

**KEY STATEMENTS  
FOR  
THE 2021 MEMORIAL DAY CONFERENCE**

**We need to know the truth and be absolute for the truth,  
for upholding the absoluteness of the truth,  
and for testifying to the truth in the present evil age.**

**When the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of reality,  
shines upon the spiritual facts recorded  
and contained in the Bible, we receive the truth, reality;  
every morning we can touch the living Word in the written Word  
and have the divine reality, the processed Triune God  
as the applied word, infused into our being.**

**For the consummation of the divine economy,  
we need to be constituted with the divine truth  
and be absolute for the way of the divine truth  
and for the propagation of the divine truth.**

**The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the light of the truth,  
and the most urgent need on the earth today is the truth of this age;  
the increase of the church depends on the spread of the truth,  
so we all should spend time to learn the truth and minister Christ to others  
for the multiplication and spread of the church.**

# **The 2021 Memorial Day Conference**

May 28-31, 2021

GENERAL SUBJECT:

**KNOWING THE TRUTH,  
BEING ABSOLUTE FOR THE TRUTH,  
AND PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH IN THE PRESENT EVIL AGE**

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GENERAL SUBJECT:  
**KNOWING THE TRUTH,  
BEING ABSOLUTE FOR THE TRUTH,  
AND PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH IN THE PRESENT EVIL AGE**

Message One  
**Knowing the Truth,  
Being Absolute for the Truth  
and for Upholding the Absoluteness of the Truth,  
and Testifying to the Truth in the Present Age of the World**

RK *Hymns*: 815

Scripture Reading: John 18:37b; Eph. 2:2; Rom. 12:2; 1 John 5:19b-20

- John 18:37b ... Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.
- Eph 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
- Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- 1 John 5:19b ... and the whole world lies in the evil one.
- 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

**I. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the divine truths as revealed in the Word of God—2 Tim. 3:16:**

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

A. Truth is the Triune God with His word—John 1:1, 14-17; 14:6, 16-17; 15:26; 16:13; 17:17; 18:37b.

- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:15 John testified concerning Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, He who is coming after me has become ahead of me, because He was before me.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- John 18:37b ... Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

B. Many truths in the Word have been lost, misunderstood, and wrongly applied; thus, there is

the need of the Lord's recovery—2 Tim. 2:15.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.

- C. The recovery has the highest truth—the truth that is the consummation of the truths recovered during the past centuries—vv. 2, 15.

2 Tim 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.

## II. In John's writings the Greek word for *truth* (*aletheia*) denotes all the realities of the divine economy as the content of the divine revelation, conveyed and disclosed by the holy Word—John 17:17; 18:37b:

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

John 18:37b ... Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

- A. Truth is God, who is light and love, incarnated to be the reality of the divine things for our possession—1:1, 4, 14-17.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:15 John testified concerning Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, He who is coming after me has become ahead of me, because He was before me.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

- B. Truth is Christ, who is God incarnated and in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, as the reality of God and man, of all the types, figures, and shadows of the Old Testament, and of all the divine and spiritual things—Col. 2:9, 16-17; John 4:23-24.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,

Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

- C. Truth is the Spirit, who is Christ transfigured, as the reality of Christ and of the divine revelation—14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-15.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

John 16:15 All that the Father has is Mine; for this reason I have said that He receives of Mine and will declare it to you.

- D. Truth is the Word of God as the divine revelation, which reveals and conveys the reality of God and Christ and of all the divine and spiritual things—17:17.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

- E. Truth is the contents of the faith (belief), which are the substantial elements of what we believe, as the reality of the full gospel—Eph. 1:13.

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in

- Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- F. Truth is the reality concerning God, the universe, man, man's relationship with God and with his fellow man, and man's obligation to God, as revealed through creation and the Scriptures—Rom. 1:18-20; 2:2, 8, 20.
- Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold down the truth in unrighteousness,
- Rom 1:19 Because that which is known of God is manifest within them, for God manifested it to them.
- Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse;
- Rom 2:2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth upon those who practice such things.
- Rom 2:8 But to those who are selfishly contentious and disobedient to the truth and obey unrighteousness, wrath and fury.
- Rom 2:20 One who disciplines the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the proper form of the knowledge and truth in the law;
- G. Truth is the genuineness, truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, trustworthiness, and faithfulness of God as a divine virtue and of man as a human virtue, and as an issue of the divine reality—3:7; 15:8; 2 Cor. 11:10; 1 John 3:18.
- Rom 3:7 But if the truthfulness of God has abounded in my lie unto His glory, why still am I also being judged as a sinner?
- Rom 15:8 For I say that Christ has become a servant of the circumcision for the sake of God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises given to the fathers,
- 2 Cor 11:10 The truthfulness of Christ is in me, that this boasting shall not be stopped as it regards me in the regions of Achaia.
- 1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love in word nor in tongue but in deed and truthfulness.
- H. Truth denotes things that are true or real, the true or real state of affairs (facts), reality, veracity, as the opposite of falsehood, deception, dissimulation, hypocrisy, and error—Mark 12:32; John 16:7; Rom. 1:25.
- Mark 12:32 And the scribe said to Him, Well said, Teacher; in truth You have said that He is one and there is not another besides Him;
- John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
- Rom 1:25 Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

### **III. The divine truth is absolute, and we must be absolute for the truth and for upholding the absoluteness of the divine truth—3 John 3-4, 8:**

- 3 John 3 For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.
- 3 John 4 I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.
- 3 John 8 We therefore ought to support such ones that we may become fellow workers in the truth.
- A. To be absolute to the truth means to set aside feelings, to ignore personal relationships, and to not stand for the self—Matt. 16:24-25; 1 Pet. 1:22:
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- 1 Pet 1:22 Since you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart fervently,
1. The truth is the unique standard, and we must stand on the side of the truth to oppose ourselves; upholding the absoluteness of the truth is possible only when we are delivered from ourselves—John 8:32; 2 John 2; 3 John 3-4.
- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.
- 2 John 2 For the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

- 3 John 3 For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.
- 3 John 4 I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.
2. If the truth is not something absolute for us, we do not know God, and we do not know God's word—2 Thes. 2:10; 1 John 5:20.
 

2 Thes 2:10 And in all deceit of unrighteousness among those who are perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
  3. If we are not absolute for the truth, we will sacrifice God's truth for ourselves or our own desires—Prov. 23:23.
 

Prov 23:23 Buy truth, and do not sell it; / Buy wisdom and instruction and understanding.
  4. We should honor God's truth, take the way of the truth, and not compromise the truth in any way—2 Pet. 2:2.
 

2 Pet 2:2 And many will follow their licentiousness, because of whom the way of the truth will be reviled.
- B. We should be absolute for both the objective truths and subjective truths—John 8:32; 14:6:
- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
1. The truths in the Bible have both an objective aspect and a subjective aspect; the objective aspect is for the subjective aspect—Rom. 8:34, 10; Col. 3:1; 1:27.
 

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
  2. The objective doctrines are for the subjective truths, and the subjective truths are for the producing of the church—2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4, 7-9a.
 

2 John 1 The elder to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in truthfulness, and not only I but also all those who know the truth,

2 John 2 For the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father.

3 John 3 For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.

3 John 7 For on behalf of the Name they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

3 John 8 We therefore ought to support such ones that we may become fellow workers in the truth.

3 John 9a I wrote something to the church; ...
  3. The Lord desires to recover the subjective truths in the Holy Scriptures, especially the subjective aspect of the truth concerning the Triune God and the church—John 1:14; 14:16-20; 1 Tim. 6:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:22; 3:15-16.
 

