

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

**By Titus Chu**

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

Many, if they sought to function immediately as stewards in the church life, would certainly mess things up. If they sought to teach, they would not make much sense. If they said, "I will be a soldier," that might be all right, although they might be martyred earlier than necessary! The exercise of a proper steward involves being a teacher, and to be a proper teacher, you need to exercise as a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. Such a teacher is a true workman who is able to cut straight the word of the truth. Therefore, a workman is a teacher, and a teacher is a workman.

**ASPIRING TO THE STEWARDSHIP**

It is sad that so many know so much after being among us for so long, and yet they have so little ability to teach others. If you are neither a soldier nor an athlete nor a farmer, then you surely cannot be a workman who can adequately teach. Therefore, if you are young, you should aspire to be such a steward of God's New Testament economy. Even the older ones need to pray, "Lord, I long to be in the reality of these things. I am not yet, but give me five years, Lord, and I shall be a healthy steward."

In 1 Corinthians 4:2, Paul says the apostles are stewards of the mysteries of God. How do you know whether or not you are a steward? You are a steward when you are regulated and

constituted by God's revelation. You are in the mysteries of God. You know who this God is and what He has accomplished. You know how He is operating. These things are not taught in any kind of school; they are divinely unveiled.

### **BEING FAITHFUL TO THE REVELATION**

In my Christian life, the most difficult thing has been to remain faithful to all that the Lord has revealed. Because of the world whether sinful, material, or religious - Christians are often distracted from what God has revealed. The sinful world may seldom preoccupy the believers, but the material world often does. Many are drawn away to matters of career or to such things as entertainment. The most difficult thing for the Lord's lover to overcome, however, is the religious aspect of the world. Religion causes many to lose their faithfulness to what the Lord has unveiled to them.

Yet, to be a proper steward, one must be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). This is not easy. It is too tempting to compromise in various ways and to forget about the interests of Christ and Christ alone. In order to arrive at the goal of God's economy, however, faithful stewards are needed, and the more, the better.

What is a proper steward? It is one who is able to minister the healthy words of God's economy. The healthy words are the sweet words that contain and convey the riches of Christ. In the church life, we need such sweet, healthy words. The more you have seen something of God and His economy and the more you are constituted with what you have seen, the more you will be able to operate as a steward of God to convey such words to others. A real steward will not give you anything but the riches of Christ. I long after this. I hope that in meeting after meeting, brother after brother and sister after sister in the church life will begin to learn to participate in the exercise of such a stewardship.

### **HAVING AN EXERCISED SPIRIT**

The key to the divine dispensing is an exercised spirit. In order to build up such a spirit, you must exercise your spirit again and again. When things are pleasant, you must learn to thank the Lord, and when things are difficult, you must learn to tell the Lord, "Amen." You should make a joyful noise when things are joyful, and be able to sigh before the Lord when things are heavy. If you exercise your spirit in this way over time, moment by moment, you will eventually have a spirit that is able to work with you.

We should pray for the church, pray for the testimony of the Body of Christ, and pray for the Lord's interests. We should thank Him for His divine arrangement in all the things that happen to us in our life. Normally, we get upset by some things and are happy about other things. But can we learn to give thanks for all the things the Lord has sovereignly arranged for us? This is a secret for having an exercised spirit.

From one angle, the Lord produced the church through His death and resurrection. From another angle, however, He is still building the church through His many stewards, who are participating in His sufferings. What are the sufferings of Christ that produce the building up of the church? Suppose you have many plans for your life. You have chosen a career path and have decided to have children, and you have even planned your retirement. The Lord never had such a life. When do you participate in the sufferings of Christ? It is when you carry the Lord's burden to see a certain brother in Zion, built up in the church life. Your life is no longer yours, dominated by your own plans and desires. Instead, your life is overruled by God's economy. When God's economy dominates your being, you live a suffering life.

### **THE DEPOSIT BECOMING YOUR COMMITMENT**

If you desire to serve the saints as a teacher, you must first have a good deposit. Then you must dispense, on the one hand, the divine life in the humanity of Jesus for the cherishing of the saints, and on the other hand, the divine truth in the divinity of Christ for their nourishment. The deposit that you receive from the Lord becomes your commitment. Humanly speaking, there is something within us that we don't even know about until we become parents. This "deposit" begins to operate as our commitment when we raise our children. It is the same in the spiritual life. Spiritually, God has granted each one of us a deposit. This deposit has been committed to us not just for ourselves, but also for those who become our spiritual children.

The day you said, "Lord, I love You," you received a divine deposit. As you grow, your development also becomes a part of your deposit. Those who love the Lord accumulate many experiences of Christ over time. (A mere church-goer does not build up such a deposit.) After you have become rich in Christ, however, you need to become a good teacher.

