

HWMR - Thanksgiving Conference 2018

General Subject:

The Reality of the Body of Christ

Message Six

Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem to Build Up Zion as the Reality of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 2:19; Psa. 36:8-9; Rev. 2:7; 21:18-23; 22:1-5

- 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,**
- Colossians 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, **being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.**
- Psalms 36: 8 They are saturated with the **fatness of Your house**. And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psalms 38: 9 For with You is the **fountain of life; In Your light we see light.**
- Revelation 2: 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who **overcomes**, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Revelation 21:18 And the **building work** of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.
- Revelation 21:19 The **foundations** of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;
- Revelation 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoptase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.
- Revelation 21:21 And the twelve **gates** were twelve **pearls**; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the **street** of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
- Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its **temple**.
- Revelation 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its **lamp** is the Lamb.
- Revelation 22: 1 And he showed me a **river of water of life**, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the **throne** of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Revelation 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the **tree of life**, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- Revelation 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
- Revelation 22: 4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.
- Revelation 22: 5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will **reign forever and ever.**

HIGHWAYS TO ZION IN OUR HEART

Psalm 84 also shows us the way to Zion. We go to Zion, **first, by trusting in God**. "*Blessed is the man / Who trusts in You*" (v. 12). **Second**, the highways of Zion **must be in our heart**: "*Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion*" (v. 5). This is indeed interesting. Whenever we take a way to reach a certain goal, the way is always outside of us. But the highways to Zion are within us.

If we adopt the church life in a cheap way, it means that the life within us is extremely poor. But I do believe that many of us have taken the way of the church at a certain cost. It did not cost me so much to take the Lord Jesus as my Savior as it did to take the church way. To receive the Lord Jesus as my Savior cost me almost nothing, but I can testify that it was **very costly for me to take the church way**. **Do not imagine that the highway to Zion is external, superficial, and cheap**. It is quite the opposite. It is at a price that we take the church way and forever remain on the highway to Zion.

The highway to Zion passes through the **valley**. This valley may eventually be a **valley of weeping**, or a spring, a place of blessing. It depends upon your attitude. When the church is good and everything is fine, we may praise the Lord. In these years here in Los Angeles, the church life has indeed been wonderful. But it is altogether possible that it might not always be so good. Sometimes the brothers may not be so lovable, to put it mildly. In fact, they may seem unbearable as far as you are concerned. Sometimes the co-workers may not be so pleasant to you. Sometimes the meetings may not be so living. Then what will you do? Will you quit, will you turn away? Will you say, "*What is the difference between the local church and the denominations?*" In fact, sometimes the local church may not seem as good as the denominations. Will you go back? Be careful; it all depends upon you. It is not God's responsibility. It is yours. It is not God who makes the valley of weeping a place of blessing; it is you.

(Christ and the Church Revealed and Typified in the Psalms, Chapter 14, Section 3)

DAY 1

I. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ by living out and working out the New Jerusalem:

- A. As the highlight and beauty of the holy city, Jerusalem, **Zion** typifies the **overcomers** as the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, the beauty, and the reality of the church—Psa. 48:2, 11-12; 50:2; 20:2; 53:6a; 87:2.
- B. The **overcomers** as **Zion** are the reality of the Body of Christ and consummate the building up of the Body of Christ in the local churches to bring in the consummated holy city, **New Jerusalem**, the Holy of Holies as God's dwelling place, in eternity—Rev. 21:1-3, 16, 22.
- C. **In the new heaven and new earth the entire New Jerusalem will become Zion, with all the believers as the overcomers**—v. 7.

DAY 2

II. To live out the New Jerusalem is to grow up "into the Head" by the mingling of God with man, and to work out the New Jerusalem is to function "out from the Head" for the oneness of the Body of Christ—Lev. 2:4-5; John 6:57; 7:37; 17:21, 23; Eph. 4:3-4a, 11-16; Col. 2:19; 1 Cor. 3:6-12a; 10:3-4, 17; 12:12-13; Rev. 2:7; 21:9-11; 22:14, 17:

- A. God's desire is **to gain the New Jerusalem** through the **precursor** of the **organic Body of Christ** produced in the local churches—2:7; 12:5; 14:1-4.
- B. Eventually, the local churches **will be over**; only the Body of Christ will **remain forever** as the unique **mutual abode of God and man** so that God and man are married together, mingled and incorporated together, to be one entity, a great corporate God-man—1:11-12; 21:2-3, 22; 22:17a.

