

# THE CHURCH, THE MINISTRY, AND THE WORK

## Message Six

(Saturday—Evening Session)

### The One Work of the One Ministry to Build Up the One Body

Scripture Reading: Jer. 32:39; Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 2:12-13

**I. In the Lord's recovery, we should all have one heart and one way in the one accord to speak the same thing with one mouth in the one new man for the one work of the one ministry to build up the one Body—Jer. 32:39:**

- A. We, the chosen people of God, should all have one heart—to love God, to seek God, to live God, and to be constituted with God that we may be His expression—and one way—the Triune God Himself as the inner law of life with its divine capacity—31:33-34; John 14:6a.
- B. This one heart and one way are the one accord; divisions result from having a heart for something other than Christ and taking a way other than Christ—Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:9-10; 2:2.
- C. When we have one heart and one way, we will have the Lord as our unique person and be in one accord to speak the same thing with one mouth in the one new man—Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 2:15; 3:16-17a; 2 Cor. 2:10.
- D. This is to work the work of the Lord in the one work of the ministry, which is to carry out God's economy to work Himself in Christ into man for the building up of the Body of Christ, consummating in the New Jerusalem—1 Cor. 16:10; Eph. 3:8-11; 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 3:9, 12a; Rev. 21:18-21.

**II. God's unique work, the one work of the one ministry to build up the one Body, is typified by Noah's building of the ark, which typifies the building of the corporate Christ, the church as the Body of Christ, with the element of Christ's riches as the building material—Gen. 6:5-22; Matt. 16:18; 24:37-39; 1 Cor. 3:9-12a; Eph. 3:8-10; 4:12:**

- A. The ark which Noah built signifies the practical and present Christ as God's salvation; thus, to build up the ark is to build up Christ in our experience, which is to work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body of Christ, the corporate Christ—Phil. 2:12-13:
  - 1. To work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body is to follow the pattern of Noah, who built the ark not according to his own imagination but absolutely according to God's divine revelation and divine instructions by faith—Gen. 6:9, 15a; Heb. 11:5-7.
  - 2. In the ark, there was only one window toward the heavens signifying that in the church, God's building, there is only one revelation and one vision through one ministry—Acts 26:19; 2 Cor. 4:1.
  - 3. The three stories of the ark signify the Triune God—Gen. 6:16:
    - a. The Spirit brings us to the Son, and the Son brings us to the Father; when we come to the Father, we are in the third story—Luke 15:4-10, 18-23; Eph. 2:18.

- b. We need to enter into the deepest and highest intimacy with our Triune God so that He can bring us to the “third story” to show us His mysteries, secrets, and hidden treasures—John 1:14, 16-18; 1 John 1:3, 5; 4:8, 16; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 2:10; Exo. 33:11.
  - c. We need to carry out the one work of the ministry to be constituted with and to minister the processed Triune God into others so that He may build Himself into their being for the building up of the one Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Cor. 6:1a; 1 Cor. 3:6-12a.
4. To work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body is to accumulate the experiences of Christ revealed in Philippians for the building up of the Body of Christ:
- a. In Philippians 1 salvation is to live Christ for His magnification in any circumstance by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the supply of the Body of Christ—vv. 19-21a.
  - b. In Philippians 2 salvation is to shine forth Christ by holding forth the word of life, doing all things without murmurings and reasonings—vv. 12-16.
  - c. In Philippians 3 salvation is to have Christ as our lived-out righteousness by being fully occupied with pursuing Christ as our goal to have Him as our highest enjoyment—vv. 7-14.
  - d. In Philippians 4 salvation is to have a human life filled with Christ as the reality of the attributes of God by enjoying Christ as our secret of sufficiency in our intimate fellowship with Him and doing all things in Him as our dynamo—vv. 5-13.
5. To work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body we must be the faithful and prudent slaves as stewards in God’s house, those who minister the word of God and Christ as the life supply to the believers in the church and who love the Lord’s appearing—Matt. 24:45-51; 2 Tim. 4:8.

**III. We should not be like Saul, trying to build up a “monarchy” for ourselves within the kingdom of God; rather, we should all do one unique work to build up the kingdom of God, the Body of Christ—1 Sam. 13:9-14; 15:9-35; 31:6; cf. 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10; Matt. 5:8:**

- A. “Some have attempted to build up their work and to establish a monarchy for themselves within the recovery...Today in some places there is still a tendency, under the name of the recovery, to build up something within the ministry of the recovery, usurping the advantages of the recovery and using the materials of the ministry of the recovery. There are signs that the work in these places is not a pure work—a work purely for the building up of the Body of Christ, the kingdom of God. Rather, it is a work built up for the interest of certain ones” (*Life-study of 1 and 2 Samuel*, p. 64).
- B. From Saul’s tragic end we should learn the lesson of crucifying our flesh and denying our selfishness—our self-interest and self-seeking—Gal. 5:24; Matt. 16:24; Phil. 2:3; 3:3.
- C. The record of Saul’s terrible end is a strong warning to all the serving ones in the kingdom of God not to do a separate work within the kingdom of God or to

abuse anything in the kingdom; in the Lord's recovery, we must be in fear and trembling, always working for God's kingdom and not for our own work.