

Message Five
Daniel—
Overcoming in the Last Days to Turn the Age

Scripture Reading: Dan. 2:28; 9:24-27; Matt. 24:14-15, 32-33

- I. We need a spirit of wisdom and revelation to see “what will happen in the last days” so that we can be prepared to be Christ’s bridal army to turn the age for the glory of God and the kingdom of God—Dan. 2:28; 9:1-27; Gen. 1:26; 1 Cor. 2:9-10; Eph. 1:17; 5:25-27; 6:10-20; Rev. 19:7-9, 13-16.**
- II. In order to be the Lord’s overcomers to bring in the next age, we need to give heed to the prophetic word as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts—2 Pet. 1:19.**
- III. Every “today” that we have is truly the Lord’s grace; therefore, as long as we have today, as long as we still have breath, we should love the Lord and His appearing, await the Lord’s coming, and always take His coming as an encouragement—2 Tim. 4:1, 6-8; Luke 12:16-20.**
- IV. When the Lord comes, He will come secretly as a thief to those who love Him and will steal them away as His treasures to bring them into His presence in the heavens; hence, we need to watch and make ourselves ready to be His bride—Dan. 10:19; Matt. 24:42-44; 25:13; Rev. 19:7; 22:20:**
 - A. We must have an absolute consecration unto God in Christ as the real Nazarite to be His anti-testimony, a testimony against anything that deviates from the testimony of Jesus—Num. 6:1-8; Dan. 1:8; Rev. 2:13.
 - B. We must be reconstituted with the holy Word of God, reading the Bible all the days of our life—1 Tim. 4:6; Col. 3:16; Deut. 17:18-20:
 1. We need to muse on the word, enjoying God’s word as His breath; the Hebrew word for *muse* implies to worship, to converse with oneself, and to speak aloud—Psa. 119:15-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 2. To muse on the word is to taste and enjoy it through careful considering; prayer, speaking to oneself, and praising the Lord may also be included in musing on the word.
 - C. We need to persevere in prayer to glorify God, thank God, worship God, and serve God; our prayer and our being should be totally for God’s interests—Dan. 6:10; 9:17; 1 Kings 8:48; cf. Rom. 1:21, 25.
 - D. We need to be self-sacrificing persons in oneness with Christ as the One who sacrifices Himself for others; we should be afraid of only one thing, that is, to offend God and lose His presence—Phil. 1:22-26; 2 Cor. 1:24; Psa. 27:4.
 - E. To attain maturity is not an overnight matter; therefore, for His coming we must prepare ourselves, love Him, and grow in Him, that at His appearing we may be mature to be raptured and receive the reward—Luke 21:34-36; cf. Rev. 3:10; 12:5-6, 14.
 - F. We must be watchful in life every day and all day in order to buy an extra portion of the oil and be faithful in service to feed the Lord’s people at the proper time—Matt. 24:32—25:30:

1. We must be watchful, on the alert, for our prayer life so that we may walk by the Spirit, sow unto the Spirit, and minister the Spirit—Eph. 6:17-18; Col. 4:2; Gal. 5:16, 25; Rom. 8:4; Gal. 6:8; 2 Cor. 3:6; Rom. 1:9:
 - a. The coming of the kingdom is not automatic; if there is no prayer, the kingdom cannot come.
 - b. Genuine prayer is a joint labor with God to bring His kingdom to the earth and to carry out His will on earth; hence, prayer is a spiritual battle—2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:12.
2. We must not be those who are beating our fellow slaves, eating and drinking with the drunken, or burying the Lord's gift; instead, we must spread the truth of the gospel of the kingdom to the whole inhabited earth—Matt. 24:14, 45-51; 25:25; Dan. 11:32.
- G. We must keep the word of the Lord's endurance, standing against the wearing-out tactics of Satan—Rev. 3:10; Dan. 7:25:
 1. Under God's heavenly rule everything is working together for our good for the purpose of making Christ preeminent—4:26; Rom. 8:28-29.
 2. We must stay under the restriction, limitation, and authority of the Lord's ruling presence in order to know the Lord, to be saved from pride, and to receive the dispensing of grace—Rev. 22:1-2a; Jer. 9:23-25; 1 Pet. 5:5.

