

Message Four
Building up the Corporate Christ as Today's Ark

Scripture Reading: Jer. 32:39; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 2:12-13

- I. God's unique work to build up the Body of Christ is typified by Noah's building of the ark, which typifies the building of the corporate Christ, the church as the Body of Christ, with the element of Christ's riches as the building material—Gen. 6:5-22; Matt. 16:18; 24:37-39; 1 Cor. 3:9-12^a; Eph. 3:8-10; 4:12:**
- A. In the Lord's recovery, we should all have one heart and one way to participate in God's unique work to build up the Body of Christ—Jer. 32:39.
 - B. The ark which Noah built signifies the practical and present Christ as God's salvation; thus, to build up the ark is to build up Christ in our experience, which is to work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body of Christ, the corporate Christ—Phil. 2:12-13:
 - 1. To work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body is to follow the pattern of Noah, who built the ark not according to his own imagination but absolutely according to God's divine revelation and divine instructions by faith—Gen. 6:9, 15a; Heb. 11:5-7.
 - 2. In the ark, there was only one window toward the heavens signifying that in the church, God's building, there is only one revelation and one vision through one ministry—Acts 26:19; 2 Cor. 4:1.
 - 3. The three stories of the ark signify the Triune God—Gen. 6:16:
 - a. The Spirit brings us to the Son, and the Son brings us to the Father; when we come to the Father, we are in the third story—Luke 15:4-10, 18-23; Eph. 2:18.
 - b. We need to enter into the deepest and highest intimacy with our Triune God so that He can bring us to the "third story" to show us His mysteries, secrets, and hidden treasures—John 1:14, 16-18; 1 John 1:3, 5; 4:8, 16; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 2:10; Exo. 33:11.
 - c. We need to carry out the one work of the ministry to be constituted with and to minister the processed Triune God into others so that He may build Himself into their being for the building up of the one Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Cor. 6:1a; 1 Cor. 3:6-12a.
 - 4. To work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body is to accumulate the experiences of Christ revealed in Philippians for the building up of the Body of Christ:
 - a. In Philippians 1 salvation is to live Christ for His magnification in any circumstance by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the supply of the Body of Christ—vv. 19-21a.
 - b. In Philippians 2 salvation is to shine forth Christ by holding forth the word of life, doing all things without murmurings and reasonings—vv. 12-16.
 - c. In Philippians 3 salvation is to have Christ as our lived-out righteousness by being fully occupied with pursuing Christ as our goal to have Him as our highest enjoyment—vv. 7-14.

- d. In Philippians 4 salvation is to have a human life filled with Christ as the reality of the attributes of God by enjoying Christ as our secret of sufficiency in our intimate fellowship with Him and doing all things in Him as our dynamo—vv. 5-13.
- 5. To work out our own salvation for the building up of the Body we must be the faithful and prudent slaves as stewards in God's house, those who minister the word of God and Christ as the life supply to the believers in the church and who love the Lord's appearing—Matt. 24:45-51; 2 Tim. 4:8.