Preparation Of The Bride

4416

Proclamation: 1 Thess. 5:22–23

I. On The Heart Of Jesus
   A. Reconciliation with His brothers (Jewish people)
   B. Preparation of His bride
      1. Warning of Israel’s failure (Jer. 2:32)
      2. Has made herself ready . . . ?? (Rev. 19:6–8)
         a. Fine linen = righteous acts
         b. Imputed, then outworked

II. What Righteous Acts?
   A. Care for:
      1. Orphans and widows (James 1:27)
      2. Fatherless and widows (Is. 1:17)
   B. Three recurrent sins of Israel:
      1. Idolatry
      2. Adultery
      3. Neglect of widows and orphans
   C. Disciples – all nations (Matt. 28:18–20)
      1. Gospel to all nations (Matt. 24:14)
      2. Leaving our jobs to others – parachurch (Ezek. 44:8) – Jesus is not coming for a parachurch
   D. Tithes into the storehouse (Mal. 3:10) – source of food and seed

Intercession, Fasting

4417

Proclamation: 1 Peter 5:5b–11

I. A Picture Of Our Contemporary Society
A. Prevailing corruption – Why no intercessor? (Isaiah 59:14–16)
B. Failure of prophets, priests, princes, people – but no intercessor (Ezek. 22:23–31)

II. What Does The Intercessor Do?
A. Rebuild the walls of separation; restore the boundaries
B. Stand in the gap; between the people and the Lord

III. What Is Fasting?
A. Afflict your souls; every Israelite, every year (Lev. 16:29–31)
   1. The Fast: (Acts 27:9)
   2. I humbled my soul with fasting (Ps. 35:13)
   3. Grace to the humble (1 Pet. 5:5–6)
B. Historical Examples
   1. Men of Jabesh Gilead (1 Sam. 31:11–13) – from division and defeat to unity and victory
   2. Men of Nineveh (Jonah 3:4–10)
   3. Esther and the Jews in Shushan (Esther 4:23–5:2)
   4. Ezra and the returning exiles (Ezra 8:21–23)
C. Fasting in the New Testament
   1. Jesus Himself (Luke 4:1–2)
      a. Filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:1)
      b. In the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14)
   2. The teachings of Jesus
      a. When you do charitable deeds . . . (Matt. 6:2)
      b. When you pray . . . (Matt. 6:5)
      c. When you fast . . . (Matt. 6:16)
   3. Church leaders
      a. Fasted to receive revelation (Acts 13:1–2)
      b. Fasted to send out apostles (Acts 14:4, 14)
      c. Fasted to appoint elders (Acts 14:23)
D. Prophetic call to fasting
   1. Call to corporate fasting: elders, priests, ministers (Joel 2:15–17)
   2. Afterward the Spirit outpoured (Joel 2:28–29)
E. How to Humble Ourselves
   1. Confess our sins to God (1 John 1:9)
   2. Confess our sins to one another (James 5:16)
F. Personal Testimony
   Since 1941: 3,000 (+) days = 8 (+) years

What The Church Must Become

Proclamation: Ephesians 1:17–23

I. GLORIOUS – Permeated With God’s Presence Perceived With The Senses (Eph. 5:25–27; compare 2 Chron. 7:1–3)
A. Without spot or wrinkle (1 Pet. 1:19) – partaker of Christ’s own righteousness
I. Blemish: something there from birth; a defect  
   2. Spot: something that comes on later  
B. Covered with Christ’s righteousness (Is. 61:10)

II. HOLY – Partaker Of The Divine Nature (2 Pet. 1:2–4)

III. What Jesus Does For The Church
   A. Redemption through His blood (Col. 1:13–14)
   B. Washing through His Word (Eph. 5:26)
   C. By water and blood (1 John 5:6)
   D. The laver – between the altar and the tabernacle (Ex. 30:17–21)
   E. Partakers through the promises (2 Pet. 1:2–4)

Holiness: The Essence Of God
4419

Proclamation: Isaiah 57:15; 66:2

I. What Holiness Is Not (Col. 2:20–23)

II. Partakers Of His Holiness – the essence of God (Heb. 12:10) – combining and including all His attributes, e.g.:
   A. Light (1 John 1:5)
   B. Love (1 John 4:8, 16)
   C. Justice/Judgment (Deut. 32:3–4; Gen. 18:25)
   D. Anger/Wrath (Nahum 1:2–3; Rev. 14:9–12; 14:20; 20:10; compare Rev. 22:18–19)
   E. Mercy/Lovingkindness/Covenant-keeping Faithfulness (Ps. 51:1; 106:1; 107:1, 8, 15, 26, 31, 48)
   F. Grace (1 Pet. 5:10)
   G. Power (Ps. 93:1–4; Rev. 15:3)

III. God’s Dealings With Job
   A. Job affirms his own righteousness (Job 23:10–12)
   B. God acknowledges Job’s righteousness (Job 1:1, 8; 42:7–8)
   C. Job responds to the revelation of God (Job 42:4–6)
   D. What God Expended
      1. 500 yoke oxen, 500 female donkeys – all but one servant (Job 1:14–15)
      2. 7000 sheep (fire of God) – all but one servant (Job 1:16)
      3. 3000 camels – all but one servant (Job 1:17)
      4. 7 sons and 3 daughters (Job 1:18–19)
      5. Job’s physical health and appearance (Job 2:7)
      6. All this to deal with one man – Job
   E. Ultimately, God restored everything double – except Job’s children – who had gone before him (Job 42:12–13)

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