

2022 Summer High School Conference

LIFE AND BUILDING

August 4-7, 2022

Name:

Locality:

Message 1 – Life is for the Building of God

- I. God placed man before the tree of life because God's intention was to build man with God by his experience of God as life.
Gen. 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- II. God has two sections of His work according to His plan – the work of creation and the work of building; God's creation is for His building.
- III. God's building work is to mingle Himself with man.
- IV. God's building work in the Old Testament
 - A. The Ark
Gen. 6:14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make an opening for light for the ark, and you shall finish it up to a cubit from the top; and you shall put the entrance of the ark in its side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third stories.
 - B. The Tabernacle
Exo. 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst; 9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
 - C. The Temple
1 Kings 6:1 Then in the four hundred eightieth year after the children of Israel had come forth out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of his reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv (this is the second month), Solomon began to build the house of Jehovah.
- V. The church is God's building work today
Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- VI. At the conclusion of the work of God's creation there was the garden of Eden, and at the conclusion of the work of God's building there is the holy city, New Jerusalem.
Gen. 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the an whom He had formed.
Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Message 2 – The Revelation of God’s Building in Genesis 28

- I. In Genesis 28, God reveals for the first time that He will build Himself with man by bringing heaven to earth and earth to heaven in order to join heaven and earth together.
 - A. Genesis 28 reveals that both God and man are homeless.
 - B. “The gate of heaven” indicates that the heavens are opened and it is possible for people to enter into God.

Gen. 28:17 *And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.*
 - C. “Bethel” indicates a dwelling place and resting place for God.

Gen. 28:19 *And he called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz previously.*

- II. The Lord Jesus Himself, as the Son of Man, the incarnated Christ, is the ladder.

John 1:51 *And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.*

 - A. By his incarnation, the Lord brought God into man.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* **14a** *And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us...*
 - B. By his death and resurrection, the Lord brought man into God.

John 7:33 *Jesus therefore said, I am still with you a little while, and then I am going to Him who sent me*
John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.*
 - C. When we believed in the Lord, the Lord as the heavenly ladder brought God into us and us into God.

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name*
John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.*
 - D. The Lord Jesus is our way into the Father.

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.*
 - E. Through the mingling of God with man, God obtains a dwelling place and man obtains a resting place.

- III. If we are mingled with God, when “wandering” people come to our meeting, they will sense the presence of God, an open heaven, Bethel, and the heavenly ladder bringing God to man and man to God.

1 Cor. 14:23 *If therefore the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak in tongues, and some unlearned in tongues or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are insane? 24* *But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all; 25* *The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.*

Message 3 – God’s Building is a God-man

- I. The principle of God’s building is God mingled with humanity.
 - A. In creation, something is brought into existence from nothing.
 - B. Building involves putting together things that already exist.
 - C. When the Lord Jesus was incarnated to become flesh, He was God mingled with humanity; thus He was a building.

“**John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:14a *And the Word became flesh...*

- II. The principle of God’s building is seen throughout John 1-2.
 - A. The tabernacle

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.*
 - B. The heavenly ladder

John 1:51 *And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.*
 - C. The temple

John 2:19 *Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

- III. The principle of God’s building is seen in John 14.
 - A. In the Body of Christ are many abodes.

John 14:2 *In My Father’s house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.*
 - B. Our destination is a person, the Father, and the way there is also a person, the Son.

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me*
 - C. Through His death and resurrection, Christ went to prepare a place for us in the Father.
 - D. His death and resurrection enable us to realize that the Lord is in the Father, we are in the Lord, and the Lord is in us.

John 14:20 *In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.*

Message 4 – Life and Building in the Gospel of John

- I. The book of John reveals the principle and purpose of life.
 - A. Life's principle is to change death into life (John 2:1-11)
John 2:9a *And when the master of the feast tasted the water which had become wine...*
 - B. Life's purpose is to build the house of God (John 2:12-22)
John 2:19 *Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 21 But He spoke of the temple of His body.*

