

## Session One

### Being Constituted with the Truth for the Church to be the Pillar and Base of the Truth with All the Saints Being Responsible to Uphold the Truth

- I. The four great pillars in the Lord's recovery are truth, life, the church, and the gospel; the truth brings us life, life produces the church, and the church is responsible for the preaching of the gospel; the first great pillar in the Lord's recovery is the truth—(Eph. 1:13; 4:18; 5:23-25, 29, 32; 6:15; John 18:37):
  - A. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the divine truths as revealed in the Word of God—2 Tim. 3:16.
  - B. The Lord's word, His truth, is in the Bible, but the Bible needs the proper interpretation—2:15.
  - C. The truth is absolute in itself, and we must be absolute for the truth—2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4, 7-8.
  - D. The standard of the Lord's recovery depends upon the standard of the truth we put out; the truths will be the measure and the standard—John 18:37.
  - E. We need to have the truth wrought into us and constituted into our being— 1 John 1:8; 2:4; 2 John 1-2; 3 John 3-4:
    1. To be constituted with the truth is to have the intrinsic element of the divine revelation wrought into us to become our constituent, our intrinsic being, our organic constitution—John 17:17.
    2. The solid truth that is constituted into us becomes in us a constant and long-term nourishment—1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Thes. 2:13.
  - F. If the truth is wrought into us and constituted into our being, we will be able to protect the interests of the riches of God's divinity and the attainments of His consummation—Rev. 21:12a, 17.
- II. The church is the supporting pillar and holding base of the truth—1 Tim. 3:15:
  - A. The Lord wants His church to know Him as the truth in order to testify concerning Him as the truth—John 14:6; 18:37; 1 John 1:6; 5:20.
  - B. *Truth* in 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the real things revealed in God's Word, which are mainly Christ as the embodiment of God and the church as the Body of Christ—2:4; Col. 2:9, 19.
  - C. The truth is the Triune God, having Christ as the embodiment, center, and expression, to produce the church as the Body of Christ, the house of God, and the kingdom of God—v. 9; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Tim. 3:15; John 3:3, 5.
  - D. The church bears Christ as the reality; the church testifies to the whole universe that Christ, and Christ alone, is the reality—1:14, 17; 14:6.
  - E. As the pillar which bears the truth and the base which upholds the pillar, the church testifies the reality, the truth, of Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ—Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4.
  - F. The kind of church that we build up depends on the kind of truth that we teach; thus, there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church to exist, and to build up the church—1 Tim. 3:15.
  - G. In the church life we all need to come to the full knowledge of the truth— 2:4; 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:25; 3:7; Titus 1:1:
    1. Every believer should have a full knowledge, a complete realization, of the real things revealed in God's Word—1 John 2:21.
    2. The full knowledge of the truth is a thorough apprehension of the truth, a full acknowledgment and appreciation of the reality of all the spiritual and divine things that we have received through faith—1 Tim. 2:4; 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:25.

