

Message Three

The Recovery of the Subjective Truths in the Holy Scriptures

Scripture Reading: John 14:6; 17:17; 18:37; 1 John 1:5-6, 8

- I. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the divine truths as revealed in the Holy Scriptures—John 8:32; 17:17; 18:37:**
 - A. Truth is the shining of light, the expression of the divine light—8:12, 32; 18:37; 1 John 1:5-6.
 - B. In the New Testament *truth* means “reality,” denoting the real things revealed in the Word, which are mainly Christ as the embodiment of God and the church as the Body of Christ—Col. 2:9; Eph. 1:22-23.
 - C. The truths as revealed in the Scriptures have been lost, missed, misunderstood, misinterpreted, and wrongly applied throughout the ages; hence, there is the need of the Lord's recovery—John 8:32; 17:17.
- II. We need to have the truth wrought into us and constituted into our being; to be constituted with the truth is to have the intrinsic element of the divine revelation wrought into us to become our constituent, our intrinsic being, our organic constitution—1 John 1:8; 2:4; 2 John 1-2; 3 John 3-4.**
- III. The kind of church we build up depends on the kind of truth we teach; thus, there is a desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church to exist, and to build up the church—1 Tim. 3:15.**
- IV. Life and truth are Christ Himself—John 14:6:**
 - A. Truth is the outward definition and explanation, and life is the inward and intrinsic element.
 - B. If we do not understand the truth, we will have no way to enjoy Christ as our life—Col. 1:5-6; 3:4:
 1. The experience of Christ as life is contained in Christ as the truth—John 14:6.
 2. In order to experience and enjoy Christ as life, we need to know the truth—8:32.
- V. The Lord desires to recover the subjective truths in the Holy Scriptures—the subjective aspect of the truth concerning the Triune God and the church—1:14; 14:16-20; 1 Tim. 6:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:22; 3:15-16:**
 - A. The truths in the Holy Scriptures are always of two aspects—the objective aspect and the subjective aspect—Rom. 8:34, 10; Col. 3:1; 1:27:
 1. The objective doctrines are for the subjective truths, and the subjective truths are for the producing of the church—2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4, 7-9a.
 2. In the Lord's recovery we want both the objective doctrines and the subjective experiences—John 8:32; 17:17; Eph. 1:13; 3:17a; Col. 1:5, 27.
 - B. The Gospel of John—a book on the subjective truths—reveals that we should have subjective experiences of Christ—4:14; 6:57; 20:22:

1. The Word became flesh so that the Lord might work Himself into us—1:14; 14:16-17.
 2. Christ became the living water so that we may drink Him, the bread of life so that we may eat Him, and the breath of life so that we may breathe Him—4:10, 14; 6:32-33, 35, 51, 54-57; 20:22.
 3. Christ is the vine, and we are the branches—15:1, 4-5:
 - a. The life of the vine is the life of the branches, the substance of the vine is the substance of the branches, and the nature of the vine is the nature of the branches.
 - b. In life, nature, substance, and essence the branches are exactly the same as the vine.
 4. The issue of our receiving the Lord into us is that we become constituents of the church—12:24; 20:17; 15:4-5; 3:29-30a.
- C. The subjective truths are linked to the Spirit and life and are constituted with Spirit and life—Rom. 8:2; 2 Cor. 3:6:
1. The Spirit and life are the substance of the subjective truths; thus, without the Spirit and life we do not have any subjective truths.
 2. When we live by the Spirit and life, we have the experience of the subjective truths, and this issues in the church life—Rom. 8:2, 4; 16:1.
- D. The Lord's recovery is to recover the subjective experience of Christ for the practice of the church life—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; 1:2:
1. The practical church life is an issue of our experience of the subjective truths; when we experience the subjective truths, the church is spontaneously produced—Rom. 8:10-11; 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5; 1 Cor. 1:9, 30; 15:45b; 6:17; 1:2; 12:27.
 2. The church, which is the issue of our subjective experience of Christ, is Christ constituted into His believers—Eph. 3:17a.
 3. The subjective experience of Christ is actually Christ Himself entering into us to be our life and the constituent of our being—Col. 3:4, 10-11.
 4. The Christ who died and resurrected has been wrought into us to produce the church, which is His Body—1:27, 18; 2:19; 3:15.
 5. Christ in Himself is the Head, and Christ constituted into us is the Body—Eph. 1:22-23; 3:17a; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18, 27; 3:4; 2:19; 3:15.
- E. The subjective truths concerning the Triune God and the church as the Body of Christ have been buried, but in the Lord's recovery they have been resurrected to become recovered, resurrected truths—John 17:17; 18:37.