

## Message Two

### Education

Scripture Reading: Ezra 7:6, 10-12, 21; Neh. 8:1-13; 12:26

**I. In the Lord's recovery, we need Ezras to constitute God's people by educating them with the truth so that they may be God's testimony, His corporate expression, on earth—Neh. 8:1-8, 13; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15; 1 Tim. 3:15:**

- A. Ezra was a priest and also a scribe; thus, he was not a letter-scribe but a priestly scribe—Ezra 7:6, 11-12, 21; Neh. 8:1-2, 8-9, 11-12; 12:26.
- B. Ezra was skilled in the law of God, which is linked to God's economy—Ezra 7:6, 10-12:
  - 1. God's economy is God becoming a man that man may become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead to produce the organic Body of Christ, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; 12:4-5; Rev. 21:2.
  - 2. The center, reality, and goal of God's economy is Christ—Col. 1:15-18.
  - 3. The law is linked to God's economy because the law was given as God's testimony—God's portrait, God's image—Exo. 25:16, 21:
    - a. The living law of God as God's testimony dwells in Christ, making Him the testimony of God—Col. 2:9.
    - b. As God's testimony, the law is a type of Christ, the image of God, who is God's portrait and testimony—1:15.
    - c. In typology, to keep the law means to express God—1 Cor. 10:31.
    - d. Those who have the living of a God-man bear the image of God; they are a portrait of God and even a duplication of God—Phil. 1:19-21a; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:4, 9.
- C. Ezra spoke what had been spoken by Moses—Ezra 7:6; Neh. 8:14; 2 Pet. 1:12.
- D. The priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe in order to gain insight into the words of the law; in Nehemiah 8:13 *insight* refers to apprehending the intrinsic significance.

**II. In the Lord's recovery we need Ezras, priestly teachers who contact God, who are saturated with God, who are one with God, who are mingled with God, who are filled with God, and who are skillful in the Word of God; this is the kind of person who is qualified to be a teacher in the recovery—Matt. 13:52; 2 Cor. 3:5-6; 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11:**

- A. The Lord Jesus taught the people in order to bring them out of the satanic darkness into the divine light—Mark 6:6; cf. Acts 26:18:
  - 1. Man's fall into sin broke his fellowship with God, making all men ignorant of the knowledge of God, with such ignorance issuing in darkness and death—Eph. 4:17-18.
  - 2. The Lord as the light of the world came as a great light to shine on the people who were sitting in the shadow of death—John 8:12; Matt. 4:12-16.
  - 3. The Lord's teaching released the word of light that those in darkness and death might receive the light of life—John 1:4.
- B. Teaching equals revelation, which is the opening of the veil—1 Tim. 2:7; Eph. 3:3-4, 9:

1. To teach is to roll away the veil; as we are teaching others, we should be taking away the veil so that they may see something of the Triune God.
  2. When we speak something in the church meeting, our speaking should be the rolling away of the veil; this means that our teaching should present a revelation—1 Tim. 4:6, 11, 16.
- C. The kind of person we are determines the kind of Bible we have—1 Cor. 2:11-16:
1. Our understanding of the Bible is always according to what we are—2 Cor. 3:12-16.
  2. What we see in the Bible and what the Bible is to us depend upon what kind of person we are—John 5:39-40; Matt. 5:8; 6:22-24, 33; Luke 11:34-36.

**III. The greatest need we must meet is to bring the saints in the Lord's recovery into the truth to carry the recovery on—1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15:**

