—vv. 19-30; 1:24-25.

IV. We need to consider *one new man* in Ephesians 2:15 together with *one mouth* in Romans 15:6 and *speak the same thing* in 1 Corinthians 1:10:

- A. For the church as the one new man, we all need to take Christ as our person in the matter of speaking—Matt. 12:34-37; Eph. 3:17a; John 7:16-18; 8:28, 38a; 12:49-50; 14:10.
- B. The entire Bible has one mouth and speaks the same thing—Heb.1:1-2a.
- C. In today's Christianity there are many mouths, each speaking a different thing; this is the pitiful situation of every preacher wanting to speak his own thing and thinking it a shame to speak what others have spoken—Gen. 11:7, 9.
- D. In the past there were too many mouths because there were too many persons.
- E. In the one new man there is one mouth to speak the same thing—Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:10.
- F. There is only one new man, and the one new man has only one person, so the one new man speaks with one mouth and says the same thing.
- G. *With one accord* and *with one mouth* (Rom. 15:6) means that even though we are many and all are speaking, we all *speak the same thing*—1 Cor. 1:10:
 1. The church is the one new man with only one person—Christ—and this person controls our speaking; thus, whatever He speaks is surely *the same thing*.
 2. When we are about to speak, we need to resolve a basic question: In this matter of speaking, am I the person or is Christ the person?
 3. If in our speaking we do not take ourselves as the person but allow Christ to be the person, then there will be one mouth, and everyone will speak the same thing.
- H. In the one new man there is only one person, and only this person has the freedom to speak—Matt. 17:5:
 1. In the one new man there is no freedom for us to speak our own things.
 2. The Lord Jesus has the absolute freedom to speak, and our natural man has absolutely no freedom to speak.
- I. Although we are many and come from many places, we all have one mouth and we all speak the same thing; this is because we all are the one new man having only one person—Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; 3:17a; Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:10.
- J. Only one kind of ministry builds up and never divides—this is the unique ministry of God's economy—1 Tim. 1:3-4:
 1. "Human pride always likes to make the self different from others. You may speak one thing, but I would never speak what you speak because of my pride. I want to speak something different from what you speak, something new and something better. This is the self, and this is fleshly pride" (*The Divine Economy*, p. 126).
 2. The only way that we can be preserved in the eternal oneness for the one new man is to teach the same thing, the economy of God—Rom. 15:6.