

The Church, the Testimony of the Fullness of Christ

Ephesians 1:19-23

And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.

Revelation 21:1-5a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Revelation 21:22-24

I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its

lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

Let us pray.

Lord, we thank You because You are so willing to speak to man. You will open up Your thoughts to those who seek after You. As we gather before You, prepare our mind to see Your face. Thank You Lord. May Your Spirit fill our meeting so the ones who speak and the ones who wait upon You will be blessed together. Lead us into Your eternal purpose and let us see how Your heart will be satisfied when Your eternal purpose is fulfilled. We bow our heads and worship You. Lord, prepare our minds so that we can receive Your abundant grace and also to understand the way we ought to walk on ahead of us. We give You all the glory and praise. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank the Lord. This afternoon I will continue from what we shared on yesterday and finish the sharing. For the scriptures we just read, brothers and sisters know what the glorious ending will be like in the future. What is the manifestation of this glorious ending based on? We need to go back to the scriptures we read at the end of yesterday's sharing. When Christ has gained all the honor and glory, God will place the same honor and glory onto those who believe. We see that we are redeemed by the Lord's grace in His salvation. Not only are we redeemed, God has repeatedly said that these people will be glorified. What is this glory? It is Christ's glory becoming their glory. This is tremendous and is beyond what we can imagine. But God has determined to manifest in us, who believe, the resurrection power of Christ. It then brings about this result. All the glory Christ has gained will be manifested in those who believe. When Christ's fullness becomes the substance of the church, you will see what is mentioned at the end of Ephesians 1, "The church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Yesterday we made special mention that Christ has become the head of all things, and this needs to be brought into reality by the church. The Lord's words tell us what the church will be like at that time: "The church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." From these words we can easily see this glorious fact. God has brought all of us into a living corporate body through the Spirit. Not only will the church gain glory with Christ, she will bring forth an even more glorious outcome, which is the church is filled with the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Now we see man has been restored to a point that can satisfy God, despite the fact that we were a pile of dirt and were lost. God is satisfied to a point that the church becomes the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Who is the one who fills all in all? God Himself. When the church is gained by God, this is the result: All of God's fullness will be the fullness of the church. This glorious fullness of the church brings satisfaction to God. When God looks at all the creation, He sees something that was never there before. God fills all in all. The desire of God now can come to a glorious ending.

When we mention this, we cannot but return to the original purpose of God creating man. Our Brother has already shared with us on God's purpose of creating man at his first sharing. Man

exists for the purpose of the manifestation of God's glory. Besides manifesting Himself, there is another more important purpose. It is to entirely destroy Satan who has created complete chaos in the universe. When these things happen, God's heart is so satisfied that there is no more barrier between Him and man. More importantly, when the fact that the church becomes the body of Christ is completely manifested, God finds an abode in the universe that satisfies Him. God is to dwell in this abode, and God fills this body. Then we understand why we need to continue on after receiving salvation. It is because salvation is not just for us to be saved, salvation is also for the manifestation of God's glory, abundance, and authority. There is nothing left to hinder God. God promises that we shall all enjoy rest and God is the source of that rest. But how does God become the source of this rest? It is by the resurrection of Christ, that God's adversary, Satan, is dealt with. Let us look at this: The church is to become the body of Christ, and the church is no longer individuals who belong to the Lord but individuals connected to become one body. What is the basis of the church to be one body in order to be filled with Christ's glory and honor? Why would God want to do this? Brothers and sisters take note. God said that there is only one church. No matter how many people there are, there is only one body. God's words are very clear that this body is not scattered in different places but it is one. God is to gain this glorious body in order to manifest the outcome that satisfies His heart. If we can see the outcome brought forth by the church is to completely satisfy God, then we have to pay attention to one matter.

