

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message Four

**Entering the Church Life as Today's "Ark"  
according to the Lord's Present Revelation**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26; Acts 1:8; Rev. 1:2, 11-12; Gen. 6:11-14; 1 Pet. 3:20; Phil. 2:12-16;  
Acts 2:40; Gal. 1:4; Rev. 3:18; Matt. 25:9; Prov. 23:23; Rev. 11:15; 1 Cor. 12:12; Acts 8:1; 13:1;  
Rev. 19:7; 22:7

- I. The purpose of God's salvation is not only that man be saved but also that he would be a testimony of God; the Bible records that all the saved ones throughout the ages were not only for their salvation but for God's testimony—Gen. 1:26; Acts 1:8; Rev. 1:2.**
- II. At the time of Noah the generation was degraded, but God came in and called Noah to build an ark; the ark not only saved Noah from God's judgment and eternal perdition; even more, it saved him out of that degraded, perverted generation and ushered him into a new age in order to carry out God's eternal plan, His testimony, on the earth—Gen. 6:11-14; 1 Pet. 3:20:**
  - A. At Noah's time, besides Noah and his family, there must have been a number of others who believed in God; although they were saved from eternal perdition, they were not saved from their perverted generation and were not ushered into the new age—Phil. 2:15-16.
  - B. Many Christians have been saved from eternal perdition, but not many have entered into the ark to be saved from today's crooked generation and thus follow the course of today's present age—Acts 2:40; Gal. 1:4.
  - C. When Noah went into the ark, Jehovah shut the door—this kind of salvation may have seemed like a prison; in one sense, Noah was saved and rescued, but in another sense, he was imprisoned.
  - D. After the flood, Noah came out of the ark with his whole family and entered into a new age; this shows the kind of salvation Noah secured and enjoyed—cf. Gen. 8:16, 18.
  - E. We need not only to preach the individual Christ but also to build the corporate Christ, the church, which is today's ark; through this corporate Christ we are saved from the crooked and perverted generation—cf. Acts 8:35; 1 Cor. 12:12:
    1. While the apostles were preaching the individual Christ, they were building up the corporate Christ, the ark in which they will enjoy God's full salvation—Acts 8:1; 13:1; cf. 8:4-5, 35; 13:1; 14:23.
    2. We should be faithful to do the same thing—preaching the gospel and building the ark, preaching Christ and building Christ—cf. 1 Cor. 12:12; 14:4-5, 12, 26.
  - F. When this ark is built up, the Lord Jesus will return—Rev. 19:7; 22:7, 12, 20:
    1. The Lord has not come back yet because He is still waiting for the ark to be built—Matt. 16:18, 27.
    2. When the testimony of the church in the Lord's recovery is matured, the Lord Jesus will return—Rev. 19:7; 22:7.
- III. To be in the church life practically, we need to pay the price to come into the local church—3:18; Matt. 25:9:**
  - A. Regardless of how good a Christian someone may be, as long as he is not in the local churches, he is not the church practically; he is a member of the Body of Christ, but he is not in the practical church life—cf. Acts 8:1; 13:1.

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- B. There is only one thing that can fully satisfy God and rescue people from the crooked generation, and that is to build the ark, the proper church life.
- C. This is to take the way of the Lord's up-to-date revelation; we need to be captured by seeing this revelation and declare, "This is it! Let us take this way at any cost"—Acts 26:18.

**FOCUS:** *We need to see our desperate need to enter into the practical church life and be built into the church as today's ark to be rescued out of the present evil age, just as Noah was in his age. We are part of the great family of Noah to end this age. The church life is a family life, the great family of the Lord's recovery all over this earth.*