

## **LEADERSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Morning Message Three

### **The Leadership in the New Testament Ministry and among the New Testament Ministers**

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:17, 25; Eph. 4:3-5; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 John 9-11;  
Matt. 20:20-28; 23:8, 10-11; Acts 2:14; Gal. 2:9; 1 Cor. 4:21; 5:3-5

#### **I. There being only one ministry and one leadership in the ministry:**

- A. Although there is the truth of the leadership in the New Testament ministry, the Lord did not officially appoint someone to be a leader:
  - 1. A leadership is shaped by the growth in life and is an issue of the need.
  - 2. If there is no need, no leadership can be manifested; the environment forms and constitutes the leadership.
- B. There is one unique leadership since the ministry is one (Acts 1:17, 25); there is also one unique leadership since God, the Lord, and the Spirit are all one—Eph. 4:4-5:
  - 1. The one unique leadership is for keeping the oneness of the Spirit for the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:3.
  - 2. Today's Christianity is divided because there are too many leaderships; if the matter of the leadership is not applied or viewed properly, it will create division.

#### **II. The leadership in the apostles' teaching:**

- A. The leadership is produced, strengthened, and also limited, restricted, in the apostles' teaching—1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 John 9-11:
  - 1. Paul charged Timothy to charge the dissenting ones not to teach things differently from God's economy in faith; there was some leadership that charged people to teach the right things, not things different from the apostles' teaching:
    - a. The apostles' teaching is concerning God's New Testament economy to dispense the processed Triune God into His chosen and redeemed people that Christ might have a Body to express Himself and that the Triune God might have a complete, eternal expression in the New Jerusalem.
    - b. Any minister who preaches or teaches should carry out such a ministry.
  - 2. We can also see the leadership in the apostles' teaching where John charges the believers not to receive those who go beyond the teaching of Christ, the teaching of the apostles.
- B. Paul and John, in their work in the New Testament ministry, exercised leadership to correct those who taught wrongly and to also charge the believers not to receive those who taught heresy, which was not according to the teaching of the apostles.

#### **III. Such a leadership, as exercised by Paul and by John, not being the leadership in organization:**

- A. The first twelve apostles were appointed by the Lord Jesus, but they were not organized; the Lord Jesus' appointment was equal among the twelve.
- B. The leadership in the New Testament ministry is not the leadership in the worldly sense to control others:
  - 1. This leadership is not the leadership in the ministers' acts, but in teaching; no one should exercise any control over the work of the Lord.
  - 2. Sometimes in the New Testament Paul told some of his co-workers to go to certain places (1 Cor. 4:12) or to remain in other places (Titus 1:5), but basically speaking, the leadership is not exercised over a ministers' acts.
  - 3. The one going or remaining needs to be clear that his decision is of the Lord through fellowship with the Lord and the Body.
- C. One's preaching and one's teaching have to be restricted under the leadership by the revelation of God's New Testament economy.
- D. If someone in the Lord's recovery began to teach, stress, or promote something contrary to or different from God's New Testament economy, there would be the need of some leadership to restrict this.

**IV. The leadership in the New Testament ministry in actuality not being the leadership of one controlling person; instead, being the leadership of one controlling revelation in the one ministry; the revelation controls, and it controls through those who bring in the revelation:**

- A. The ministry among us is not the ministry of a single person, but the unique New Testament ministry, the ministry of the Lord's move on this earth in the dispensation of the church.
- B. The Lord's move on the earth is through His unique ministry, and we are all participating in this unique ministry.
- C. The leadership in the Lord's recovery is the leadership of the God-given revelation which restricts us, directs us, and controls us so that confusion and division can be avoided.
- D. Thank the Lord for the unique ministry and for the unique leadership in this ministry.
- E. We have all received one revelation under one leadership, taking one way and reaching one goal.