Yesterday we shared that God has this thought before the foundation of the world and He is to reveal this thought after man is created. Sadly, man could not follow. And God uses redemption to bring man back to His original purpose. It is because in God's glorious purpose, God is to renew all things that are of the old creation. Before the purpose of building up the church is fulfilled, God has to pay a great price. God even gave up His only Son. After the Son of God is revealed, it does not mean God has accomplished what He set out to do, because He wants a complete union with all men. When this union happens, it satisfies God and He can rest. So we see why the building of the church cannot be overlooked by those who follow God. Is it not already something great that we can be freed from the outcome and the bondage of sin? Does it not already manifest God's glorious thoughts? Not so. God is very pleased that individuals are saved one by one, but all those who are saved by grace still need to be united into one body according to God's heart. How much time has God spent on this matter, from before the foundation of the world until to the fulfillment of this reality? How much forbearance has God endured? God is to manifest this glorious grace, and through it bring all those who are saved by grace together and unit them as one church for His Son. God will manifest His glorious purpose. The Book of Colossians states very clearly that God has placed all His fullness in His Son, and those redeemed, will manifest God's glory and beauty when they are brought before God. We thank the Lord. When there is a complete unity between God and man, God gains rest; otherwise, God will need to continue to work and work. As long as this purpose is not fulfilled, God cannot stop His work. Even though this is a difficult process, God has not changed or given up His purpose despite continuous obstacles.

Let us look at what God has done among man. God's work is based on nothing but His purpose, which was established before the foundation of the world. God had an arrangement, but He could not find anyone among the fallen race who can receive it. Even though man could not follow this arrangement, God did not change His purpose. God continues to seek those who could receive His purpose throughout history. God is searching for an abode for Him to rest, which is a condition that brings complete satisfaction to God. In the past, God could not find anyone who could understand and fulfill His wish. It was not until Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, was taken to a foreign land and brought back, that God revealed His heart to people openly. But with Jacob's condition, God was still not able to completely reveal His desire to seek for an abode on earth. Interestingly, why would God choose Jacob to speak to? Neither Jacob's character nor his actions matched God's heart. But God was not trying to have Jacob understand the matter immediately. God wanted Jacob to know that God has a desire in His heart to gain an abode on earth. When Jacob returned to the land of Canaan from Paddan-aram, God appeared to him. When God appeared to Jacob, He revealed His original purpose. After Jacob had this experience, he realized God was at that place. Where was that place? Of course it was the place where Jacob was, but in God's heart it included the whole earth.

Jacob had an understanding but he was not clear on this understanding. What did he understand and what was he unclear on? He had no way of knowing why God wanted to do such a thing, but God let him know that God had this desire among men. God wanted to gain an abode on earth. This desire was first revealed to Jacob, but no one understood what God's abode was about. When the Israelites left Egypt and entered into Canaan, God showed them He was with them. When the Israelites were leaving Egypt, God revealed to them He wished to dwell among them and He would be with them until they finished their journey. Did the Israelites understand these words? We cannot say they understood. But they did one thing according to what they were told. At that time, the relationship between God and man was very intricate. As the Israelites understood this very clearly: If man does not live correctly before God, he will be cursed. God is holy and just. If He is among us, will not every man fall under judgement? Now God says that He is to dwell among man. If God dwells among us, will we not receive punishment from God? God knew man did not understand Him, so He told Moses to lead the Israelites to first do one thing after he went back down the mountain. It was to build the tabernacle according to God's plan. The tabernacle was to be among man and it served a function. Even though man was foolish, but through the tabernacle God told man that He wished to dwell among them. God also told them clearly how they ought to live in the presence of the tabernacle after it was built.

We thank the Lord. The tabernacle served a very important function in the history of the Israelites entering the land of Canaan. It provided an assurance to the Israelites that God would bring them into Canaan for sure. At the same time, even though man's foolishness was before God continuously, God gave them a way to remove their sins. When we look at the tabernacle, we see God's heart revealed through it. And this revelation gave the Israelites the peace to wait to enter into Canaan. Why would the Israelites have the assurance because of the tabernacle? It is

not that the Israelites were able to understand God's will immediately. It was because God wanted them to know the reason they had the tabernacle among them was that there were things they needed to do in the tabernacle according to His will. You need to have an altar in the tabernacle, and there should be offerings of sacrifices on the altar. When you do this, you are brought one step closer to receive God's guidance, government, and leading. There are a few items inside the tabernacle that showed how God would lead them into Canaan peacefully. One of them is the ark. The ark is to remind the Israelites that they had a covenant with God. The people must go forward according to the covenant established with God. But man's foolishness and ignorance kept man from understanding God. Therefore, God set up the lampstand in the tabernacle. Through the light from the lampstand, the Israelites saw their foolishness and also knew the way the Lord has provided for them. Not only did they know how to walk, God also told the Israelites the reason they could walk in light was because God provided the grace of redemption for them. This was shown by the table inside of the tabernacle. The table let them see God was their providence and sustenance.

