

The Processed Triune God, His Work, and the Result of His Work

Message 4 - Week 2

Saturday

Eph. 2:10 – Footnote 10¹

1 Tim. 3:15 – Footnotes 15², 15³

The church is the Lord's bride. Before I got married and was dating my wife to be, I was always observing when others were looking at her. Even after marriage, I would observe the more. One time, I won't say who because they are still alive and I don't want Satan to accuse him, but someone in my family made the comment, "She is young. She is like so and so." I responded, "That is the last time you compare her to so and so." After that, he never made a comment like that again. How do we speak about the church? What is in our thoughts? The book of Ephesians speaks of the church as a *poiema* (Eph. 2:10 and footnote 10¹), meaning something that has been made. Therefore, the church not only belongs to the God, it is made and composed of Him. For example a table is made of wood. It doesn't belong to the wood, but rather is made of wood. The church is composed of God. We human beings are the outward structure of God's building, but the intrinsic essence of the church is the Triune God. This is why the church is the building of God.

When the book of Ephesians speaks about the church, we see the Triune God. We need be reverent; we need to respect God's sanctuary, not only being reverent in the sanctuary but toward the sanctuary. The church is worthy of the highest consideration. Even toward the meetings, we need to have such an understanding. For example, for the Lord's Day morning meeting, it would be very good to prepare for this meeting the night before. Many times we come late to the meeting. Why? We spend five minutes searching for our keys; ten minutes pass by and we are scrambling to look for our Bible. The brothers spend five minutes looking for the right tie. The sisters might spend time trying to match their dress with their shoes. Dear saints, take forethought for all the practical matters. Especially those who have little children, have their clothes ready the night before. Have all your shoes, dress and tie ready the night before. With such an exercise, you are entering into the sanctuary the night before. As you are preparing yourselves, you are calling and praying, "Lord, I pray for tomorrow's meeting. Prepare us to enter into your sanctuary." May we regard God's sanctuary with reverence. What a preparation this would be for our entering into His sanctuary.

C. The church is God's house, the dwelling place of God—1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:17

2. The church of God is the house of the living God—1 Tim. 3:15:

a. The house of God is the household of God—Eph. 2:19:

- (1) The dwelling place (the house) and the family (the household) are one entity—a group of called, regenerated ones indwelt by God Himself—1 Pet. 1:3; 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:16.
- (2) Just as Christ is not separate from the members of His Body but dwells in them, the Father is not a separate member of His household but is in all the children—Rom. 8:10; 12:4-5; 2 Cor. 6:16.

God's sanctuary is His heart's desire. He also wants our consecration toward Him. His desire is to have an expression on earth, in which we are the priesthood, on the one hand, to bring man to God and to bring God to man to be His expression. In future messages, we may see the second aspect which is seen in spiritual warfare; He also wants us to represent Him, not only in life and nature, but also in authority. When we are these kind of priests, we are in a position of having authority over all living things.