

## #11: Aspects of the Church Life under the Government of God

(Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy) 2020/5/3-9

For outline and the Word, please use "The Holy Word for Morning Revival"

**Summary:** **I.** The children of Israel, as the chosen people of God, are the greatest collective type of the church, in which we see that the church is chosen and redeemed by God, enjoys Christ and the Spirit as the life supply, builds God's habitation, inherits Christ as its portion, degrades and is captured, is recovered, and awaits Christ's coming. **II.** God desires to execute His government in the universe through the church. God's administration among the children of Israel was a theocracy, meaning that God Himself came to govern, to rule, to administrate, the people directly yet through some agents; the agents were the priests and the elders working together for God's theocracy. The theocracy among the children of Israel was a government according to God's constant speaking, as written in the law, and God's instant speaking, through the breastplate of the high priest by means of the Urim and the Thummim. God's government in the administration of the church is neither autocracy nor democracy. Today God's rule is based on the Bible outside of us and on the Holy Spirit within us. When the elders follow the Holy Spirit in discussing matters, there is neither an autocracy nor a democracy but a theocracy, the rule of God. **III.** In exercising His government, God required the children of Israel to worship Him in the unique place—Jerusalem—the worship center chosen by Him. God takes care of the needs of all those who are part of His expression. In New Testament terms, this means that Christ takes care of every member of His Body. In the church life we should love the Lord Jesus, love His Body, and take care of the needs of all the members. If God's people would give to the poor, God would bless them in all their work and in all their undertakings. In the church life today we should be happy when giving to the poor, knowing that God will bless us. The dealing with mammon and the offering of material possessions are related to God's administration among the churches in resurrection. If we know resurrection life and resurrection power, we will overcome money and material possessions, and what we have will be used for God's administration among the churches. The dishonest practice of having differing weights and measures is a lie and is surely from Satan. In spiritual application, to condemn a certain thing in others while justifying the same thing in ourselves indicates that we have different weights and measures, that is, different scales—one scale for measuring others and a different scale for measuring ourselves. In the house of God, the church, only one scale should be used to weight everyone. The prohibition against sowing two kinds of seed in one's vineyard may typify the prohibition

against teaching differently in the church. The apostles taught the same thing to all the saints in all the places and in all the churches. We also must teach the same thing in all the churches in every country throughout the earth.

**Crucial Point(1):** God governs the universe through the church. The responsible ones in the church need to have thorough knowledge of the Bible and have the instant leading of the Spirit to practice theocracy

**OL1:** God desires to execute His government in the universe through the church.

**OL2:** God's administration among the children of Israel was a theocracy, meaning that God Himself came to govern, to rule, to administrate, the people directly yet through some agents; the agents were the priests and the elders working together for God's theocracy.

**OL3:** The theocracy among the children of Israel was a government according to God's constant speaking, as written in the law, and God's instant speaking, through the breastplate of the high priest by means of the Urim and the Thummim. Today God's rule is based on the Bible outside of us and on the Holy Spirit within us.

**OL4:** God's government in the administration of the church is neither autocracy nor democracy; autocracy is a kind of dictatorship, and democracy is government by the people according to the opinion of the people.

**OL5:** When the elders follow the Holy Spirit in discussing matters, there is neither an autocracy nor a democracy but a theocracy, the rule of God.

**Psa89:14** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.

In the Bible the kingdom is a matter of government. The kingdom of God is the government of God. It is also the administration of God. Today the universe is in disorder because God's government has not been honored. The elders should not only see that in the universe there is God's salvation, God's church, and God's house; they must further see that in the universe there is God's government and God's administration. God is not a God of confusion. He is not a God without principle and rule. God is a God with principles, rules, order, and discipline. For this reason God must establish His administration and government in the universe.