3. To cut straight the word of the truth is to unfold without bias or distortion the reality of God's economy revealed in the New Testament—v. 15.
- H. In the Lord's recovery today, we need Ezras, priestly teachers who are saturated with God and skillful in the Word of God, to educate the saints with the divine truths—Neh. 8:1-8, 13; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15.
- I. The greatest need that we must meet is to bring the saints into the truth; all the saints should be trained in the divine revelation—1 Tim. 2:4:
  1. We all need to be helped through the Recovery Version with the footnotes and the Life-studies to see the intrinsic significance of the word of the Bible—Neh. 8:8, 13.
  2. The Life-study messages are openers; they open the Bible and bring us into the Bible.
  3. "I consider our writings as the opener to open the holy Word. I believe that those of you who have read the Life-study messages can testify honestly that these messages with the notes of the Recovery Version have opened up a certain chapter or a certain book of the Bible to you. This is not to replace the Bible but to bring people into the Bible" (*Elders' Training, Book 3: The Way to Carry Out the Vision*, pp. 101-102).
- III. All the saints are responsible to uphold the truth—1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:15:
  - A. The supporting pillar and holding base of the truth are the entire church, including all the saints; every member of the church is part of the pillar and base that uphold the truth—1 Tim. 3:15.
  - B. The church being the pillar and base of the truth implies that every member of the church should know the truth; thus, we should make a decision to learn the truth—2:4:
    1. Most of the saints probably do not have a deep sense that they are responsible to bear the truth.
    2. The church, including every believer, must uphold the truth.
    3. The saints in the churches need to respect the leading ones, but if the leading ones do something contrary to the truth, the saints should be responsible to uphold the truth:
      - a. No matter who is speaking, the saints must discern whether or not what is spoken is according to the truth—1 Thes. 5:21.
      - b. We should not care for the person but for the truth and always be ready to uphold the truth—1 John 1:6.
    4. In order for the church to be strong, every brother and sister must uphold the truth by learning the truth, experiencing the truth, and being able to speak the truth—1 Tim. 2:4.
  - C. To understand what it means to uphold the truth, we may consider the example of Paul in Galatians 2:11-16:
    1. Paul saw that Peter did something contrary to the truth in shrinking back from eating with the Gentiles—vv. 11-13.
    2. Paul rebuked Peter because he was doing something contrary to the truth; thus, Paul was upholding the truth—vv. 14-16.
    3. In this situation Paul was a pillar and base of the truth—vv. 5, 14.
  - D. If we learn the truth and practice the truth in the daily church life, we all will be able to bear some responsibility in upholding the truth—2 John 4:
    1. Every truth has two sides; we need to hold both sides of every truth in order to be balanced.
    2. We must always learn, guard, and uphold the truth—3 John 3-4, 8.

## Session Two

### A History of the Lord's Recovery in the Recovery and Release of the Divine Truth

- I. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the divine truths as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, the holy Word of God—2 Tim. 3:16.
- II. The progress of the divine revelation in the Lord's recovery:
  - A. The word of God is the divine revelation, which had not been completed before the New Testament was written.
  - B. In the New Testament the apostles, especially the apostle Paul, completed the word of God in regard to the mystery of God, which is Christ, and the mystery of Christ, which is the church, to give us a full revelation of God's economy—Col. 1:25-26.
  - C. Standing on the shoulders of centuries of saints before them, Watchman Nee and Witness Lee ministered for almost a century to fully open up to God's children all that the apostles completed.
  - D. The truth in the Lord's recovery is the consummation of the truth of the past nineteen centuries—2 Tim. 2:2.
  - E. See the attachment for a list of the items of the truth, the riches of the divine revelation, unveiled through these two brothers' ministry.
- III. The crucial points of the truth in the Lord's up-to-date recovery:
  - A. The apostles' teaching—the entire speaking of God in the New Testament concerning God's New Testament economy—Acts 2:42.
  - B. The New Testament ministry—the unique ministry according to the apostles' teaching—2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Tim. 1:12.
  - C. The eternal economy of God—the central line of the divine revelation—1 Tim. 1:4b; Eph. 1:10; 3:9.
  - D. The Divine Trinity—the three-one God for His divine dispensing to carry out His eternal economy—John 14:9-20; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5.
  - E. The all-inclusive Christ—the centrality and universality of God's New Testament economy—Eph. 1:23.
  - F. The full ministry of Christ in three stages—incarnation, inclusion, intensification—John 1:1, 14; 1 Cor. 15:45; Rev. 1:4.
  - G. The all-inclusive Spirit—the life-giving, compound, sevenfold intensified Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b; John 7:39; Rev. 22:17.
  - H. The eternal life of God—the uncreated, indestructible, incorruptible life in which we are saved and in which we reign—John 3:15-16.
  - I. God's complete salvation—judicial redemption plus organic salvation—Rom. 5:10.
  - J. The Body of Christ—the organism of the Triune God—Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 10:32.
  - K. The practical expression of the church—the Body of Christ expressed practically as many local churches—1 Cor. 1:2; Rev. 1:11.
  - L. The New Jerusalem—the consummation of God's eternal economy—Rev. 21:2.
- IV. The steps our Lord has taken to give us the divine truths:
  - A. Spoken by God—Heb. 1:1-2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 1:21.
  - B. Written down in Hebrew and Greek.
  - C. Translated into many languages.
  - D. Interpreted and expounded—Matt. 22:31-32; Luke 24:27, 45; Acts 8:30-35.
  - E. Understood—the learning of the divine truths by studying the translated and interpreted holy writings.
- V. The Lord has given his recovery a gift and a commission in the divine truths:
  - A. The Lord has opened to us His divine revelation from the making of His eternal economy to the consummation of His eternal goal the New Jerusalem (Eph. 3:9; Rev. 21:2).
  - B. The Lord has commissioned His recovery with the ministry of His word.
  - C. The Lord has provided us with a marvelous environment for the release of the divine revelation:

1. The ministry in the United States began in Los Angeles in 1962, primarily with conferences and informal trainings.
  2. In 1974, the Lord led Brother Lee to move to Anaheim and to begin conducting two ten-day trainings every year:
    - a. These trainings were in the principle of a school; those who came needed to be properly enrolled to provide a proper, clear, uplifted atmosphere for the release of the divine truths.
    - b. These trainings also helped in the regular release and publishing of the ministry so that the truths that the Lord has revealed would not be lost but would benefit all the churches and all the Lord's children.
  - D. The Lord's present charge to us should be: go and teach the nations (cf. Matt. 28:19) that the present age may be consummated (24:14).
- VI. The spiritual and practical heritage for the saints to enjoy, experience, and practice in the Lord's recovery:
- A. The Holy Bible Recovery Version (1974-2003).
  - B. The Life-study of the entire Bible (1974-1995).
  - C. The high peaks of the divine revelation (1994-1997).
  - D. The Collected Works of Watchman Nee (62 volumes).
  - E. The Collected Works of Witness Lee (in progress).
  - F. Hymns.
  - G. The seven annual "feasts" (international conferences and trainings).
  - H. Full-time trainings around the world.
  - I. The local church life.
  - J. The God-ordained way and the vital groups.
  - K. The practice of blending for the reality of the Body of Christ.

A Chronology of  
the Progress of the Divine Revelation in the Lord's Recovery

*1920 — 1932*

• The Assurance of Salvation • The Distinction between Grace and Law • The Difference between Salvation and Victory • The Difference between Salvation and Reward • The Difference between the Kingdom of the Heavens and Eternal Life • The Kingdom Truths • Rapture • The Deviation of Christianity • The Church, the Ecclesia, the Body of Christ • The Two Aspects of the Church • Denominationalism • The Clergy System and Hierarchy • The Universal Priesthood • The Presbytery, the Proper Eldership • The Difference between Office and Gift • Baptism and the Lord's Table • Head Covering and the Laying On of Hands • Living by Faith in God • Divine Healing • The Death and Resurrection of Christ • The Ascension of Christ • The Coming of Christ • The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit • The Teaching of the Anointing • The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit • The Tripartite Man • Sanctification by Faith • Christ as Life • The Law of the Spirit of Life • The Law of Sin and Death • A Better Covenant • The Overcoming Life of Christ • The Calling of the Overcomers • Spiritual Warfare

*1933 — 1937*

• The Boundary of the Local Church • The Centrality and Universality of Christ • The Ground of the Local Church • Migration

*1938 — 1942*

• The Practicality of the Church Life • The Reality of the Church • The Oneness of the Church • Seeing the Body • The Authority of the Holy Spirit in the Body • The Reality of the Holy Spirit • The Authority of the Church • The Building of the Church • Coordination in the Church Life • The Body and the Spiritual Warfare