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and

- shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- 1 Tim 6:15 Which in its own times the blessed and only Sovereign will show, the King of those who reign as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords,
- 1 Tim 6:16 Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen nor can see, to whom be honor and eternal might. Amen.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- 2 Tim 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
4. Many crucial subjective truths have been buried, but in the Lord's recovery these truths have been resurrected to become recovered, resurrected truths—John 17:17; 18:37b.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- John 18:37b ... Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

#### **IV. When we testify to the truth in “the age of this world,” we are one with the victorious Christ in fighting against Satan, the devil, the father of lies, “the ruler of this world,” “the god of this age” who “has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers”—Eph. 2:2; John 8:44; 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4:**

- Eph 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
- John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks it out of his own possessions; for he is a liar and the father of it.
- John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.
- 2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.
- A. The devil's nature is a lie and brings in death and darkness; with darkness is falsehood, the opposite of truth—John 8:44:
- John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks it out of his own possessions; for he is a liar and the father of it.
1. The devil “does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him”—v. 44.
  2. The satanic darkness is versus the divine light, and the satanic lie is versus the divine truth—1 John 1:6.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
3. As the divine truth is the expression of the divine light, so the satanic lie is the expression of the satanic darkness—John 8:12, 44.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks it out of his own possessions; for he is a liar and the father of it.
- B. “The god of this age” is Satan, the deceiver, the ruler of this present age; he dominates today's world and hunts for man's worship by blinding the thoughts, the minds, of the

unbelievers—2 Cor. 4:4:

2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

1. *Blinded* in 2 Corinthians 4:4 means to veil a person's understanding.

2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

2. *Thoughts* in this verse denotes the understanding of the mind.

C. "The whole world lies in the evil one"—1 John 5:19b:

1. The entire satanic world system and the people of the world, the fallen human race, are lying passively under the usurping and manipulating hand of Satan, the evil one.

2. In Greek *the evil one* refers to one who is pernicious, harmfully evil, one who influences others to be evil; this evil one is Satan, the devil, in whom the whole world lies—v. 19b.

1 John 5:19b ... and the whole world lies in the evil one.

3. This evil system, the kingdom of darkness, was judged when its ruler, Satan, was cast out by the Lord's crucifixion in the flesh—John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 14:30 I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

John 16:11 And concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

D. *This world* in Ephesians 2:2 refers to the satanic system, which is composed of many ages:

Eph 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;

1. An age is a part of the world, the satanic system.

2. *The age* in Ephesians 2:2 refers to the present and modern appearance of the system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and occupy people and keep them away from God and His purpose.

Eph 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;

3. *The present evil age* in Galatians 1:4 refers to the religious world, the religious course of the world.

Gal 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father,

E. If we want to testify to the truth in the present age, we must obey Paul's command in Romans 12:2: "Do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind":

1. To be fashioned, conformed, is to assume an outward expression that does not come from within us nor is representative of our inner being as a regenerated child of God—John 1:12-13.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2. We should not be assimilated by the world to the extent that we who have been separated from the world unto God have the same image as this age.

3. We need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind, allowing the mingled spirit to spread into our mind, thus becoming the spirit of the mind and causing our mind, emotion, and will to be renewed by a new element being wrought into our inner being—Eph. 4:23; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 12:2.

Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

F. “Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth”; being girded with the truth is for the strengthening of our entire being—Eph. 6:14a.

G. We can testify to the divine truth because we know the truth by being in the true One—1 John 5:20:

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, has come and has given us an understanding that we might know the genuine and real God—John 1:14, 18; 1 John 5:20.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

2. First John 5:20 twice speaks of “Him who is true,” the true One, the True:

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

a. The term *the true One* refers to God becoming subjective to us, to the God who is objective becoming the true One in our life and experience.

b. The true One is the divine reality; to know the true One means to know the divine reality by experiencing, enjoying, and possessing this reality.

c. Verse 20 indicates that the divine reality, which is God Himself, has become our reality in our experience; the God who was once objective to us has become our subjective reality—v. 6.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

H. Because we know the true One and the Spirit of truth (v. 20; 4:6) and because Christ, the truth, is living in us and the Triune God is operating in us to make us God-men—the reproduction of Christ, the first God-man—we can testify to the truth as the Lord Himself did when He said, “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37b).

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 4:6 We are of God; he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. From this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

Message Two  
**Being Sanctified by the Truth to Move out of Ourselves  
and into the Triune God for the Genuine Oneness**

MR *Hymns*: 806, 1081

Scripture Reading: John 17:14-24

- John 17:14 I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:15 I do not ask that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them out of the hands of the evil one.
- John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- John 17:18 As you have sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
- John 17:19 And for their sake I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
- John 17:20 And I do not ask concerning these only, but concerning those also who believe into Me through their word,
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

**I. Truth is the divine light shining on the facts of the Bible and televising a heavenly, spiritual vision of these facts into our being; in the New Testament, truth denotes this kind of “heavenly television”:**

- A. All the divine facts are contained in the Word and conveyed to us through the Word; when the Spirit shines upon the Word, we have the heavenly television; the light shines upon the facts in the Word and conveys a heavenly vision of these facts into our being, and we know the truth—Acts 26:16, 19; Eph. 1:17-18a.

Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

Eph 1:18a The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, ...

- B. The Spirit is called the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of reality (John 14:17); the Spirit of reality is the “heavenly electricity” by which spiritual things are televised into our being; He guides us “into all the reality” (16:13), making all that the Son is and has real to us (1:14, 17; 14:6).

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

- C. When the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of reality, shines upon the spiritual facts recorded and contained in the Bible, we receive the truth, reality; if we read the Word without the shining of the Spirit, we may have doctrine or “news reports” but not the truth, the reality, or the vision—cf. Job 42:5; John 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 3:6.
- Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;  
 John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.  
 John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.  
 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- D. Truth is the shining of the light, the expression of the light; in other words, truth is light expressed; because light is the source of truth, and truth is the issue of light, when we walk in the light, we are practicing the truth—John 1:4-5, 7-9, 12-13; 8:12; 14:6; 1 John 1:5-6; 2 John 4; 3 John 3-4.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
 John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
 John 1:7 He came for a testimony that he might testify concerning the light, that all might believe through him.  
 John 1:8 He was not the light, but came that he might testify concerning the light.  
 John 1:9 This was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.  
 John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,  
 John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.  
 John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.  
 John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.  
 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.  
 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;  
 2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father.  
 3 John 3 For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.  
 3 John 4 I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.
- E. The Lord is the light, the truth, and the Word; the Word, which is also the truth, gives light, for in the Word there is light—John 8:12; 14:6; 17:17; Psa. 119:105, 130.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.  
 John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.  
 John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.  
 Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet / And a light to my path.  
 Psa 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, / Imparting understanding to the simple.
- F. Because the truth is the shining of the light—which is the light of life—truth, light, and life are inseparable; when the divine light shines into us, it becomes the truth in us, and it imparts life into our being—John 8:12, 32, 40; 12:35-36, 46; 14:6.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.  
 John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.  
 John 8:40 But now you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; Abraham did not do this.  
 John 12:35 Jesus then said to them, The light is still among you a little while. Walk while you

- have the light so that darkness may not overcome you; and he who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.
- John 12:36 While you have the light, believe into the light, so that you may become sons of light. Jesus said these things, and He went away and was hidden from them.
- John 12:46 I have come as a light into the world, that everyone who believes into Me would not remain in darkness.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

## II. There are two functions of the truth:

- A. The truth sets us free from the bondage of sin, freeing us from all the negative things—8:32, 36.
- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.
- John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.
- B. The truth sanctifies us positionally and dispositionally, saturating us with the element of God—17:17; Eph. 5:26.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

## III. The Triune God in His word realized by us and being imparted and infused into our being is the truth that sets us free and sanctifies us:

- A. When we are disappointed or depressed, feeling empty within, we can open ourselves and come to the Word; after reading for a while, something within us rises up, and we enjoy the presence of the Lord—Psa. 119:25, 37, 40, 50, 88, 93, 107, 149, 154, 156, 159.
- Psa 119:25 My soul clings to the dust; / Enliven me according to Your word.
- Psa 119:37 Turn my eyes from beholding vanity, / And enliven me in Your ways.
- Psa 119:40 Behold, I have longed after Your precepts; / Enliven me in Your righteousness.
- Psa 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, / For Your word has enlivened me.
- Psa 119:88 Enliven me according to Your lovingkindness, / And I will keep the testimony of Your mouth.
- Psa 119:93 I will never forget Your precepts, / For by them You have enlivened me.
- Psa 119:107 I have been greatly afflicted; / O Jehovah, enliven me according to Your word.
- Psa 119:149 Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; / O Jehovah, according to Your ordinances enliven me.
- Psa 119:154 Plead my case, and redeem me; / Enliven me according to Your word.
- Psa 119:156 Great are Your compassions, O Jehovah; / Enliven me according to Your ordinances.
- Psa 119:159 See how I have loved Your precepts; / O Jehovah, enliven me according to Your lovingkindness.
- B. By taking the Word in this way, something of the Lord is wrought into us; this is the reality of the Triune God living, moving, working, and separating us.
- C. Every morning we can touch the living Word in the written Word and have the divine reality, the processed Triune God, as the applied word, infused into our being—John 1:1; 10:35; 5:39-40; 6:63; Eph. 5:26; 6:17-18; Psa. 119:15:
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 10:35 If He said they were gods, to whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken,
- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
- John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Psa 119:15 I will muse upon Your precepts / And regard Your ways.

