

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION FOR THE CHURCH LIFE

Message One

The Vision of the “One Piece” Work to Gain our Next Generation

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 3:15; 1:5; Matt. 13:3, 37-38; John 12:24; Acts 1:8;
1 Cor. 3:8; 15:58; Rom. 1:16

- I. We need a vision of God’s New Testament economy—the desire of God’s heart to dispense Himself into His chosen people in His trinity for the producing of the church, which is the kingdom of God that will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the eternal expression of the Triune God—Luke 10:42; John 3:5-6, 14-16; Eph 2:1-10; 3:8-11.**
- II. The children’s work is a basic work in the churches because we have many families with children; to raise our children properly and bring them to the Lord is the easiest way to gain the increase for the church; moreover, this increase is more reliable than the outsiders whom we bring in—2 Tim. 3:15; 1:5:**
 - A. A good children’s work also helps the young people’s work; to a large extent the junior-high work depends upon the children’s work.
 - B. In like manner, the junior-high work affects the high school work, and the high school work affects the college work.
 - C. Every local church would pay adequate attention to the children’s meeting and do what is necessary to take sufficient care of it.
 - D. The children’s meeting, the young people’s work, and the gospel work on the college campuses are all related as one work (*one piece*); the brothers who are working with the children should also do something to be related to the young people’s work:
 1. When children are saved, they become our young brothers and sisters; after they graduate from primary school, they become the seeds of the gospel in the junior high school—Matt. 13:3, 37-38; 1 Pet. 1:1 (footnote 4); John 12:24:
 - a. When we work in the schools, the young brothers and sisters become our inside helpers and bring their classmates to us; in this way, it is easier to work in the junior high schools.
 - b. The young brothers and sisters in a junior high school can be likened to little seeds; they are waiting to sprout by responding to our call and bringing their classmates to salvation.
 2. When they enter high school, they again become seeds of the gospel; during their three years of high school, we can bring three times as many people to salvation.
 3. When these young saints finish high school and enter college, they are seeds of the gospel in their college; in this way the number of people saved is continually multiplied.
 4. Suppose these children begin to be cultivated in the children’s meeting at the age of six and are saved, and they continue to be cultivated through three years of junior high school, three years of high school, and four years of college; in all, they will receive a total of sixteen years of spiritual education and cultivation.
- III. We must dream about the children, the junior high school students, the high school students, and the college students; in this way the saints in every local church will carry out their function to the highest degree:**
 - A. Some of the elders must receive the burden to dive into these things and to labor on them diligently; if I (Br. Lee) had returned twenty years ago, this would be our practice in the church in Taipei.

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- B. We must pick up this responsibility and go to every junior high school, high school, technical college, university, and graduate school to ensure that the young people have the opportunity to know the Lord's truth and receive His gospel while they are receiving their education; we must consecrate the entire church to the Lord for the campus work.
- C. All the young people in the church life are useful; this is why we have to work with our high schoolers; after graduating from high school, they all will be on the campuses to effectively contact the freshmen.
- D. The young people in the church can invite others to the homes of the middle-aged ones and of the young couples; all these homes need to be open and ready to receive the young people.
- E. We must do a work among the elementary, junior high, high school, and college-age students; these four levels must be built up; there are six categories, which include truth, life, evangelizing, the children's work, the student work, and the community gospel work, should be our goal in the church life.
- F. Furthermore, I said that we should perfect the young brothers and sisters in junior high, high school, and college to coordinate as teachers in the children's meetings.

IV. Our work for the Lord should have a long-term view; six years go by very quickly; soon the children in first grade will be young brothers and sisters; when they enter junior high school, we can preach the gospel to their classmates in junior high—Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 3:8; 15:58:

- A. While in junior high, they will bring some classmates to salvation—Luke 1:77; Matt. 13:3.
- B. After graduation, they will proceed to high school and become the gospel seed in high school; after these brothers and sisters graduate, they will go on to college and become the gospel seed in college; this kind of multiplying is incredible—cf. John 12:24.
- C. These children would be gospel seeds in junior high school, they would be gospel seeds in high school, and they would be gospel seeds in college; they would be seeds the entire time that they are in school—Rom 1:16.