*1942 — 1948*

• The Discipline of the Holy Spirit • The Breaking of the Outer Man and the Release of the Spirit • Using the Spirit

*1948 — 1950*

• The Region of the Work • Handing Over All Things

*1953 — 1968*

• Enjoying the Lord By Eating and Drinking Him • Calling on the Lord • Pray-Reading the Word • Universal Prophesying

*1969 — 1979*

• The Sevenfold Intensified Spirit • Christ versus Religion • The Church as the New Man • Christ as the Person of the Church • The Abolishing of the Ordinances • The Body-Christ

*1980 — 1993*

• The Divine Trinity — The Processed and Consummated Triune God • The Dispensing of the Triune God • God's New Testament Economy • The New Jerusalem — the Totality of the Divine Revelation and the Ultimate Goal of God's Economy • The God-ordained Way to Meet and Serve in the New Testament — The New Testament Priesthood of the Gospel; Begetting, Nourishing, Teaching, and Building; the Vital Groups • The Intrinsic View of the Body of Christ— The Church as the Body of Christ Being the Organism of the Triune God; The Church as the Bride of Christ Being His Increase; The Organic Building of the Church; The Church Being the Issue of the Dispensing of the Processed Trinity and the Transmitting of the Transcending Christ

*1994 ~*

• God Became Man that Man May Become God in Life and in Nature, but Not in His Godhead • The Judicial and Organic Aspects of God's Complete Salvation • The Full Ministry of Christ in Three Stages • The Divine and Mystical Realm of the Consummated Spirit and the Pneumatic Christ • Blending Bringing In the Reality of the Body of Christ • The Local Churches Being the Procedure of God's Economy, and the Body of Christ Being the Goal • Experiencing God's Organic Salvation Equaling Reigning in Christ's Life • The New Jerusalem Being the Universal Incorporation of the Union and Mingling of Divinity with Humanity

## Session Three

### Being Constituted with the Truth of the Expounded Bible with the Help of the Recovery Version and Life-Study Messages

- I. Studying the truth—some general points:
  - A. First, you should realistically assess your time constraints, environment, and other commitments to see how much time you could reasonably give on a weekly basis for the study of the truth.
  - B. If possible, it would be good to have a set study time with a few other saints; from experience, this has greatly helped us to be accountable and consistent with our time, and through the fellowship our apprehension of the truth has been broadened.
  - C. You may study the truth of the New Testament either by topic or by New Testament book (ET-3, pg. 145).
  - D. If you are going to study a New Testament book or portion of a book of the New Testament you will need a Recovery Version, Life-study Messages for the book you will cover, and some system for sorting and keeping your notes and outlines in order, like a binder or a file folder. It would also be helpful (but not necessary) to have some Greek helps for looking into some particular words as needed.
- II. The keys for our study—overview, crucial points, active reading, understanding, and memory:
  - A. Overview—Look for the overview, the outline, the bird's eye view.
    1. In whatever you are laboring over in the truth, always attempt to see the outline of the material, the overview; this is the most crucial matter in studying the truth and will help keep you from being entangled in the details.
    2. Learn to see the outline of a whole section as you are studying it.
    3. In studying a New Testament book, build your study around the outline of that book provided in the Recovery Version. Try to understand all the points of the book in light of it. By this, what you receive in your study will not be suspended in air but will be attached to the framework of the verses and outline. This will make it easier to retain these points in your memory.
    4. Linking points—Throughout the Life-study messages of a New Testament book, periodically, there will be an overview of a section of the book, a group of sections or the book as a whole. From these overviews you can pick up what are the “linking points”, the means by which crucial points or sections relate to one another (ET-3, pg. 15). These help tie a section or group of sections together and give you insight into how the entire book fits together; these overviews in the Life-study messages are invaluable.
  - B. Crucial points—Crucial points and important vocabulary—Endeavor to find and pick up the crucial points and important vocabulary of the truth.
    1. They are clearly stated or are apparent by the frequency of occurrence.
    2. After picking up the crucial points and important vocabulary you should attempt to understand the material in light of these points and vocabulary.
    3. Examples of crucial points and important vocabulary: “Designation” in Romans; “Nature” and “condition” and “position” and “status” in Ephesians chapter 2; Being on the “proper ground” and being “fundamental” in the study of the book of 2 Chronicles.
    4. Learn to link the crucial points and the important vocabulary together within a section or group of sections as a whole unit. This will help you to see the outline more clearly and to fill it out in your understanding.
  - C. Active reading—Constitution requires us to study with consideration, to actively read not passively read for inspiration.
    1. To study, we have to labor in the Word and in the “openers” (Luke 24:32) to dig out the important points (1 Tim. 5:17b; ET-5, pgs. 57-58).
    2. Merely to read a life study will only bring inspiration which will vanish like a vapor (ET-3, pg. 94).

