

**KNOWING THE TRUTH, BEING ABSOLUTE FOR THE TRUTH,
AND PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH IN THE PRESENT EVIL AGE, Week 6**

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

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 Peter 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 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.
- Matthew 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 Samuel 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 Samuel 7:13 - **It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**
- 2 Samuel 7:14 - I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;
- Romans 1:3 - Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- Romans 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;**
- Revelation 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.**
- Revelation 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.**
- Revelation 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,**

We all need to learn to preach the gospel according to what is revealed in the typology of the gate of the outer court. We must **exercise our faith to preach such an uplifted gospel**. We should not preach a gospel that has been **lowered down** to what we think is the level of people's understanding. Instead of bringing people up to the level of the gospel, many of us have lowered the thought of the gospel when presenting the truth to unbelievers....Sometimes our preaching of the gospel has been too simple. We may emphasize one point: **without Christ life is vain and people are empty, but with Christ there is reality**. We need to preach an uplifted gospel, a gospel that covers more than the ABC's of God's salvation. This will **satisfy** the hunger and thirst that is within man because of the way God created him. It will also stir up the interest of those who hear to come again to hear the preaching of the gospel. Otherwise, they may come just once. Having received a cup of plain, tasteless water, they will not care to come again.

Man was created for God, and within him there is the **ability to understand the things of God**, and there is a **hunger** for these things. Therefore, as we preach the gospel in an uplifted way, we must believe that the hearers have the ability to understand what we are saying. (*Life-Study of Exodus, chapter 113*)

Day 1

2 Peter 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.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

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":

- 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.
- 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.

Day 2

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

Romans 1:3-4 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, 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;

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):

- 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).
- 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.

Day 3

2 Samuel 7:12-14 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. It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
 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.
 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.

Day 4

Romans 8:29-30 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; 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.

Romans 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.

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:

- 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.
- B. The life of the Son of God has been **implanted into our spirit**—v. 10:
 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.
 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.
- 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:
 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.
 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:
 - 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.
 - 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.

Day 5

Romans 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.

2 Corinthians 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.

- 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:
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.
 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.
 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.
 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.
- 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**.

The fourth purpose of the Recovery Version with the footnotes is to **open up the books of the Bible**. After the Recovery Version of a book was published, that particular book of the Bible was opened to us. Because we have the Recovery Version of the entire New Testament, we must testify that the **books of the New Testament have been opened to us**. We have an open book. Some teachers of the Bible admit that Revelation is a closed book and that it is too deep. Also, a number of believers were told not to touch Revelation and to stay away from it. To most believers Revelation is a closed book, but when you get the Recovery Version of Revelation, you cannot say that it is a closed book. It is an open book. The Recovery Version of Revelation gives you a very brief and concise interpretation of the book.

The basic truths have been presented to us, and much life nourishment has been put into print, especially with the Life-study messages. Also, the obstacles have nearly all been removed. We now have a **clear way for our study**, and **every book is open to us**. In mining, the hardest thing is to open the mine. Once the mine has been opened and the treasure is exposed, it is easy for someone to dig out the treasures. I have left only this one matter of further digging to you. I believe that the Lord will continue this digging work either through you or through some others. After a period of time I believe that many of you will be "good diggers." The **intention and the goal of our publishing the Life-study messages is to open up the mine for you to go in and dig**. (*Elders' Training, Book 03: The Way to Carry Out the Vision, chapter 9*)

Day 6

Psalms 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, / Imparting understanding to the simple.

Ephesians 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,

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:

- 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.
 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.
 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.
 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.

A TEXTBOOK FOR STUDY

... It is not an easy task to be built up in the truth. You must **study** the text and every footnote. If possible, it is helpful to take care of the cross references. Then you need to **study** the Life-study messages. You need to get into these messages not like you are reading a newspaper or a reference book. You must consider the text of the Recovery Version with the footnotes and the Life-study messages as a textbook. Because this is my work, I know the nature of it. I am fellowshipping this with you to let you know the way our publications were written. If you merely read them in a light way, you cannot get into them. You must **study** them as a textbook.

If you merely read the Life-studies, you will receive only a **temporary** nourishment. That will become only a kind of inspiration to you. An inspiration is like a vapor in the air. When what we read becomes a **truth in our being**, this **nourishment remains forever**. What I have received is not all the time inspiration, like a vapor. What I have received from the Lord is always the solid truth, so it remains in me, nourishing me all the time. You must have the truth. **The only way for the truth to get into you is through your mentality**. Then it remains in your memory. If you do not understand, the truth cannot get into you. The truth gets into you through your mentality, your understanding. Also, if the truth gets into your memory, it becomes a **constant and long-term nourishment**. Then you have an accumulation of the truth, and you are a person continually under the constant nourishment. You will then know how to present the truth to others, not merely to inspire them or to stir them up but to make them solid and constituted with the truth. (*Elders' Training, Book 03: The Way to Carry Out the Vision, chapter 9*)