V. God's intention in His administration is to give Christ the preeminence in all things, to cause Christ to have the first place in everything, thus making us ready to be His bride—Col. 1:18; John 3:29-30; Rev. 19:7-9:

- A. In order to give Christ the preeminence, we must be willing to be adjusted, to be broken, to be made nothing, so that the Lord can have a way in us, through us, and among us for the building up of His organic Body—Col. 1:18; 2:19.
- B. Christ must have the preeminence in our love—Rev. 2:4:
 1. To love the Lord with the first love is to give Him the preeminence, the first place in all things—Col. 1:18.
 2. Our love for the Lord must be absolute; we should not love anyone or anything more than Him—Matt. 10:37-39; Acts 20:24; Rev. 12:11.
 3. To love the Lord is to appreciate Him, to direct our being toward Him, to open to Him, to enjoy Him, to give Him the first place, to be one with Him, to live Him, and to become Him—Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 12:30.
- C. Christ must have the preeminence in our tripartite being—Col. 3:4, 11, 15.
- D. Christ must have the preeminence in our spiritual experience and human living—1:27-28; 2:6-8, 13, 19-20; 3:17—4:1.
- E. Christ must have the preeminence in the church as the Body of Christ and the one new man—1:18a, 24; 2:19; 3:5-11, 15a; 4:15-17.
- F. If we have a vision of the preeminence of Christ, our living and our church life will be revolutionized, for we will realize that in all things Christ must have the first place—1:18.

MESSAGE FIVE READING EXCERPTS

OUR NEED TO BE THE CRAZY LOVERS OF JESUS

I want to say again that you need to forget about outward correction, outward improvement, and outward activity. Always pay your full attention to the inner part of your being where Jesus is. Do not try to serve the Lord, work for Him, or do anything for Him. You have to look unto Him so that He would show you all His beauty, His sweetness, and His fairness. This will attract you to love Him. We should say, "Lord Jesus, to me You are so sweet. To me You are so loving and so lovely. Whenever I call on You, I have a sweet sense deep within my being." We should have a love toward Jesus which is sweet to our inner sense. We should tell the Lord all the time, "O Lord Jesus, I love You."

Many dear Christians have been distracted by trying to do something for the Lord. This is because Satan in his subtlety would like to distract us from the very center of our being. Do not pay attention to outward activities but always return to the spirit. From within your spirit you have to tell the Lord a thousand times a day, "Lord Jesus, I love You." The name of Jesus is the sweetest name on earth. By telling the Lord that you love Him, you will spontaneously give more space, more room, within you to Jesus.

To say, "O Lord Jesus, I love You," is not just a saying. This is spiritual breathing by calling on His name. When you say, "Lord Jesus, I love You," you have a sweet sense within you. When you say this, you afford Him more space within your being. He will spread Himself in your being and saturate your being with all that He is, with all His riches. If you do this day and night, you will be thoroughly saturated with Jesus. This is to have Jesus revealed in you (Gal. 1:16a), living in you (2:20a), formed in you (4:19), and making His home in your whole being (Eph. 3:17a).

When He makes His home in your heart, He is now not only revealed in your spirit, but

also taking full possession of your whole being. There is no need for you to pray, "O Lord, come in and take me over." Simply call on Him and tell Him you love Him. Tell Him He is so sweet to you. Tell Him He is so lovely to you. "O Lord Jesus, I just love You. Show me Your beauty. Show me Your fairness. Show me Your sweetness. Cause me to have the full sense of Your sweetness." If you are going to pray, you should pray in this way.

