

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE FOUR GREAT PILLARS IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY**

Message One

The First Great Pillar—the Truth

Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:5-6; John 17:17; 18:37; 1 Tim. 2:4; 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:15

- I. The Lord's recovery is mainly founded upon four pillars: truth, life, the church, and the gospel—Eph. 1:13; 4:18; 5:21-23, 29, 32.**
- II. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the light of the truth—1 John 1:5-6:**
 - A. Truth is the shining of light, the expression of the divine light—John 8:12, 32; 1 John 1:5-6.
 - B. Truth is the issue of light; knowledge without light is doctrine, but knowledge full of light is truth.
 - C. The truth shall set us free; there is light in the truth, and when we receive the light, we are set free—John 8:32.
- III. The truths as revealed in the Scriptures have been lost, missed, misunderstood, misinterpreted, and wrongly applied throughout the ages; hence, there is the need of the Lord's recovery—John 17:17:**
 - A. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the divine truths as revealed in the holy Scriptures, the holy Word of God—2 Tim. 3:16.
 - B. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to recover the reality, life, livingness, strength, power, and impact of the matters revealed in the Scriptures.
 - C. The truth in the recovery is the consummation of the truth of the past nineteen centuries—2 Tim. 2:2.
- IV. We need to have the truth wrought into us and constituted into our being—1 John 1:8; 2:4; 2 John 1-2; 3 John 3-4:**
 - A. To be constituted with the truth is to have the intrinsic element of the divine revelation wrought into us to become our constituent, our intrinsic being, our organic constitution.
 - B. The kind of church we build up depends on the kind of truth we teach; thus, there is a desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church to exist, and to build up the church—1 Tim. 3:15.
 - C. The solid truth that is constituted into us becomes in us a constant and long-term nourishment—4:6.
 - D. If the truth is wrought into us and constituted into our being, we will be able to protect the interests of the riches of God's divinity and the attainments of His consummation—Rev. 21:12a, 17.
 - E. The Lord's word, His truth, is in the Bible, but the Bible needs the proper interpretation—2 Tim. 2:15.
 - F. We have to pay the price to learn the truths—Prov. 23:23.
 - G. The truth is absolute in itself, and we must be absolute for the truth—2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4, 7-8.
 - H. The standard of the Lord's recovery depends upon the standard of the truth we put out; the truths will be the measure and the standard—John 18:37.

Message Two

The Second Great Pillar—Life

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:9; Eph. 4:18; 1 John 1:2; 5:11-12; Rom. 8:2; Rev. 22:1-2

I. Life is mysterious, for life is God Himself—John 1:4; 11:25; 14:6:

- A. Life is God's content and God's flowing out; God's content is God's being, and God's flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us—Eph. 4:18a; Rev. 22:1.
- B. Life is Christ; Christ is the embodiment of God, who is life, and Christ is the expression of God—John 14:6a; Col. 3:4a; 1 John 5:12a; Col. 2:9; John 1:18; Heb. 1:3a.
- C. Life is the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is the reality of Christ and is the Spirit of life who gives life to us—John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:2a; 2 Cor. 3:6b.

II. Life is the first and basic attribute of God—Eph. 4:18:

- A. In the sight of God, only the life of God is life, and only His life can be counted as life; therefore, when the life of God is mentioned in the New Testament, it is treated as if it is the unique life—John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; 14:6a; 1 John 5:20b.
- B. The life of God is eternal; that is, it is uncreated, without beginning or ending, self-existing, ever-existing, and unchanging—John 3:15; 1 John 1:2; 2:25; 5:11.
- C. God's intention in His creation of man was that man would partake of the fruit of the tree of life and thereby receive the eternal life of God—Gen. 2:7, 9.

III. Life is the Triune God dispensed into us and living in us—Rom. 8:2, 10, 6, 11:

- A. God the Father is the source of life—John 5:26.
- B. God the Son is the embodiment of life—1:4; 1 John 5:11-12.
- C. God the Spirit is the flow of life—Rev. 22:1.
- D. The Body is the fullness of life—Eph. 1:22b-23.
- E. The building up of the Body is the growth of life—4:16; Col. 2:19.
- F. The New Jerusalem is the city of life—Rev. 22:1-2, 5.

IV. Life is the way to fulfill God's purpose; God's desire for man to express Him in His image and rule in Him with His dominion can be realized only by God's life—Gen. 1:26; 2:9:

- A. Life conforms the believers to the image of the firstborn Son of God and brings us into glory—Rom. 8:2, 6, 29-30; Col. 3:4.
- B. Resurrection life gives authority—Num. 17:8; Rev. 20:4.

V. The central recovery of the Lord is to recover the divine life within us that God may have His corporate expression—Rom. 8:2, 10, 6, 11; 12:4-5:

- A. The Lord is recovering Christ as life and everything to us and the church as His Body, His fullness—Col. 3:4a; 2:19.
- B. The Lord wants to recover the church back to the beginning—back to the eating of the tree of life for His expression—Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7; 22:14.

