

Message Four

**The Intrinsic Element of Our Work
in Carrying Out the New Testament Economy—
Ministering the Building and Built God**

Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Matt. 16:18; 28:19-20a; Rom. 1:1-4, 9a; Eph. 3:17a

I. In every aspect of our work—preaching the gospel, feeding the believers, establishing churches, perfecting the saints—the intrinsic element must be that we minister the building and built God into others—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:17a:

- A. If we realize that God desires to work Himself into His chosen people, then the goal of our work will be to minister the building and built God into others so that the Triune God may build Himself into their being—Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. The crucial matter in our work in the Lord's recovery is to minister the building and built God—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 3:17a.
 - 2. The God whom we worship and minister to others is the processed and consummated Triune God embodied in Christ and realized as the Spirit—Col. 2:9; John 7:39; Gal. 3:14.
 - 3. 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.
 - 4. Such a revelation should become a principle that governs our understanding of God and of God's building—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19.
- B. We should reconsider the work we are doing for the Lord and ask how much of Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God has been wrought into those whom we have brought to the Lord—Gal. 4:19; Col. 1:28.
- C. We need to practice one thing—to minister the processed and consummated Triune God into others so that He may build Himself into their inner man; we need to pray that the Lord will teach us to work in this way—2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 3:9a, 10, 12.
- D. 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. As we work for God today, we should participate in God's building—the constitution of the 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. In the Lord's recovery our work must be part of this mutual constitution:
 - 1. If our work is not related to this mutual constitution, then in the eyes of God our work is like wood, grass, and stubble—1 Cor. 3:12.

2. If our work is part of this mutual constitution, God will regard our work as gold, silver, and precious stones, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:2, 10-11, 18-21.
- C. As we endeavor to carry out the God-ordained way in the four steps of begetting, nourishing, perfecting, and building, our work must be based upon the processed and consummated Triune God, who is building Himself into His chosen people and building them into Him.
- D. If we minister the building and builded God to others for their growth in the divine life, we are building up the Body of Christ, which will consummate the New Jerusalem—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16; Rev. 21:10.

III. The Lord's burden given to us is that we bear the testimony of His recovery, and one of our main responsibilities is to refute and correct the defects and errors of traditional Christian theology—2 Tim. 2:25:

- A. We must present the truth concerning the economy of God item by item according to the entire Bible; this is the Lord's special commission to us—1 Tim. 1:3-4; 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:15, 2; Col. 1:28.
- B. The culture in God's economy can be explained only with a spiritual and heavenly language; therefore, we need to learn this new language that we may be able to express the divine truths in a crystallized way—1 Cor. 2:12-13.
- C. We need to release the truth that God became a man so that man may become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead, and then we need to release the truth concerning the New Jerusalem—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; Rev. 21:2.
- D. We need to present the highest truth in order to protect the interest of the riches of God's divinity and the attainments of His consummation—Rev. 21:17-18a; Matt. 6:9.

IV. The genuine and intrinsic gospel is that God intends to work Himself in Christ into us—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Rom. 1:1-4, 9a:

- A. If we preach this gospel, we will tell others that they need Christ, the very God Himself, to be wrought into their being—Eph. 3:17; John 14:23.
- B. Whenever we preach the gospel, we must believe that within man there is a God-created ability to receive and understand His gospel—Eccl. 3:11:
 1. 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.
 2. Man was created for God, and within man there are the ability to understand the things of God and a hunger for these things—Zech. 12:1.
- C. "Today's world needs a crusade with the preaching of the highest and fullest gospel"—*Life-study of Hebrews*, p. 157.