You should forget about all other things. If you have a bad temper, forget about that. If you cannot love others, forget about that. If you cannot serve or function, forget about that. When I was young, I frequently asked the Lord to make me capable in my ministry and in my service and work for Him. I would not say that those prayers were not good, but today I have a simple way to pray. The more I grow in the Lord, the more simple the way I contact the Lord becomes. I simply say, "O Lord Jesus, I love You. I just love You. You are so sweet to me." Try to say this one hundred times tomorrow, then come to the meeting and see what will come out. We need to say, "Lord Jesus, I love You. O Lord Jesus, I love You. I just love You. You are so sweet. Reveal Yourself to me. Show me Your beauty. Capture me, Lord, with Your beauty. I want to be crazy by being wrecked with Your beauty." Then you will see what will come out in the meeting. You will be the first one, even the best one, to function.

Galatians 2:20 says, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." Just to know this doctrine, however, does not work. You have to contact Him. Open up yourself to Him by appreciating His beauty, His loveliness, His fairness, and His sweetness. Especially you young people have to pray that the Lord would attract you, wreck you, and capture you. Today this generation does not need many ministers but many lovers of Jesus. I do not want to be a minister. I want to be a lover of Jesus. You young people have to be the lovers of Jesus. You must be aware that the enemy, the subtle one, will beguile you by tempting you to serve the Lord. You may say

that you are learning how to serve the Lord, but the Lord does not need you to serve Him. The Lord needs you to love Him.

Today in this generation the Lord Jesus does not need a lot of young people to work for Him. He needs many young ones to love Him desperately. If you love Him for just half a day, you will be crazy. Today the Lord Jesus needs many crazy lovers....We meet to feast on Jesus by loving Him. We need to be attracted by Him. To all of our senses nothing should be so sweet, so precious, so attractive, and so amazing as Jesus. All of you young brothers and sisters have to pray for this. You should pray, "Lord Jesus, cause me to love You. Show me Your loveliness. Show me Your beauty. Show me Your fairness. Show me Your sweetness." The name of Jesus should be so sweet to you. If all the young people would be wrecked by the loveliness of Christ, this would affect the entire nation. We do not need preachers, ministers, or pastors. We need the lovers of Jesus.

Today's generation is a generation of pleasure lovers. People today love all kinds of entertainment, amusement, and worldly enjoyment. We are not like this. We are the crazy lovers of Jesus. We do not care for entertainment, amusement, or worldly enjoyment. We are not for any kind of sport. Our sport is Jesus. Jesus is all the entertainment to us. Are you really crazy to such an extent?

I have no burden to give you some new doctrine, some new message. I am burdened to make you all the crazy lovers of Jesus. I care for only one thing— that you have to love Jesus in a crazy way.

There is no other way for the Lord Jesus to take full possession of you. I cannot teach you to be like this. But I do know that if the Lord Jesus shows Himself to you with His beauty, His fairness, you will be fully taken over by Him. Then you will forget everything. You will be fully possessed by Christ. You should be crazy to such an extent that you do not have the consciousness that you are crazy. You are crazy without a sense of being crazy, but you have the full sense of Christ. This is the kind of person

this generation needs for the Lord's recovery.

You should have no thought of serving the Lord in a religious way or of behaving yourselves in an ethical way. You should know only to love the Lord Jesus. If you are the Lord's crazy lovers, your whole being from within will be fully occupied by Jesus. Your feeling, your will, your decision, your intention, your motive, your intent, and everything within you will be fully taken over by Jesus. I do not want to pass on more and more teachings and doctrines to you. I want to make you blind, to make you crazy lovers of Jesus.

Every continent needs such lovers. We need to be crazy with Jesus for the whole earth. Every place needs some Jesus-lovers. Do not care for your living, your destiny, or your future. Your destiny is to love Jesus, to be crazy for Jesus. Every city, every state, and every country needs a bunch of crazy young lovers of Jesus. If you all are such lovers, the number of attendants in your meetings will always be increasing. You all need to be the crazy lovers of Jesus! This is what today's generation needs. (*The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ*, pp. 22-26)

Outlines in this booklet were adapted from copyrighted outlines published by Living Stream Ministry in The Ministry, vol. 10, nos. 7-8. Used by permission