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Message Two

The Work with the Children Being a Work of Preparation

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 1:5; 2:2, 21; 3:15, 17; Rom. 9:21, 23; Psa. 127:3; Eph. 6:4;
Matt. 19:13-14; Acts 2:38-39; Matt. 28:19-20; Prov. 22:6

- I. The entire economy of God, and especially that in the New Testament age, is a matter of dispensing; God's creation of man is in the view of the divine dispensing according to the divine economy—Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; Eph. 1:9-10; 3:8-11:**
 - A. God's New Testament economy is a plan made by God according to His good pleasure; God's good pleasure, His longing, His aspiration, is to dispense Himself into His chosen people—1:9-10.
 - B. Romans 9:21 discloses God's purpose in creating man; we need to be deeply impressed with the fact that we are God's containers and that He is our content—Gen. 2:7; Acts 9:15.
- II. "If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work"—2 Tim. 2:21.**
- III. When God bestows grace on the church, He needs vessels; there is the need for more Timothys to be raised up—2 Tim. 2:2, 21; 3:17; cf. 2 Kings 4:1-6:**
 - A. When a potter turns his wheel and molds his vessels, some become damaged before they even reach the fire; they do not even pass the formative stage; this is a loss—Jer. 18:3-6.
 - B. It is true that we can save men from the world, but there is a greater need for raising up people from among Christian families—2 Tim. 3:15a.
 - C. We have to expect the second generation, men like Timothy, to come from our own families—1:5.
- IV. We expect the children's work among us to be very prevailing; therefore, we need to have a proper realization and preparation for this work—Gen. 1:28; Psa. 127:3:**
 - A. When we speak of the children's work, we are referring to children who have not graduated from elementary school but are more than five years old; these are the target of our children's work.
 - B. No family will disregard its children; as a priority a family looks after its children, raises them, and teaches them; hence we must serve the many children in God's family—Psa. 127:3; Eph. 6:4; Matt. 19:13-14.
 - C. All the churches must have a children's work; if we work with these children, they will all be young brothers and sisters after six to seven years—Eph. 4:12-16; Zech. 4:10; cf. Matt. 25:16.
 - D. We cannot continue to work as we have in the past; we must change our ways; in the past we neglected the work with the children.
- V. Many years ago, we did not realize that the children are a big gospel work; we only cared to preach the gospel, while neglecting the fact that the children also are the fruit of the gospel—Acts 2:38-39; Matt. 28:19-20:**
 - A. We may be doing our best to preach the gospel, but if we pay proper attention to the children's work, in time many more brothers and sisters will be properly brought up in the church.

- B. This is a much more effective way to gain the increase than preaching the gospel; moreover, those who are gained in this way will have a good foundation.
- C. We should not do a work merely among the children in the church; our work must include the children outside the church; this is the children's gospel work—cf. Rom. 9:24:
 - 1. We believe that many people will be brought in through the children's gospel work; the children's meetings will open up a way to gain people, especially the parents of the other children.
 - 2. We should not limit our work to the children of the saints who are in our meetings; we also need to invite the children of our neighbors and friends; furthermore, we hope that every home will be open for the gospel.
- D. If we continue the children's work, we will be unable to estimate the long-term results; if we labor on the children, our numbers will continually grow—Acts 2:47.
- E. We must realize that the children's work is a crucial burden; every locality must be aggressive in the children's work, because there is a greater future in the children's work than in the campus work.

VI. Today, many young people have been damaged with respect to their character; it is because of this that we have a children's work for the children; we need to build up their character—1 Tim. 3:7; Acts 6:3; Prov. 28:20a:

- A. The children must be built up as proper human beings; this is a matter of character, that is, behavior and habit—Matt. 5:16.
- B. From their youth they must learn to honor their parents, love their brothers and sisters, and respect others—Eph. 6:2.
- C. We do not need to give the young ones too much knowledge of the Bible; we should rather build them up with the proper ethics and morality that will constitute a proper character—Prov. 22:6.

