

# THE ONE NEW MAN

## Message 1

### Church History, the World Situation, and the One New Man

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19,14-16; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11

- I. We need to see the church as the assembly, the household, the Body and the new man—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19,14-16; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11:**<sup>1</sup>
- A. Since the time of the apostles until at least the sixteenth century, the church was going downward; by the sixteenth century the church had fallen to the bottom, into the Dark Ages.
  - B. At this time the Lord came in to start His recovery; He started the recovery from the very base of the biblical truth, justification by faith; Luther saw something of the church, yet he did not see enough.
  - C. A little more than two centuries later Count Zinzendorf, with so many other brothers, the Moravian brothers, saw something more concerning the church.
  - D. One century later, in the early 1800s, the Lord went on from Bohemia to England; the Brethren began to see that the church is the assembly of God's called-out ones—Eph. 1:22; 1 Cor. 1:2.
  - E. Beginning also with the Brethren, the saints began to see that the church is God's household, God's family; the household is a higher aspect of the church than the assembly—Eph. 2:19-22.
  - F. The Brethren also saw that the church, which is the family, the household of God, is the Body of Christ; the Body is a higher aspect of the church than the household; in the household are the "folks," but in the Body are the members—1:23; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:27.
  - G. The church is first the assembly, second the household, third the Body, and finally the new man; in the one book of Ephesians all these points are there—1:22; 2:19; 1:23; 4:4; 2:15; 4:24:
    - 1. From the Body we must go on to see that the church is the new man; the new man is the highest aspect of the church.
    - 2. As the Body of Christ, the church needs Christ as its life; whereas as the new man, the church needs Christ as its person—Col. 3:10-11.
    - 3. In the new man Christ is all the persons; Christ is you and Christ is me; Christ is all and in all; He is all the members of the new man and in all the members.
    - 4. The church in its uttermost aspect is a new man to accomplish God's eternal purpose; God needs a man, a corporate man.
- II. We need to see world history in the light of God's purpose:**<sup>2</sup>
- A. God's intention is to have a man for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose; for God to accomplish His eternal purpose, He needs a man—Gen. 1:26, 28:
    - 1. For this reason God created man in His own image; Man was created for the purpose of expressing God; God could only be expressed in man and through man—v. 26.
    - 2. The Bible is a record of two men, the old man and the new man; the record of the Old Testament is a record of the old man, and the record of the New Testament is the record of the new man.
    - 3. However, not long after man was created, he fell; it was the intention of God's enemy that, through man's fall, man would be divided and scattered—3:1-24; 10:5, 20, 31-32.
    - 4. Around the time of the building up of Babel, mankind was divided according to their families, their genealogies, their languages, their lands, and eventually, according to the nations—10:5, 20, 31.
    - 5. In chapters 10 and 11 of Genesis, Man, as a vessel to contain God, to express God, and to exercise God's dominion was shattered into pieces and was scattered; the entire Old Testament is simply a record of the divided mankind.

6. By the time of Acts 2 the Triune God had passed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension; the God-man Jesus had been enthroned in the heavens to be the Lord of lords.
  7. The church was brought forth not just with one people but with many peoples; in Acts 2:9-11 at least fifteen nationalities speaking at least fifteen dialects were represented.
  8. When the time came for the church to be brought forth, they were all gathered together, and in that gathering, the church was produced; this indicates that what was divided and scattered in the old man was fully recovered in the new man.
  9. Paul saw this vision and wrote the two Epistles to the Ephesians and the Colossians; however, he could not have realized that a part of the globe was still undiscovered.
- B. We need to see the four major events of history:
1. To accomplish His purpose on this earth, God needs to direct the political situation.
  2. The first major event of history in the last two thousand years was the founding and establishment of the Roman Empire; this came into being for the spreading, the propagation, of the gospel.
  3. The second major item of history was the liberation of the imprisoned mentality under Catholicism through the Reformation under Martin Luther and the discovery of the new world; history tells us that these events brought in a great change in man's thinking.
  4. The third great item of history was the defeat of Spain by Britain; Britain became such a widespread power over the world, and this was used by God to spread His gospel not by Catholicism but by the Protestant missionaries to every corner of all the continents, especially to Asia, Africa, and Australasia.
  5. The fourth great item of history—God raising up the United States to be the leading nation and the number one power on the earth—was not for the sake of the United States but was for God's purpose to gain the new man.

### III. We need to see God's sovereignty for the perfection of the new man: <sup>3</sup>

- A. The United States is not a country of race but a country of different peoples "melted" together; this country also has always had the policy to conduct international exchange in science, medicine, mathematics, and many cultural matters; this cultural exchange has done much to bring different nations and different peoples into one understanding; in addition to this, due to modern inventions, transportation and communication have been greatly improved.
- B. Today the situation on the earth has been very much improved and made ready and ripe to have the new man; now is the very time for Him to accomplish His purpose to perfect the new man.
- C. If we see the vision of the new man, all the ordinances, rituals, different opinions, and differences will be gone; such a vision will not only keep us in oneness but also will deliver us and rescue us from all things other than Christ; we need such a vision.
- D. We all have to see where we are; we are at the end time, and this is the most golden time; this is the right time for the Lord's recovery.

### IV. We need to see the oneness of the new man: <sup>4</sup>

- A. The new man is not a new organization or a new "United Nations"; this new man is just Christ—Christ spreading and Christ enlarged—Col. 3:11.
- B. If you are not in Christ, you are through with this new man; if you are not in Christ, you have no share, no part, in this new man; even if you are in Christ, yet you do not live by Christ, you have a problem related to this new man.
- C. Since we have such a Christ as our content, we do not merely need unity.
- D. The new man is not ecumenical; the new man is uniquely one, one with Christ and one in Christ; we all have Christ, and Christ is our oneness.
- E. We are all one only because Christ as the life-giving Spirit is in our spirit; we love Him and we live by Him.

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- <sup>1</sup> All points come from CWWL, 1977, vol. 3, "The One New Man," ch. 1.
- <sup>2</sup> All points come from CWWL, 1977, vol. 3, "The One New Man," ch. 2.
- <sup>3</sup> All points come from CWWL, 1977, vol. 3, "The One New Man," ch. 2.
- <sup>4</sup> All points come from CWWL, 1977, vol. 3, "The One New Man," ch. 3.