

Message Three

Being Saved from the Crooked and Perverted Generation to Be the Corporate Christ as Today's Ark

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:40; 1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13, 15-16; Heb. 11:7; 1 Pet. 3:20-21

I. Today there are only two things on earth—the crooked and perverted generation and the church as the corporate expression of Christ—Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12, 27:

- A. Whoever is not in the church as the corporate expression of Christ today is in the crooked generation—Acts 2:40; 8:1:
 - 1. As long as a believer in Christ is not built up in the church, that one is in the crooked and perverted generation—Eph. 4:15-17.
 - 2. If a believer, a child of God, is not in the church, that one is not in the testimony of Jesus; rather, such a believer is in the crooked and perverted generation of the present evil age—Gal. 1:4; Rev. 1:11, 20; 22:16.
- 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; Gen. 6:9; 7:1.
- C. The church as the corporate expression of Christ is a testimony against today's evil generation—Phil. 1:1; 2:15-16; 4:15; Rev. 2:13:
 - 1. The church is the testimony of Jesus, protesting against the crooked, evil, perverted generation—Acts 2:32-33; 7:51-60.
 - 2. As the testimony of Jesus, we, the church as the corporate expression of Christ stand against the present crooked and perverted generation—Acts 2:32-33.

II. If we would be 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—Gen 6:8—8:3; 1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Pet. 3:20-21:

- 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—vv. 20-21; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27.
- B. The church life is today's ark to terminate the present age and bring in God's kingdom—1:2; 12:12, 27; 1 Thes. 1:1, 9-10:
 - 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; Rev. 11:15:
 - a. Noah was saved not only from God's judgment but also from the crooked, perverted, and evil generation—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—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; 14:26; Phil. 2:12-13.
- C. The salvation in Philippians 2:12 is the salvation that saves us from the crooked and perverted generation; this salvation is the church as the corporate Christ whom we are building as today's ark—1 Cor. 1:2; 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—4:3, 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.
- D. God wants the church, the ark, where we can be saved from today's evil generation—Acts 2:40-47:
1. God wants to save us—through this ark—from the crooked generation and usher us into God's kingdom to fulfill His eternal purpose—Matt. 6:33; 13:43; Luke 12:32; Rev. 11:15.
 2. God cares for whether or not we are in the ark, the proper church life; He wants us to be a part of the corporate Christ, part of the testimony of Jesus—1 Cor. 12:12; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20; 22:16.
- E. We need not only to preach the individual Christ but also to build the corporate Christ, the church, which is today's ark; through this corporate Christ we are saved from the crooked and perverted generation—Acts 8:35; 1 Cor. 12:12:
1. While the apostles were preaching the individual Christ, they were building up the corporate Christ, the ark in which they will enjoy God's full salvation—Acts 8:1, 4-5, 35; 13:1; 14:23.
 2. We should be faithful to do the same thing—preaching the gospel and building the ark, preaching Christ and building Christ—1 Thes. 1:1, 8; 1 Cor. 12:12; 14:4-5, 12, 26.
- F. When this ark is built up, the Lord Jesus will return—Rev. 19:7; 22:7, 12, 20:
1. The Lord has not come back yet because He is still waiting for the ark to be built—Matt. 16:18, 27.
 2. When the testimony of the church in the Lord's recovery is matured, the Lord Jesus will return—Rev. 19:7; 22:7, 12, 20.