If we are to pay careful attention to all the things of the tabernacle, we see the reason the Israelites could leave Egypt, pass through the wilderness, and enter into Canaan, was not because they were capable. It was because of the God who walked with them enabled them to reach their destination. We thank God that He used a very concrete object to let the Israelites understand their normal relationship with God, and what kind of place was God leading His people to. Thank the Lord, this was how the Israelites entered into Canaan under a very difficult situation. In Canaan they established their nation, and they grew gradually. But was God satisfied? No. Outwardly they have reached their destination under the God's care, but in reality they still did not understand God's relationship with them. God wanted the Israelites to understand it more clearly so He moved David to have a desire to let God gain a better place to dwell among His people. As a result, we see that after the tabernacle was brought into Canaan from the wilderness, it became the temple. God used the temple to take the place of the tabernacle. Inside the tabernacle, man enjoyed the sustenance from God. When the temple was built, the main meaning of it was no different from the tabernacle's; but the temple was able to manifest more glory, majesty, and compassion.

There was a misconception in man's heart: God's temple is among us and we also have the Laws given by God to guide us and to bless us. Despite God's continuous revelation of His nature and His will, they still could not understand either, because of their foolishness and ignorance. As a result, God used the covenant established with the Israelites to usher in the new covenant. What is the new covenant? It is through the new covenant God leads man from formality into reality. The new covenant is the result of the price paid by the Son of God. When God sees the appearance of the church on earth, He begins to rejoice. As it is mentioned in the Book of Ephesians, God has gained an abode among men. It is indeed a great matter that God has gained an abode among men because it enables the restoration of the relationship and the fellowship between God and man. What causes this great change? It is the Son of God who paid an

immense price for the weaknesses and failures of those who are called by God. The relationship between God and man had a very great change since the time of the tabernacle in the Old Testament. Even though the tabernacle gave the people an understanding that God was with them, it still needed many things to bring out this understanding. When we come to the time of the new covenant, because of who the Son of God is and what He does, we have a direct connection in life with God. In this unity of life, we can enjoy all the heavenly blessings from God abundantly.

If we look at the development of the tabernacle when we reach the time of the new covenant, we feel that God should be satisfied. God may have gained some satisfaction, but God's purpose has not been reached. In the New Testament God said that the church is His abode. Through the church, He has direct fellowship with those who are united with Him. And now they have the strength and the support they need to finish the course. In man's view, we are very satisfied when our relationship with God has reached such a point. Man may be satisfied, and God has gained some joy, but God's purposed has not been reached. It is because God has prepared for man a way to bring man from only wanting to gain rest for themselves, to a point that they themselves become the rest for God. When we look at the history of the development of the tabernacle, we realized how blessed we are to live in the will of God today. But God says, "You may be satisfied but I am not, so you ought to continue forward until My will is completely fulfilled."

Brothers and sisters, when we look at the history from the tabernacle, to the temple, and to the church, we see that all that God has done is to bring man from far to near. And God continues to lead the church forward. After she has a relationship with God, she is to be brought to a complete union with God. When this happens, the work of God is almost finished. Whenever we see the church, we will understand we are a vessel that pleases God. Through this vessel, God is to fulfill His purpose completely.

When we read from the Old Testament to the New Testament, we see God establishing the covenant with man in order to bring man from far to near; and from near we are brought farther forward until we are united with God. Especially when the church is built up, not only is the relationship between God and man turned from being indirect to direct, God once again reveals the promise He had made in the Old Testament. We know that when the Lord returns to the earth, not only will He receive the church in the air, He will also reveal the promise for the Israelites through the works the Lord has done on earth.

