

**THE INTRINSIC AND ORGANIC BUILDING UP OF THE
CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, Week 5**

The Intrinsic Factor of the Winds of Teaching for Their Evil Purpose

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:13-15; Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; Titus 1:9; 1 Cor. 1:2; 4:17; 12:12-13, 27

- Ephesians 4:13 Until we all arrive at the **oneness of the faith** and of the **full knowledge of the Son of God**, at a **full-grown man**, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Ephesians 4:14 That we may be no longer little children **tossed by waves** and **carried about by every wind of teaching** in the **sleight of men**, in craftiness with a view to a **system of error**,
- Ephesians 4:15 But **holding to truth in love**, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Acts 2:42 And they **continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles**, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- 1 Timothy 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 Timothy 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- Titus 1:9 **Holding to the faithful word**, which is according to the **teaching of the apostles**, that he may be able both to exhort by the **healthy teaching** and to convict those who oppose.
- 1 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 4:17 Because of this I have sent Timothy to you, who is my **beloved and faithful child in the Lord**, who will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every church.
- 1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are **one body, so also is the Christ**.
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all **baptized into one Body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to **drink one Spirit**.
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 **Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually**.

Ephesians 4:14 says, "That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error." In the **sleight of men** is in apposition to in craftiness, which is "with a view to a system of error." The sleight in this verse is of men, and the **system of error is of Satan**. Man has the sleight, the craftiness, but man is not able to have a system in the universe. Satan is the one who is able to have a system of error. Man's sleight, man's craftiness, is **related to the satanic system of error**.

Ephesians 4:14 may be considered as the conclusion of the history of Christianity. **Christianity is full of the sleight**, the **craftiness**, of men. The word for sleight in Greek signifies the cheating of dice players. A crafty gambler knows how to play dice in order to cheat his opponent. The sleight of men is a cheating method. This method of cheating is crafty, so it becomes craftiness. **The sleight of men implies the cheating and deception of men**. The history of Christianity shows us that there can be cheating and deception in a so called Christian teaching. (*The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God, chapter 3*)

Day 1

- Hebrews 1:1-2** God, having spoken of old in many portions and in many ways to the fathers in the prophets, Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the universe;
- Acts 2:42** And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

I. The teaching of the apostles is the **unique and healthy teaching of God's eternal economy—Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 6:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1:**

- A. The teaching of the apostles is the **entire teaching of the New Testament** as God's speaking in the Son to His New Testament people—Heb. 1:1-2.
- B. The teaching of the apostles is the **unique, divine revelation of God's New Testament economy** from the incarnation of God to the consummation of the New Jerusalem— John 1:14; Rev. 21:2.
- C. The teaching of the apostles is the **holding factor of the one accord**, causing us to have one heart, one way, and one goal—Acts 1:14; 2:42a, 46a; Jer. 32:39.

Day 2 & Day 3

Titus 2:1 But you, speak the things which are fitting to the healthy teaching.

Titus 2:7-8 Concerning all things presenting yourself as a pattern of good works: in your teaching showing incorruption, gravity, Healthy speech that cannot be condemned, that he who opposes may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

Titus 1:9 Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching of the apostles, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose.

1 Timothy 6:3 If anyone teaches different things and does not consent to healthy words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the teaching which is according to godliness,

- D. We must be those who are "**holding to the faithful word**, which is according to the teaching of the apostles"—Titus 1:9:
 - 1. The churches were **established** according to the apostles' teaching and followed their teaching, and the order of the churches was **maintained** by the faithful word, which was given according to the apostles' teaching.
 - 2. We must speak the things that are fitting to the healthy teaching of the apostles, the teaching of God's economy—2:1, 7-8; 1 Tim. 1:4.
- E. Any teaching that was different from the apostles' teaching was not allowed by the apostles; teaching "different things" was prohibited—Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 1:3-4:
 - 1. **Differing teachings** refers to teachings that are not in line with the economy of God—6:3.
 - 2. The disorder in the church is due mainly to **deviation** from the apostles' teaching— Acts 2:42:
 - a. To counter this, we must **hold to the faithful word** taught in the churches according to the apostles' teaching—Titus 1:9.
 - b. In a darkened and confused situation, we need to **cleave to the enlightening and ordering word** in the New Testament—the apostles' teaching—Acts 2:42.
 - 3. We must **avoid** differing teachings and **concentrate** on God's economy concerning Christ and the church—1 Tim. 1:3-4; Eph. 3:9; 5:32.
- F. The apostle Paul taught the same thing in all the churches; we also must teach the same thing in all the churches in every country throughout the earth—1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; cf. Col. 4:16.
- G. The crucial point of the healthy teaching of the apostolic ministry concerns the Triune God processed to **dispense** Himself as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit into His chosen ones so that they may be brought into an **organic union** to receive the divine trans- fusion and thereby become sons of God and members of Christ; as a result, they can become the **Body of Christ to express Christ**, the One in whom the fullness of God dwells—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; 12:12-13, 27.

Day 4

Ephesians 4:14-15

That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error, But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

- H. All teachings that are different from the unique revelation of God's New Testament economy are considered by the apostles as **winds of teaching**—Eph. 4:14.

The New Testament teaches how the Triune God was incarnated to be a man. This God-man lived a holy life, a righteous life, a bright life, a life of light. He lived such a life for thirty-three and a half years. After He finished such a testimony in His human living, He died on the cross an all-inclusive death. His death solved all the problems in the universe related to God and us. After coming out of death, He entered into another stage, the stage of resurrection. In resurrection He was begotten to be God's firstborn Son, the Firstborn among many brothers. In resurrection He also became a life-giving Spirit, imparting Himself into us, His believers, to be our life, making us the sons of God. Before His resurrection, God had only one Son, His only begotten Son. But in resurrection God gained many sons who are the many brothers of the firstborn Son, Christ.

