

Banners for 2010 Thanksgiving Conference

The Lord's recovery is the recovery of Christ
as our center, reality, life, and everything,
the recovery of the oneness of the Body of Christ,
and the recovery of the function of all the members
of the Body of Christ.

In the divine economy Christ is God's Anointed,
the One who has the preeminence in all things,
the Head and center of all things, the One who fills all in all,
and the portion of the saints.

By the reality of the Spirit,
who is the living reality of the Divine Trinity,
the oneness of the Body of Christ becomes real and living.

Prophesying, speaking Christ into people,
makes you an overcomer, and prophesying
is the function of the overcomers.

Outline of the Messages for the Thanksgiving Conference November 25-28, 2010

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE NEED FOR A FRESH VISION OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Message One

God's Will, Satan's Strategy, and the Lord's Recovery

Scripture Reading: Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:9, 18; 3:4, 10-11; Eph. 4:3-6, 11-12, 16

- Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.
- Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

I. God is a God of purpose, having a will according to His own pleasure—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9-11; Col. 1:9:

- Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.
- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.
- A. God's will is God's wish; God's will is what He wants to do—Eph. 1:9:
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
1. God's good pleasure is of His will and is embodied in His will, so His will comes first—v. 5.
Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
 2. God has made the mystery of His will known to us through His revelation in Christ, that is, through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension—v. 9; 3:9.
Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

3. God works all things according to the counsel of His will; God's will is His intention, and His counsel is His consideration of the way to accomplish His will, or intention—1:11.
 Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- B. Colossians is a book concerning the great, eternal will of God—1:9; 4:12:
- Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.
1. Colossians reveals what God's will is according to His desire and intention in the whole universe, in creation, in redemption, in the coming age, and in eternity.
 2. God's will in Colossians 1:9 is His will regarding His eternal purpose, regarding His economy concerning Christ—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11.
 Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
 Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
 Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
 Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
 3. To have the full knowledge of God's will is to have the revelation of God's plan so that we may know what God plans to do in the universe—Rev. 4:11.
 Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.
- C. The will of God is concentrated in Christ and is for Christ; Christ is everything in the will of God—Col. 1:9:
- Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
1. In verse 9 God's will refers to Christ; the will of God is profound in relation to our knowing, experiencing, and living the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, who is God, man, and the reality of every positive thing in the universe—2:9, 16-17.
 Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
 Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
 Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
 Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
 2. Christ is the preeminent One, the One who has the first place in everything—1:18.
 Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 3. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the centrality and universality, the center and circumference, of God's economy—vv. 15-27; Eph. 1:10:
 Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
 Col 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.
 Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;
 Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 Col 1:19 For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell

- Col 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.
- Col 1:21 And you, though once alienated and enemies in your mind because of your evil works,
- Col 1:22 He now has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and without reproach before Him;
- Col 1:23 If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast and not being moved away from the hope of the gospel, which you heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, of which I Paul became a minister.
- Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;
- Col 1:25 Of which I became a minister according to the stewardship of God, which was given to me for you, to complete the word of God,
- Col 1:26 The mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations but now has been manifested to His saints;
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- a. In God's economy Christ is everything; God wants Christ and Christ alone—the wonderful, preeminent, all-inclusive Christ, who is all in all—Matt. 17:5; Col. 3:10-11.
- Matt 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- b. God's intention in His economy is to work the wonderful, all-inclusive, extensive Christ into our being as our life and our everything so that we may become the corporate expression of the Triune God—1:27; 3:4, 10-11.
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
4. The will of God is that the all-inclusive, extensive Christ be our portion—1:9, 12.
- Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
5. God's will is that we know Christ, experience Christ, enjoy Christ, be saturated with Christ, and have Christ as our person and our life—3:4, 11.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- D. God's will is to have the church as the Body of Christ—1:9, 18; 2:19; 3:15:
- Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
1. The will of God is to obtain a Body for Christ to be His fullness, His expression—Rom. 12:2, 5; Eph. 1:5, 9, 11, 22-23; 4:16:
 - Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
 - Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
 - Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
 - Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
 - Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
 - Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
 - Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 - Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 - a. To live the Body life is to “prove what the will of God is”—Rom. 12:2, 4-5.
 - Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
 - Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
 - Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
 - b. If we are proper members of the Body, acting and functioning in the church life, we will be persons in the will of God—1 Cor. 1:1-2; Eph. 1:1; 5:17; Rom. 12:2, 4-5.
 - 1 Cor 1:1 Paul, a called apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Sosthenes the brother,
 - 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* theirs and ours:
 - Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
 - Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
 - Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
 - Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
 - Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
 2. The church is the Body of Christ, which is an entity constituted with the Triune God and His chosen and redeemed ones—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4-6.
 - Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
 - Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 - Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
 - Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
 - Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
 3. Christ is the Head of the Body, and we are the members of His Body—Col. 1:18a; 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16:
 - Col 1:18a And He is the Head of the Body, the church; ...
 - Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- a. To live in the Body is to live corporately with the members under the Head—v. 15; Col. 2:19.
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- b. To live the Body life, we must be under the Head and take the Head as our life, the principal object, and the center of our whole being—1:18a; 2:19.
- Col 1:18a And He is the Head of the Body, the church; ...
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
4. The Body grows with the growth of God; the growth of the Body depends on the growth of God, the addition of God, the increase of God, within us—v. 19; Eph. 4:16.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

