Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Eight : The Dispensing of the Triune God as Life into the Tripartite Man according to His Righteousness, through His Holiness, and unto His Glory

I. Overview:

God's eternal economy is to dispense Himself into man so that His divine attributes would become man's human virtues for God's corporate expression. The life of the Triune God dispensed into our tripartite being makes us men of life to constitute the Body of Christ for His expression. The three primary colors of the rainbow around God's throne are blue signified God's righteousness, red signified God's holiness, and yellow signified God's glory. The rainbow is a sign of God's faithfulness in keeping His covenant that there will be no more judgment of death; we must live under the new covenant and we are the covenanted people, who have a verse of promise. In every church there must be the base of God's righteousness (God's procedure), the process of God's holiness (God's nature), and the goal of God's glory (God's expression) to bring us into the heart of God. Justification through Christ's redemption is in the outer court, sanctification is in the Holy Place, and glorification is in the Holy of Holies. The dispensing of the Triune God as life is according to His righteousness, through His holiness, and unto His glory.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that before Romans 8 we do have several references to the divine, eternal, uncreated life.

Romans 1:17 says that the righteous shall have life and live by faith. Romans 2:7, where we are told that "to those who by endurance in good work seek glory and honor and incorruptibility, He will give the life eternal. Romans 5:10 says that we will be saved in His life, and 5:17 tells us that, after receiving the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, we will reign in life. Romans 5:21 says that grace might reign unto eternal life.

B. Explain the way to have life being the Spirit.

In Romans 8:2, Paul joins life with the Spirit in the phrase the Spirit of life. The way to have life is the Spirit. The way to be saved in His life is the Spirit. The way to reign in life is the Spirit. The way to walk in newness of life is the Spirit. The way to be sanctified in life is the Spirit. The Spirit is the way. Life belongs to the Spirit, and the Spirit is of life. These two are actually one.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the three sections in Romans being related with the attributes of God.

In the book of Romans Paul first covers the subject of condemnation and then proceeds to cover justification, sanctification, and glorification. As God deals with us, He always cares for three of His divine attributes—His righteousness, holiness, and glory. Righteousness is related to God's acts, to His ways, actions, and activities. Holiness is God's nature. Glory is God Himself expressed.

B. Explain the first stage and the second stage of God's salvation.

In the first stage of God's salvation which is justification, we participate in the righteousness of God. In the second stage we are in the process of sanctification, a process in which God works His divine nature into us. Although we have obtained and participated in God's righteousness outwardly, God's holiness needs to be wrought into us inwardly.

Day 3 —

A. Briefly describe the significance of the rainbow.

In order to understand the significance of the rainbow, we need to remember the rainbow at the time of Noah. A flood had destroyed the whole earth, and only eight people were spared from that judgment. After that, when people saw storm clouds in the sky, they might have been afraid of being destroyed. Therefore, God made a covenant in which He promised never again to destroy all living things by a flood, and He set the rainbow in the cloud as a sign of this covenant.

B. Explain the spiritual significance of the colour of the rainbow.

In the rainbow there are several different colors, but the basic colors are only three—red, yellow, and blue. Blue signifies the throne. According to Psalm 89:14, the foundation of God's throne is righteousness.

This indicates that the blue throne signifies the righteousness of God. Fire signifies the sanctifying, separating, and consuming fire. This means that red here refers to God's holiness. Yellow signifies God's glory in the glowing electrum.

Day 4 —

A. Fellowship that our Christian life and church life are a covenant life.

In verse after verse of the New Testament, we find God's promises. We all need to learn how to live under God's covenant. We should not be threatened or frightened by the clouds of our convictions, feelings, and environments. We are under God's covenant, fully under His blessing. There is no more condemnation, no more judgment, no more curse.

B. Why do we say the New Jerusalem having the appearance of a rainbow?

The foundation stones of the New Jerusalem are of twelve layers, with each layer being a different colour. From these twelve layers we see that the holy city, New Jerusalem, looks like a rainbow. This rainbow signifies that the city is built upon and secured by God's faithfulness in keeping His covenant. The experience of the Christian life and of the church life will consummate in such a rainbow.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the relationship between the God's dispensing and God's attributes.

God's dispensing is according to His righteousness; that is, it is based upon His righteousness. Furthermore, it is through His holiness. Finally, this dispensing is unto God's glory. Romans can be divided into several sections. After the introduction and the section on condemnation, there are sections on justification, sanctification, and glorification. These sections are related respectively to God's righteousness, holiness, and glory.

B. Why is the death of Christ for that He could dispense Himself into us?

God's righteousness required that we die because of our sin. However, if we had died, we would have perished. Because God does not want us to perish, He provided Christ as our Substitute. The purpose of Christ's death on the cross was to fulfill God's righteous requirements so that He could dispense Himself into us. In the eyes of the righteous Father, nothing is more righteous than for us to die on the cross.

Day 6 —

A. Why is that the more sanctification we experience, the more we will participate in the glorification?

Sanctification is primarily an individual matter, whereas glorification is mainly a corporate matter. However, suppose I stay in fellowship with the Lord all day, even when my wife gives me a difficult time. Everything that happens during the day only helps the process of sanctification. Therefore, in the meetings, I will be able to sense the glory.

B. Expound regarding the tabernacle of God.

The tabernacle of the Old Testament shows us that there are three parts to the tabernacle—the outer court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. In the outer court is the righteousness of God, in the Holy Place is the holiness of God, and in the Holy of Holies is the glory of God. In the Holy of Holies is God Himself. The Ark of the Testimony is the very embodiment of God, and inside the Ark is the hidden manna, which signifies that God is our enjoyment.

III. Conclusion:

As we have already died in Christ, we are counted as righteous in God's sight; therefore, Satan has no ground to accuse or condemn us. Now Christ lives within us to sanctify, transform, and conform us to the image of Christ. The outcome of this process is glory. Our God is the Triune God, who has gone through the processes of incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Now He is the all-inclusive Spirit, giving Himself to us to participate in, experience, and enjoy. First, He dispenses Himself into our spirit, reaching the every part of our being. From that center, He expands into our mind, saturating our thoughts soul with the Spirit. Then, He extends even into our mortal bodies, making our entire person the Spirit. Thus, we become a person full of life.