We know that God will establish a kingdom on earth and will bring all the people, matters, and things before His presence. But because man was not right, there was no ground for that covenant to be completed. Thank the Lord, when the church took the place of the Israelites to receive the grace directly, God uses the building of the church until she is fully established to fulfill a great thing. The first part of it is to once again reveal the hidden kingdom; at the same time open up a way for the complete fulfillment of God's purpose.

We often hope for the Lord's return, and it is not only for us to be raptured to see the Lord and that we can enjoy the spiritual abundance. The church has a very important function. When the church is fully built, then God's promise to the Israelites can be manifested. But the kingdom is not the end of God's work. When the kingdom comes to an end, according to God's plan, God will show man His ultimate purpose, which is the new heaven and new earth replacing all that is in the old creation. From the building of the tabernacle to the coming of the new heaven and new earth, how much time has God spent? It is impossible for us to know because much of the history is not recorded. But one thing we can be sure of is that God has spent much time to bring his purpose into fruition step by step. When we look at the spiritual history that spans from the building of the tabernacle to the new heaven and new earth, we can then understand how immense is the grace and blessing we have received from God. They are beyond what we can calculate.

Let us return to the focal point. How can the church be built up? As we have already shared, it is when Christ, being the head of the church, is manifested; and also when the individuals are brought to the condition God desires. We know that there is an intimate relationship between the completion of God's will and the building up of the church. Simply put, if the church is not built up, there is neither any condition for God's kingdom to be restored on earth, nor for the new heaven and new earth, the ultimate purpose of God, be revealed. The function or the ministry of the church is not what we do on earth; it is when the church has grown to a certain stage, then she can have a direct relationship with God's eternal purpose. We thank the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, when we connect all these things together, we see that God is a God who is willing to give grace to man. God has paid a great price in order to bring man back to His pleasure. God even gave up His only begotten Son in order to bring back those who had been completely cut off from having a relationship with Him so they can become a useful vessel in God's hands. This vessel is not to complete God's work; but when she reaches maturity, she becomes a key in the completion of God's eternal purpose. Simply put, if the church is not built up, there is no condition for the kingdom to appear. If the kingdom cannot come, there is no condition for the new heaven and new earth to be revealed. But thank the Lord. If the Lord gives us understanding, we see that the church is not only the result of the grace we receive from God. More importantly, she is to bring God's plan into fruition. That is why God brings the church that is scattered all around into a complete cooperate being.

Many Christians know God's grace is immense, but they do not seem to have any idea why they need to go beyond simply receiving blessings from God and to be a part in the completion of God's purpose. The church is so important in God's eyes because God has filled the church with Christ's fullness even when she is growing up. When the church is fully grown in God's grace, she will be able to bring out the most important part of God's redemption plan. How can the church become complete? The Lord lets us see that the church can be scattered on earth because we are separated. These separations exist because, even though we all have received grace, we still have our earthly limitations. That is the reason why the church seems to be scattered all over the earth. But God is not limited by geographical conditions. During the process of building the

church, God is to bring them as a whole despite many separate units on earth. God has an important will in His eternal purpose, which is through the redemption of the Son of God, all things will be freed from all bondages and limitations. The manifestation of God's glorious will depends on the completion of the building of the church. Even though we are scattered all over the earth, God still sees the church as one. We can be scattered in different places but we, as the witnesses for God, are still one in God's eyes. God's words are very clear: there is only one body. Only this body can manifest the fact that Christ is the head of the body. Just like this conference, we have brothers and sisters from different places. When you come to this place, you meet brothers and sisters you have never met before. But when we gather together, because of God's calling, we feel no hindrances among brothers and sisters. We can fellowship joyfully in His grace. Due to geographical locations, we are not able to stay together. But the church has become churches in different locations. It seems like there are many churches but this is not the reality. We can be scattered into different locations due to geographical limitation. But when we encounter the church, we see that earthly limitations cannot hinder the work of God. From God's covenant, we see the church is God's vessel to complete His work. But the completion of the church does not depend on the testimonies of different locations on earth. Since God has made His Son a redemption for the world, and He has brought all of us to become members of His household. But more importantly, as we are reminded by the Book of Ephesians that all things will be summed up in Christ when God's work is completed. This is the mind of God when He created all things. All creation is to submit under God's authority. The fall of man disrupted this work. How can this work be restored? In man's view it cannot be restored completely. But we thank the Lord, in the Book of Ephesians we see that Christ has become the head of the church, and we also see the church has the condition to be restored, and she must live before God because of what Christ has accomplished. Because He is not only the head of the church, but He is also the Lord of all.