Every book of the Bible shows God's government and administration. Consider the story of the Israelites leaving Egypt to pass through the wilderness to enter Canaan. Whether in the book of Exodus or in Numbers, we can see a very tightly knit coordination and building. This coordination and building is fully under God's government and administration. Among the Israelites, there was a situation full of God's government and administration. God did not let

one thing get by loosely....Everything great or small was under God's government and administration. Even minute details concerning the manner in which to wash themselves, the way to wash their clothes, and the way to shave their beards were not left to the choice of the Israelites. This was the Old Testament. ...In the New Testament every aspect of God's dealing with the church is under His government and administration. When the New Testament mentions the church, on the one hand, there are words full of life and the Spirit. On the other hand, there are also words full of government and administration.

In order to manage a church properly, an elder has to know that God desires to execute His government in the universe through the church.

### Application to the serving ones

God executes His government on the whole universe through the church. So your practicing the church life under the government of God not only relates to the saints but also it influences the whole universe. Rom.8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans together and travails in pain together until now.

The responsible ones in the church should not be autocracy nor democracy. One responsible brother should not decide everything nor they should not decide by majority. Because the church needs to be under the government of God. For the responsible ones to execute God's government, they need to read the Bible and have thorough knowledge on the Words and become the persons who can timely supply the Words. Also they should exercise their regenerated, mingled spirit and always receive the instant Words to respond to the instant need. If you try to deal with the situation in a formal way, you cannot listen to the timely Words which deal with the present situation.

For example, the church life under the emergency state is different from the usual church life. In such period, to respond to the drastic change, we need to fellowship under the vision of God's economy and receive His instant speaking. After issuing the emergency state on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the number who joined the Lord's day meeting on April 12, 19 and 26 are 161, 173, 177. Our base number for 2020 is 156 and our goal is 171.5. So this shows we have accelerated the white horse of the gospel. This was the result of our believing and receiving the revelation of the Bible which is "Coronavirus is the supporting role and it helps the main role, the gospel, to run

faster" and the instant speaking of the Spirit and spoke the words of faith and practiced by faith. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord. Although brothers and sisters are still having the limited living under the threat of the coronavirus, we can still let the white horse of the gospel by faith. Amen!

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, there should be the administration under the government of God in the church. The administration of the church should not be autocracy nor democracy. For me to serve under the government of God and manifest leadership, the responsible ones and serving ones need to be constituted by the Words of the Bible and exercise our spirit to listen to the Lord's instant Words to serve under the government of God. Even under the state of emergency by coronavirus, we can accelerate the white horse of the gospel. Amen!"

### Crucial Point(2): Under the God's administration, offering our treasure in resurrection make our business be blessed

OL1: In order to administrate the church, the elders must be constituted with the word of God. As a result, they will be under God's government, under God's rule and control. Spontaneously, God will be in their decisions, and the elders will represent God to manage the affairs of the church; this kind of management is theocracy.

OL2: God's word spoken through Moses describes aspects of the church life under the government of God (A. the unique place chosen by God, Jerusalem, B. taking care of every member of the Body, C. taking care of the poor in the God's people, D. having only one scale, E. prohibition against teaching differently, and F. living the church life under the government of God by faith). OL3: In the church life today we should be happy when giving to the poor, knowing that God will bless us. The dealing with mammon and the offering of material possessions are related to God's administration among the churches in resurrection.

OL4: The fact that material things are offered on the first day of the week indicates that they should be offered in resurrection, not in our natural life. OL5: If we know resurrection life and the resurrection power, we will overcome money and material possessions, and what we have will be used for God's administration among the churches.

The Levites, who had no job or other source of income but who lived on God, serving Him full time, were to be taken care of....There was also to be provision for the sojourner, the orphan, and the widow. Today we should also care for the needy ones among us....In the Lord's recovery, we need to care for the full-timers and the other needy ones.