- A. The recovery has the highest truth—the truth that is the consummation of the truths recovered during the past centuries—1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15:
1. We have both the objective truths and the subjective truths in the Holy Scriptures—Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:34, 10; Col. 3:1; 1:27.
  2. In our study of the Bible, we should not merely pay attention to the “branches” but go deeply into the “roots” and the “trunk.”
  3. We need to see the crystallized significances of the steps of God's economy and of the Body of Christ—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4-6.
  4. We need to refute and correct the defects and errors of traditional Christian theology—Col. 1:25; 2 Tim. 2:15, 25.
- B. To be constituted with the truth is to have the truth wrought into us to become our intrinsic being, our organic constitution—2 John 2:
1. The intrinsic element of the divine revelation must be wrought into and constituted into our being—Col. 3:16.
  2. Once the truth gets into us through our understanding, it remains in our memory, and then we retain the truth in our memory, causing us to have an accumulation of the truth—1 Pet. 1:13; 2 Pet. 1:15; 3:1.
  3. After the truth gets into our memory, it becomes a constant and long-term nourishment; then we have an accumulation of the truth, and we are under the constant nourishment—Col. 3:16, 4; 1 Tim. 4:6.
- C. We must learn to use the new language of the new culture in the divine and mystical realm—Neh. 13:23-24; 1 Cor. 2:12-13; John 16:12-15.
- D. All the saints in the Lord's recovery should be trained in the divine revelation—2 Tim. 2:2, 15:
1. Nearly all the crucial revelations in the Bible have been covered in the ministry of Brother Nee and Brother Lee; we should pay our attention to these pure and healthy things and not waste our time collecting “poisonous gourds”—2 Kings 4:38-41.
  2. We all need to be helped through the Life-studies and the Recovery Version with the footnotes to see the intrinsic significance of the word of the Bible—Neh. 8:8, 13.

## USING THE LIFE-STUDIES AND THE FOOTNOTES

Excerpts from *Elders' Training, Book 3:  
The Way to Carry Out the Vision*

All the things we have presented to you in the ministry are just “openers.” (p. 32)

Those of us who have read the Life-study messages can testify that these Life-studies with the Recovery Version and all the footnotes open the Bible to us whenever we touch them. The Life-studies and the Recovery Version not only convey the nourishment to us, but they become an opener. (p. 53)

Without such a vision [of the processed Triune God dispensing Himself into His redeemed, tripartite man, making this man a man of life], Romans 8 is concealed and closed to you. Once you have received such a vision, however, you will receive not only nourishment but enlightenment. You receive the key that opens Romans 8...This is not replacing Romans 8 with the Life-study messages, but this is to get the help from the Life-study messages to enter into Romans 8. (p. 54)

I picked up the burden to write the expository notes for the Recovery Version to open up each book of the New Testament to the seeking saints...I want to dig further and I am still digging, but I do not believe that I can dig that much. Therefore, I leave this further digging matter to you. (p. 93)

The basic truths have been presented to us, and much life nourishment has been put into print, especially with the Life-study messages. Also, the obstacles have nearly all been removed. We now have a clear way for our study, and every book is open to us. In mining, the hardest thing is to open the mine. Once the mine has been opened and the treasure is exposed, it is easy for someone to dig out the treasures. I have left only this one matter of further digging to you. I believe that the Lord will continue this digging work either through you or through some others. After a period of time I believe that many of you will be “good diggers.” The intention and goal of our publishing of the Life-study messages is to open up the mine for you to go in and dig. (p. 93)

I have published many things which need your spending years to get into. (p. 98)

I feel that we have no choice but to use the Life-studies, because we realize that this is the best way to bring people into the holy Word. (p. 103)

Many have a copy of the Bible, but the Bible has been closed and nearly never opened. Now the Lord has given us a key, an opener. I consider our writings as the opener to open the holy Word. I believe that those of you who have read the Life-study messages can testify honestly that these messages with the notes of the Recovery Version have opened up a certain chapter or a certain book of the Bible to you. This is not to replace the Bible, but to bring people into the Bible. (p. 104)

The truth is nowhere but in the Bible, yet the Bible needs an opener. We need to lead the saints into the real, right, and proper realization of the need of the Bible and also of the help of the Life-study messages and the Recovery Version. (p. 108)

According to our practice so far, we have the holy Word in our hand and by the Lord's mercy He has given us a publication that always opens up the Word. Why would you not use this? We need to use these two things—the Word and the “opener” to get ourselves prepared. (p. 120)

I propose that you study the Bible with an opener, with a help. All of us who have some experience with the Life-study messages know that they may be considered as the best help. They are the most availing and prevailing key to open up the New Testament to all of us. (p. 146)