

Church of God (Singapore)

Church Service Perfecting Meeting—13th-14th November 2020

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
FURTHER PURSUIT AND PRACTICE ON THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH
ACCORDING TO GOD’S ECONOMY**

Message 3

**Being one with the Shepherd according to
God’s heart and shepherd according to God**

- I. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament reveal Christ as the Shepherd according to God’s heart—Jer. 3:15; Isa. 40:11; Ezek. 34:11-31; John 10:11; Heb. 13:20-21; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4; Rev. 7:16-17.**
- II. Preaching the gospel is the highest shepherding towards the sinners. The Lord Jesus is the first preacher in the New Testament and His preaching is a form of shepherding—Luke 19:1-10; John 4:4; 14b:**
 - A. The proper propagation comes from the shepherding through the gospel, and shepherding implies that we need to visit people. Christ came down from heaven to the earth to visit sinners one by one to seek out the lost sheep, we need to learn from Him—John 10:16; 21:15-16.
 - B. If we want to enjoy life and supply life to others, we need to shepherd them; there is no way to supply life to others except through shepherding. The genuine life supply is through visiting, contacting and shepherding others.
- III. The Lord Jesus continues the shepherding that He began in His earthly ministry in His heavenly ministry—Heb.13:20-21:**
 - A. In John 21:15-17 the Lord commissioned Peter to feed His lambs and shepherd His sheep in His absence, while He is in the heavens; this was to incorporate the apostolic ministry with Christ’s heavenly ministry to shepherd God’s flock.
 - B. The apostle Paul is a pattern of shepherding the saints in cooperation with Christ’s shepherding in His heavenly ministry—Heb. 14:20-21; 7:25-26; 1 Tim. 1:16; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; Acts 20:20:
 1. Paul shepherded the saints as a nursing mother and an exhorting father—1 Thes. 2:7-8; 11-12.
 2. Paul shepherded the saints in Ephesus by teaching them “publicly and from house to house” (Acts 20:20) and by admonishing each one of the saints with tears even for as long as three years (vv. 31, 39), declaring to them all the counsel of God (v.27).
 3. Paul had been enlarged in his heart to have the intimate concern of the ministering life—2 Cor. 11:28-29; 1 Thes. 2:8; Phil. 2:19-20.
 4. Paul came down to the weak ones’ level so that he could gain them—2 Cor. 11:28-29; 1 Cor. 9:22; cf. Matt. 12:20.
 5. As a lover of the church in oneness with the church-loving Christ, Paul was willing to spend what he had, referring to his possessions, and to spend what he was, referring to his being, for the sake of the saints in order to build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 5:25; 2 Cor. 12:15; 11:28-29.
- IV. Those who shepherd the flock of God should shepherd according to God, which is to shepherd according to what God is in His attributes, according to God’s nature, desire, way, and glory, not according to our preference, interest, purpose, and disposition—1 Pet. 5:2; Rom. 9:15-16; 11:22; 23; Eph. 2:7; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:12.**
- V. In order to shepherd according to God, we need to become God in life, nature, expression, and function—John 1:12-13; 3:15; 2 Cor.1:4.**

- VI. The shepherding that builds up the Body of Christ is a mutual shepherding—1 Cor. 12:23-26:**
- A. All of us need to be under the organic shepherding of Christ and be one with Him to shepherd others—1 Pet. 2:25, John 21:16.
 - B. We are both sheep and shepherds, shepherding and being shepherded in mutuality; through this mutual shepherding, the Body builds itself up in love—Eph. 4:16.

VII. Under the framework of blessing, home, meeting and district, the practice of begetting, shepherding, teaching and edifying is a building up of a living that is according to God's heart and shepherding according to God:

- A. Begetting - builds up the gospel preaching living and the habit of contacting people for their regeneration—John 15:5; 16; Matt. 28:18-19; 1 Cor. 4:15:
 1. God's ordained way for gospel preaching is for every believer to preach the gospel by having a direct contact with man; the New Testament tells us to "Go!" we need to go and contact man and visit man.
 2. We need to set our hearts to practise the priestly service of God's New Testament for the gospel. As we set our hearts, we need to consecrate ourselves and offer our bodies to God as a living sacrifice.
 3. After we are revived through prayers, we need to set the dates to visit sinners to redeem our time, block out a set day and time every week to fulfil the responsibility of our priestly service of the gospel. We should not say we do not have time, as long as we have time to do other things, we will definitely have the time to visit sinners.
- B. Shepherding—builds up the meeting life in the homes and the habit of mutual shepherding with the companions—John 21:15; 1 Thes. 2:7:
 1. We need to strive to learn how to set up meeting in the home. Concerning this matter, we need to recover God's ordained way of meeting house by house.
 2. The need for shepherding is great, do not hope that everyone in the church life is a spiritual giant. The normal church life is a big family, with the grandparents, young, weak and even the sick ones. When all the saints receive care, we will have a beautiful church life.
 3. You shepherd me, I shepherd you, this is mutual shepherding. When we shepherd others, we ought to cherish them first to make them happy. After which, we ought to nourish them, this kind of nourishing is the genuine shepherding.
- C. Teaching—builds up the living of the small group meetings and the habit of mutually asking and responding and thereby teaching one another—Heb. 10:24-25:
 1. In the small group meetings, we need to exercise to ask one another and respond to one another in order to teach.
 2. We need to consider how to respond to a few questions such as God's economy, the Lord's recovery, objective righteousness, reconciliation, subjective sanctification and the ground of the church. We seem to know about these knowledge but when we teach, we may think that it is too hard. If we do not try to teach, the vital groups cannot progress.
- D. Building - builds up the living of the district meeting and the habit of prophesying in the meetings to cause the building up of the church—1 Cor. 14:3, 23-26:
 1. From the small group meetings, we need to gradually bring the new believers to the district meetings to help them integrate into the church life.
 2. In the district meeting, the content is even richer with the bread-breaking meeting in remembrance of the Lord, with the learning of the truth as well as the mutual fellowship and sharing. Everyone will have a greater opportunity to function, to speak for the Lord and edify one another.
 3. We should encourage those who receive the leading to speak for the Lord and speak forth the Lord in the district meetings, so that the saints will all function organically in the meetings by speaking to supply and build up one another, thereby building up the Body of Christ.

VIII. "I hope as we receive the burden related to shepherding, we will have the genuine revival in our midst. If all the churches receive this teaching and partake of the amazing shepherding of Christ, there will be a great revival in the Lord's recovery." —Vital Group, page 49.