- D. Understanding and Retention—The definition of constitution is understanding and retention (ET-3, pg. 94).
1. Constitution with the truth is mainly a matter of the mentality not of inspiration. It requires first, understanding or seeing and secondly, the function of your memory (Eph. 1:17-18; Luke 24:32; Col. 1:9; ET-3, pg. 94).
  2. To understand or see some point of the truth, exercise over the truth as described in A-C above.
  3. To retain the points of truth in your memory it is helpful to reduce them to written notes and to consider and labor over your notes.
  4. You should always make notes as you study and constantly come back to your notes and revise them, arrange them and outline them as you get further light in your study. Without notes of your study, most of what you receive from your study will vanish with time.
- E. Not being sidetracked—Through the above principles of taking care of the overview and the crucial points you can focus on the most crucial matters in your study and not get caught in the less important points (ET-5, pg. 104, 1st paragraph).
- III. Some practical suggestions for studying a book in the New Testament:
- A. In studying a NT book, carry out your study according to the sections of the outline of the Recovery Version (RcV). Each section of the outline of the RcV has a certain number of verses, footnotes, cross-references, and Life-studies related to it. If you carry out your study according to a section of the RcV outline with its related verses, footnotes, cross-references, and Life-studies, your study will be very orderly and the points you pick up in your study will be clearly related to the structure of the RcV outline and so, much easier to retain in your memory.
  - B. First, make a copy of the outline of the book to be studied from the RcV; this way you can have the outline always before you as you study.
  - C. By comparing the front of each Life-study message with the RcV outline you can determine which Life-studies go with what section of the RcV outline to study at one time.
  - D. Next, read and carefully consider the section of the outline to be studied along with the verses related to that section of the outline. Endeavor to understand why each set of verse goes with a particular outline heading. For example, why does Romans 5:1-11, reveal to us “The result of Justification”?
  - E. After you get an initial grasp of the outline section and the related verses by A-D above, then study the footnotes related to that section of the outline. After this, go on to study the Life-studies related to the same section of the outline.
  - F. As you make these three passes through the section of the outline, look for the crucial points as well as the important vocabulary and linking points that help to tie a section or group of sections together. Dwell on these matters once you discover them and go back through the material again to understand these points more fully and to understand them in their context of the verses, outline sections, footnotes, and Life-studies. Work your way through the book in this way, section by section.
  - G. In your study, you are starting with the outline as the skeleton and you are adding flesh to it by your study to end up with a complete yet not excessive view of the book. In this type of study you are not attempting to get every small point of the truth related to the book but are attempting to end up with a full yet manageable package built around the skeleton of the outline. Manageable, because what you are working towards is being able to use the truth which you study in caring for others.
  - H. To retain these points, make notes from your study of the RcV outline, footnotes, Life-studies, and even important cross-references. It is helpful to have your notes arranged in sections according to the sections of the RcV outline and in subsections under that. At the end of your study of a section of the Recovery Version outline, make an expanded outline of that section with the points of the truth you have picked up (ET-3, pg. 17, middle of page).