Under this purpose of God, the church has this function to bring all things, which were once rebellious, back under God's name. That is why God says that we are the one who were the first to hope in Christ. How did this happen? Why do we need to always pay attention to the growth of the church? We are not saying the church has become the focus of God's plan. But at this time, the church is the focus of God's work. God is to use the completion of the church to usher in the emancipation of the entire universe. That is how the church has become those who were the first to hope in Christ. How is this fact manifested? Let us go to Revelation 4 and 5. They seem to be individual expressions of history in these two chapters. But the fact is that God brings all the universe back to Himself through the completion of the building of the church. When we read Revelation 4, we see that there is no problem of God receiving worship in heaven. But if we pay attention, we see that even though there is no problem in the heavenly worship to exalt God, there is still one lacking. Only the things of heaven are involved in the heavenly worship. Only those standing before God and the angels are worshipping God but there seem to be no response on earth. When John saw this condition, he saw that the heavenly worship begins from the eternal past and lasts into the eternal future, but this worship did not resonate. This upset

John, and God sent an angel to speak to him. And he told John not to cry because even though no man can achieve God's eternal purpose because they were ordinary men. Now God will have His Son as the Lamb of God. The slaying of the Lamb will become the basis of the completion of God's eternal purpose. When God revealed this secret to John, John saw a change. As the heavenly worship began again, it was no longer just the living creatures. The worship has expanded to the whole world. This is a very important point, brothers and sisters. You may ask, "When will God's heart be satisfied?" When the building of church is completed, that day will draw near. It is because then the church will bring all things to bow down before God, exalt Him, and praise Him. When the Lamb is exalted, man will of course bow down before God. But this worship will also bring all creations in the whole universe to serve God. Let us read Revelation 5:7-10: "And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 'You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.'"

If we continue to read on, we will see a great change in verses 11-14: "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.'" And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped."

We see that in chapter 4 there is only worship in heaven but there is no reaction to God from all others creatures and beings. But thank the Lord, when the Lamb appears, He puts an end to all the sins and rebellions throughout all generations. When the Lamb of God finishes this, He brings forth a higher and boarder worship before God. When the countless angels worship God in heaven, we see that every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, say, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." This worship does not only happen in heaven but is amongst all things. The angels and all the living creatures on earth take part in it. Whether it is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, all things resonate with this worship. We thank the Lord. When God sees this, He is satisfied. God is satisfied not because the purpose of creating man is fulfilled but all the earth is brought to a conclusion because of the work of the Lamb. They are freed from all bondage and are drawn to the presence of God and they worship God without any reservation. Brothers and sisters, have you ever seen such a grand scene? It has never happened on earth. It has to wait until the church is built and after she goes through judgement before the judgement seat of Christ, and then be brought into one with the Lamb. That is when the church becomes the bride of the Lamb. That is

when that fact is completely manifested. Take note of the time. It is at this time that the new heaven and new earth appears. Everything on earth and in heaven changes. The worship and exaltation toward God reach a completion. This is the reason why we need to pay attention to the building of the church. It is because when the church is built, all these things will be brought forth. In Revelation 21:22-26, "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it."

