

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CENTRAL WORK OF GOD

Message One

The Unique Goal of the Central Work of God

Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:16-17a

I. God's economy is centered on one thing—God's unique work—John 5:17; 4:34; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10a:

- A. God's unique work in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17a.
- B. God's economy and goal according to His heart's desire are to build Himself into man and to build man into Him—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. God desires not mainly to do things for us but to work Himself into our being—Eph. 3:17a.
 - 2. God's intention is to have Christ thoroughly worked into our being; however, in our spiritual seeking we may have no concern about this, caring instead only for our intention—Phil. 2:21.
 - 3. We all need to see that God's desire is to work Himself into us and to reconstitute us with Himself so that we may become His testimony—2 Cor. 5:17, 21; Rev. 1:12, 20.
- C. God's purpose is to work Himself into us, making Himself our inward elements:
 - 1. This purpose is the center of the universe, and apart from this purpose the Christian life is meaningless—Rev. 4:11.
 - 2. The principle in God's work is to gain persons and by gaining them to have a way to go on.
 - 3. The proper priority is not for us to work for God but for God to work Himself into us—Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13.
 - 4. Spiritual progress consists in allowing God to gain ground within us—Col. 2:19; Eph. 3:17a.

II. God's intention in His economy is to build Himself in Christ into our being—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a; John 14:20:

- A. God desires to work Himself in Christ into us, and everything that Christ is and everything that Christ has accomplished are for this one thing—Phil. 2:13; Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11.
- B. We need God to build Himself in Christ into our humanity, working Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our person—Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. As a result, we are not simply persons according to God's heart—we are God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead:
 - a. Merely to be a person according to God's heart means nothing, for one may be according to God's heart but still be empty, not having God wrought into his heart.
 - b. God wants those who can say, "I am not just a person according to God's heart. I am God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead."

2. All the steps, great and small, that God takes in our daily life are to fulfill His intention of building Himself in Christ into our being—Rom. 8:28:
 - a. God's work on us is not to improve us outwardly, but to change our life inwardly.
 - b. God's intention is to work Himself into us through everything that happens to us, that He may become our constitution in us.

Message Two

The Intrinsic Element of the Central Work of God

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; Rom. 1:3-4; Eph. 3:17a; John 14:20, 23; Col. 3:10-11

- I. The intrinsic element of the central work of God is the building and builded God—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:17a:**
 - A. God is building Himself into His redeemed people in order to produce a house—the church, the Body of Christ, the enlargement of Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God realized as the Spirit—John 14:2, 10, 16-17, 20, 23.
 - B. When we build the church with the processed and consummated Triune God, it is not actually we who are building; rather, God is building through us, using us as a means to dispense and transmit Himself into others—Acts 9:15.
- II. God's building is the constitution of His divine element into the human element and of the human element into the divine element—John 14:20; 15:4a; 1 John 4:15:**
 - A. As the divine element is constituted into our humanity, we become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead, and as the human element is constituted into God, God becomes man; this is the building revealed in the New Testament—Eph. 2:21; 4:16.
 - B. God's work on men is based upon the processed and consummated Triune God, who is building Himself into His chosen people and building them into Him.
- III. For the fulfillment of God's eternal economy, God needs to build Himself in Christ into our being, working Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our constitution to make us God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Rom. 1:3-4; Eph. 3:17a; John 14:23; Col. 3:10-11:**
 - A. The intrinsic significance of 2 Samuel 7:12-14a is that the Triune God is working Himself in His processed and consummated Trinity into His chosen and redeemed people.
 - B. We need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ—Eph. 3:17a.
 - C. Christ builds the church by coming into our spirit and spreading Himself from our spirit into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire soul—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:17a:
 1. All the steps that God takes in our daily living are to fulfill His intention of building Himself in Christ into our being.
 2. The issue of this building is that we become a very particular class of people—the members of the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:5; Eph. 5:30.
 - D. As the consummation of the Body of Christ, the New Jerusalem is a composition of divinity and humanity mingled, blended, and built up together as one entity—Rev. 21:2, 10:
 1. All the components have the same life, nature, and composition and thus are a corporate person.

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2. This is a matter of God becoming man and man becoming God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.

