

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CENTRAL VISION OF PAUL'S COMPLETING MINISTRY
AND
THE CENTRAL WORK OF GOD IN CARRYING OUT
THE NEW TESTAMENT ECONOMY**

Message One

The Urgent Need to See and Be Governed by the Central Vision

Scripture Reading: Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19; Eph. 1:17-18a; Col. 1:25-26

I. The vision that the Lord has given to His recovery is an all-inclusive vision—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19:

- A. In the Bible *vision* denotes an extraordinary scene; it refers to a special kind of seeing—a glorious, inward seeing—and to the spiritual scenery we see from God—Ezek. 1:1, 4-28; Dan. 7:1, 9-10, 13-14.
- B. In order to have a vision, we need revelation, light, and sight—Eph. 1:17-18a.
- C. Everyone who serves the Lord must be a person with a vision—Acts 26:13-19.
- D. The heavenly vision governs us, restricts us, controls us, directs us, preserves us, revolutionizes us, keeps us in the genuine oneness, and gives us the boldness to go on—Prov. 29:18a.
- E. Under the heavenly vision we are directed toward God's destination, and our life is controlled according to God's economy—Phil. 3:13-14; 1 Tim. 1:4.
- F. The governing vision of the Bible is the Triune God working Himself into His chosen and redeemed people in order to saturate their entire being with the Divine Trinity for the producing and building up of the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem—Eph. 4:4-6; Rev. 21:2, 9-10.

II. The difference between the Lord's recovery and traditional Christianity is the central vision—Acts 26:19:

- A. If the saints do not see the central vision, we will become a repetition of traditional Christianity, and the Lord will be delayed in carrying out His recovery and accomplishing His purpose.
- B. Some saints must see the central vision in a solid way in order for the Lord to have a way; otherwise, we are only a repetition and part of traditional Christianity.

III. We need to see a vision of the central matter in the Lord's recovery today, the vision in Paul's completing ministry—Eph. 1:17-18a; Acts 26:19; Col. 1:25-26:

- A. God wants us to realize that in Christ the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—has passed through a process involving incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension:
 - 1. By incarnation Christ brought the infinite God into the finite man—John 1:14.
 - 2. In His human living the Lord Jesus expressed divinity in humanity—14:9-11.
 - 3. By crucifixion Jesus Christ terminated the old creation—Col. 1:15.
 - 4. By resurrection He germinated us as the new creation—1 Pet. 1:3.

5. By ascension He was glorified, exalted, enthroned, appointed Lord, and commissioned with the divine government—Acts 2:33, 36.
 6. Following this He came down upon the church as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit—1:8; 2:4.
- B. As the life-giving Spirit, the Lord is waiting for people to receive Him by believing into Him—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 1:12-13; 3:15:
1. As soon as a person calls on the name of the Lord Jesus, Christ will immediately come into him, regenerate his spirit, indwell his spirit, and mingle Himself with his regenerated spirit to cause him to become truly one with Him—v. 6; 1 Cor. 6:17.
 2. A new believer must come to know the two spirits—his regenerated spirit and the life-giving Spirit—that he may be transformed and built up with others to be the Body, the organism to express the Triune God for the fulfillment of His purpose—2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.