Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2010

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GENERAL SUBJECT:
STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD

Message Twenty-Nine

The Church as the Counterpart of Christ—the Type of Abigail

Scripture Reading: 1 Sam. 25:2-42; Col. 1:24; Rev. 1:9; Eph. 6:10-20

I. David typifies the warring Christ in the midst of sufferings—1 Sam. 25:28:

A. David is the most thorough type of Christ in the Old Testament, covering the
   longest period of time—Matt. 12:3.
B. David typifies the Lord Jesus as a man in His suffering on earth before His
   resurrection; David's suffering was for the conquering of the usurping enemies
   and the gaining of the good land, the ground for God's building—Psa. 69:1-9.
C. David was prepared as a man according to God's heart; he was chosen, trained,
   anointed, tested, and approved by God—1 Sam. 16—17.
D. In the record of David's being persecuted and tried by Saul, there are two
   striking points—chs. 18—24:
   1. The first striking point is God's sovereignty—Rev. 4:11; Dan. 4:1-3, 34-35:
      a. It is crucial for us to have a vision of God's sovereignty—Rom. 9:19-23.
      b. As the sovereign One, God is above everything, behind everything, and
         in everything—1 Kings 22:19.
      c. God prepared Saul to perfect David and prepared Jonathan and Michal
         to help him—1 Sam. 18:10—20:42.
      d. David trusted in God and walked according to God's sovereignty in all
         his trials—17:36-37; 23:14-16; 30:6b-10.
   2. The second striking point is David's taking the lessons of the cross:
      a. Although David was persecuted and suffered so much, he never fought,
         reacted, or responded; using the New Testament term, he was always
         under the cross—24:3-22.
      b. David's being tested in his relationship with Saul meant that David
         was continually put on the cross—Matt. 16:24.
E. David behaved and had his being according to God's heart; he had no feeling
   for himself but only labored and conducted himself for God's people and God's
   kingdom—1 Sam. 15:28.
F. David's being established by God is seen in his repeated victories over the
   Philistines—2 Sam. 5:17-25.
G. David was one with God; what was his was God's, and what was God's was his;
   David and God had only one kingdom—Acts 13:22, 36.
H. Everything concerning David was arranged under God's sovereign direction to
   accomplish one thing—to build up His kingdom in His elect—Matt. 6:10, 33.
II. Abigail typifies the warring church in the midst of sufferings—1 Sam. 25:2-42:

A. From 1 Samuel 25 onward, Abigail was always at the side of David the warrior and followed him in his wars—vv. 40-42:
   1. Abigail's marriage to David typifies the church enlisted as an army for warfare—Eph. 6:10-20.

B. The type of Abigail portrays our need to be one with Christ in His sufferings—Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:24; Rev. 1:9:
   1. The afflictions of Christ are of two categories: those for accomplishing redemption, which were completed by Christ Himself, and those for producing and building the church, which need to be filled up by the apostles and the believers—Col. 1:24.
   2. The fact that Paul mentions the afflictions of Christ in connection with the stewardship of God indicates that the stewardship can be carried out only through suffering—v. 25:
      a. If we desire to share in the stewardship of God, we must be prepared to suffer—Rev. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:3-6.
      b. All those who participate in the service of the church or in the ministry must be ready to partake of the afflictions of a steward; this means that we must be willing to pay whatever price is necessary to fulfill our stewardship—4:10-12; John 12:24-26.

C. The type of Abigail portrays the church’s participation with the Lord Jesus in spiritual warfare—Eph. 6:10-20:
   1. Not only must God’s eternal purpose be fulfilled and the desire of His heart be satisfied, but God’s enemy must be defeated; for this, the church must be a warrior—1:11; 3:9-11; 6:10-12.
   2. Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan’s will is set against God’s will—Matt. 6:10; 7:21; Isa. 14:12-14:
      a. Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the divine will and the satanic will.
      b. As the church, our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and to defeat God’s enemy—Rev. 12:11.
   3. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God—v. 10:
      a. Spiritual warfare is the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan—Matt. 12:26, 28.
      b. The work of the church on earth is to bring in the kingdom of God—16:18-19.
   4. Satan is terrified of the church as the Body of Christ, the corporate warrior fighting against him and his kingdom—S. S. 6:10; Eph. 6:10-20.
   5. Christ will marry the one who has been fighting the battle against God’s enemy for years—Rev. 19:7-9, 11-16.
   6. The overcomers who constitute the bride of Christ fight the battle against all the enemies of God and defeat them in order to bring in the kingdom of God—2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 11:15; 12:10.

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