- I. As you work your way through the book in this way, section by section, you will get further light regarding a prior section of the book or of the scope of the book as a whole. As you do, go back and adjust your prior notes and outlines accordingly. Remember to always make notes as you go or your study will become mainly vapor.
  - J. After you have finished going through an entire book in this way you will have an outline of the entire book.
  - K. Points to observe when studying together with a small number of saints.
    1. Learn when to stop pursuing a side point “a bunny trail,” when it is no longer contributing to the crucial point being studied.
    2. Do not dominate, over function, or teach in this time but give room to others to share their portion and endeavor to draw out each saint's portion. You are seeking to learn together.
    3. Go at a reasonable pace through the material, not too fast, so that everyone can grasp the crucial matters.
    4. Do not let important points go lightly, but consider them and endeavor to understand them fully and in their context.
    5. Be gracious with those you are studying with.
    6. Always be open to be adjusted in your view of a certain topic or verse by what other saints receive from their study and especially be open to be helped and corrected by Brother Lee's expounding of a point or a verse. It is not helpful to “protect the turf” of your particular understanding of a point or verse or to contend for it.
  - L. If you use what you have picked up from your study in sharing with others it will get more constituted into your being (Luke 24:32, 36). With such a deposit you will be able to answer every man “concerning the hope which is in you” (1 Pet 3:15).
- IV. Handling the word daily in various ways:
- A. Morning Revival—Spend time each morning in the Word to contact and absorb the Lord, and to be refreshed and enlightened by Him.
  - B. Musing over the Word—Muse over your morning revival verses during the day; consider them, and pray over them to the Lord.
  - C. Daily Quick Reading of the Word—For an overview of the New Testament have a schedule for daily reading; it would be good to read sequentially and consistently for the rest of your life.
  - D. Studying the truth in the Word—For the constitution with the truth of the New Testament.
  - E. Speaking out the Word you have been enjoying—What you have picked up from the Word will be expanded in your realization and etched deeply in your being as you speak it to others in group meetings, casual contacts during the day, and in the meetings of the church.



**An Example –  
Studying the Bible using the Recovery Version  
and the Life-study Messages**

Below are some practical summary points on studying the Bible with the help of the Recovery Version and the Life-study Messages.

**First, pray to open to the Lord.** This is crucial because you need to use your spirit to study the Bible. You do not need to pray for a long time.

**Second, read the title and the subtitles** of the message to get an overview of the content.

**Third, read and pray-read the verses and outline points** associated with the message, being careful to manage your time wisely. If there are too many verses to cover in the allotted time, just pray-read the key portions of the key verses.

**Fourth, try to identify the main points** covered in each verse as outlined in the title and subtitles. The title and the subtitles are there to guide you in studying the verses; therefore, you must pay particular attention to how they relate.

**Fifth, read the text of the message section by section and underline** the crucial points related to the title or corresponding subtitle.

**Sixth, pray over the crucial points as you are reading.** Go to the Lord with these points in confession, fellowship, and prayer that He may fill you with His Spirit, renew your mind, and enlighten you.

**Seventh, answer the study questions.** This will reinforce the main points in the message.

**Eighth, reconsider the RCV outline points in light of your reading and study.** The outline presents the truth in structured points; being able to see the logic and structure of the outline points (how they are related and how they flow together) will help you to remember these points as well as to present them to others. You may also attempt to write out a brief summary of what you have read.

**Ninth, pray over the content of the message.** This will help you assimilate the main points.

**Tenth, speak to your study group and others about what you have seen.** Come to your study group prepared to overflow based on your enlightenment and prayer; be ready in season and out of season to share what you have enjoyed with others around you, e.g. colleagues, relatives, Facebook friends, etc.