

## Message Three

### **Being Victorious over the Attack of Death upon the Church**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18

- I. We need to be victorious over the attack of death upon the church and build up the Body of Christ in the resurrection life of Christ—Matt. 16:18; John 11:25; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16.**
- II. By the resurrection life of Christ in our spirit, we can be victorious over the attack of death upon the church—Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:24; 2 Cor. 1:9; Rom. 5:17; 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:26, 54-57; 2 Cor. 5:4; 2 Tim. 1:10:**
  - A. Death is the characteristic of Satan's work; the ultimate goal of his work is to saturate man with death—Heb. 2:15.
  - B. From Eden onwards, God's controversy with Satan has been on the issue of death and life—Rom. 8:6, 10-11.
  - C. Matthew 16:18 shows us from what source the attack upon the church will come—"the gates of Hades," that is, death:
    1. Satan's special object is to spread death within the church, and his greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death—Rev. 2:8, 10-11.
    2. The church that is built upon "this rock" can discern between death and life, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it—Matt. 16:18.
  - D. If we would overcome the attack of death, we need to know Christ as the First and the Last—as the ever-existing unchanging One—and as the One who became dead and lived again—as the One who is resurrection—Rev. 1:18; 2:8; John 11:25; Acts 2:24.
- III. We should be exercised in spirit to build up the Body of Christ in the resurrection life of Christ—Eph. 2:6, 21-22; 4:16; Rev. 1:18; 2:8; Phil. 3:10:**
  - A. The Body of Christ is in the resurrection life of Christ—John 11:25:
    1. The nature of the church as the Body of Christ is resurrection—Acts 2:24; Eph. 1:19-23.
    2. The church is a new creation created in Christ's resurrection and by the resurrected Christ—1 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 2:6; Gal. 6:15.
  - B. To be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we must be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ—John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 1:9:
    1. In our natural life and in the old creation, we are not the Body; we are the Body only in the new creation germinated by Christ's resurrection life—2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:19-23.
    2. The Body of Christ is in resurrection, and the reality of resurrection is Christ as the life-giving Spirit—John 11:25; 20:22; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
    3. The principle of resurrection is that the natural life is killed and that the divine life rises up to take its place—2 Cor. 1:9.
    4. If we do any work which is not in resurrection, the life-giving Spirit will not honor it; the Spirit honors only what is in resurrection—1 Cor. 15:45b, 48.

- C. When we do not live by the natural life but live by the divine life within us, we are in resurrection; the issue of such a living is the growth and building up of the Body of Christ—Phil. 3:10-11; Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 2:19; 3:15.