

**THE LIVING AND EXERCISE OF GOD-MEN
FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF
THE GOAL OF GOD'S ECONOMY TO GAIN
HIS TESTIMONY IN THE CHURCH**

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**OUTLINE FOR MESSAGE THREE:
THE GOD-MAN EXERCISE REQUIRED
IN THE CHURCH LIFE IN ORDER TO
ARRIVE AT THE GOAL OF GOD'S ECONOMY**

- I. In order to arrive at the goal of God's economy, faithful stewards are needed, those who are exercised to minister to the saints the healthy words of God's New Testament economy as the sweet words that contain and convey the riches of Christ (1 Cor. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 1:13; 1 Tim. 4:6).**
 - A. The key to the divine dispensing is an exercised spirit, which is built up over time as we force ourselves into a strong habit of fanning our spirit into flame by rejoicing in the Lord, praying for the Lord's interests, and giving thanks for all His divine arrangements (1 Tim. 4:7-8; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Thes. 5:16-18).
 - B. God-Men who are exercised with genuine New Testament ministry stir up others' love for the Lord Jesus as the lovely Bridegroom and strengthen them to follow Christ in the fellowship of His sufferings for the sake of His Body (2 Cor. 11:2-3; 2 Tim. 3:12; 4:16-18).

II. Ministering as the life- and truth-dispensing teachers (2 Tim. 2:2)

- A. Good ministers of Christ Jesus with a good deposit are needed to function as teachers to dispense the divine life in the humanity of Jesus for the cherishing of the saints and the divine truths in the divinity of Christ for the nourishing of the saints (Eph. 4:11; 5:29).
- B. Teachers should shepherd the flock of God by declaring all the counsel of God, by protecting the church from the destroyers of God's building, by mingling the saints with the Triune God, and by binding them together in oneness (Acts 20:27-30; Eph. 4:14; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; Rom. 16:17).
- C. Healthy teachers should not only hold a pattern of healthy words and guard their good deposit, but also commit what they have received to faithful men who will be competent to teach others also (2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2).

III. Warring as the priestly-serving good soldiers of Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 2:3-4)

- A. Good soldiers of Christ Jesus must suffer evil in their warfare and cannot be entangled with the affairs of this life so that they may please the One who enlisted them.
- B. This ministry of spiritual warfare is a priestly military service like that of the children of Israel in the book of Numbers (1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 4:7).

- C. Good soldiers must be vigilant to fight the battle against death by laying hold on the eternal life in order to reign in life, and they must fight the good fight for the Lord's interests on the earth by warring against distracting, different teachings which are apart from God's economy in faith (1 Cor. 15:26; Rom. 5:17; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1:3-4).

IV. Running as the Christ-pursuing athletes in the Christian race (2 Tim. 2:5)

- A. For the sake of the Lord's testimony and in encouragement to other saints, we must run as athletes in the Christian race to pursue Christ until we finish our course and fully accomplish our ministry (1 Cor. 9:24-25).
- B. We must run to lay hold of an incorruptible crown (an incentive to overcoming saints) by exercising self-control, by looking away to Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, and by pursuing righteousness, faith, love, and peace in the normal church life with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (1 Cor. 9:25-27; Heb. 12:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:22).

V. Sowing and watering as the fellow-working farmers on God's farm (2 Tim. 2:6)

- A. Fellow workers work together with God on His farm, the church, by an all-fitting life to sow the seed of life into others and to water them by the Spirit of life (1 Cor. 3:6, 9).

- B. In our contact with the saints we should have only one motive—to minister Christ to them so that they may grow in the Lord. Then God will send His Word as the rain and snow that water His people to sanctify, transform, and conform them to His image for the building up of the Body (Isa. 55:10-11; Eph. 4:15-16).

VI. Laboring as the straight-word-cutting workmen in God's house (2 Tim. 2:15)

- A. The Lord needs some to serve as workmen in His house to cut straight the Word of the truth by rightly unfolding the Word of God in its various parts without distortion.
- B. Contentions of words, profane and vain babblings, and foolish questionings arising from untrained minds are used by the devil in the downward current among the churches to beget contentions, to ruin the hearers, to promote ungodliness, and to overthrow people's faith. Hence there is the need of the Word of the truth, rightly unfolded, to enlighten the darkened people, to inoculate against the poison, to swallow up death, and to bring the distracted back to the proper track.

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