THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message Two

Being Rescued out of the Present Evil Age and as the "Family of Noah" Building the Corporate Christ as the Ark to Be the Testimony of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Gal. 1:4; Rom. 12:1-2; Acts 2:36-40; Phil. 2:15-16; Matt. 5:14-16; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20; Acts 8:1; Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5; Rev. 2:13; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Eph. 2:21-22

I. In order to be the testimony of Jesus, we must be rescued out of the present evil age, be saved from the crooked and perverted generation, and shine as luminaries in the world—Gal. 1:4; Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15:

A. Jesus Christ "gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father"—Gal. 1:4; Rom. 12:1-2; cf. 6:14-15.

B. To "be saved from this crooked generation" results in an entrance into a new generation—the church—Acts 2:36-40; cf. vv. 42-47.

C. "That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world"—Phil. 2:15; Matt. 5:14-16; cf. 1 John 2:15-17; 5:19.

II. Today there are only two things on earth—the crooked and perverted generation and the testimony of Jesus—Gal. 1:4; Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20:

A. Whoever is not in the church as the testimony of Jesus today is in the crooked generation—Acts 2:40; 8:1.

B. The entire world, with its unbelieving and believing aspects, is condemned by God; God is using His loving and faithful seekers in His recovery to protest against today's trend—Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5; cf. Gen. 6:9; 7:1.

C. The church as the testimony of Jesus is a testimony against today's evil generation—Phil. 2:15-16; Rev. 2:13.

III. If we would be the testimony of Jesus—the corporate expression of Christ in the church life—we need to be today's "family of Noah" building the corporate Christ as the ark that will deliver us from the crooked and perverted generation and usher us into the coming age of the kingdom of God—1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; cf. Gen 6:8—8:3:

A. The ark built by Noah is a type of Christ as the salvation of God's elect; the ark that we are building today is the corporate Christ, the church, as our salvation from today's crooked, perverted, and evil generation—1 Pet. 3:20-21.

B. The church life is today's ark to terminate the present age and bring in God's kingdom—1 Cor. 12:12, 27:

1. The Lord desires the "family of Noah" to build the ark and testify against the trend of the age so that He can use them to terminate the age and bring in the kingdom age—Heb. 11:7; cf. Rev. 11:15:
   a. Noah was saved not only from God's judgment but also from the crooked, perverted, and evil generation—cf. Gen. 6:8—8:3.
   b. The kind of salvation that Noah built, secured, and enjoyed was not a salvation merely from eternal perdition but also out of the crooked, evil generation into a new age—cf. 6:2-3, 8, 11-14; 7:1.
2. What we are building in the church life is the corporate Christ as the ark for our salvation and for the salvation of the ones under our care—1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13.

C. *Salvation* in Philippians 2:12 is the salvation that saves us from the crooked and perverted generation into the church as the corporate Christ whom we are building as today's ark—1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:21-22:
   1. To have the proper church life is not only to stand on the ground of oneness but also to build the ark to save ourselves from the present evil generation and bring us into a new age—cf. 4:16.
   2. We need a salvation that is built not by God directly but by our daily cooperating with His inward operation—Phil. 2:12-13.

FOCUS: *We need to be impressed that in God's eyes there are only two things on the earth: the present evil age and the testimony of Jesus. The young people in the Lord's recovery need to be rescued from the present evil age to be the light of the world and today's "family of Noah" building the ark, the proper church life as building members and as those who carry out the crucial work of building up the church in the last days.*