### **DISPENSING THE DIVINE RICHES IN THE HUMANITY OF JESUS**

How does one dispense to the saints the divine riches from the divine deposit he has accumulated? You come to others exercising the humanity of Jesus. In this way you cherish the saints. How can one exercise the humanity of Jesus? Only by the divine attributes. The more you experience God, the more you are able to come to others with a proper humanity. The cherishing of one another in the church life is carried out by the humanity of Jesus lived out in the saints. Instead of intolerance, in the church life there should be such cherishing.

Suppose someone says, “In this is a household you are free to make mistakes. All the saints love you.” Isn’t this a cherishing word? It is not merely something that comes from being a good human being. This cherishing humanity comes from the divine life, which is Christ in you, manifested through your human living. Such a living produces the cherishing. How much we need to cherish one another in the church life! Many saints are very busy in the church life, but if you talk with them you will find they are very lonely because of a lack of cherishing.

Simply cherishing is not enough, though. As you cherish the saints, you must also minister nourishment to them. This nourishment comes with the divine truth as you exercise in the divinity of Christ. The saints do not need to be taught what is right or wrong; they need to be nourished. Someone needs to know how to go to the saints to read the Bible or some ministry material with them. A teacher is not someone who gives messages, but someone who nourishes.

However, this may not be in our thought. We may think, “I love the Lord, I give myself to the Lord, I make all the meetings, and I do what the elders say I should do.” This is not sufficient. We must learn to commit what we have heard to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2) . But because we are primarily selfish in our outlook, we often do not see this. We want our sins to be forgiven. We want to grow for our own healthiness and reward. What we have to grow into, however, is the ability to teach others also. To whatever degree we have received, we should commit to others.

## ENTANGLEMENTS

We are easily entangled in the world, particularly the material world and especially the religious world. Brother Lee once told the saints that they should be either a job-dropping full-timer or a money-making full-timer. Some took this to mean they could make a lot of money. They didn't realize that, if the job-dropping full-timers received a certain amount, then the money-making full-timers should use the same amount for their own living. Are we ready to give up everything for Christ? Oh, the material world is much more powerful than the sinful world! And the religious world is much more powerful than either the sinful or the material world, for it appeals to something so deep within us. We must not become entangled with anything that is not Christ.

What is it to teach differently? According to 1 Timothy 1 :3, to teach differently is to teach myths and unending genealogies. We can occupy ourselves with superstitions and long stories about people we know and things we have passed through. Also, to teach the law is to teach differently. Once people are under law, they no longer go to Christ. Once people hold to a different teaching, they no longer hold to Christ. Therefore, we must be buoyant to hold on to the eternal life. We must reign in life over every situation. We have to be always before the Lord, saying, "Lord, what do You say? How would You lead?" Different teaching is vain talk that deviates from the apostles' teaching, which is centered upon Christ. The apostles' teaching is centered upon God's economy, which involves Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ.

### **CONTENDING AND LABORING FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE SAINTS**

If we wish to become able stewards, we must contend lawfully as athletes. Once you are an athlete, every part of your life is regulated with your goal in view. If this is not so, then you are not an athlete. Spiritually it is the same. If you simply attempt to enjoy the Lord like an overweight American eating french fries, you will end up with no spiritual strength or stamina. We have to discipline ourselves to gain Christ.

To be able to commit a spiritual deposit to others, you also have to labor as a farmer on God's farm. To do this, you need an all-fitting life. In other words, you have to be able to fit in with all kinds of people, regardless of their spiritual condition. If you can do this, you will bear fruit, because you will know how to sow the seed and water others. This should be your motive: to minister Christ to others so that they may grow in the Lord. If you sow Christ into others, you will harvest Christ. God will send His rain, and eventually you will see organic salvation being produced in others for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Eventually if you are such a person, laboring as a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer, you will become a good workman, able to cut straight the Word. To cut straight the Word, according to Brother Lee, is to rightly unfold the Word of God in its various parts or aspects. The Word of God is very rich. It is rich from many different angles, but you need to be able to apply it correctly. If you do not have this ability, you should not try to give a message simply because you think you know what is right.

Due to the atmosphere that promotes ungodliness and decline, there is a need for the word of truth, which produces godliness. Godliness is God manifested in the flesh. Therefore, teachings that take us away from God are unhealthy, and healthy teachings are those that generate God manifested in the flesh. May we all labor to become teachers that eventually are able to cut straight the word of the truth as qualified workmen, so that the saints may receive the dispensing of God's life for their progress and building up in the churches!

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