DAY 3

III. Whatever is ascribed to the New Jerusalem should be both our personal and corporate experience for us to become the New Jerusalem and build the New Jerusalem by the mingling of God with man for the oneness of the Body of Christ to fulfill the eternal purpose of God:

- A. The New Jerusalem is the **totality** of the overcomers; a **remnant** of the Lord's believers, the **earlier** overcomers, will be the **bride of Christ** for one thousand years (19:7-9; 20:4-6); then they will join the rest of the Lord's believers, the **later** overcomers, to be the **wife of Christ** for eternity (21:2-3, 7):
 1. The **earlier overcomers, as the reality of Zion within Jerusalem**, the reality of the Body of Christ within the church, have **highways to Zion in their heart; they take the way of the church internally by being incorporated into God as their dwelling place through the crucified Christ**, typified by the **bronze altar** as their nest for their refuge, and through the resurrected Christ in ascension, typified by the incense altar as their home for their rest—Psa. 48:2; 84:3-5; cf. Prov. 27:8.
 2. To overcome means that **we love the Lord more than our self, more than our soul-life**; an overcomer knows and loves only Christ for the reality of the Body of Christ—Phil. 3:10; 4:12; Rev. 2:4-5, 7; 12:11.
 3. The Lord is **waiting** for a group of overcomers **to live out** the reality of the Body of Christ in resurrection to become the bride of Christ to bring Him back and to usher in His kingdom age; for this we need to pray, "Lord, may I receive Your mercy and grace to be one of Your overcomers."

DAY 4

- B. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, **we must hold on to this principle: God's presence** is the criterion for every matter—21:22; 22:4; Exo. 25:30; Psa. 27:4-5, 8; 31:20; 91:1:
 1. The New Testament commences with the **individual** Christ as the God-man, "God with us," and ends with the New Jerusalem as the **corporate** Christ, as the great God-man, "Jehovah Is There"—Matt. 1:23; Ezek. 48:35.
 2. The Spirit is the presence of Christ with our spirit; we must live and act in the person of Christ, in the presence of Christ, according to the index of His whole person, expressed in His eyes—2 Tim. 4:22; Rom. 8:16; 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 2:10, 13; Exo. 33:11a, 14-17; 1 Cor. 14:24-25; cf. Rev. 5:6.
- C. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, **we must be under the throne of God**, the **ruling of God**—22:1, 3:
 1. Sin is lawlessness, a dethronement of God; **we need to dethrone ourselves, humble ourselves**, to live in our spirit, coordinate with the saints for God's move, and maintain a "clear sky" in our Christian life and church life in order to be filled with God's ruling presence of reigning grace—1 John 3:4; Ezek. 1:13-16, 22, 26; Rom. 5:21; Rev. 4:1-3; 22:1; cf. 1 Kings 10:18.
 2. To reach this point means that in everything **we allow God to have the preeminence and are completely submissive to His authority** and administration so that He can fulfill His eternal purpose in us, through us, and with us—Rom. 5:17; Matt. 8:9; Rom. 14:17; cf. Num. 17:8.
- D. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ, **we must have the flow and supply of life**—Rev. 22:1-2; Hymns, #509:
 1. The flowing river of life and the edible tree of life should be the outstanding features of our Christian life and church life for the enjoyment of God as our real Eden, our pleasure, entertainment, and joy—Gen. 2:8-10; Psa. 36:8-9; 43:4a; Neh. 8:10.

2. To **drink one Spirit** is **to be mingled with the Spirit** as the oneness of the one Body; this **requires us to call on the Lord continually and draw water with joy from Him as the fountain of living water**—1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:3-4a; Isa. 12:3-4; Jer. 2:13; John 4:10, 14; 7:37-39; Rev. 22:17.
3. To **eat the tree of life**, that is, **to enjoy Christ as our life supply**, should be the primary matter in the church life; to enjoy Christ **requires us to love Him with the first love; loving the Lord, enjoying the Lord, and being the testimony of the Lord go together**— 2:4, 7; 22:14.
- E. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem **to build up Zion** as the reality of the Body of Christ, **we must be full of the light of life**—21:11, 23; 22:5; Luke 11:33-36:
1. The light of the New Jerusalem is God as the illuminating glory shining out through Christ the Redeemer as the **lamp**, and the entire holy city is the **diffuser** of the divine light; today this diffuser to spread the divine light is the Body of Christ—Rev. 21:23-24a; 22:1, 5; 21:11; Eph. 5:8-9.
 2. **Light is the presence of God**; we enjoy Christ as our God-allotted portion in the light to deliver us out of the authority of darkness, the kingdom of Satan, and to transfer us into the kingdom of the Son of God's love—Col. 1:12-13; Acts 26:18; Rom. 13:11-14; cf. Mark 9:2-8.
 3. The light of God is in the sanctuary, God's dwelling place, which is our spirit (Eph. 2:22) and the church (1 Tim. 3:15); in our spirit and in the church we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems (Psa. 73:16-17, 22-26).