1. This transfusion of the element of God into our being frees us from such negative things as temper, jealousy, hatred, and pride; it sets us free from every kind of falsehood, and we have real liberation, real freedom.
  2. As we are being set free, we are also sanctified, separated, made holy to God, not only positionally but also dispositionally; we become one with God because His very essence is wrought into us.
- D. Daily we need to come to the Word in this way; we need to come to the Word every morning and, if possible, at other times as well.
- E. When the word is mingled with the living Spirit in our spirit, we are sanctified with the essence of God.
- F. By contacting the Word in this way, God is added into us day by day; as a result, we are permeated with God and made one with Him.
- G. Our crucial need is to have the living Triune God infused and wrought into us through the written Word, the living Word, and the applied word of God.

#### **IV. Sanctification through the word of the truth results in oneness by dealing with the factors of division; truth sanctifies, and sanctification issues in oneness— John 17:14-24:**

- John 17:14 I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:15 I do not ask that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them out of the hands of the evil one.
- John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- John 17:18 As you have sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
- John 17:19 And for their sake I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
- John 17:20 And I do not ask concerning these only, but concerning those also who believe into Me through their word,
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
- A. The Lord Jesus, the Son, is the truth; the Spirit is the Spirit of truth; and the Father's word is the truth—1:14, 17; 14:6, 17; 17:17; 1 John 5:6:
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
1. The Father is embodied in the Son, the Son is realized as the Spirit of truth, and the Spirit is one with the Word—Col. 2:9; John 14:17; 16:13; Eph. 6:17-18.  
Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
2. Whenever we come to the Word with an open heart and an open spirit, we immediately touch both the Word and the Spirit as the truth.
- B. The sanctifying word, the sanctifying Spirit, the sanctifying life, and the sanctifying God are all one; therefore, if we are being sanctified, we are one spontaneously because all the factors of division are taken away.
- C. In John 17:17-23 we see that sanctification issues in the genuine oneness because this sanctification keeps us in the Triune God; verse 21 says, “That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us”:
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- John 17:18 As you have sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
- John 17:19 And for their sake I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
- John 17:20 And I do not ask concerning these only, but concerning those also who believe into Me through their word,
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
1. In order to be one, we need to be in the “Us,” that is, in the Triune God.
  2. The only way to be in the Triune God is by the sanctifying truth that deals with all the factors of division.
  3. By being kept in the Triune God, we are one, but whenever we are out of the Triune God, we are divided immediately.
  4. We need to contact the Lord every morning, touch the living Word, and have the divine reality infused into our being; as we contact the Lord in this way, the factors of division are overcome.
  5. When the factors of division in us are put to death by the sanctifying truth, we are brought into the genuine oneness, for sanctification keeps us in the Triune God.
  6. Sanctification through the word of the truth results in the oneness of the Body of Christ, which is the enlarged oneness of the Triune God—v. 21.
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

## V. There are four factors of division:

- A. The first of these factors is worldliness; as long as we love the world in a certain aspect, that aspect of worldliness becomes a cause of division—vv. 14-16, 18; 1 John 2:15-17; 5:19.
- John 17:14 I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:15 I do not ask that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them out of the hands of the evil one.
- John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- John 17:18 As you have sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

- 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him;
- 1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.
- 1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.
- 1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.
- B. Another cause of division is ambition; when we contact the Lord through the Word and allow Him to infuse Himself into us, the truth thus imparted into our being kills our ambition—cf. Isa. 14:13.
- Isa 14:13 But you, you said in your heart: / I will ascend to heaven; / Above the stars of God / I will exalt my throne. / And I will sit upon the mount of assembly / In the uttermost parts of the north.
- C. A third cause of division is self-exaltation; we should be willing to be nobody and to exalt Christ as the only Somebody, the One who has the universal preeminence—Col. 1:18; 2 Cor. 4:5; 3 John 9-11.
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- 2 Cor 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 3 John 9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not receive us.
- 3 John 10 For this reason, if I come, I will bring to remembrance his works which he does, babbling against us with evil words; and not being satisfied with these, neither does he himself receive the brothers, and those intending to do so he forbids and casts out of the church.
- 3 John 11 Beloved, do not imitate the evil, but the good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God.
- D. The fourth factor of division is opinions and concepts; we should not hold on to our opinion but simply pursue the Lord's goal: the recovery of Christ as life and as everything for the building up of the church—Matt. 16:21-24; cf. Rev. 3:14.
- Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Rev 3:14 And to the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God:

## **VI. When we move out of ourselves and into the Triune God, we are one and are even perfected into one—John 17:11, 17, 21-23:**

- John 17:11 And I am no longer in the world; yet they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.
- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- A. In ourselves we have the four factors of division; we cannot escape from these four things if we stay in the self.

- B. To be sanctified is to move out of ourselves and into the Triune God and to allow Christ to live in us; in this way we are perfected into one—vv. 21-23.
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- C. This sanctification takes place by the word, which is the truth, and by the Spirit, who is the Spirit of truth:
1. As we come to the Word every morning, outwardly we touch the Word, but inwardly the Spirit touches us; by the word and by the Spirit, both of which are the reality, we are sanctified.
  2. The more we touch the Word and the more the Spirit touches us, the more we move out of ourselves; we move from one dwelling place, the self, to another dwelling place, the Triune God.
  3. Every day we need to make this move, for in the self there are worldliness, ambition, self-exaltation, and opinions and concepts.
  4. If we continually touch the Word and allow the Spirit to touch us day by day, we will be sanctified; that is, we will move out of ourselves, our old lodging place, and into the Triune God, our new lodging place.
  5. Once we are out of ourselves, we are sanctified, separated from the factors of division and separated not only unto God but also into God.
  6. To have the genuine oneness, we must first move out of ourselves and into the Triune God (vv. 17, 21); then we must allow Christ to live in us (v. 23a):
 

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

John 17:23a I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, ...

    - a. This perfected oneness is the real building; it is the growth in life—Eph. 4:16.
 

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
    - b. To grow in life means that we move out of ourselves and into the Triune God and allow Christ to live in us; if we move into the Triune God and allow Christ to live in us, we can be one with the saints in any locality.
- D. “I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one”—John 17:23:
1. To be perfected into one means to be rescued from worldliness, ambition, self-exaltation, and opinions and concepts.
  2. “I in them”—this means that the Son is living and moving in us.
  3. “You in Me”—this means that the Father is living and moving in the Son.
  4. In other words, while the Son lives and moves in us, the Father lives and moves in Him; by this twofold living and moving, we are perfected into one, and we express the Father in glory.
- E. Ambition is implied in John 17:21; self-exaltation, in verse 22; and concepts and opinions, in verse 23:
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may

know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

1. In the Triune God there is no ambition, in the glory of the Father there is no self-exaltation, and in the place where Christ lives and reigns there are no opinions.
2. In the divine and mystical realm of the processed Triune God, ambition is swallowed up, self-exaltation disappears, and concepts and opinions are killed; here there is no evil of division in the Satan-systematized world (v. 15); instead, there is genuine oneness.