Brothers and sisters, how do you feel after reading these words? You can see all the worship in heaven and earth falls before God's throne. But do not stop here. We need to continue and see another matter that is more important than this. When God finishes building the church, He brings the church to the stage where she becomes the bride of Christ and this brings forth a result. Besides all creatures on earth worshipping God, we also see a big change. There is no separation between the heaven and the earth. There is no separation between God and man. There is no imperfection in all the creation. This is still not the most important point. What is the most important point? In the verses we just read: the temple is no more. If there is no more temple, what happens to the fellowship between God and man? Thank God, the temple is no more but there is something else. God and the Lamb become the temple of the city. Here we see redemption is no longer indirect but it happens directly in all creation. More importantly, the kings of the earth will give glory to God and the people of the earth will give glory to God. If we are not careful, we will neglect a very important fact here. Whether it is the kings, the people, or the creatures, these are all under the scope of the creation. This is already very grand and glorious. But there is something else that is even more amazing. When the kings and the people of the earth worship, who are they worshipping? Of course we know they are worshipping God. But who is there to receive worship on behalf of God at that time? In our mind, we will say that all the glory, worship, and praise is for God. But what does it say in the verses? It is quite different from what we have in mind. The whole universe serves and worships God. But the object of service and worship does not seem to be God Himself. Apart from God, who else deserves worship? We will find out if we continue to read on. When all the worship comes before God, it is received by the New Jerusalem. We are puzzled. How can the worship not be directed to God but directed to the New Jerusalem? How can it be? We thank the Lord. At the very end when the new heaven and new earth appears, all will be renewed. All hindrances are removed. All who are redeemed by God, which is the New Jerusalem, they will become God's representatives to receive service and worship. What does this tell us? It tells us that the New Jerusalem, which is the church in glory, has gained the position to fully represent God.

If we return to the Book of Genesis and pay attention to the purpose of God creating man and connect that to this point. Can you see what God has willed before now is coming to a

completion? Who is the New Jerusalem? If you remember she is the bride fully adorned, then you understand she is the church in glory. This is to resonate the proclamation made by God when He created man: Let Us make man in Our image and likeness. And We will give the authority over all things to them who are created in Our image.

Brothers and sisters, we can see God's purpose is fully accomplished by looking at what is expressed in Genesis 1 and things that are revealed to us about what will happen in the future. Remember the amount of time and patience, mercy and immeasurable grace God has bestowed upon those who are rebellious in order to bring them back before Him. Now we see, as mentioned in Ephesians 1, that God has determined to manifest in us who believe all the grace in Christ. When that day comes, will it not make Genesis 1 very clear to us? God's purpose will come to a completion. In Revelation 21 God says that He is making all things new. And this brings forth this outcome: God's tabernacle is among men and He will dwell among them. Thank the Lord. After seeing all these, can you still not see that the maturation of the church is the most important work of this age? Now we understand what we are pressing to pursue after is for the church on earth to be brought by God into perfection. And this will bring in a glorious ending.

Brothers and sisters, as you grab hold of the entire spiritual history, its past and its development, you cannot but bow down. You cannot but become willing to pay any price in order for God to accomplish His purpose of bringing the entire universe back to Himself.

We say that we live for Christ. What is living for Christ? What we honor is Christ and His words. Why? It is because there is no means for God's purpose without the Lamb. Without the Lamb, the church cannot be built nor does she have the conditions to grow. We thank the Lord that He has paid a great price. Because of the Lamb, many saints throughout the generations can be led into victory, and the fulfillment of God's purpose can be achieved. What else can we do besides worshipping Him? There is no other choice. It is Christ alone. It is the Son of God. It is the Father who sent the Son. May the Lord's work cause an even greater change within us. At that time, we will truly say that it is no longer I, but all belongs to Christ. All the worship and praises belong to our God and Father. We thank the Lord. May the Lord be gracious to us in the path that remains until He appears and sees us face to face. We thank the Lord.

Let us pray. Lord, through the working of the Holy Spirit, may You open us up and illuminate our spiritual sight so that we understand there is nothing else that can please You apart from glorifying You in our lives on earth. Lord, may You lead us to finish the journey with Your gracious hand. We look unto You. We thank You for what You have done in the past; and we look to You for the present and the remaining days. Bring us into Your glory so that Your glory may be manifested in the whole universe through us who have received your grace. We thank and praise our Lord. We looked unto You and we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.