- II. In John 3-11, there are 9 cases that show life meets every man's need.
 - A. The need of the moral — life's regenerating (John 2:23-3:36)
John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
 - B. The need of the immoral — life's satisfying (John 4:1-42)
John 4:14 *But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into eternal life.*
 - C. The need of the dying — life's healing (John 4:43-54)
John 4:50a *Jesus said to him, Go, your son lives.*
 - D. The need of the impotent — life's enlivening (John 5:1-47)
John 5:8 *Jesus said to him, Rise up, take up your mat and walk. 9a And immediately the man became well, and he took up his mat and walked.*
 - E. The need of the hungry — life's feeding (John 6:1-71)
John 6:35 *Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.*
 - F. The need of the thirsty — life's quenching (John 7:1-52)
John 7:37 *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.*
 - G. The need of those under the bondage of sin — life's setting free (John 7:53-8:59)
John 8:10 *And Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? 11 And she said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.*
 - H. The need of the blind in religion — life's sight and life's shepherding (John 9:1-10:42)
John 9:5 *While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
John 10:10b *...I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.*
 - I. The need of the dead — life's resurrecting (John 11:1-57)
John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live*

- III. John 14-16 reveal that life's indwelling is for the building of God's habitation.
 - A. The Triune God's abode
John 14:20 *In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you*
 - B. An organism to glorify the Father
John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

Message 5 - Life and Building in the Epistles

- I. The central thought of all the Epistles is the divine building, the building of God with man.
- II. Paul presents the believers as both a cultivated land and God's building; Paul built people with gold, silver, and precious stones.
1 Cor. 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
1 Cor. 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble
 - A. Gold signifies the divine nature of God the Father.
 - B. Silver signifies the work and person of the Son.
 - C. Precious stones signify the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.
- III. As we grow in the divine life, we become precious stones for God's building.
1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
1 Pet. 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
- IV. To build up the church and the believers is simply to impart, to minister, Christ to them.
 - A. We must first enjoy the Triune God ourselves.
Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love
 - B. We will then have the material to minister Christ as the Spirit to others so that they can be built with Christ.
1 Thes. 5:11 Therefore comfort one another, and build up each one the other, even as you also do.
Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- V. The proper way to build up the Body of Christ is to build the Body with Christ, by Christ, and in Christ, having Christ as everything.
John 3:30 *He must increase, but I must decrease.*
 - A. Holding the Head
Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, 16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body until the building up of itself in love.
 - B. Growing with the growth of God
Col. 2:19 *...holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God*

Message 6 – The New Jerusalem as the Consummation of God’s Building

- I. The New Jerusalem is ultimate conclusion of the entire scriptures.
 - Heb. 11:10** *For he eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.*
 - Heb. 12:22** *But you have come forward to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem; and to myriads of angels, to the universal gathering*
 - A. In the Gospel of John, Christ is the Lamb of God, the Bridegroom, the light, the life, the way, and everything.
 - John 1:29b** *...Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*
 - John 3:29a** *He who has the bride is the bridegroom...*
 - John 1:4** *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*
 - John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life...*
 - B. In the New Jerusalem, Christ is the Lamb, the Bridegroom, the light, the life, the way, and the reality – the New Jerusalem is the embodiment of all that Christ is.
 - Rev. 22:1-2a** *And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. 2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life...*
 - Rev. 21:2** *And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*
 - Rev. 21:3** *And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.*
- II. God is not merely edifying individual people, but building all the saved ones into Himself to be one entity.
 - A. All the redeemed saints of the Old Testament age and all the redeemed saints of the New Testament age are in the New Jerusalem.
 - Rev. 21:12** *It had a great and high wall and had twelve gates... and names inscribed, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.*
 - Rev. 21:14** *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb*
 - B. God does not want scattered individuals; He is after many saints (stones) built together into a city for a habitation
 - John 1:42b** *...Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter)*
 - 1 Pet. 2:5a** *You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house...*
 - Rev. 21:19a** *The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone...*

- III. The condition of a built-up church corresponds to the New Jerusalem.
Ezk. 48:35 It shall be eighteen thousand reeds all around, and the name of the city from that day shall be, Jehovah Is There.
- A. Where there is building, there is the presence of God
Rev. 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
 - B. If the church is built up, it will have the throne of God (Rev. 22:1)
 - C. A builded church has the flow and supply of life (Rev. 22:1-2)
 - D. A builded church has light
Rev. 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
 - E. There is a wall for expression and separation
Rev. 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.
- IV. The Bible ends with a call to take the water of life freely and enjoy the Lord's grace.
Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.
Rev. 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.