II. Satan, the enemy of God, is exceedingly active in opposing God's will and in working to frustrate God's purpose, and he has a threefold strategy against the church—Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19:

- Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, O Daystar, son of the dawn! How you have been hewn down to earth, You who made nations fall prostrate!
- Isa 14:13 But you, you said in your heart: I will ascend to heaven; Above the stars of God I will exalt my throne. And I will sit upon the mount of assembly In the uttermost parts of the north.
- Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.
- Isa 14:15 But you will be brought down to Sheol, To the uttermost parts of the pit.
- Ezek 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, O you who sealed up perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty,
- Ezek 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, diamond, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald, with gold. The workmanship of your tambourines and your pipes was prepared with you on the day that you were created.
- Ezek 28:14 You were the anointed cherub who covered the Ark; indeed I set you, so that you were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
- Ezek 28:15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.
- Ezek 28:16 By the abundance of your trading they filled your midst with violence, and you sinned. So I cast you out as profane from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
- Ezek 28:17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I cast you to the ground; I presented you before kings that they may look at you.
- Ezek 28:18 By the multitude of your iniquities in the unrighteousness of your trading you have profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I sent forth fire from your midst; it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all those who look at you.
- Ezek 28:19 All who know you among the peoples are astonished at you. You have become a source of terror, and you will be no more forever.
- A. Satan brings in substitutes for Christ—1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3:
- 1 John 2:18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.
- 1 John 2:22 Who is the liar if not he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.
- 1 John 4:3 And every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God; and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming and now is already in the world.

1. These substitutes include philosophy, culture, the law, religion, and gifts—Col. 2:8; 3:10-11; Heb. 8:6; 9:23; 10:5-10; Gal. 3:1-3, 24; 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; 1 Cor. 1:22-23; 12:31.
 - Col 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;
 - Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
 - Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
 - Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry inasmuch as He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted upon better promises.
 - Heb 9:23 It was necessary therefore for the examples of the things in the heavens to be purified by these, but the heavenly things themselves, by better sacrifices than these.
 - Heb 10:5 Therefore, coming into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.
 - Heb 10:6 In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You did not delight.
 - Heb 10:7 Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me) to do Your will, O God."
 - Heb 10:8 Saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You did not desire nor delight in" (which are offered according to the law),
 - Heb 10:9 He then has said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first that He may establish the second,
 - Heb 10:10 By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 - Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was openly portrayed crucified?
 - Gal 3:2 This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?
 - Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
 - Gal 3:24 So then the law has become our child-conductor unto Christ that we might be justified out of faith.
 - Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
 - Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,
 - Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the *faith* of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 - Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
 - 1 Cor 1:22 For indeed Jews require signs and Greeks seek wisdom,
 - 1 Cor 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,
 - 1 Cor 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.
2. The principle of antichrist is first to deny something of what Christ is and then to replace Christ with something else; to be an antichrist is, on the one hand, to be against Christ and, on the other hand, to have something instead of Christ, something that replaces Christ—1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3.
 - 1 John 2:18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.
 - 1 John 2:22 Who is the liar if not he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.
 - 1 John 4:3 And every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God; and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming and now is already in the world.
3. The self is versus Christ and seeks to replace Christ—Matt. 16:16, 23-25; Gal. 2:20.
 - Matt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
 - Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the *faith* of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

B. Satan works to divide the Body of Christ; the sects, denominations, and divisions in the Body wipe out the corporate expression of Christ—1 Cor. 1:10-13a; Gal. 5:19-20.

- 1 Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.
- 1 Cor 1:11 For it has been made clear to me concerning you, my brothers, by those of *the household of* Chloe, that there are strifes among you.
- 1 Cor 1:12 Now I mean this, that each of you says, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ.
- 1 Cor 1:13a Is Christ divided? ...
- Gal 5:19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
- Gal 5:20 Idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects,

C. Satan kills the function of all the members of Christ's Body by the clergy-laity system—the works and the teaching of the Nicolaitans—Rev. 2:6, 15:

- Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- Rev 2:15 In the same way you also have some who hold in like manner the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
1. In Revelation 2:6 and 15 *Nicolaitans* refers to a group of people who esteem themselves higher than the common believers; this is the hierarchy adopted and established by Catholicism and Protestantism.

Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Rev 2:15 In the same way you also have some who hold in like manner the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
 2. The goal of the clergy-laity system is to annul the Body of Christ and to re-place it with a religion—cf. Eph. 4:12-13, 16.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

III. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of Christ as our center, reality, life, and everything, the recovery of the oneness of the Body of Christ, and the recovery of the function of all the members of the Body of Christ—Col. 1:18; 2:19; 3:10-11; Eph. 4:3-6, 12; 1 Cor. 14:26:

- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- 1 Cor 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

- A. God's intention is to have a recovery purely and wholly of the person of Christ—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19:
- Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
- Gal 1:16 To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the *faith* of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
1. God's goal in His economy is that Christ be everything—Col. 3:4, 10-11.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
 2. It is crucial for us to see that God wants nothing but Christ and that in the eyes of God nothing counts except Christ—1:18; 2:9; 3:4, 10-11; Phil. 3:7-10:

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Phil 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God *and* based on faith,

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

 - a. Christ is preeminent in the Triune Godhead (2:9; John 15:26; Col. 1:18b-19; 2:9), in God's old creation (1:15b; Heb. 2:14a), in God's new creation (Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:20; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:20-23), and in God's exaltation (Acts 2:33a; Eph. 1:22b; Phil. 2:9a).

Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

Col 1:18b ... He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Col 1:19 For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,

Col 1:15b ... the Firstborn of all creation,

Heb 2:14a Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, ...

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

1 Cor 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;

- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Acts 2:33a Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, ...
- Eph 1:22b ... and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- Phil 2:9a Therefore also God highly exalted Him ...
- b. Christ is everything to the believers—our God-allotted portion (Col. 1:12; 1 Cor. 1:2), our life (Col. 3:4a; Gal. 2:20a; Phil. 1:20-21a; Gal. 4:19; Col. 2:19b), our hope of glory (1:27), and our necessities and enjoyment (John 8:12; 6:51, 57b; 1 Cor. 10:4; John 20:22; Gal. 3:27; John 15:7a; Col. 2:16-17; Matt. 11:28).
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* theirs and ours:
- Col 3:4a When Christ our life is manifested, ...
- Gal 2:20a I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; ...
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
- Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
- Col 2:19b ... out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; And the bread which I will give is My flesh, *given* for the life of the world.
- John 6:57b ... so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed *them*, and the rock was Christ.
- John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into *them* and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
- Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- John 15:7a If you abide in Me and My words abide in you...
- Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
- c. Christ is the divine provision—God’s power to us (1 Cor. 1:24a) and wisdom to us from God as our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (vv. 24b, 30).
- 1 Cor 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- d. Christ is everything to the church—the Head of the Body (Col. 1:18), the Body of the Head (1 Cor. 12:12), the foundation (3:11), the cornerstone (Eph. 2:20), and all the members of the new man (Col. 3:10-11).
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 3:11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- Eph 2:20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- B. The Lord desires to recover the oneness of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:3-6:
- Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
1. The Lord's recovery is based upon the truth that Christ has only one Body—1:22-23; 4:4, 16.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 2. The Body of Christ is uniquely one universally; since the Body is uniquely one universally, the fellowship of the Body of Christ also is uniquely one universally—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4-6; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 13:14.

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 3. The unique Body of Christ is expressed in many localities as the local churches; the one universal church—the Body of Christ—becomes the many local churches—local expressions of the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:16; Eph. 4:4; Rev. 1:4, 11.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
- C. The Lord wants to recover the function of all the members of the Body of Christ to practice the New Testament economy according to the God-ordained way—Eph. 4:12, 16; 1 Cor. 14:26:
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- 1 Cor 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

1. All the believers are members of Christ, priests of God, branches of Christ, and slaves of the Lord—Rom. 12:4-5; 15:16; 1 Cor. 12:14-22; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.
 - Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
 - Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
 - Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but many.
 - 1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, *it is not that* because of this it is not of the body.
 - 1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, *it is not that* because of this it is not of the body.
 - 1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?
 - 1 Cor 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.
 - 1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?
 - 1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
 - 1 Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
 - 1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
 - 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
2. The gifted persons perfect the saints to do what they, the gifts, do for the organic building up of the Body of Christ by nourishing the saints with the life supply for their growth in life—Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 20:20, 31; 6:4; 1 Cor. 3:2, 6; 1 Pet. 2:2.
 - Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
 - Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
 - Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
 - Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
 - Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
 - Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 - Acts 20:20 How I did not withhold any of those things that are profitable by not declaring *them* to you and by *not* teaching you publicly and from house to house,
 - Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.
 - Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.
 - 1 Cor 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able *to receive it*. But neither yet now are you able,
 - 1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.
 - 1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
3. The Body is built directly by all the members of Christ functioning, each in his own measure—Eph. 4:16.
 - Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.