John 17:15 I do not ask that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them out of the hands of the evil one.

- F. Genuine oneness is living in the Father, allowing Christ to live in us, and living in the Father's glory, His expression—vv. 22, 24:

John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;

John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

1. We need to move out of ourselves and into the Triune God and remain in Him for the Father's expression, His glory.
2. The real building, the oneness, is possible only in the Triune God, and it is prevailing only when Christ lives in us; then we can express the Father in glory and experience the genuine oneness.

Message Three  
**Being Constituted with the Truth  
and Being Absolute for the Way of the Truth  
and the Propagation of the Truth  
for the Consummation of the Divine Economy**

RA Hymns: 1178

Scripture Reading: John 8:12, 32; 1 John 1:5-8; 3 John 3-4, 8; 1 Tim. 2:4; 4:3

- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.
- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- 1 John 1:8 If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 3 John 3 For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.
- 3 John 4 I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.
- 3 John 8 We therefore ought to support such ones that we may become fellow workers in the truth.
- 1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- 1 Tim 4:3 Who forbid marriage and command abstaining from foods, which God has created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who believe and have full knowledge of the truth.

**I. God's intention in His economy is to dispense Christ with all His riches into His believers chosen by God for the constitution of the Body of Christ, the church, to express the processed and consummated Triune God—Eph. 3:8-10.**

- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

**II. For the consummation of the divine economy, we need to be constituted with the truth—1 John 2:4; 2 John 1-2:**

- 1 John 2:4 He who says, I know Him, and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in this one;
- 2 John 1 The elder to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in truthfulness, and not only I but also all those who know the truth,
- 2 John 2 For the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:
- A. To be constituted with the truth is to have the intrinsic element of the divine revelation wrought into us to become our constituent, our intrinsic being, our organic constitution—1 John 1:8; 4:6; 5:6.
- 1 John 1:8 If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 1 John 4:6 We are of God; he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. From this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.
- 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
- B. The solid truth that is constituted into us becomes in us a constant and long-term nourishment—1 Tim. 4:6.
- 1 Tim 4:6 If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ

- Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.
- C. If the truth is wrought into us and constituted into our being, we will be able to protect the interests of the riches of God's divinity and the attainments of His consummation—Rev. 21:12a, 17.  
 Rev 21:12a It had a great and high wall and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, ...  
 Rev 21:17 And he measured its wall, a hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.
- D. Every saved person should have a full knowledge, a complete realization, of the truth—all the real things revealed in God's Word—1 Tim. 2:4; 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:25; 3:7.  
 1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.  
 1 Tim 4:3 Who forbid marriage and command abstaining from foods, which God has created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who believe and have full knowledge of the truth.  
 2 Tim 2:25 In meekness correcting those who oppose, if perhaps God may give them repentance unto the full knowledge of the truth,  
 2 Tim 3:7 And are always learning yet never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- E. The full knowledge of the truth is a thorough apprehension of the truth, a full acknowledgment and appreciation of the reality of all the spiritual and divine things that we have received through faith—Titus 1:1; 2 Thes. 2:13.  
 Titus 1:1 Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's chosen ones and the full knowledge of the truth, which is according to godliness,  
 2 Thes 2:13 But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,
- F. The Lord's word, His truth, is in the Bible, but the Bible needs the proper interpretation; for this we have the Life-studies—2 Tim. 2:15.  
 2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.
- G. We have to pay the price to learn the truths—Prov. 23:23:  
 Prov 23:23 Buy truth, and do not sell it; / Buy wisdom and instruction and understanding.
1. We need to enter into the intrinsic significance of the Holy Scriptures to find out what the Lord says and what He wants—John 8:12.  
 John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
  2. We have no right to invent anything; rather, we discover what is in the Bible.
  3. After we have learned the truth, we still have to experience Christ so that He may become our reality; in this way, when we speak to people, we will not give them knowledge or doctrine, but we will minister Christ to them—Eph. 3:16-17; 4:15, 21.  
 Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
 Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
 Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- H. We need to be delivered from skating on the surface of the divine truth and cooperate with the Lord by laboring together with Him to dive into the depths of the truth of His marvelous New Testament economy—3:9.  
 Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- I. Those who are constituted with the truth are a great blessing to the church—Rom. 9:1; 15:29.  
 Rom 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,

Rom 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

### III. For the consummation of the divine economy, we need to be absolute for the way of the divine truth—2 Pet. 2:2:

- 2 Pet 2:2 And many will follow their licentiousness, because of whom the way of the truth will be reviled.
- A. The way of the truth is the path of the Christian life according to the truth, which is the reality of the contents of the New Testament—v. 2.  
2 Pet 2:2 And many will follow their licentiousness, because of whom the way of the truth will be reviled.
- B. The way of the truth is the straight way; to take the straight way is to live an upright life without crookedness and bias—v. 15.  
2 Pet 2:15 Forsaking the straight way, they have gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness
- C. The way of the truth is the way of righteousness; to take the way of righteousness is to live a life that is right with both God and man, a life that, according to righteousness, can receive God’s governmental judgment for His kingdom of righteousness—vv. 21, 9; Matt. 5:20; Rom. 14:17.  
2 Pet 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.  
2 Pet 2:9 The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of trial and how to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,  
Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.  
Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- D. The way of the truth is “the Way,” denoting the Lord’s full salvation in God’s New Testament economy—Acts 9:2:  
Acts 9:2 And asked for letters from him to Damascus for the synagogues, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
1. It is the way God dispenses Himself into the believers through Christ’s redemption and the Spirit’s anointing—Eph. 1:7; 1 John 2:27.  
Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,  
1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
  2. It is the way the believers partake of God and enjoy God—2 Pet. 1:4.  
2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
  3. It is the way the believers worship God in their spirit by enjoying Him and follow the persecuted Jesus by being one with Him—John 4:24; Heb. 13:12-13.  
John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.  
Heb 13:12 Therefore also Jesus, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.  
Heb 13:13 Let us therefore go forth unto Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.
  4. It is the way the believers are brought into the church and built up into the Body of Christ to bear the testimony of Jesus—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Rev. 1:2.  
1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Rev 1:2 Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw.

E. To take the way of the truth is to purify our souls by obedience to the truth; this is the sanctifying truth, which is God's word of reality—1 Pet. 1:22; John 17:17:

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart fervently,

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

1. The purifying of our souls by obedience to the truth causes our entire being to be concentrated on God so that we may love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind—Mark 12:30.

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

2. Such a purifying of our souls issues in unfeigned brotherly love, that is, in our loving from the heart fervently those whom God loves—1 John 5:1.

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.

#### **IV. For the consummation of the divine economy, we need to be absolute for the propagation of the divine truth—Matt. 24:14; 28:19:**

Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

A. The gospel includes all the truths in the Bible; the entire Bible is the gospel of God—Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5:

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Col 1:5 Because of the hope laid up for you in the heavens, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

1. The unique commission of the church today is to preach the gospel, the content of which is the truth—Matt. 24:14; Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5.

Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Col 1:5 Because of the hope laid up for you in the heavens, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

2. Our preaching of the truth is the preaching of the high gospel—Mark 16:15; 1 Tim. 2:4.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation.

1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

3. The highest point of God's gospel is that God became a man that man may become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead—Rom. 1:3-4; 8:3, 29.

Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,

Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

- B. The Lord has given us His precious truth for us to spread the truth not only to believers but also to unbelievers; every human being on earth needs to hear the truth—John 18:37b.  
 John 18:37b ... Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.
- C. The Lord has charged us to go and disciple the nations so that the present age may be consummated—Matt. 28:19-20.  
 Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
 Matt 28:20 Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.
- D. We need to be one with the Lord in learning the truth, applying the truth, speaking the truth, and propagating the truth—Zech. 8:16.  
 Zech 8:16 These are the things which you shall do: Each man speak truth to his neighbor; judge with truth and the judgment of peace in your gates;
- E. If we would spread the Lord’s recovery today, we must know every side of the truth and be able to expound the truth—2 Cor. 4:2; 3 John 3-4, 8.  
 2 Cor 4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every conscience of men before God.  
 3 John 3 For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.  
 3 John 4 I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.  
 3 John 8 We therefore ought to support such ones that we may become fellow workers in the truth.
- F. The spreading of the divine truths will bring in the Lord’s restoration; according to Isaiah 11:9, the restoration will come because “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah, / As water covers the sea.”

## Message Four

# The Recovery of the Subjective Truths in the Gospel of John

MC Hymns: 536

Scripture Reading: John 1:14, 16; 14:16-20, 6; 20:22; 4:10, 14; 6:35, 57; 12:23-24; 3:29-30

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
- John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.
- John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

### I. The Lord desires to recover the subjective truths in the Holy Scriptures— John 1:14; 14:16-20; 1 Tim. 3:15-16a; 2 Tim. 4:22; 3:15-16:

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 1 Tim 3:16a And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: ...
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- 2 Tim 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

#### A. The truths in the Holy Scriptures are always of two aspects—the objective aspect and the subjective aspect—Rom. 8:34, 10; Col. 3:1; 1:27:

- Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
1. God's salvation has two aspects: the outward, objective aspect, signified by the best robe, and the inward, subjective aspect, signified by the fattened calf; Christ as our objective righteousness is our salvation outwardly, whereas Christ as our subjective life for our enjoyment is our salvation inwardly—Luke 15:22-24; cf. Rom. 5:10.
 

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

Luke 15:24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
  2. All the objective doctrines are for the subjective experience; the objective Christ is “the best robe” of the God-satisfying righteousness to cover the penitent sinner (Jer. 23:6; 1 Cor. 1:30), whereas the subjective Christ is “the fattened calf” as the rich Christ (Eph. 3:8), killed on the cross for the believer's life supply and enjoyment in resurrection (John 10:10; 6:63; 11:25; 12:24; 4:10, 14; 20:22).
 

Jer 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, / And Israel will dwell securely; / And this is His name by which He will be called, / Jehovah our righteousness.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
  3. Christ as our objective righteousness enables us to meet the requirement of the righteous God, whereas Christ as our subjective righteousness enables us to meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ—Psa. 45:13-14; Phil. 3:9; Rev. 19:7-9.
 

Psa 45:13 The king's daughter is all glorious within the royal abode; / Her garment is a woven work inwrought with gold.

Psa 45:14 She will be led to the King in embroidered clothing; / The virgins behind her, her companions, / Will be brought to You.

Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage

dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

4. Justification is “of life” because life is the goal of God’s salvation; our organic union of life with and in the Lord subjectively is an issue of our justification objectively—Rom. 5:10, 17-18; 11:17, 24; John 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17.

Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.

Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,

Rom 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

- B. The subjective truths are linked to the Spirit and life and are constituted with the Spirit and life—John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6:

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

1. The Spirit and life are the substance of the subjective truths; thus, without the Spirit and life we do not have any subjective truths.

2. When we live by the Spirit and life, we have the experience of the subjective truths, and this issues in the church life—Rom. 8:2, 4; 16:1, 4-5.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

Rom 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

Rom 16:5 And greet the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

## II. The Gospel of John—a book on the subjective truths—reveals that we should have subjective experiences of Christ—4:14; 6:57; 20:22:

John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

- A. The Gospel of John is a book on the subjective experience of Christ as life—1:4; 3:15-16; 10:10; 11:25; 14:6a:

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

- John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life;...
1. The Father is the source of life, the Son is the embodiment of life, and the Spirit is the Giver of life—5:26; 1:4; 6:63.
    - John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;
    - John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
    - John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
  2. The building up and increase of the Body of Christ are the growth and overflow of life—7:37-38; 15:1-8.
    - John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
    - John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
    - John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
    - John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it that it may bear more fruit.
    - John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
    - John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
    - John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
    - John 15:6 If one does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is dried up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
    - John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
    - John 15:8 In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so you will become My disciples.
  3. The overcomers are the receivers, enjoyers, and dispensers of Christ as the green pasture of life—1:12-13, 16; 10:9-10; 21:15-17.
    - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
    - John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
    - John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
    - John 10:9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and go out and shall find pasture.
    - John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
    - John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
    - John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
    - John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
  4. The Father is the fountain as the source of life, the Son is the spring as the gushing up of life, the Spirit is the river as the flowing out of life, and this flowing Triune God is “into eternal life,” which is our becoming the New Jerusalem as the totality of the eternal life (with God as the glory of life, the Father as the light of life, the Son as the

tree of life, and the Spirit as the river of life)—4:14b; Rev. 21:9b-11, 23; 22:1-2, 5.

John 4:14b ... but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

Rev 21:9b ... Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Rev 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

**B. Christ as the eternal Word of God is revealed in chapter 1 of John—v. 1:**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**1. Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His creation—v. 3.**

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not one thing came into being which has come into being.

**2. Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His incarnation as the tabernacle of God—v. 14.**

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

**3. Christ as the Word of God speaks for God in His becoming the Lamb of God for redemption—v. 29.**

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**4. Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His becoming the anointing Spirit for the transformation of God's redeemed people into stones for the building of God's house (Bethel) organically for the New Testament—vv. 32-42, 51; cf. Gen. 28:11-22.**

John 1:32 And John testified saying, I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abode upon Him.

John 1:33 And I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water, He said to me, He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and abiding upon Him, this is He who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

John 1:34 And I have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.

John 1:35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,

John 1:36 And looking at Jesus walking, he said, Behold, the Lamb of God!

John 1:37 And the two disciples heard him speak this, and they followed Jesus.

John 1:38 And Jesus, turning and beholding them following, said to them, What are you seeking? And they said to Him, Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?

John 1:39 He said to them, Come, and you will see. They went therefore and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day; it was about the tenth hour.

John 1:40 One of the two who heard this from John and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

John 1:41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ).

John 1:42 He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).

John 1:51 And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

- Gen 28:11 And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and he lay down in that place.
- Gen 28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
- Gen 28:13 And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed.
- Gen 28:14 And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.
- Gen 28:15 And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.
- Gen 28:16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.
- Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.
- Gen 28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put under his head, and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.
- Gen 28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz previously.
- Gen 28:20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and garments to put on,
- Gen 28:21 So that I return to my father's house in peace, then Jehovah will be my God,
- Gen 28:22 And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that You give me I will surely give one tenth to You.

C. The Word became flesh to make God contactable, touchable, receivable, experienceable, enterable, and enjoyable so that He might work Himself into us—John 1:14; 14:16-17.

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

D. Christ became the Spirit as the breath that we may breathe Him, the living water that we may drink Him, and the bread of life that we may eat Him—4:10, 14; 6:32-33, 35, 51, 54-57; 7:37-39; 20:22.

- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
- John 6:32 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread out of heaven.
- John 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.
- John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
- John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.
- John 6:55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
- John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.

- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

E. Christ is the true vine, and we are His branches—15:1-8:

- John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
- John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it that it may bear more fruit.
- John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- John 15:6 If one does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is dried up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
- John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
- John 15:8 In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so you will become My disciples.

1. The life, the substance, and the nature of the vine are the life, the substance, and the nature of the branches—1 John 5:11-12; 2 Pet. 1:4.

- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
- 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

2. The Son as the vine is the center of God's economy and the embodiment of all the riches of the Father; the Father, by cultivating the Son, works Himself with all His riches into the vine, and eventually, the vine expresses the Father in a corporate way through the believers in Christ as its branches.

F. The subjective experience of Christ is actually Christ Himself entering into us to be our life and the constituent of our being—Col. 3:4, 10-11.

- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

### III. The Gospel of John reveals the subjective truths concerning the church:

A. The issue of our receiving the Lord into us is that we become constituents of the church—12:24; 20:17; 15:4-5; 3:29-30.

- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.
- John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
- B. The Lord's recovery is to recover the subjective experience of Christ for the practice of the church life—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; 1:2:
- Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
- Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
- Gal 1:2 And all the brothers who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:
1. The church, which is the issue of our subjective experience of Christ, is Christ constituted into His believers—Eph. 3:16-19.
 

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
  2. The Christ who died and resurrected has been wrought into us to produce the church, which is His Body—Col. 1:27, 18; 2:19; 3:15.
 

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
  3. Christ in Himself is the Head, and Christ constituted into us is the Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 3:17; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18, 27; 3:4; 2:19; 3:15.
 

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

- C. Although the word *church* is not specifically used in the Gospel of John, the fact of the existence of the church and the constituents of the church are clearly defined, and the church is referred to in seven ways:
1. The church is composed of many grains, which are the many believers produced through Christ's death and resurrection—12:23-24.  
 John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.  
 John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
  2. The church is composed of the Lord's many brothers—20:17.  
 John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.
  3. The church is the Father's house—14:2, 23.  
 John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.  
 John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
  4. The church is the Son's vine with many branches—15:5, 7.  
 John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.  
 John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
  5. The church is the Spirit's new child, the new man, born by the consummated Spirit—16:20-22.  
 John 16:20 Truly, truly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.  
 John 16:21 A woman, when she gives birth, has sorrow because her hour has come; but when she brings forth the little child, she no longer remembers the affliction because of the joy that a man has been born into the world.  
 John 16:22 Therefore you also now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and no one takes your joy away from you.
  6. The church is the bride with Christ as the Bridegroom—3:29-30.  
 John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.  
 John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
  7. The church is the one flock with Christ as the Shepherd—10:14-16.  
 John 10:14 I am the good Shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me,  
 John 10:15 Even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.  
 John 10:16 And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must lead them also, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one flock, one Shepherd.
- D. The practical church life is an issue of our experience of the subjective truths; when we experience the subjective truths, the church is spontaneously produced—Rom. 8:10-11; 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5; 1 Cor. 1:9, 30; 15:45b; 6:17; 1:2; 12:27.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchræa,

- Rom 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;
- Rom 16:5 And greet the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

E. The issue of our subjective experience of Christ as life is the church life as a house of feasting—John 12:1-11:

- John 12:1 Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.
- John 12:2 Therefore they made Him a supper there; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining at table with Him.
- John 12:3 Then Mary took a pound of ointment, of very valuable pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.
- John 12:4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was about to betray Him, said,
- John 12:5 Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?
- John 12:6 But he said this not because it mattered to him concerning the poor, but because he was a thief, and holding the purse, carried off what was put into it.
- John 12:7 Then Jesus said, Leave her alone; she has reserved it for the day of My burial.
- John 12:8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me.
- John 12:9 Then a great crowd of the Jews found out that He was there, and they came, not because of Jesus only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.
- John 12:10 And the chief priests took counsel to kill Lazarus also,
- John 12:11 Because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed into Jesus.

1. In the church life we all must be a triangular member of the church—a “Martha-Lazarus-Mary.”
2. In the real church life the diligent service to the Lord is rendered, the living testimony of the Lord is seen, and the absolute love toward the Lord is poured out; this is the real expression of the Body of the Lord, which is a vessel to contain the Lord and express Him.

Message Five

**Upholding the Truth and Testifying to the Truth  
That the Church Is the Pillar and Base of the Truth  
and the Corporate Manifestation of God in the Flesh**

JL *Hymns: 976*

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 3:15-16; 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:15; John 18:37

- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.
- 1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- 2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.
- John 18:37 Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

**I. The church is the supporting pillar and holding base of the truth—1 Tim. 3:15:**

- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- A. The Lord wants His church to know Him as the truth in order to testify concerning Him as the truth—John 14:6; 18:37; 1 John 1:6; 5:20.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 18:37 Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
- 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
- B. *Truth* in 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the real things revealed in God's Word, which are mainly Christ as the embodiment of God and the church as the Body of Christ—2:4; Col. 2:9, 19.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- C. The truth is the Triune God, having Christ as the embodiment, center, and expression to produce the church as the Body of Christ, the house of God, and the kingdom of God—v. 9; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Tim. 3:15; John 3:3, 5.
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- D. The church bears Christ as the reality; the church testifies to the whole universe that Christ, and Christ alone, is the reality—1:14, 17; 14:6.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- E. As the pillar that bears the truth and the base that upholds the pillar, the church testifies the reality, the truth, of Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ—Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4.
- Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
- Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
- F. The kind of church that we build up depends on the kind of truth that we teach; thus, there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church to exist, and to build up the church—1 Tim. 3:15.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- G. The greatest need that we must meet is to bring the saints into the truth; all the saints should be trained in the divine revelation—2:4.
- 1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

## II. All the saints need to uphold the truth—3:9, 15; 2 Tim. 2:15:

- 1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.
- A. The supporting pillar and holding base of the truth are the entire church, including all the saints; every member of the church is part of the pillar and base that uphold the truth—1 Tim. 3:15.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- B. The church being the pillar and base of the truth implies that every member of the church should know the truth; thus, we should make a decision to learn the truth—2:4:
- 1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
1. The church, including every believer, must uphold the truth—3:9.
  - 1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
  2. In order for the church to be strong, every brother and sister must uphold the truth by learning the truth, experiencing the truth, and being able to speak the truth—2:4.
  - 1 Tim 2:4 Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
  3. If we practice the truth in the daily church life, we will be able to bear some responsibility in upholding the truth—2 John 4; 3 John 3-4, 8.
  - 2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father.
  - 3 John 3 For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.
  - 3 John 4 I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.
  - 3 John 8 We therefore ought to support such ones that we may become fellow workers in the truth.

### III. We need to uphold the truth and testify to the truth that the church is the corporate manifestation of God in the flesh—1 Tim. 3:15-16:

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

A. God's manifestation was first in Christ as an individual expression in the flesh—v. 16; Col. 2:9; John 1:1, 14:

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

1. The New Testament does not say that the Son of God was incarnated; it reveals that God was manifested in the flesh—1 Tim. 3:15-16:

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

a. God was manifested in the flesh not only as the Son but as the entire God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

b. The entire God and not only God the Son was incarnated; hence, Christ in His incarnation was the entire God manifested in the flesh:

(1) In His ministry in the stage of incarnation, Christ brought the infinite God into the finite man; in Christ the infinite God and the finite man became one—John 8:58; 7:6; 12:24.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I am.

John 7:6 Jesus therefore said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

(2) Through incarnation the divine incorporation—God in His Divine Trinity coinhering mutually and working together as one—was brought into humanity; Christ is therefore the incorporation of the Triune God with the tripartite man—14:10-11.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.

2. In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily—Col. 2:9:

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

a. *All the fullness of the Godhead* refers to the entire Godhead, to the complete God.

b. Since the Godhead comprises the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, the fullness of the Godhead must be the fullness of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

c. That all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily means that the Triune God is embodied in Him—John 14:10.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who

abides in Me does His works.

- d. As the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead, Christ is not only the Son of God but also the entire God.
- B. First Timothy 3:15-16 indicates that not only Christ Himself as the Head is the manifestation of God in the flesh but also that the church as the Body of Christ and the house of God is the manifestation of God in the flesh—the mystery of godliness:
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.
1. *Godliness* in verse 16 refers not only to piety but to the living of God in the church, that is, God as life lived out in the church to be expressed:

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

    - a. Both Christ and the church are the mystery of godliness, expressing God in the flesh.
    - b. The church life is the expression of God; therefore, the mystery of godliness is the living of a proper church—1 Cor. 1:6; 14:24-25.

1 Cor 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,

1 Cor 14:24 But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;

1 Cor 14:25 The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.
  2. God is manifested in the church—the house of God and the Body of Christ—as the enlarged corporate expression in the flesh—Eph. 2:19; 1:22-23:

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

    - a. The manifestation of God in the flesh began with Christ when He was on earth—John 14:9.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how is it that you say, Show us the Father?
    - b. The manifestation of God in the flesh continues with the church, which is the increase, enlargement, and multiplication of the manifestation of God in the flesh—1 Tim. 3:15-16.

