

OUR COOPERATION WITH GOD'S OPERATION URGENTLY NEEDED TO END THIS AGE

Message One

Gen. 2:5; Phil. 2:12-13; Rev. 3:8; Deut. 30:19; Luke 18:1

- I. God's operation and man's cooperation seen throughout the Bible, and our will being necessary for cooperation:**
- A. In the Old Testament:
 - 1. Rain needing man's working the ground—Gen. 2:5
 - 2. Jordan's dividing needing the priests' toes in the water—Josh. 3:15-16.
 - 3. Jericho's destruction needing Israel's shouting—6:20.
 - B. In the New Testament:
 - 1. The incarnation—Luke 1:27, 35.
 - 2. Dealing with the practices of the body—Rom. 8:13.
 - 3. Working out our salvation—Phil. 2:12-13.
 - C. Other examples:
 - 1. Electric supply needing the switch.
 - 2. Trains needing the tracks.
 - 3. Trucks needing to be filled with fuel.
 - D. This is a principle in God's move, also known as the principle of incarnation:
 - 1. In order to move in His economy, God needs man to cooperate with His move.
 - 2. In order to work with the Lord in the principle of incarnation, we should be willing to pay a price.
 - 3. The Lord paid a price by being incarnated; if we are not willing to pay, we will not be the overcomers.
 - 4. We are the recovered church, but we may not be the overcoming church (cf. Rev. 3:7, 12); for this we need to pay the price of cooperating with Him.
 - E. Our will must be gained more and more by the Lord:
 - 1. He is doing this through our organic union with Him—Rom. 6:5 and footnote 1.
 - 2. As a result, we do have a little power, strength to cooperate with the Lord—Rev. 3:8.
 - 3. We should not live a "pole to pole" Christian life.
 - 4. We need to choose life not just for ourselves but for others—Deut. 30:19 ("your seed").
 - 5. We have not been programmed by God to carry out His economy; we have a free will, which is being renewed all the time.
 - 6. When we freely choose the Lord and His interests, it is a great glory to Him.
 - 7. The Lord is waiting for this cooperation, especially in our prayers for increase:
 - a. Concerning His sons—Isa. 45:11.
 - b. For multiplying like a flock—Ezek. 36:37.
 - c. Not losing heart—Luke 18:1.
 - F. The overcomers exercise their being-renewed will to choose to cooperate with the Lord to overcome Satan—Rev. 12:11.
 - G. In these last days we should not be indifferent regarding the Lord and His interests, but we should choose, day by day, to cooperate with His operation.
 - H. Today God's operation of bringing in the kingdom needs our cooperation of praying, being vitalized, praying more, being grouped, bearing fruit, and fully caring for that fruit.