VII. To build up a proper humanity is the way to prepare the children to be the best material to receive God's grace—Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Tim. 2:20-21:

- A. It is best to help the children grow up in their humanity by helping them know what a proper human being is; how to honor their parents, and how to be a proper child—Eph. 6:1; Col. 1:10; Prov. 22:6.
- B. Since our families are part of the fallen race, we parents must exercise God's ordination to restrict our children by ethical teachings, regulations, and discipline.
- C. For proper human living in your home, you must teach your children to behave properly by honoring their parents, caring for their brothers and sisters, respecting their neighbors, and not stealing—v. 6; Eph. 6:4.
- D. Because children are too young to behave according to Christ, they must be taught to behave according to culture; children are preserved by culture while they are growing up—Rom. 13:1; Gal. 3:23.
- E. In caring for their children, Christian parents need to preach the law to them; we should not first preach grace to the children; if we give them regulations according to the law, the law will keep them in custody for Christ—2 Tim. 3:15; Rom. 13:1; Gal. 3:24.

VIII. The responsible brothers and the co-workers in every place must see the importance of the children's work in God's family; this should be a great matter to us—Heb. 11:7; Psa. 127:3; Gen. 33:5b; Dan. 1:3-4; Matt. 24:45; 25:16; Rom. 9:23; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Tim. 3:4-5; Acts 16:31-32; 1 Tim. 4:12.

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Message Three

**The Work with the Young People Being
a Work of Perfecting**

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:16-17; Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Cor. 3:9; 2 Tim. 2:2, 20; 3:17;
Phil. 2:22; 4:9; Col. 1:28-29; 2 Tim. 3:14; Phil. 2:19-22; 4:9; 2 Tim. 3:14

- I. The Lord's recovery is spreading and will spread at a good pace; there will be churches in all the major cities and in all the leading countries on earth; the young people must realize that their responsibility is tremendous; if during the coming years many of them are perfected, the Lord's recovery will spread at a rapid speed—2 Tim. 2:2; 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 3:9:**
 - A. There must be a group of young people who are saved to receive proper spiritual help today, so they can gain the experience and be used by the Lord in the future; if there are no young people gained by the Lord today, after our departure there will be no one to succeed us; then there will be a gap.
 - B. If you see this, your heart will be burdened to love the young people regardless of whether they are good or bad; may the brothers and sisters as the Lord's lovers all love the young people for the future of the church and for the Lord's work.
- II. Our present need is to change our concept and our system; we must learn to serve and how to serve with others and we must remember not to replace the saints but rather to bring them into the service with us—1 Cor. 12:14-22; Rom. 12:4-8:**
 - A. We should not say that the young people have no capacity; the problem is that we are short in perfecting them; if we will do a perfecting work, their capabilities will be brought forth—Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Cor. 13:9; cf. Luke 19:13.
 - B. They must be perfected to do more than attend meetings, listen to messages, and help take care of some business affairs; these matters cannot draw out the interest and capacity of the saints—cf. Matt. 25:15.
 - C. It is regrettable that we have neither learned to bring the saints into the service nor learned to perfect the saints; instead, we do everything by ourselves and thus unconsciously replace the saints—cf. Rev. 2:6, 15.
 - D. We must change our system and change our concept; we must teach and train the saints in order for them to be useful; otherwise, no matter how much we preach the gospel, it will be difficult for us to gain the increase—cf. Rev. 2:6, 15.
- III. In addition to enjoying the Lord, a Christian should serve and work; in order to be healthy, a person must eat, rest, work, and be sufficiently active—2 Tim. 2:2, 21; 3:17:**
 - A. According to our experience and observation, the young people need to be exercised in the spiritual activity of going forth to bear fruit; the easiest time for Christians to bear fruit is when they are young—John 15:5.
 - B. The young people should also learn to function in the meetings of the church; the young people who are high school age should begin to bear some responsibility in their spiritual family—1 Cor. 14:26.
 - C. We should endeavor to bring the young people into the practice of the church life through the children's work and the practical service in the church—Phil. 2:22.
- IV. We must pay attention to a fundamental point in the young people's work,**

which is that we must bring them into working with us—1 Cor. 16:10; Phil. 2:19-22:

- A. We should not replace others in whatever we do; however, we often do the work by ourselves and thus replace others; this is the natural way to work; we need to be aggressive and learn how to preach the gospel in a school without ever setting foot in the school—Phil. 2:22.
- B. We must always apply this principle no matter where we serve; the work must belong to the saints to the point that they are asking the workers for assistance rather than relying on them to do everything.
- C. In order to produce a useful brother, we must spend a few months to labor and gain him, by working on him until he is burdened to preach the gospel in his school—cf. 1 Thes. 1:5-8:
 - 1. We should spend time with him by fellowshiping with him, having meals with him, and leading him to pray until the young brother begins to love the Lord, is revived, and becomes willing to preach the gospel in his school—Phil. 2:22.
 - 2. We must work on the young people until they are raised up and until they are more zealous and more serious about the work than we are—Col. 1:28-29.
 - 3. If this is the way we serve, every school will be open to us; both university students and junior high school students can be gained in this way.

V. In every school we must produce young saints who are very burdened, and we only assist and supply them from a distance—Eph. 4:11-12, 16:

- A. On one hand, we should not be afraid to let others serve, but on the other hand, we should watch them; that is, we must oversee—Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7; cf. 1 Pet. 2:25:
 - 1. After we hand things over, we should stand behind and watch the situation; this will enable us to see how well the person is doing—cf. Phil. 1:1.
 - 2. We should have the assurance that after so many years of observing, listening, and learning, the saints are able to bear responsibility; we should be at peace to commit matters into their hands; the saints simply need a little guiding—Phil. 4:9; 2 Tim. 3:14.
- B. The supply should not be in the way of leading the students in a meeting and this supply cannot be met by giving a message; what we supply should meet the students' real need:
 - 1. When the young saints ask for help, we should be ready to help them; if we cannot help them, they will not ask for help again.
 - 2. If the young saints learn something that they can apply, they will return for more help; then we can give them further direction.
 - 3. At this point, the work will be borne by both the students and the worker because the students carry it out at school, and the worker helps as needed; if we work in this way, it will be easy to gain a school.

VI. “The future of the church hinges entirely on the young saints; the young saints should be faithful to take care of preaching the gospel to their classmates, to bear fruit, and to take care of the children; furthermore, they should attend the regular meetings of the church for the remembrance of the Lord in the breaking of bread and for worship and fellowship together with all the saints; then, as time and energy allow, they should bear some responsibility in the miscellaneous services of the church.” (CWWL, 1968, vol. 2, p. 73)

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Message Four

**The Work on the Campuses Being
a Work of Propagation**

Scripture Reading: John 15:16a, 2; Matt. 4:19; 1 Cor. 9:26-27; Eccl. 4:12; Luke 6:38