DAY 5

- F. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem **to build up Zion** as the reality of the Body of Christ, **we must partake of God the Father in His divine nature**, typified by the gold as the base of the city—2 Pet. 1:4; Rev. 21:21b:
1. The **one street** of pure **gold** signifies that when we live and work according to the divine life flowing in the divine nature, we never "get lost," and we are pure, simple, and uncomplicated—22:1; 2 Cor. 11:2-3.
 2. The divine nature is what God is; we must exercise our spirit to enjoy God as Spirit (the nature of God's person), and we must **remain in the divine fellowship** to enjoy God as love (the nature of God's essence) and as light (the nature of God's expression)—John 4:24; 1 John 4:8; 1:5, 3.

DAY 6

- G. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem **to build up Zion** as the reality of the Body of Christ, **we must experience God the Son in His death and resurrection**, typified by the pearl gates—Rev. 21:21a:
1. **Pearls** signify the issue of Christ's **secretion** in two aspects: His **redeeming** and **life-releasing** death and His life-dispensing resurrection—John 12:24; 19:34; cf. Zech. 13:1; Jer. 2:13.
 2. We **must experience the death of Christ by the power of Christ's resurrection** so that we may be **conformed** to His death and to the image of the firstborn Son of God— Phil. 3:10; 1:19; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 4:7-13.
- H. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem **to build up Zion** as the reality of the Body of Christ, **we must experience God the Spirit in His transforming work**, typified by the jasper wall with its foundations of precious stones—Rev. 21:18-20:
1. By our growth in the divine life in Christ as the living stone, we are **transformed** into precious stones to have the same appearance as God—1 Pet. 2:4; 1 Cor. 3:12a; Rev. 21:10-11; 4:3; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2.
 2. The **wall** functions to **separate**, to **sanctify**, the city unto God from all things other than God, thus making the city the holy city; the wall also functions to **protect** the interests of the riches of God's divinity on the earth and the attainments of His consummation—Rev. 21:2a, 10b; cf. John 17:17.
- I. **To live out and work out** the New Jerusalem **to build up Zion** as the reality of the Body of Christ **requires spiritual warfare**; at the time of Nehemiah, "those who built the wall and those who carried burdens took the loads with one hand doing the work and with the other holding a weapon"—Neh. 4:17:
1. There are three aspects of the **attack of the enemy**: the first aspect is the enemy's **mocking** (2:10; 4:2-3); the second aspect is for the enemy to **set up plots** through the destroyers of the divine building asking for meetings and discussions (6:2); the third aspect is to **cause us to be** discouraged, weakened, spiritually sick, and in discord (4:10-12).
 2. As a person who loved God, Nehemiah prayed to God to contact Him in fellowship; for the rebuilding of the wall, Nehemiah stood on God's word, prayed according to it, and was aggressive to take action in a properly aggressive way in resurrection—1:1-11; 2:4; 4:4-9; 13:1-30.
 3. We need to **stand against the stratagems of the devil** by fighting the battle in the Body with **fighting prayers**, praying at every time in spirit to **put on** the whole armor of God to build up the Body of Christ as the house of God for the glory of God and as the kingdom of God for the dominion of God for the complete fulfillment of the economy of God—Eph. 6:10-20.

The New Jerusalem is not only a composition but also a constitution of God and man. God has been constituted into man, and man has been constituted into Him. God dwells in man, and man dwells in Him. God and man coinhere; that is, they mutually indwell each other. Eventually, the New Jerusalem is the mingling of God and man. In the whole universe there will be a big cube, the New Jerusalem, which is the mingling of divinity with humanity. (The Overcomer, chapter 6, Section 4)