Outline of the Messages for the Full-time Training in the Spring Term of 2008

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS

Message Forty-Nine

Their Present—Experiencing the Dispensing of the Divine Trinity in Having the Highest Standard of Morality and Virtues by Watching and Praying

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:1-2, 17, 20-24; Phil. 1:19, 21; 2:5, 15-16; 3:9-10; 4:8;

Matt. 5:16, 20, 48; Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14; 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23, 31; 1 Thes. 5:21-22;

2 Thes. 2:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:20; Matt. 26:36, 41; 24:42; Col. 4:2, 5; Eph. 6:18; Luke 21:34-36

I. After we are saved, we must live a life that has the highest standard of morality and virtues—Eph. 4:1-2:

- A. The highest standard of morality is the living of the One—the Lord Jesus Christ—whose life was a composition of God with the divine attributes and man with the human virtues—v. 21.
- B. The Ark in the Old Testament, as a type of Christ, was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold both inside and outside—signifying the divine nature mingling with, resting on, and penetrating the human nature—Exo. 25:10-11.
- C. God's intention in His New Testament economy is that all the believers in Christ become a reproduction of Christ, the God-man—Eph. 4:17, 20-24:
 - 1. In order to become such a reproduction, we need to be reborn of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit—John 3:6.
 - 2. We also need to be transformed gradually by the pneumatic Christ in our soul—2 Cor. 3:18.
 - 3. Then spontaneously we shall live Christ (Phil 1:21), the God-man, by the bountiful supply of His Spirit (v. 19), taking His mind (2:5), and shining the word of life as luminaries reflecting His brightness (vv. 15b-16a).
 - 4. We shall then be found in Christ (3:9) as our surpassing righteousness in the power of His resurrection (v. 10).
- D. The highest standard of morality and virtues is one which practices the surpassing righteousness; this righteousness is the indwelling Christ lived out of us as our subjective righteousness—Matt. 5:20.
- E. Through practicing such righteousness, we become perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect—v. 48.
- F. As regenerated children of God, we should let our light shine before men, so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in the heavens—v. 16.
- G. As God's workmanship in Christ Jesus, we have been created for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them—Eph. 2:10.
- H. Christ gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify to Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good works— Titus 2:14.

- I. Such "good works" are regulated by the following governing principles:
 - 1. Concerning things, all things are lawful, but not all things are profitable, advantageous—1 Cor. 6:12a.
 - 2. Concerning ourselves, all things are lawful, but we will not be brought under the power of anything—v. 12b.
 - 3. Concerning others, all things are lawful, but not all things build up—10:23.
 - 4. Concerning God, whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God—v. 31.
- J. As we experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity, we are being established in every good work and word—2 Thes. 2:16-17.
- K. Our cooperation in living a spiritual and consecrated life consists of proving all things and holding fast to what is good—1 Thes. 5:21.
- L. The believers who live in the divine dispensing should also abstain from evil in any form, any species, and any kind—v. 22.
- M. Our living should express the working of God's grace that enables us to endure suffering for doing good—1 Pet. 2:20.
- N. The expression of a life that lives Christ also takes account of considering what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, and any virtue and any praise—Phil. 4:8.

II. To enjoy the dispensing of the Divine Trinity that results in the highest morality and virtues, we need to watch and pray—Matt. 26:41:

- A. The living of the saints in union with Christ is maintained through praying with perseverance and watching with thanksgiving—Col. 4:2:
 - 1. We need to be watchful, on the alert, for the maintaining of this prayer life—Eph. 6:18.
 - 2. To keep a prayer life we need all perseverance, a constant, persistent care.
 - 3. Such watching and praying will result in our walking in wisdom and redeeming the time—Col. 4:5.
- B. We need to watch and pray so that we may not enter into temptation—Matt. 26:41.
- C. We need to be watchful at every time and beseeching—Luke 21:36a.
- D. By watching and praying, our hearts will not be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and we will escape all the things of the great tribulation coming in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth—vv. 34-35.
- E. The believers need to watch and pray not only to escape from the great tribulation but also to "stand before the Son of Man"—v. 36b.
- F. The believers need to watch and pray because they do not know the day and the hour of the Lord's coming—Matt. 24:42, 44.
- III. Through the believers' experience in the progressing stage of God's full salvation, they are saved from the power of sin, the law of sin and death, their old man, their flesh with its lusts, their self, their soul (their natural life), their individualism, Satan, the world with its present age and its religious aspect, the law of letters with its ordinances, and the degradation of the church with all its mixtures.