

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2006**

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE REALITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Message Ten

Reaching Zion by Praying

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; 18:19-20; Eph. 1:16-18; 3:14-17a; 4:16; Col. 1:9; 2:19; 4:12

I. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion—the reality of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem—Eph. 4:16; Rev. 14:1; 21:2:

- A. The highest peak of God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ:
 - 1. The issue of God becoming man and man becoming God is an organism—the Body of Christ—which is the issue of the mingling of God with man—Eph. 1:22-23.
 - 2. Christ, the first God-man, was enlarged in His resurrection to be the first-born Son with the many sons; this enlargement is an organism—the Body of Christ—Rom. 1:3-4; 8:14, 29; 12:4-5.
 - 3. The highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can carry out God's economy is for God to produce an organic Body to be His organism—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16.
- B. The reality of the Body of Christ is the union and mingling of God with man to live out a corporate God-man—vv. 4-6, 16, 21, 23-24:
 - 1. The reality of the Body of Christ is the living of a God-man life by a group of God-redeemed people together with the God-man Christ—Phil. 1:19-21a:
 - a. In His resurrection the Lord Jesus produced many brothers who, with Him as the eldest Brother, become a great, corporate God-man; this universal man is God yet man and man yet God—Rom. 8:29; Eph. 2:15.
 - b. After regenerating us, the life-giving Spirit dwells in us and is mingled with our spirit to live a God-man life with us—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
 - c. This kind of life issues in a universal man who is exactly the same as the Lord Jesus—a man living a God-man life by the divine life—Eph. 4:21, 24; 1 John 2:6; 3:1-2; 4:17.
 - 2. The reality of the Body of Christ is a living by the God-men, who are united, joined, and constituted together with God by the mingling of humanity with divinity and divinity with humanity—John 14:20; 15:4; Eph. 4:4-6, 16, 24; Phil. 1:21a.
 - 3. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are not living by their life but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes are expressed through their virtues—Gal. 2:20.
 - 4. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of the conformity to the death of Christ through the power of the resurrection of Christ—Phil. 3:10; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; 2 Cor. 4:10-12; Rom. 8:13-14; 12:4-5.
 - 5. This mingling living will close this age and bring Christ back to rule over the earth with the overcomers in the kingdom age—Rev. 11:15.

II. In the church life we need to endeavor to reach the highest peak—today's Zion, the reality of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:13, 27; Eph. 1:22-23:

- A. "There is no other way to reach this high peak except by praying" (*The Practical Points concerning Blending*, p. 46).
- B. "We surely need to be desperate to pray at any cost" (p. 46).

III. In order to reach the high peak of Zion, we need to know the significance of prayer for the carrying out of God's economy—1 Tim. 1:4; 2:8:

- A. Prayer is the mutual contact between man and God—1 John 5:14-15.
- B. Prayer is man breathing God, obtaining God, and being obtained by God; real prayer is an exhaling and inhaling before God, causing us and God to contact each other and to gain each other—1 Thes. 5:17.
- C. The more we pray, the more we are filled with the Triune God—Eph. 3:14-19.
- D. The real significance of prayer is to contact God in our spirit and to absorb God Himself—6:18; Jude 20.
- E. Prayer is man cooperating and co-working with God, allowing God to express Himself through man and thus accomplish His purpose—James 5:17.
- F. A praying person cooperates with God, works together with God, and allows God to express Himself and His desire from within him and through him—Rom. 8:26-27; James 5:17; Eph. 1:16-23; 3:14-21.
- G. The kind of prayer we have depends on the kind of person we are; our prayers reveal who we are, what we are, and where we are—Luke 9:54-55; 1 Tim. 2:8.
- H. The governing principle of our prayer should be that prayer brings us into God—Luke 11:1-13.
 - I. A life of genuine prayer stops our natural being; such a prayer life revolts and rebels against our natural being—Matt. 16:24; Luke 21:36.
 - J. Prayer is the real denial of the self; to pray is to deny ourselves, realizing that we are nothing and that we are not able to do anything—Mark 8:34; 9:29.
 - K. Genuine prayer causes us to be mingled with God—Jude 20; Eph. 6:18.
 - L. We need to pray in the spirit with the prayer of Christ; there must be a prayer in our prayer like the wheel within the wheel in Ezekiel 1:16—James 5:17.
- M. Genuine prayer is not merely spiritual but also divine, for the Triune God is praying in us, and we are praying in the Triune God—Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 20.
- N. To pray without ceasing by calling on the Lord's name is to live Christ—1 Thes. 5:17; Rom. 10:12-13; Phil. 1:21a.
- O. The way to experience the indwelling Christ and to be constituted with Christ is to pray in a genuine way—Col. 1:3, 9, 27; 4:2-3, 12.
- P. When we pray, Christ, the Head, has a way to carry out His administration through His Body—1:18; 2:19; 3:1-2; 4:2; Heb. 2:17; 4:14; 7:26; 8:1-2; Rev. 5:6.
- Q. In genuine prayer we touch the reality of the one new man—Col. 1:9; 3:10-11.
- R. The organic practice of the God-ordained way in the vital groups to build up the church can be carried out only by thorough prayer—Matt. 16:18; 18:19-20.
- S. To be blended together in the vital groups into one accord to become a corporate meal offering, we need to exercise our spirit by much and thorough prayer—1 Cor. 12:24; 10:17; Lev. 2:1-13; Acts 1:14; 2:42.

What Miracle! What Mystery!

- 1 What miracle! What mystery!
That God and man should blended be!
God became man to make man God,
Untraceable economy!
From His good pleasure, heart's desire,
His highest goal attained will be.
- 2 Flesh He became, the first God-man,
His pleasure that I God may be:
In life and nature I'm God's kind,
Though Godhead's His exclusively.
His attributes my virtues are;
His glorious image shines through me.
- 3 No longer I alone that live,
But God together lives with me.
Built with the saints in the Triune God,
His universal house we'll be,
And His organic Body we
For His expression corp'rately.
- 4 Jerusalem, the ultimate,
Of visions the totality;
The Triune God, tripartite man—
A loving pair eternally—
As man yet God they coinhere,
A mutual dwelling place to be;
God's glory in humanity
Shines forth in splendor radiantly!

God's Eternal Economy

God's eternal economy is to make man the same as He is
In life and nature but not in the Godhead
And to make Himself one with man and man one with Him,
Thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression,
That all His divine—that all His divine—
Attributes may be expressed in human virtues.