- I. Our work for the Lord should have a long-term view; six years go by very quickly; soon the children in first grade will be young brothers and sisters; when they enter junior high school, we can preach the gospel to their classmates in junior high—Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 3:8; 15:58:**
 - A. While in junior high, they will bring some classmates to salvation—Luke 1:77; Matt. 13:3.
 - B. After graduation, they will proceed to high school and become the gospel seed in high school; after these brothers and sisters graduate, they will go on to college and become the gospel seed in college; this kind of multiplying is incredible—cf. John 12:24.
 - C. These children would be gospel seeds in junior high school, they would be gospel seeds in high school, and they would be gospel seeds in college; they would be seeds the entire time that they are in school—Rom 1:16.
- II. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain”—John 15:16a:**
 - A. The Lord has chosen us to go forth and bear fruit—John 15:16a.
 - B. The Lord has commissioned us to go forth to bear fruit. If we do not bear fruit, the Lord says again, “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away”—John 15:2a.
 - C. We have to realize that we have been charged by our Master, and then we must be serious and desperate to go forth, to bear fruit, and to keep our fruit—Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 9:24, 27.
- III. One of the best ways for the churches to get new contacts is to send our young people to the campus; the best fishing ponds for the Lord’s recovery are the college campuses—Matt. 4:19; Acts 19:9-10:**
 - A. The Lord’s recovery needs a large number of people; in order to produce a large number of people, we must bring in young students; hence, the campus work is a must—Gen. 1:28a; Matt. 28:19a; Acts 5:14; 6:7.
 - B. The urgent need in the Lord’s work today is that we would do the campus work to gain the young people for the Lord’s recovery so that we may have a promising future. (*Vessels Useful to the Lord*, p. 72)
 - C. We must preach the gospel on the college campuses to gain the thoughtful people—Acts 22:3; Gal. 1:14; Phil. 3:5.
 - D. People need to hear the higher preaching of such a full gospel—Phil. 3:8; Eph. 2:8.
 - E. The first preference of the graduates of the full-time training in Anaheim should be the United States college campuses.
 - F. In spreading the Lord’s recovery to other countries, we must go to the leading cities which have colleges and universities to contact the students.
- IV. Our gospel work should place special emphasis on high school and college students; we should spend and pour out our all to save, cultivate, edify, and lead these young ones—1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Cor. 12:15:**
 - A. We must take specific practical steps for the spreading of the gospel—Phil. 1:5-6:
 1. Open our homes for the preaching of the gospel—Acts 5:42; 2:46.
 2. Preach the gospel on the campuses.

3. Preach the gospel to the children —Luke 18:16.
4. Preach the gospel to people of all levels of society.
- B. We must let God open our eyes to see the preciousness of the young people and their importance in God's hands—Acts 7:58b; 9:20; 1 Tim. 4:12.
- C. There are three reasons why we must go to the young people:
 1. They are unoccupied—Matt. 20:6-7.
 2. They are gathered in the schools—John 21:6.
 3. It is easy for them to have a change in their mind—Acts 9:1, 20.
- D. If we gain the freshmen, then through them we shall gain some of their parents—Acts 16:31.
- E. Some of the co-workers and elders should focus on the college campuses.
- V. The way of laboring on the college campuses—1 Cor. 9:26-27; Eccl. 4:12; Luke 6:38:**
 - A. The need of our students.
 - B. The need of full-timers—Rom. 12:1; Acts 19:8-10.
 - C. The need of the homes (families)—Acts 2:46; 5:42; 10:22-24:
 1. Our homes are very useful for the labor on the college campuses:
 - a. On the one hand, the freshmen in college are eager to leave home; on the other hand, as they live in the dormitories at school, they are often lonely and homesick.
 - b. The young people in the church can invite the other young students to the homes of the middle-aged ones and of the young couples.
 2. In preaching the gospel we do not need any gimmicks; we should simply pray, preach the word, and open our homes.
 - D. The need of consistency in our labor—2 Tim. 2:6.
 - E. The need of facilities (houses for the young students) for the work on the campuses.
 - F. The need of financial support.
- VI. By laboring on the college campuses the future of the Lord's recovery is secured—Acts 19:9-10:**
 - A. The promise, hope, and future of the Lord's recovery are with the college students.
 - B. The source of manpower for the Lord's move today is on the college campuses—Acts 19:9-10.

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Message Five

**Having Dispensational Value to God
in the Last Days to Turn the Age**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 12:5, 10-11; Dan. 12:3; 10:19; Rev. 14:1, 4-5; 19:7-9; Num. 6:1-8; Rev. 3:1; Acts 17:26-27; Rev. 1:5; Matt. 24:14; Judg. 5:15b, 16b; Dan. 11:32b; 2 Tim. 2:21

I. Every time God wants to make a dispensational move, an age-turning move, He must obtain His dispensational instrument; we must be those who have dispensational value to God in the last days to turn the age—Rev. 12:5, 10-11; 1:20; Dan, 12:3; 9:23; 10:11, 19:

- A. The goal of God's eternal economy, the goal of the divine history within human history, is to have the corporate Christ, Christ with His overcomers, as the crushing stone to be His dispensational instrument to end this age and become a great mountain, the kingdom of God—2:28, 31-45; Joel 3:11; Rev. 12:1-2, 5, 11; 14:1-5; 19:7-21.
- B. Simply speaking, recovery is to overcome; to be in the Lord's recovery is to be in the Lord's overcoming, being prepared to be His overcoming bride for His return—2:7; 3:21; 19:7-9.

