

Message Two

**Enjoying the Lord at the Altar of God
to Live a Life of Consecration for the Central Work of God**

Scripture Reading: Psa. 43:4; Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Eph. 3:16-17a

- I. The more we come to the altar of God, who is our exceeding joy, the more we will live a life of consecration—Psa. 43:4; Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:14-15:**
- A. Consecration is our consent to God's working in us and on us and to God's directing our ways—Phil. 2:13; Prov. 21:1; Jer. 10:23.
 - B. The basis of consecration is God's purchase—1 Cor. 6:19-20.
 - C. The motive of consecration is the Lord's love—2 Cor. 5:14-15; 1 John 4:19.
 - D. The meaning of consecration is to be a sacrifice—Rom. 12:1; Num. 28:2-3.
 - E. The purpose of consecration is to be used by God and to work for God—Eph. 2:10; Isa. 64:8.
 - F. The result of consecration is to abandon our future, abandoning our hopes, belonging wholly to God, living purely and simply in the hand of God, being what God wants us to be, and doing what God wants us to do—Lev. 1:9; 1 Cor. 1:1; 15:10.
- II. God's New Testament economy is for the processed and consummated Triune God to be wrought into us to become our life and our very being—1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:16-17a; Rom. 8:9-10, 6, 11:**
- A. The most crucial and mysterious matter revealed in the Bible is that God's ultimate intention is to work Himself into His chosen people—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 4:4-6.
 - B. God's eternal purpose is to work Himself into us as our life and our everything so that we may take Him as our person, live Him, and express Him; this is the desire of God's heart and the focal point of the Bible—Eph. 1:9; 3:11; Phil. 1:20-21a.
 - C. God's intention is to have Christ thoroughly worked into our being; however, in our spiritual seeking we may have no concern about this, caring instead only for our intention—Phil. 2:21.
- III. God's New Testament economy is centered on God's central work—John 5:17; 4:34; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10b:**
- A. God's central work, His unique work in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations, is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17a.
 - B. God's purpose is to work Himself into us, making Himself our inward elements:
 - 1. This purpose is the center of the universe, and apart from this purpose the Christian life is meaningless—Rev. 4:11.
 - 2. The proper priority is not for us to work for God but for God to work Himself into us—Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13.
 - 3. Spiritual progress consists in allowing God to gain ground within us—Col. 2:19; Eph. 3:17a.

- C. The more we enjoy the Lord by living a life of consecration for the central work of God, the more we become a person who cooperates with the Triune God in His central work—2 Tim. 1:7; Matt. 5:3, 8:
1. One who is poor in spirit—v. 3.
 2. One who is pure in heart—v. 8.
 3. One who drops everything within him in order to seek the Lord with a single heart—Deut. 4:29; Isa. 55:6; Jer. 29:13; Matt. 7:7.
 4. One who turns to the Lord in a simple way—2 Cor. 3:16.
 5. One who takes care of the inner sense of life—Rom. 8:6.
 6. One who is willing to be enlightened—Eph. 1:18.
 7. One who is open to be filled with God as his content—2 Cor. 4:7.