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.
    - c. Such a church becomes the continuation of Christ's manifestation of God in the flesh—Christ lived out of the church as the manifestation of God.
  3. The great mystery of godliness is that God has become man so that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce a corporate God-man for the manifestation of God in the flesh—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; Eph. 4:24.

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,  
Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of  
holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness  
and holiness of the reality.

Message Six  
**Knowing and Spreading the Up-to-date Truth  
of the Highest Gospel of God's Eternal Economy  
according to the Ministry of the Age**

EM Hymns: 960

Scripture Reading: 2 Pet. 1:12; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; Matt. 16:18;  
2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Rom. 1:3-4; Rev. 21:2, 9-10

- 2 Pet 1:12 Therefore I will be ready always to remind you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been established in the present truth.
- 1 Tim 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- 2 Sam 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 2 Sam 7:13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 2 Sam 7:14a I will be his Father, and he will be My son. ...
- Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

**I. The particular recovery and work that God is doing in one age is the ministry of that age; the ministry of the age ministers the present truth to God's people; in 2 Peter 1:12 the present truth can also be rendered "the up-to-date truth":**

- 2 Pet 1:12 Therefore I will be ready always to remind you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been established in the present truth.
- A. Although all the truths are in the Bible, through man's foolishness, unfaithfulness, negligence, and disobedience many truths were lost and hidden from man—cf. 2 Kings 22:8.  
2 Kings 22:8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of Jehovah. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.
- B. Freshly revealed truths are not God's new inventions; rather, they are man's new discoveries; every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is.
- C. God's truths are cumulative; later truths do not negate earlier ones; what we see today are the cumulative revelations of God.
- D. May God be gracious to us that we do not become castaways of "the present truth"; may we be watchful and not allow the flesh to come in or the self to gain any ground.

**II. The present truth, the highest peak of the divine revelation given to us by God through the ministry of this age, is the revelation of the eternal economy of God; the gospel of God's eternal economy is "the gospel of the promise made to the fathers" (Acts 13:32)—the promise that the seed of David would become the Son of God, that is, that a human seed would become a divine Son (vv. 22-23, 33-34; 26:6, 16-19; 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Rom. 1:3-4; Matt. 22:41-45):**

Acts 13:32 And we announce to you the gospel of the promise made to the fathers,

Acts 13:22 And when He had deposed him, He raised up David for them as king, to whom also He testified and said, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man according to My heart, who will do all My will.

Acts 13:23 From this man's seed, God, according to promise, brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,

Acts 13:33 That God has fully fulfilled this promise to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."

Acts 13:34 And as to His having raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to corruption, He spoke in this way, "I will give you the holy things of David, the faithful things."

Acts 26:6 And now I stand here being judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers,

Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;

Acts 26:17 Delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you,

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

2 Sam 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sam 7:13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Sam 7:14a I will be his Father, and he will be My son. ...

Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,

Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Matt 22:41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them,

Matt 22:42 Saying, What do you think concerning the Christ? Whose son is He? They said to Him, David's.

Matt 22:43 He said to them, How then does David in spirit call Him Lord, saying,

Matt 22:44 "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies underneath Your feet"?

Matt 22:45 If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his son?

A. We should not preach a gospel that has been lowered down to what we think is the level of people's understanding; we should preach an uplifted gospel and never lower the concept (1 Thes. 1:1, 3-4, 10; 5:23; 1 Cor. 2:7-13); we must believe that within man there is a God-created ability to receive and understand the things of God (Job 32:8; Zech. 12:1; Eccl. 3:11; Acts 17:26-29; Isa. 43:7).

1 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

1 Thes 1:3 Remembering unceasingly your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father;

1 Thes 1:4 Knowing, brothers, beloved of God, your selection;

1 Thes 1:10 And await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming.

1 Thes 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages for our glory,

1 Cor 2:8 Which none of the rulers of this age have known; for if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Cor 2:10 But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1 Cor 2:11 For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? In the same way, the things of God also no one has known except the Spirit of God.

1 Cor 2:12 But we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God;

1 Cor 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things with spiritual words.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man, / And the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.

Zech 12:1 The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

Eccl 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its own time; also He has put eternity in their heart, yet so that man does not find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Acts 17:26 And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling,

Acts 17:27 That they might seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, even though He is not far from each one of us;

Acts 17:28 For in Him we live and move and are, as even some poets among you have said, For we are also His race.

Acts 17:29 Being then the race of God, we ought not to suppose that what is divine is like gold or silver or stone, like an engraving of art and thought of man.

Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, / Whom I have created, formed, and even made for My glory.

B. We must present the truth concerning the eternal economy of God item by item according to the entire Bible; this is the Lord's special commission to us—1 Cor. 1:9; 9:16-17, 23; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2:7; 4:16; 2 Tim. 1:11; 2:2, 15; Col. 1:28.

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have no boast, for necessity is laid upon me; for woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.

1 Cor 9:17 If I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a stewardship.

1 Cor 9:23 And I do all things for the sake of the gospel that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

1 Tim 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things

1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

1 Tim 2:7 For which I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I speak the truth; I do not lie), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things; for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

2 Tim 1:11 For which I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

2 Tim 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.

Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

### **III. *The seed of David becoming the Son of God speaks of the process of Christ's being designated the firstborn Son of God by resurrection—Rom. 1:3-4:***

Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,

Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

A. Paul said that he was separated unto the gospel of God concerning God's Son, which indicates that the gospel of God is a gospel of sonship for the reality of the Body of Christ—vv. 1, 3-4; 8:28-30; 12:5.

Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,

- Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- B. Romans 1:3-4 is the fulfillment of the prophecy in typology in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, unveiling the mystery of God becoming man to make man God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.
- Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- 2 Sam 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 2 Sam 7:13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 2 Sam 7:14a I will be his Father, and he will be My son. ...
- C. By incarnation Christ, the only begotten Son of God in His divinity (John 1:18), put on the flesh, the human nature, which had nothing to do with divinity; in His humanity He was not the Son of God.
- John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
- D. In resurrection His humanity was deified, sonized, meaning that He was designated the Son of God in His humanity, becoming the firstborn Son of God and possessing both divinity and humanity—Rom. 8:29.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- E. Thus, in Christ God was constituted into man, man was constituted into God, and God and man were mingled together to be one entity, the God-man.
- F. God's gospel and His intention in His economy are to build God into man and man into God; this building is God becoming a man (the seed of David) that man might become God (the designated Son of God)—John 14:23; 15:4-5; Rom. 1:3-4.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- G. This gospel was spoken by the Lord Jesus when He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit"—John 12:24:
1. If a seed dies by being buried in the soil, it will eventually sprout, grow, and blossom in resurrection, because the operation of the seed's life is activated simultaneously with its death—1 Cor. 15:36; 1 Pet. 3:18.
- 1 Cor 15:36 Foolish man, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies;
- 1 Pet 3:18 For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the Righteous on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, on the one hand being put to death in the flesh, but on the other, made alive in the spirit;

2. The divinity, the Spirit of holiness, in Christ became operative in His death, and in resurrection He “blossomed” to be the firstborn Son of God and the life-dispensing Spirit, imparting His divine life into us to make us His many brothers—Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
  - Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
  - 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
3. The prototype is the firstborn Son of God, and the reproduction is the many sons of God, the members of the prototype to be His Body, which consummates in the New Jerusalem—Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3.
  - Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
  - 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

#### **IV. *The seed of David becoming the Son of God speaks of the process of our being designated the many sons of God by resurrection—Heb. 2:10-11:***

- Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
  - Heb 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,
- A. Christ has already been designated the Son of God, but we are still in the process of designation, the process of being sonized, deified—Rom. 8:28-29.
    - Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
    - Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
  - B. The life of the Son of God has been implanted into our spirit—v. 10:
    - Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
    1. Now we, like the seed that is sown into the earth, must pass through the process of death and resurrection—John 12:24-26.
      - John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
      - John 12:25 He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.
      - John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.
    2. This causes the outer man to be consumed, but it enables the inner life to grow, to develop, and ultimately, to blossom from within us; this is resurrection—1 Cor. 15:31, 36; 2 Cor. 4:10-12, 16-18.
      - 1 Cor 15:31 I protest by the boasting in you, brothers, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
      - 1 Cor 15:36 Foolish man, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies;
      - 2 Cor 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
      - 2 Cor 4:11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
      - 2 Cor 4:12 So then death operates in us, but life in you.
      - 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
      - 2 Cor 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,
      - 2 Cor 4:18 Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are

not seen are eternal.

