

LIVING A LIFE FOR THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

Message One

Knowing the Central Thought of God, Cooperating with the Central Work of God and Living in the Divine Romance

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:16, 18; Eph. 5:32; 3:16-17a; Gal. 4:19; S.S. 1:2-4

- I. If we would live a life for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we need to know the central thought of God – Gen. 2:9-12, 18, 21-23; Rev. 21:2:**
 - A. The central thought of God is to have Christ as His expression through the church – Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:21.
 - B. The central thought of the divine mind is that we, as living vessels to contain God, should receive God in Christ as our life and life supply; that we need to be transformed into gold, pearl and precious stones; and that we must be built together as a living Body, a living counterpart to match Christ – Gen. 2:9-12, 18, 21-23; Rev. 21:2, 9-12, 18-21; 22:17.
- II. If we would live a life for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we need to cooperate with the central work of God – Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 4:19:**
 - A. The governing vision of the Bible is the Triune God working Himself into His chosen and redeemed people as life in order to saturate and permeate their entire being with the Divine Trinity - 2 Cor. 13:14; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11; Eph. 3:19.
 - B. God's New Testament economy is for the processed and consummated Triune God to be wrought into us to become our life, our being, and our person so that we may be His corporate expression – vv. 16-17a; 1:22-23.
 - C. God's New Testament economy is focused on His central work, His unique work – John 5:17; 4:34; Phil 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 3:16-17a.
- III. If we would live a life for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we need to live in the divine romance – S.S 1:2-4:**
 - A. The Bible is a romance, in the most pure and holy sense, of a universal couple – God in Christ as the Bridegroom and God's redeemed people as the bride – John 3:29; Matt. 25:6; Rev 19:7; 21:2, 9-10; 22:17.
 - B. Song of Songs is a marvelous and vivid portrait, in poetic form, of the bridal love between Christ as the Bridegroom and His lovers as His bride; the subject of Song of Songs is the history of love in an excellent marriage, revealing the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ: 1) the attracting and pursuing stage (1:2-4; 2) the stage of experiencing the cross (2:14); 3) the stage of living in the heavenlies to become God's new creation in resurrection; and 4) the stage of becoming the sanctuary, the Holy of Holies (6:4).
 - C. Only love can keep us in a proper relationship with the Lord – Mark 12:30.
 - D. In order for us to maintain and develop our first love to the Lord. We need to live before Him as vessels open to Him, loving Him, receiving Him, enjoying Him, being filled with Him, and letting Him be everything to us and do everything through us, in us, and with us for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose – Rev. 2:4; 2 Cor. 4:7; Rom. 9:21, 23; Eph. 1:9; 3:9-11.