Message Three

The Third Great Pillar—the Church

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:18; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:2; 10:32; 1 Tim. 3:15-16

- I. The Lord's recovery is a recovery of the truth and of life so that He may have the church; the truth brings in life, and once we have life, we become the church—John 18:37; 10:10; 1 Cor. 10:32.**
- II. The church is the church of God—1 Cor. 1:2; 10:32; Acts 20:28:**
 - A. The church is not of any person or practice but of God—1 Cor. 1:2; 10:32.
 - B. The expression *the church of God* indicates that the church has the nature of God and that it is constituted with the element of God.
 - C. To say that the church is the church of God means that God is the Owner of the church—Acts 20:28.
- III. The church is the house of the living God—1 Tim. 3:15:**
 - A. The house of God is the household of God—Eph. 2:19.
 - B. Because God is living, the church as the house of God is also living in Him, by Him, and with Him.
 - C. As the house of God, the church is the dwelling place of God—the place where God can have His rest and put His trust—v. 22.
 - D. The church as the house of God is the Father's house, the enlarged, universal, divine-human incorporation—John 14:2; 12:23; 13:31-32.
 - E. The house of the living God is the genuine church in its divine nature and essential character, whereas the great house refers to the deteriorated church in its mixed character—1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:20.
- IV. The church is the supporting pillar and the holding base of the truth—1 Tim. 3:15:**
 - A. *Truth* in 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the real things revealed in the New Testament concerning Christ and the church—Matt. 16:16, 18; Eph. 5:32.
 - B. As the pillar which bears the truth and the base which holds the pillar, the church testifies the truth, the reality, of Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ—Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4.
 - C. A local church should be a building that holds, bears, and testifies the truth, the reality, of Christ and the church.
- V. The church is the corporate manifestation of God in the flesh—1 Tim. 3:15-16:**
 - A. God's manifestation was first in Christ as an individual expression in the flesh—v. 16; Col. 2:9; John 1:1, 14.
 - B. God is manifested in the church as His enlarged corporate expression in the flesh—Eph. 2:19; 1:22-23.
 - C. The great mystery of godliness is that God has become man so that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce a corporate God-man for the manifestation of God in the flesh—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; Eph. 4:24.

Message Four

The Fourth Great Pillar—the Gospel

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1, 14-15; Matt. 24:14; Rom. 1:1-4; 1 Tim. 1:11; Eph. 6:19-20

- I. **Most Christians have a limited, superficial, and mistaken view concerning the gospel, and they preach a gospel that is low and superficial—John 3:16; Eph. 2:8.**
- II. **The gospel includes all the truths in the Bible; the entire Bible is the gospel of God—1:13; Col. 1:5:**
 - A. The truth is the gospel, and the light of the truth is the light of the gospel—Mark 1:1, 14-15; John 8:12, 32.
 - B. The unique commission of the church today is to preach the gospel, the content of which is the truth; our preaching of the truth is the preaching of the high gospel —Mark 16:15; 1 Tim. 2:4.
- III. **The gospel that we preach in the Lord's recovery is the purest, highest, and most complete gospel—Mark 1:1; Rom. 1:1; Matt. 24:14; Eph. 2:17; 6:19-20; 1 Tim. 1:11; 2 Cor. 4:4; John 12:24:**
 - A. The gospel is the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament—Mark 1:1, 14-15.
 - B. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, with all the processes He passed through and all the redemptive work He accomplished is the content of the gospel; hence, the gospel is of Him—Mark 1:1; Rom. 1:1-4.
 - C. The gospel was planned, promised, and accomplished by God, and it is the power of God unto salvation to all believers that they may be reconciled to God and regenerated by Him to be His children; hence, the gospel is the gospel of God—vv. 1, 16.
 - D. The gospel brings the believers into the realm of the divine ruling that they may participate in the blessings of the divine life in the divine kingdom; hence, the gospel is the gospel of the kingdom of God—Matt. 24:14; 1 Thes. 2:12.
 - E. Christ Himself is peace, in His death He made peace, and as the Spirit He came to preach peace as the gospel; hence, the gospel is the gospel of peace—Eph. 2:15, 17; 6:15; Acts 10:36.
 - F. The gospel is the gospel of the glory of the blessed God—1 Tim. 1:11.
 - G. Paul's gospel is centered on the Triune God being our life in order to be one with us and to make us one with Him, that we may be the Body of Christ to express Christ in a corporate way—Rom. 8:11; 12:4-5; Eph. 1:22-23.
 - H. The highest point of God's gospel is that God became a man that man may become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead—Rom. 1:3-4; 8:3, 29:
 1. God became a man through incarnation and then passed through human living, death, and resurrection in order to have a mass reproduction of Himself—John 1:14, 29; 12:24.
 2. The one grain—Christ as the first God-man—has produced many grains—the many God-men, and now these many grains are blended as one loaf, which is Christ's Body, His reproduction; this is highest point of the gospel —v. 24; 1 Cor. 10:17.