

12/28#1 The New Testament Ministry...the Ministry of the Spirit, the Ministry of Righteousness, and the Ministry of Reconciliation to Bring Us into a New Revival

CP1 The Ministry of the Spirit I The New Testament ministry is the ministry of the Spirit as the high peak of the divine revelation to bring us into a new revival. 2 Cor. 3:6 (...God,) who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. **FN1** The letter of the law only requires of man. It is unable to supply man with life. **FN2** The Spirit, the ultimate expression of the processed Triune God, who became a life-giving Spirit, imparts the divine life, even God Himself, into the believers and the apostles, making them ministers of a new covenant, the covenant of life. Hence, their ministry is one constituted with the Triune God of life by His life-giving Spirit. **E** At the end of the Bible there is a marvelous couple — the processed and consummated Triune God as “the Spirit” married to the processed and consummated tripartite church as “the bride”. 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.

CP2 The Ministry of Righteousness II The New Testament ministry is the ministry of righteousness, which is the living out and genuine expression of Christ, the God-man living, to bring us into a new revival: **A** There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers: **1** Christ is our objective righteousness for us to be justified before God at the time of our repenting unto God and believing into Christ. **2** Christ is also our subjective righteousness as the living out and genuine expression of Christ, which is the transcendent condition of expressing God by living Christ. Rom. 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men. **FN** Life is the goal of God’s salvation; thus, justification is “of life.” Justification is not an end in itself; it is for life. Through justification we have come up to the standard of God’s righteousness and correspond with it, so that now He can impart His life to us. Justification changes our outward position; life changes our inward disposition. 21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CP3 The Ministry of Reconciliation III The New Testament ministry is the ministry of reconciliation, the intrinsic significance of which is shepherding according to God, to bring us into a new revival: **B** Because the apostle Paul

had been fully reconciled to God, he was qualified to be an ambassador of Christ, representing Christ to shepherd people into Christ; as an ambassador of Christ, Paul was “the acting God”. 2 Cor. 5:18 But all things are out from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 20 On behalf of Christ then we are ambassadors, as God entreats you through us; we beseech you on behalf of Christ, Be reconciled to God. **C** 1 Peter 5:1-2 says that we need to shepherd people according to God; according to God means that we are one with God and become God in His four attributes of love, light, holiness, and righteousness; we must shepherd the young ones, the weak ones, and the backsliding ones fully into God according to these four attributes. 1 Peter 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion but willingly, according to God; not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly; **FN** “according to God”: according to God’s nature, desire, way, and glory, not according to man’s preference, interest, and purpose. **Testimony 1** I thank the Lord that I was able to participate in the Taiwan blending in November. The family who hosted me in Beitou this time was the home of a brother and his two children who came to Kobe for blending in July and stayed at my house. The day they stayed at my house was exactly the birthday of his younger child, and he asked me to celebrate with them because they had bought a cake and my family celebrated with them.

Before coming to Kobe for blending, this brother and children had not had much of the church life and had not attended meetings very much. However, I was very encouraged to hear that after enjoying the blending in Kobe, this brother began to attend the Lord's Day Meeting, and on weekday mornings, he stops by the meeting hall for morning revival before going to work, and their children began to attend the young people meeting every week. There really are many benefits to blending. **Testimony 2** The morning after we returned from our visit to Taiwan, I was enlightened to hear that the sister Yoriki was going to visit a new one right away, and I immediately thereafter contacted one new one by LINE to let her know that I wanted to visit her today with the souvenir from Taiwan. The sister replied that she was resting at home that day since she was not feeling well, so I thought that if she was not feeling well, it would be better to leave the visit for another day and let her take the rest. However, as I prayed to the Lord, I had the sense that perhaps something was troubling her and affecting her health, and if so, I should visit today, or I could call first

and then think about it. When I called her, she told me that she had been suffering from problems at work and that she thought it made her physically ill. I thanked the Lord and at the same time I was enlightened and repented that I was just living a good Japanese cultural person. After that, I was able to visit the sister to fellowship and pray with her, and also fellowship about my visit to Taiwan. The next Lord's Day, the sister immediately came to me and said, "Sister, thank you for coming to my house. I felt better after that". When I live in the Japanese culture, I often fail in shepherding. But by being open to the Lord, I can learn to shepherd according to God. **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, I need to shepherd according to God, not according to my own preferences, interests, and purposes. For this, I need to be fully reconciled to God and become one with Him, as Paul did. I learn to shepherd according to God's nature, desire, way and glory.

CP4 The Ministry of Reconciliation...Coming Forward to the Holy of Holies

E The extent to which we can bring others to God is always measured by where we are with respect to God; the more we are in Him, the more we can reconcile others into Him; Paul could charge the believers to "come forward" (not "go forward") to the Holy of Holies because he was a person in the Holy of Holies: [Heb. 10:22](#) Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **1**...Our not having the loving and forgiving heart of our Father God and the shepherding and seeking spirit of our Savior Christ is the reason for our barrenness. **2** How fruitful we are does not depend upon what we are able to do but on whether or not we have an intimate concern; a ministering life is a life that warms up others by cherishing them in the humanity of Jesus to nourish them in the divinity of Christ with the riches of Christ. **F** We need Christ's shepherding to usher us into the Holy of Holies to live with God in our spirit so that we can shepherd others into the Holy of Holies to make them persons in the spirit. **Testimony** I was saved by the Triune God who shepherded me with "the loving and forgiving heart of God the Father and the shepherding and searching spirit of Christ the Savior". When I was in high school, I had only one teacher whom I respected. He was my math teacher. Math was my weakest subject, but I respected my math teacher very much because he had excellent humanity. At the beginning of the last

class of my 3rd year in high school, the teacher said to us, "You must read the Bible. The Bible is the book of books, so if you do not read the Bible, you have not read the book." I said to myself that I would have to read the Bible one day then, because that is what my respected teacher told me to do. If it had been any other teacher, I would have ignored it. Later, right after entering college, I was invited to a church meeting by a classmate. I remembered what my math teacher had told me and decided to join. However, I went to the meeting with somewhat disrespectful feeling toward Christians. I went with such an impious attitude, but as I entered the meeting, the glory expressed by the saints who were singing the hymns came into my heart. I entered the meeting and at that moment I accepted the light and was saved. Then I said to myself, "They are filled with joy, but I have no joy. What I need is this joy that they have." Whenever I think of this story of my salvation, I am filled with gratitude and tears flow. Hymn E8128, written by Brother Nee, says:

1. I prostrate, Lord, before Thee, marvel at boundless grace that I, though chief of sinners, am saved, brought to Thy face. World-loving as a sinner, I never thought of Thee; Encompassing with mercy, Thou sought and came to me.
3. For reasons I can't fathom, Thou lovest one in sin; The price in blood brought pardon, Thy peace and rest came in. A sinner midst the sinful, in flesh I spent my days; Why lovest Thee this sinner With vile and crafty ways?
5. Midst men, then, am I better? More noble, then, was I that Thou should'st so be willing to suffer, bleed, and die? When I myself consider, there's nothing to be praised; I wonder at such ransom, And by such love amazed.

At the time, I was truly in the situation described in this Hymn. [Gal.2:20](#) ...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. As I practice the gospel and shepherding, I try to remember my salvation and bear the new ones and the saints in my prayers to have "the loving and forgiving heart of God the Father and the shepherding and searching spirit of Christ the Savior."

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, I need the loving and forgiving heart of God the Father and the shepherding and searching spirit of Christ the Savior to reconcile people and bring them into God. To lead them to the Holy of Holies, I first must touch God in the Holy of Holies and be shepherded.