The people were required to open their hand to the poor one and to lend enough for his need in

whatever he lacked. Today we should not be reluctant to give to the poor brothers among us. When we give to meet the needs of the poor brothers, the Lord will return to us much more than we gave. All the believers who give willingly can testify of this. **“You must give to him, and your heart shall not be displeased when you give to him; for on account of this matter Jehovah your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings” (Deut. 15:10)...**We today should not be displeased when giving to the poor; instead, we should be happy, knowing that God will bless us and return much more to us.

All of fallen mankind are under the domination of mammon and material possessions. At the day of Pentecost, under the power of the Holy Spirit, all the believers overthrew this domination and had all their possessions in common for distribution to the needy ones. That practice, due to the weakness of the believers' fallen nature, did not last long. It was already over by the apostle Paul's time. Then the believers needed grace to overcome the power of mammon and material things and to release them from Satan's domination for an offering to the Lord to fulfill His purpose. Resurrection life is the supply for the believers to live such a life, a life trusting in God, not in treasures of material possessions, a life not for today but for the future, not for this age but for the coming age, a life that overthrows the usurpation of temporal and uncertain riches.

#### **Application to young working saints/graduate students**

As a business person, you need to have a burden to support financially both your own family and your church. The more you earn money by the Lord's blessing, the more you need to increase the ratio of offerings. Every saints need to offer to the Lord more than 10% as the heavenly tax. However, young working saints can offer 15% to 30% or more. The Old Testament tells us that one who gives to the poor will be blessed. By offering 15% instead of 10%, you are supporting the poor indirectly. The more you offer your treasures, the more your business be blessed.

While the Declaration of the State of Emergency is effective, there is no lunch prepared after the Lord's day meeting. But normally, we provide the Lunch with the free offering of 250 yen. Actually 250 yen cannot cover all expenses necessary for purchase of cooking ingredients and preparation of foods, so our church pays for the balance. In another case, when we are going to buy a meeting hall, someone may offer ten million yen and a poor person may offer a hundred thousand yen. However, because the meeting hall is the meeting hall of the church, both the person who offered ten million and the person who offered a hundred thousand use it in the same

way. Not only giving directly to the poor saints through the designated offering, but offering to the church also can be counted as giving to the poor.

In our church life, we use cars for traveling between the meeting halls (This is indispensable during the declaration of the State of Emergency.) Our church has had opportunity to fellowship with relatively rich saints asking them to buy seven or eight-seater cars to fulfill the church needs (Such cars are expensive and have bad fuel efficiency, and there are not many choices and not many attractive and higher technology cars.) This request is to relieve the burden on the church purchasing and maintaining its own cars. We ask them to buy such cars on purpose of offering (but they do not reduce their normal offering of 15% - 30% or more). These cars are being actively used for the short traveling in the daily church life and transporting people in the blending events. This way of purchasing a car is also considered as a part of taking care of the poor saints and the students.

The church also must support the full-time serving ones financially. **Deut. 12:19 Be careful that you do not forsake the Levite all your days upon the earth.** **Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, there is God's administration in the church, so my handling of treasure must be uplifted in the resurrection life. To support the church financially, please make me capable to increase the rate of offering according to Your blessing, so that I can offer for the needs of the poor and the church.”**

**Crucial Point(3): The dishonest practice of having differing weights and measures is from Satan and is the source of disaccord and division. Perform the church life and daily life with one scale.**

**OL1:** The dishonest practice of having differing weights and measures is a lie and is surely from Satan. **Deut. 13-15 You shall not have in your bag differing weights, ... You shall not have in your house differing measures, ... A full and righteous weight you shall have, and a full and righteous measure you shall have, in order that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.**

**OL2:** In spiritual application, to condemn a certain thing in others while justifying the same thing in ourselves indicates that we have different weights and measures, that is, different scales—one scale for measuring others and a different scale for measuring ourselves. **OL3:** In the house of God, the church, only one scale should be used to weigh everyone.

**OL4:** If we have only one scale, we will be fair, righteous, and just, even as God is, and we will keep the oneness and one accord in the church.

