

THE NEW JERUSALEM—THE ULTIMATE CONSUMMATION

Evening Message Three

Working Out the New Jerusalem

Scripture Reading: Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:12; 2 Cor. 11:2; 1 Pet. 4:10; 1 John 1:3

I. The unique goal of our work should be the New Jerusalem—the ultimate goal of God's economy:

- A. The degradation of the church is mainly due to the fact that nearly all Christian workers are distracted to take something other than the New Jerusalem as their goal.
- B. In the beginning of the Bible there is the single God, and at the end there is a great, corporate God, the New Jerusalem, a corporate, great God-man—the enlarged, universal divine-human incorporation of the processed and consummated Triune God with the regenerated, transformed, and glorified believers—Rev. 21:3, 22; 22:17a.

II. We should do only one work, which is to make God's chosen people beings in the New Jerusalem:

- A. We should betroth the believers to Christ, for them to be the bride, the wife, of the Lamb—2 Cor. 11:2; John 3:29; Rev. 19:7; 21:2, 9.
- B. We should put out the pure truth from the Word to protect the interest of the riches of God's divinity on the earth and the attainments of His consummation—Rev. 21:2a, 10b.
- C. We should function as priests of the gospel of God—offering the saved sinners to God as acceptable sacrifices (Rom. 15:16), bringing the believers up to lead them to present themselves to God as living sacrifices (12:1), and warning and teaching every saint in all wisdom to present each one full-grown in Christ (Col. 1:28-29).
- D. We should build with gold, silver, and precious stones, not with wood, grass, and stubble—1 Cor. 3:12; cf. Num. 18:1:
 - 1. We should learn to minister the Triune God as gold (God's nature), silver (Christ's redemptive work), and precious stones (the Spirit's transforming work) to others for their transformation by perfecting them with the attributes of the Triune God—S. S. 1:10-11.
 - 2. To build with the worthless materials of wood (human nature), grass (man in the flesh—Isa. 40:6-7), and stubble (lifelessness) is to mar the temple of God—1 Cor. 3:17.
- E. We should cooperate with Christ's heavenly ministry to shepherd God's flock for the ultimate consummation of the eternal economy of God—John 21:15-17; 10:11, 14; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:2-4:
 - 1. We should minister Christ as the sin-dealing life into others in all purity for them to become the city of life—Lev. 10:17; 1 John 5:16; 1 Tim. 5:1-2.
 - 2. We should infuse Christ as grace into others for the producing of God's poem to exhibit the surpassing riches of the grace of God in His economy—1 Cor. 15:10; 1 Pet. 4:10; Acts 20:32; Eph. 2:7, 10a.

- F. As the ambassadors of Christ, we should carry out the ministry of reconciliation so that the believers may enter into the Holy of Holies to live with God in their spirit for the building up of the New Jerusalem as the enlarged and consummate Holy of Holies—2 Cor. 5:18-20; Rev. 21:16.
- G. We should be diffusers of the divine light, turning people from darkness to light and enlightening others that they might see the economy of the mystery of God—Rev. 21:23-25, 11; 1 John 1:5; Rev. 22:5; Acts 26:18; Eph. 3:9.
- H. Our work, like the work of the apostles, should not have an individualistic expression but should be “layer upon layer” to produce one building and lead to the unique appearance of jasper, the appearance of the Triune God, the appearance of the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:14, 19-20.
- I. We should work with the Lord in the divine stream, the stream of the work of God—Rev. 22:1-2; John 7:37-39.
- J. In our coordination in the church life, in the Lord’s work, we should learn not to do anything without fellowship:
 1. Fellowship blends us; that is, it tempers, adjusts, harmonizes, and mingles us, causing us to lose our distinctions—1 Cor. 12:24; Col. 3:10-11.
 2. To be blended means that you are touched by others and that you are touching others; but you should touch others in a blending way—going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing everything to dispense Christ for His Body’s sake—cf. 2 Chron. 1:10.
 3. The Body is in the fellowship (1 Cor. 10:16b), the fellowship is the Spirit Himself, and God comes as the fellowship (2 Cor. 13:14).
 4. Fellowship is to put aside our private interests and to join with the apostles and the Triune God for the carrying out of God’s purpose—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3.
 5. We should imitate the apostle to bring the local churches into the fellowship of the Body of Christ (Rom. 14:3; 15:7-9, 25-33) and follow the apostle’s footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ (vv. 1-16, 21-24, 20, 25-27).
- K. In all our work for the Lord, we should honor God as the source, realizing that the Sender, not the sent one, is the source of blessing—Matt. 14:19:
 1. What we know and what we can do mean nothing; being one with the Lord and trusting in Him mean everything in our ministry—John 10:30.
 2. We should deny our self (John 5:19; Matt. 16:24), reject our purpose (John 5:30b), and give up our ambition (7:18) so that we can be always used for the Lord in His recovery.