

## GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CENTRAL WORK OF GOD

### Message One

#### The Unique Goal of the Central Work of God

Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:16-17a

#### **I. God's economy is centered on one thing—God's unique work—John 5:17; 4:34; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10a:**

- A. God's unique work in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17a.
- B. God's economy and goal according to His heart's desire are to build Himself into man and to build man into Him—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a:
  - 1. God desires not mainly to do things for us but to work Himself into our being—Eph. 3:17a.
  - 2. God's intention is to have Christ thoroughly worked into our being; however, in our spiritual seeking we may have no concern about this, caring instead only for our intention—Phil. 2:21.
  - 3. We all need to see that God's desire is to work Himself into us and to reconstitute us with Himself so that we may become His testimony—2 Cor. 5:17, 21; Rev. 1:12, 20.
- C. God's purpose is to work Himself into us, making Himself our inward elements:
  - 1. This purpose is the center of the universe, and apart from this purpose the Christian life is meaningless—Rev. 4:11.
  - 2. The principle in God's work is to gain persons and by gaining them to have a way to go on.
  - 3. The proper priority is not for us to work for God but for God to work Himself into us—Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13.
  - 4. Spiritual progress consists in allowing God to gain ground within us—Col. 2:19; Eph. 3:17a.

#### **II. God's intention in His economy is to build Himself in Christ into our being—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a; John 14:20:**

- A. God desires to work Himself in Christ into us, and everything that Christ is and everything that Christ has accomplished are for this one thing—Phil. 2:13; Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11.
- B. We need God to build Himself in Christ into our humanity, working Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our person—Eph. 3:17a:
  - 1. As a result, we are not simply persons according to God's heart—we are God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead:
    - a. Merely to be a person according to God's heart means nothing, for one may be according to God's heart but still be empty, not having God wrought into his heart.
    - b. God wants those who can say, "I am not just a person according to God's heart. I am God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead."

2. All the steps, great and small, that God takes in our daily life are to fulfill His intention of building Himself in Christ into our being—Rom. 8:28:
  - a. God's work on us is not to improve us outwardly, but to change our life inwardly.
  - b. God's intention is to work Himself into us through everything that happens to us, that He may become our constitution in us.