

## **RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION IN THE CHURCH LIFE**

Message Three

### **Seeing the Children's Need for Redemption, the Source of Wickedness and the Way of Restriction, and Revering God for a Proper Human Life**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:10; 3:9; Rev. 21:2; 1 Pet. 1:17-18; Rom. 6:4-6; Gal. 2:20;  
1 Pet. 2:17; Prov. 1:7; 9:10; 3:5-8, 9-10

#### **XI. God's economy is that God became man so that man may become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead to produce the organism of the Triune God, the Body of Christ, which consummates the New Jerusalem—Eph. 1:10; 3:9; Rev. 21:2, 10:**

- A. A great part of God's economy is His redemption; redemption indicates that something is wrong, requiring a rescue and a remedy—Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14:
  - 1. Redemption is needed because after God created man for the fulfillment of His economy, the subtle one, Satan, came in to seduce man from the line of God's economy to sin—1 Pet. 1:18-19.
  - 2. Man fell into sin, and sin as the sinful nature of Satan was injected by Satan into man's nature; as a result, the God-created man became sin, poisoned by Satan—Rom. 7:8, 11, 17, 20.
- B. The Bible shows us that in God's redemption the first part is to terminate, to destroy, the fallen old man—Rom. 6:4-5; Gal. 2:20.
- C. The second part is to rescue what was created by God, the God-created humanity; something remains of the humanity created by God, and God is not willing to give it up but will maintain it and bring it back to Himself.
- D. In the third part of His redemption, God uplifts the redeemed God-created humanity; this means that God uplifted the redeemed humanity by dispensing Himself into it—Eph. 4:24:
  - 1. To bring back the lost God-created man is actually to resurrect the God-created man; in resurrection God used His own life, nature, and element as the substance to uplift the redeemed created man—2:5-6.
  - 2. God's intention is no longer with the old man; in the sight of God, the old man has been finished, terminated, and thus he no longer exists—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20.

#### **XII. We need to see clearly the source of wickedness and the way of restriction revealed in Romans—1:18-32; 2:1-16:**

- A. Whether we are good or bad, religious or non-religious, we are under God's condemnation; we need to see the source of evil, the source of wickedness and due to this source mankind is evil—3:9-20.
  - 1. The first element in the source of wickedness is holding down the truth in unrighteousness; there is reality in this universe, and the prime reality is God Himself—1:18.
  - 2. Although mankind knew there was God, they tested and tried Him, eventually deciding not to hold Him in their full knowledge; they disapproved of holding God in their full knowledge—1:28.
  - 3. In the ancient times man knew God, but did not glorify Him as God; neither did they thank Him, worship Him, or serve Him; refusing to glorify God, thank God, worship God, and serve God is a major aspect of the source of wickedness—1:21, 25.

4. Then mankind exchanged God; it is terrible to exchange God, for God is the glory and the reality of the universe; to exchange God means to give Him up for something else (idols)—1:23, 25.
- B. There is a way to restrict this wickedness and we need to see the way of restriction; all of us, especially the young people, need to pay our full attention to this way of restriction:
1. The first item in the way of restriction is knowing God by His creation; the invisible things of God, His eternal power and divine nature, can be apprehended by His creation—1:19-20.
  2. We must hold the reality of God in righteousness, approving of keeping God in our full knowledge; we need to glorify, thank, worship, and serve Him—1:18, 21, 25, 28.
  3. We need to do things according to our nature; as human beings, we have a nature which God created good, and we need to act according to it—2:14-15.
  4. Along with our good nature, we also have a conscience; the conscience is a wonderful entity, and we should listen to it—2:15.
  5. In addition to our nature and our conscience, we have the reasonings in our mind; we need to take care of our nature, our conscience, and the reasonings within us—2:15.

**XIII. In the book of Proverbs we see the principles for man to live a proper human life; the first principle for man to live a proper human life is revering God; we should not only worship God but also revere Him—cf. Isa. 6:1-7; 26:10; 1 Kings 22:19; Dan. 7:9; Rev. 1:13-17:**

- A. To revere God is to consider and regard Him in everything, never forgetting that He is the wonderful God who has created us—John 1:3; Heb. 1:2:
1. Revering God stops us from doing evil—Exo. 20:20.
  2. Revering God also causes us to be touched by the sufferings of others and to show mercy and compassion to them.
- B. To revere God is to fear God—1 Pet. 2:17; cf. Rom. 3:18; Psa. 36:1:
1. The fear of God is a holy fear, a healthy, serious caution that leads us to behave holily—1 Pet. 1:17; 2:17; 3:2, 16; 2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:28-29.
  2. The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge—Prov. 1:7; 9:10; 15:33a.
  3. The fear of Jehovah is a fountain of life—14:26-27.
- C. To revere God is to trust in Him—3:5-8; Psa. 37:3-5; cf. 22:9.
- D. To revere God means that we honor God—Prov. 3:9-10.