II. Only the Nazarites can bring back the Lord Jesus; all those who are used by God to turn the age must be Nazarites—voluntarily consecrated ones who are sanctified absolutely and ultimately to God—Num. 6:1-8; Judg. 13:4-5; 1 Sam. 1:11; Luke 1:15:

- A. A Nazarite was to abstain from wine and anything related to its source, signifying that we must abstain from all kinds of earthly enjoyment and pleasure, which lead to lustful conduct and a lustful intention—Num. 6:3; cf. Psalms 104:15; Ecclesiastes 10:19; 2 Timothy 2:22; 3:1-5.
- B. A Nazarite was to let his hair grow long, signifying that we must remain in subjection to the headship of Christ—Num. 6:5; cf. 1 Corinthians 11:3, 6:
 - 1. A Nazarite is a person who is full of submission; with him there is a submissive standing, atmosphere, and intention; if you are such a person, there will be a great blessing for you and your future.
 - 2. Long hair is a glory to a woman but a shame to a man, signifying that a Nazarite is one who is separated from self-glory and is willing to bear shame for the Lord—Hebrews 13:13.
- C. A Nazarite was not to be defiled by the deadness that comes through natural affection—Num. 6:7; Matthew 12:48-50.
- D. A Nazarite was not to touch anything dead so that he may not be defiled; the most hateful thing in the eyes of God is death—Num. 6:6-7; Rev. 3:1.

III. We must live in our spirit to be men on earth with God's heart, men to whom heaven can be opened to see the vision concerning the destiny of the world and the present situation of the world—Rev. 1:10; 4:1-2:

- A. The Lord sovereignly arranges the world situation and the kingdoms of the world under His heavenly rule so that the environment might be fit for God's chosen people to receive His salvation and be prepared to be His bride—Acts 5:31; 17:26-27; Daniel 4:26; Rev. 1:5.
- B. The great human image in Daniel 2 is a prophetic illustration of the history of human government, sovereignly arranged by the Lord for the carrying out of His economy—vv. 31-35.

- C. Europe, in the consummation of the fulfillment of the vision concerning the great human image in Daniel 2, is more vitally crucial than any other country and, race; the crushing of the two feet of the great human image will be the crushing of the entire human government—vv. 34-35:
 - 1. The ten kings typified by the ten, toes of the great image in Daniel 2 will be under Antichrist, who will, be the last Caesar of the revived Roman Empire; all of this will transpire in Europe—Rev. 17:9-14.
 - 2. The United States, Europe, and the Far East are the three influential factors of the present situation of the world; the recovery has taken root in the United States and the Far East but there is a void in Europe.
 - 3. Before the crushing of Antichrist and of the totality of human government transpire, the Lord's recovery must spread to Europe and be rooted there.
 - 4. The spreading of the truths of the Lord's recovery will be a preparation for the Lord's coming back to bring the recovery and restoration not only to Israel, but also to the entire creation—Matt. 24:14; cf. Rev. 5:6.
 - 5. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, these days are the consummation of the age; Lord, in these days rekindle my love toward, You."

IV. In these last days before the Lord's coming, we must be those who have great resolutions in heart and great searchings of heart—Judg. 5:15b, 16b:

- A. 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.
- B. In order to take the Lord's charge, we must keep the oneness; if we lose the oneness and the one accord, we are finished as far as the Lord's move is concerned—Acts 1:14; Eph. 4:3.
- C. We should rise up to follow the Lord in His present move and have ourselves adjusted to His regulations to be useful to Him—Dan. 11:32; 2 Tim. 2:21.