- C. In resurrection Christ in His humanity was designated the Son of God, and by means of such a resurrection we also are in the process of being designated sons of God—Rom. 8:11:
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
1. The process of our being designated, sonized, deified, is the process of resurrection with four main aspects—sanctification, transformation, conformation, and glorification—6:22; 12:2; 8:29-30.

Rom 6:22 But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
  2. The key to the process of designation is resurrection, which is the indwelling Christ as the rising-up Spirit, the designating Spirit, the power of life in our spirit—John 11:25; Rom. 8:10-11; Acts 2:24; 1 Cor. 15:26; 5:4:

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

1 Cor 15:26 Death, the last enemy, is being abolished.

1 Cor 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you and my spirit have been assembled, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

    - a. We urgently need to learn how to walk according to the spirit, to enjoy and experience the designating Spirit—Rom. 8:4, 14; Matt. 14:22-23; Mark 1:35-38; Psa. 62:8; 102 title.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Matt 14:22 And immediately He compelled the disciples to step into the boat and to go before Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.

Matt 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.

Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still night, He went out and went away to a deserted place, and there He prayed.

Mark 1:36 And Simon and those with him hunted for Him,

Mark 1:37 And they found Him and said to Him, All are seeking You.

Mark 1:38 And He said to them, Let us go elsewhere into the nearby towns that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I came out.

Psa 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; / Pour out your heart before Him; / God is a refuge to us. Selah.

Psa 102 title A Prayer of an afflicted one, when he is fainting and pours out his complaint before Jehovah.
    - b. The more we touch the Spirit, the more we are sanctified, transformed, conformed, and glorified to become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead

for the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem—  
1 Cor. 12:3; Rom. 10:12-13; 8:15-16; Gal. 4:6.

- 1 Cor 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus is accursed; and no one can say, Jesus is Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
- Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!

D. The more we grow in life and pass through the metabolic process of transformation, the more we are designated the sons of God—2 Cor. 3:18, 6, 16; 5:4, 9, 14-15; 1:12; 12:7-9:

- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- 2 Cor 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
- 2 Cor 5:4 For also, we who are in this tabernacle groan, being burdened, in that we do not desire to be unclothed, but clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.
- 2 Cor 5:9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.
- 2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
- 2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.
- 2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
- 2 Cor 12:7 And because of the transcendence of the revelations, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up.
- 2 Cor 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.
- 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

1. This metabolic process is the building up of the church as the Body of Christ and the house of God by the building of God into man and man into God—Rom. 12:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:20-22.

- Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 2:20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

2. Humanity is designated in divinity, and divinity and humanity are blended as one; today we, seeds of humanity, are becoming sons of God in divinity through the process of God's building—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:16-19; Rev. 21:2, 9-10.

- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My

- church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
3. God's economy and goal according to His heart's desire are to build Himself into man and to build man into Him; this building will consummate in the New Jerusalem as a great, corporate God-man, the totality of all the sons of God—v. 7.
- Rev 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.
4. One day this process will be completed, and for eternity we will be the same as Christ, God's firstborn Son, in our spirit, soul, and body—1 John 3:2; Rom. 8:19, 23; *Hymns*, #948, stanza 2.
- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
- Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.
- Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
- Hymns #948 stanza 2*
- In my spirit He regenerated me,  
 In my soul He's now transforming me.  
 He will change my body like unto His own,  
 Wholly making me the same as He.  
 Glory, glory, Christ is life in me!  
 Glory, glory, what a hope is He!  
 Now within my spirit He's the mystery!  
 Then the glory He will be to me.
- E. On God's side, the Triune God has been incarnated to be a man; on our side, we are being deified, constituted with the processed and consummated Triune God so that we may be made God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead to be His corporate expression for eternity; this is the highest truth, and this is the highest gospel.

**V. We need to be constituted with and spread the highest truth of God's eternal economy by using the Life-studies and the Recovery Version with the footnotes; they are for life ministering, for truth releasing, and for opening up the books of the Bible—Job 10:13; cf. Eph. 3:9:**

- Job 10:13 But You have hidden these things in Your heart; / I know that this is with You:
- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- A. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the light of the truth; the most urgent need on the earth today is the truth of this age:

1. The Life-studies with the Recovery Version and all the footnotes are the most prevailing key to open up the Bible to us; they are not to replace the Bible but to bring people into the Bible—Acts 8:26-39.
    - Acts 8:26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, Rise up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is the desert route.
    - Acts 8:27 And he rose up and went. And behold, an Ethiopian man, a eunuch, a man in power under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship.
    - Acts 8:28 And he was returning and was sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.
    - Acts 8:29 And the Spirit said to Philip, Approach and join this chariot.
    - Acts 8:30 And when Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, Do you really know the things that you are reading?
    - Acts 8:31 And he said, How could I unless someone guides me? And he entreated Philip to come up and sit with him.
    - Acts 8:32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "As a sheep He was led to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so He does not open His mouth.
    - Acts 8:33 In His humiliation His judgment was taken away. Who shall declare His generation? For His life is taken away from the earth."
    - Acts 8:34 And the eunuch answered Philip and said, I beseech you, Concerning whom does the prophet say this? Concerning himself or concerning someone else?
    - Acts 8:35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he announced Jesus as the gospel to him.
    - Acts 8:36 And as they were going along the road, they came upon some water, and the eunuch said, Look, water. What prevents me from being baptized?
    - Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If you believe from all your heart, you will be saved. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
    - Acts 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stand still, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.
    - Acts 8:39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away; and the eunuch did not see him anymore, for he went on his way rejoicing.
  2. We must consider the text of the Recovery Version with the footnotes and the Life-studies as a textbook for prayerful studying; if we merely read them in a light way, we will only receive some temporary nourishment and inspiration; however, when what we read becomes the truth in our enlightened memory, it becomes a constant and eternal nourishment to us—Psa. 119:130.
    - Psa 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, / Imparting understanding to the simple.
  3. The intention and goal of the Life-study messages are to “open up the mine” of the truth of the Bible for us to dig out the treasures; “I have published many things that need your spending years to get into”—*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 2, “Elders’ Training, Book 3: The Way to Carry Out the Vision,” p. 316.
- B. Today we must bear the responsibility for spreading the translated, interpreted, and understood divine truths for the Lord’s recovery:
1. The proper understanding of the Bible has been collected in our writings in order for us to study, learn, and spread the divine truths; the Recovery Version and the accompanying footnotes are the “crystallization” of the understanding of the divine revelation which the saints everywhere have attained to in the past two thousand years.
  2. The Lord has given us these precious truths for us to spread them not only to Christians but even to the unbelievers; what the Lord needs today is for thousands of His dear saints who love Him, who live to Him, and who know nothing but His recovery to take one way to spread the same truths to make them the faithful and prudent slaves to serve food to the Lord’s people at the proper time; then we will

fulfill the commission of the Lord's recovery—2 Cor. 5:14-15; Matt. 24:45.

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

3. The increase of the church depends on the spread of the truth; only the truth can subdue and gain people; from now on we all should spend time to learn the truth of God's eternal economy and minister Christ to others for the multiplication and spread of the church—Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20.

Acts 6:7 And the word of God grew, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly; and a large number of the priests obeyed the faith.

Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 19:20 Thus, the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.