Message Three

Being One with God and Constituted with God

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 6:17; John 15:4; Eph. 3:17a

I. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people, we should be one with God—1 Cor. 6:17:

- A. The basic principle of the Bible is that in His economy God is making Himself one with man and is making man one with Him—John 15:4.
- B. God desires that the divine life and the human life be joined together to become one life that has one living—1 Cor. 6:17.
- C. In the Bible to be one with God means to be mingled with God; biblical oneness with God is a oneness in which we enter into God and God enters into us—1:30; 2 Cor. 13:5; John 15:4.
- D. God's intention is to tear us down and rebuild us with Himself as our life and nature so that we may be absolutely one with Him—2 Cor. 4:16; 5:17.
- E. In 1 Corinthians 7 we see the principle of being absolutely one with the Lord in all circumstances, situations, and conditions; this chapter conveys the spirit of a person who loves the Lord, who cares for the Lord's interests on earth, who is absolutely for the Lord and one with the Lord, and who in every respect is obedient, submissive, and satisfied with God and the circumstances arranged by Him—vv. 17, 24.

II. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, we need to be constituted with God—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11:

- A. God's economy is to dispense Himself into our being so that our being may be constituted with His being to be one constitution with His being—Eph. 3:17a; 4:4-6.
- B. As the Divine Being, God infuses us with His elements, causing us to be the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead—2 Cor. 13:14.
- C. God's economy is that we eat Christ and become constituted with Him—John 6:57.
- D. If we enjoy the Lord as our nourishment, He will become the constituent of our being—vv. 32-33, 35, 51, 53-56.
- E. In the divine life and by the working of the law of the divine life, God will be wrought into us, and we will be constituted with Him in His life and nature—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11, 29.

Message Four

Living God, Expressing God, Moving with God, and Representing God

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26-29; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21a; 2 Cor. 3:19; Rom. 8:29

I. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God and constituted with God, we should live God—Phil. 1:21a:

- A. God's economy is to work Himself into us so that we may take Him as our life and life supply in order to live Him—John 11:25; 6:48, 57.
- B. According to His economy, God's intention is to impart His element, His substance, and the ingredients of His nature into our being so that we may live Him—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
- C. Our daily life should actually be God Himself and thus be a life of constantly living God; to walk in a manner worthy of God is to live God, that is, to express God in our daily living—1 Thes. 2:12; 1 Cor. 10:31.
- D. Today we are participating in the divine life and the divine nature so that we can live God in our humanity—Gal. 2:20.

II. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, who are constituted with God, and who live God, we should express God—Gen. 1:26; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10:

- A. God's eternal purpose is to work Himself into us as our life so that we may express Him—Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.
- B. God created man in His image and according to His likeness with the goal that man would be God's duplication for His expression—Gen. 1:26.
- C. God's intention in His economy is to dispense Himself into us as our life and nature, making us the same as He is in life and nature to express Him—Eph. 3:16-21.
- D. The human virtues that are produced in us through our eating, drinking, digesting, and assimilating God with His attributes become the expression of God—4:1-3.
- E. God's aim in His economy is that we would be one with Him and live Him for His corporate expression—1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:21a; Eph. 1:22-23.

III. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, who are constituted with God, who live God, and who express God, we should move with God—Josh. 1:1-9; 6:1-16:

- A. When the lover and seeker of the Lord reached the stage of becoming a pillar of smoke, she was spiritual, steady, and unshakable and thus was qualified to move with God—S. S. 3:6.
- B. The great wheel in Ezekiel 1:15-21 is not only the economy of God but also the move of the economy of God.
- C. God needed the children of Israel to cooperate with Him in His move in His economy as the great wheel—Josh. 1:1-9; 6:1-16.
- D. We need to be one with God in His heart's desire and in His move on earth—Eph. 1:5, 9; Rev. 14:1-4.

IV. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, who are constituted with God, who live God, who express God, and who move with God, we should represent God—Gen. 1:26-28:

- A. God gave man dominion over all things so that man might represent Him—v. 28.
- B. In order to represent God with authority, we must express God in life; because Aaron had the resurrection life to express God, he had the authority to represent God—v. 26; 2:9; Num. 17:1-8.
- C. The proper way to work for God is to represent God—Exo. 7:1-2.
- D. As God's representatives, we do not speak our own words or carry out our own work, for we are simply the bush, and the Lord is the fire burning within the bush—John 5:19, 30; 7:17-18; 8:28; 12:49-50; Exo. 3:2-4.