Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2017
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GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE MENDING MINISTRY OF JOHN
Message Nine
Living in the Father’s House
as the Enlarged, Universal, Divine-human Incorporation

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-6, 12, 20; 1 Thes. 1:1; 1 John 3:1

I. The central thought of John 14 is that we must believe into God and thereby enter into God—v. 1:
   A. It is by believing into the Lord that we enter into Him to be one with Him, to partake of Him, and to participate in all that He has done for us—3:15.
   B. By believing into Christ we are identified with Him in all that He is and in all that He has passed through, accomplished, attained, and obtained—v. 16.
   C. Through believing into Christ we have an organic union with Christ—15:4-5.
   D. To believe into Christ is to have our being merged into His so that we two may be one organically—Phil. 1:29; 1 Cor. 6:17.

II. In John 14:1-6 we see Jesus going through death and Christ coming in resurrection to bring us, the believers, into the Father:
   A. The Lord Jesus was going not to a place but to a living person, the Father Himself—vv. 12, 28.
   B. The Lord was going to the Father, and His intention was to bring His disciples into the divine person of the Father—vv. 5-6, 12, 20:
      1. The Lord came from the Father by incarnation to bring God into man, and He went to the Father in order to bring man into God—1:14; 14:20.
      2. The way of His going was by death and resurrection, and the purpose of His going was to bring man into the Father—v. 6.
   C. The words I go in verse 2 mean that the Lord was going to go through death and resurrection to bring man into God for the building up of God’s dwelling place.

III. “My Father’s house” in John 14:2 is the Body of Christ, the church as the house of God:
   A. In 2:16 My Father’s house refers to the dwelling place of God on earth, the temple; the temple is a type, or figure, of the body of Jesus, which in resurrection has been enlarged to be the Body of Christ—vv. 19-22.
   B. My Father’s house in 14:2 refers not to heaven but to God’s dwelling place on earth—the Body of Christ, the church.
   C. In the Epistles the revelation that the Body of Christ is the church and that the church is the house of God is fully developed—1 Tim. 3:15-16; Eph. 2:21-22.
   D. The Father’s house is the Body of Christ, which is the church as the dwelling place of God on earth—1:22-23; 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15-16.
IV. In the Father’s house are many abodes—John 14:2:

A. The many abodes are the many members of the Body of Christ, which is God’s temple—Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 3:16-17.

B. All the believers in Christ are the abodes in God’s building, the Father’s house; this building is the Body of Christ, and all the abodes are members of the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27.

V. I go to prepare a place for you means that the Lord would prepare a place, accomplish redemption, open up the way, and make a standing for us to enter into God—John 14:2-3, 6:

A. By death and resurrection the Lord Jesus paved the way and prepared the place so that we might be brought into God—v. 20.

B. By His death and resurrection He prepared a standing for us before God and in God; in this way He prepared a place for us in God—vv. 2-3, 6.

C. The standing in God, being enlarged, becomes the standing in the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:27:
   1. Anyone who does not have a standing, a place, in God does not have a place in the Body of Christ, which is the Father’s house, the dwelling place of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22.
   2. As believers in Christ, we all have a place in God and a place in the Body, and now we should live in the place prepared for us through the death and resurrection of Christ—John 14:2-3, 20; 1 Cor. 12:27.

VI. The church, the Father’s house, is in God the Father—John 14:2, 20; 1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1:

A. For the church to be in God the Father, God must become the Father to us, and we need to have a life relationship with Him—John 20:17:
   2. The title God refers to creation; the title Father refers to the impartation of life and indicates a relationship of life—20:17:
      a. The Father, the source of life, is for the propagation and multiplication of life—1 John 3:1.
      b. God is no longer merely our Creator; He is also our Father, our Begetter, for He has begotten us with His life—John 1:12-13.
      c. We call God our Father because we have been born of Him, and now, as His children, we have a life relationship with Him—Rom. 8:15-16.
   3. Through His life-releasing death and life-imparting resurrection, the Lord has made us one with Him; His Father is now our Father—John 20:17.
   4. By His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus has brought us into Himself; since He is in the Father, we are in the Father by being in Him—14:20.

B. For the church to be in God the Father means that the church is in the One who is the unique source, Originator, and Initiator—1 Cor. 8:6:
   1. To know God as the Father is to know that everything originates from Him and that everything proceeds from Him—Matt. 15:13; Rom. 11:36.
   2. In the church life the Father should be the unique source, and we all should be in His unique purpose and plan—2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 8:28.