The entire twenty-seven books of the New Testament stress one thing: **God's New Testament economy**, the contents of which is the Triune God passing through the processes of incarnation, human living, an all-inclusive death, and resurrection to become the life-giving Spirit and to produce the Body of Christ, which is to be expressed in many localities as the local churches. This is God's economy, and we should not teach anything other than this. We need to teach God's economy in an intrinsic way. Then we will speak the same thing that the New Testament speaks. To teach anything other than God's economy is to teach something different from what the New Testament teaches. **We need to keep ourselves in the central lane of God's New Testament economy**. Then we will not be involved in or influenced by the different teachings, the blowing teachings. (*The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God, chapter 3*)

II. As members of the Body, we should no longer be "little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error"—v. 14:

- A. **Little children** refers to those believers who are **young in Christ**, lacking maturity in life—1 Cor. 3:1; Eph. 4:13, 15.
- B. The **waves** are stirred up by **winds of different teaching, doctrines, concepts, and opinions** sent by Satan to entice the believers in order to carry them away from Christ and the church—1 Tim. 1:3-4; Eph. 4:14:
1. It is difficult for infants in Christ to discern these; the only way to escape from the waves that are stirred up by the winds of teaching is to **grow in life**, and the safe way to grow in life is to **stay in the proper church life** with Christ and the church as the safeguard—vv. 13-15.
 2. Any teaching, even a scriptural one, that **distracts** believers from Christ and the church is a wind that carries them away from God's eternal purpose—v. 14.
- C. We need to see the intrinsic factor of the winds of teaching—v. 14:
1. An intrinsic factor is a **hidden factor**, a factor that is not apparent.
 2. To see this intrinsic factor, we need a **proper and sharp understanding** that can penetrate into the whole situation.

Day 5

1 Timothy 1:3-4 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

Ephesians 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

3. These teachings are **different** from the New Testament teaching concerning the economy of God for the building up of the Body of Christ—1 Tim. 1:3-4; 6:3:
 - a. Apparently, every wind of teaching is good; however, **within** the winds of teaching, intrinsically, is **something different** from the apostles' teaching and is **not good**.
 - b. The winds of teaching **overthrow** the believers' faith and **devastate** the church life—2 Tim. 2:18.
- D. The teachings that become winds, **carrying the believers away** from the central lane of Christ and the church, are **deceptions** instigated by Satan in his subtlety, with the sleight of men, in order to **frustrate** God's eternal economy, which is to build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:10; 3:9-11; 4:14, 16:
1. The dividing teachings are organized and systematized by Satan to cause **serious error** and thus **damage** the practical oneness of the Body life—v. 3.
 2. The sleight is of men, but the system of error is of Satan and is related to **deceitful teachings** that are designed by the evil one to distract the saints from Christ and the church life—v. 14; 5:32.
- E. The purpose of the winds of teaching—the evil purpose of the enemy Satan—is to **frustrate** the building up of the organic Body of Christ and to **divide** the members of the organic Body of Christ, causing endless divisions instead of keeping the oneness of the Body of Christ in love and kindness—1 Cor. 1:10-11; Jude 19.

Day 6

1 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

- F. The erroneous teaching concerning the absolute autonomy of a local church has crept into the Lord's recovery:
1. To teach that the local churches are absolutely autonomous is to **divide** the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:5; 16:17.
 2. The teaching concerning autonomy has **corrupted, misled, and deceived** Christians and has created many divisions—Jude 19.
 3. The church is the Body of Christ, and as the Body of Christ, **no part of the church can be autonomous**—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13.
 4. The local churches are for the **expression** of the Body of Christ; they are the **manifestation** of the Body of Christ in various localities—1:2; 12:27.
 5. In our consideration the **Body should be first**, and the **local churches should be second**—Eph. 2:21-22.
 6. If we know the Body and are conscious of the Body, we will realize that the **church as the organic Body of Christ has nothing to do with autonomy**.

THE PURPOSE OF THE WINDS OF TEACHING

Now we need to go on to see the purpose of the winds of teaching. The purpose of the winds of teaching is the evil purpose of the enemy Satan, which is versus the eternal economy of God. Their purpose is to **overthrow the faith** of some believers. Some of the saints' faith has been overthrown by the winds of teaching. They may not oppose the Lord's recovery, but they have lost their faith in the Lord's recovery. They are neutral. They **do not come to the meetings regularly**, and they are **not so concerned** about the Lord's interest as they once were. They have been **spoiled**.

The purpose of the winds of teaching is to **devastate the church life**. This is what Saul of Tarsus did before he became Paul the apostle. Also, the purpose of the winds of teaching is to **frustrate** the building up of the organic Body of Christ, to tear down the building up of the organic Body of Christ, and to **divide** the members of the organic Body of Christ—causing **endless divisions** (sects) in **hatred** and **jealousy**, instead of keeping the unique oneness of the Body of Christ in love and kindness. According to our past history, the instigators of any storm in the recovery all became very divisive. They even divide among themselves. Their division is endless. There is no love or kindness with them. What they do is full of hatred and jealousy.

Now we have seen the purpose of the winds of teaching and their intrinsic factor, which is the **sleight of men in craftiness** with a view to bring people, to usher people, into a **satanic system of error**. Those who get brought into Satan's system of error are finished with the building up of the Body of Christ in the central lane of God's New Testament economy. (*The Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ to be the Organism of the Processed and Dispensing Triune God, chapter 3*)