Those who have differing weights and measures actually have differing scales. In the church life today, we may have differing

scales—one scale for measuring others and a different scale for measuring ourselves. Having differing scales, we may condemn a certain thing in others but justify the same thing in ourselves.

In the house of God, the church, there should be only one scale.... The same scale should be used to weigh everyone. If we have only one scale, we will be fair, righteous, and just, even as God is. Because God is fair, righteous, and just, He measures everyone according to the same scale.

Although we should not have differing scales in the church life, one scale for weighing ourselves and other scales for weighing the brothers and sisters, we all have failed in this matter. Not one of us is an exception.

Some saints who have the practice of using differing scales may move from one locality to another, hoping to find a more satisfactory church with more satisfactory elders. But because these saints have differing scales, no matter where they may go, they do not find the church and the elders to be satisfactory.

I emphasize the practice of having differing scales because this practice is a sickness, a disease, in the church life. This is the source of disaccord. Instead of keeping the oneness and the one accord, we have disaccord. May we all receive mercy from the Lord to no longer have differing scales but, like our God, to have the same scale for everyone.

#### **Application for the new ones & young people & college students**

Human society, whether it's a school, a company, or a social life, tends to come together only with people who suit their tastes. And even in that close group, they are measured on different scales. The different scales are the sources of disaccord and division. Since the church life is the life of God's Kingdom under the Government of God, different scales should be destroyed, measured on the same scale, and carry out one spirit and one thought. You have to deal with different scales seriously, as different scales are diseases that destroy oneness of the church. When you try to do this, you must take Christ as your righteousness and the sense of justice. This is Because there are naturally different scales in the world (including school life). [Gal. 6:10](#) **So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.**

At school, students divide teachers into “easy teachers” and “teachers who must respond properly.” At times like this, you must experience Christ as your integrity and not be involved in dealing with these different measures. Also, when you have a chance to express your opinion, speak with sincerity that you respond on the same scale. Don't be afraid to think that “if you are honest,

you will look foolish.” Carry out the righteousness of breaking different scales boldly by faith. Then God will bless you under the government of God.

Also, some teachers may distinguish between students whom they like and those whom they do not. However, the teacher is a proxy authority for you, so you should be patient in the Lord and obey him, not criticize him. Even in this situation, you can train yourself to not have different scales and to practice righteousness. [Matt. 24:13](#) **But he who has endured to the end, this one shall be saved.** **Prayer:** “Oh Lord Jesus, having different measures is from Satan, false, and the cause of disaccord and division. As a person living under the government of God's Kingdom, I will train myself in the church life and in the daily life to destroy all different measures and to respond sincerely in the Lord. May the Lord bless me and bring forth the government of God's through me.”

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Pow'r exceeding great God did demonstrate  
When He raised His Son from the dead.  
May this pow'r we see, with it strengthened be,  
And in resurrection life be led.

Power, power, resurrection power,  
Energize us mightily within!

Power, power, resurrection power,  
Energize us in the inner man!

2.

Pow'r exceeding high God did magnify  
When He raised His Son far above all.

Principalities, pow'rs, and majesties  
At the name of Jesus Christ must fall.

Power, power, all transcending power,  
Elevate us mightily within!

Power, power, all transcending power,  
Elevate us in the inner man!

3.

Pow'r surpassing too, all things to subdue  
Has been given to Christ, pow'r complete.

We His Body are; so, hallelujah,  
Everything must be beneath our feet!

Power, power, all subduing power  
All subjecting mightily within!

Power, power, all subduing power,  
All subjecting to the inner man!

4.

And the best of all, overruling all,  
O'er all to the church Christ is Head.

Pow'r so glorious over all's to us;

To the highest place the church is led.

Power, power overruling power,  
Ruling over all, without, within!

Power, power, overruling power,

Ruling, reigning, through the inner man!