

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message Two

**Being Rescued out of the Present Evil Age and
as the “Family of Noah” Building the Corporate Christ
as the Ark to Be the Testimony of Jesus**

Scripture Reading: Gal. 1:4; Rom. 12:1-2; Acts 2:36-40; Phil. 2:15-16; Matt. 5:14-16; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20; Acts 8:1; Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5; Rev. 2:13; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Eph. 2:21-22

I. In order to be the testimony of Jesus, we must be rescued out of the present evil age, be saved from the crooked and perverted generation, and shine as luminaries in the world—Gal. 1:4; Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15:

- A. Jesus Christ “gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father”—Gal. 1:4; Rom. 12:1-2; cf. 6:14-15.
- B. To “be saved from this crooked generation” results in an entrance into a new generation—the church—Acts 2:36-40; cf. vv. 42-47.
- C. “That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world”—Phil. 2:15; Matt. 5:14-16; cf. 1 John 2:15-17; 5:19.

II. Today there are only two things on earth—the crooked and perverted generation and the testimony of Jesus—Gal. 1:4; Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20:

- A. Whoever is not in the church as the testimony of Jesus today is in the crooked generation—Acts 2:40; 8:1.
- B. The entire world, with its unbelieving and believing aspects, is condemned by God; God is using His loving and faithful seekers in His recovery to protest against today's trend—Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5; cf. Gen. 6:9; 7:1.
- C. The church as the testimony of Jesus is a testimony against today's evil generation—Phil. 2:15-16; Rev. 2:13.

III. If we would be the testimony of Jesus—the corporate expression of Christ in the church life—we need to be today's “family of Noah” building the corporate Christ as the ark that will deliver us from the crooked and perverted generation and usher us into the coming age of the kingdom of God—1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; cf. Gen 6:8—8:3:

- A. The ark built by Noah is a type of Christ as the salvation of God's elect; the ark that we are building today is the corporate Christ, the church, as our salvation from today's crooked, perverted, and evil generation—1 Pet. 3:20-21.
- B. The church life is today's ark to terminate the present age and bring in God's kingdom—1 Cor. 12:12, 27:
 - 1. The Lord desires the “family of Noah” to build the ark and testify against the trend of the age so that He can use them to terminate the age and bring in the kingdom age—Heb. 11:7; cf. Rev. 11:15:
 - a. Noah was saved not only from God's judgment but also from the crooked, perverted, and evil generation—cf. Gen. 6:8—8:3.
 - b. The kind of salvation that Noah built, secured, and enjoyed was not a salvation merely from eternal perdition but also out of the crooked, evil generation into a new age—cf. 6:2-3, 8, 11-14; 7:1.
 - 2. What we are building in the church life is the corporate Christ as the ark for our salvation and for the salvation of the ones under our care—1 Cor. 12:12; Phil. 2:12-13.

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C. *Salvation* in Philippians 2:12 is the salvation that saves us from the crooked and perverted generation into the church as the corporate Christ whom we are building as today's ark—1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:21-22:

1. To have the proper church life is not only to stand on the ground of oneness but also to build the ark to save ourselves from the present evil generation and bring us into a new age—cf. 4:16.
2. We need a salvation that is built not by God directly but by our daily cooperating with His inward operation—Phil. 2:12-13.

FOCUS: *We need to be impressed that in God's eyes there are only two things on the earth: the present evil age and the testimony of Jesus. The young people in the Lord's recovery need to be rescued from the present evil age to be the light of the world and today's "family of Noah" building the ark, the proper church life as building members and as those who carry out the crucial work of building up the church in the last days.*

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Message Two—Verses Sheet

**Being Rescued out of the Present Evil Age and
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Scripture Reading:

Gal. 1:4

Who gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father.

Rom. 12:1-2

- 1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
- 2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Acts 2:36-40

- 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.
- 37 And when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, What should we do, brothers?
- 38 And Peter said to them, Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 39 For to you is the promise and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God calls to Himself.
- 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this crooked generation.

Phil. 2:15-16

- 15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,
- 16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

Matt. 5:14-16

- 14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.
- 15 Nor do men light a lamp and place it under the bushel, but on the lampstand; and it shines to all who are in the house.
- 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.

Rev. 1:2, 9, 11, 20

- 2 Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw.
- 9 I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- 11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

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20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Acts 8:1

And Saul approved of his killing. And there occurred in that day a great persecution against the church which was in Jerusalem; and all were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Heb. 11:7

By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen and being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

2 Pet. 2:5

And did not spare the ancient world but guarded Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

Rev. 2:13

I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name and have not denied My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

1 Cor. 12:12, 27

12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

1 Pet. 3:20-21

20 Who had formerly disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; entering into which, a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water.
21 Which water, as the antitype, also now saves you, that is, baptism, not a putting away of the filth of the flesh but the appeal of a good conscience unto God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Eph. 2:21-22

21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

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Message Two – Group Time

**Being Rescued out of the Present Evil Age and
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Verses for Pray-reading:

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this crooked generation.

Phil. 2:15-16 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

Ministry Reading:

(The Testimony of Jesus, W. Lee, Ch 6-7, pp. 61, 69-72, 75-76)
<http://www.ministrybooks.org/books.cfm?id=%23%28LEY%0A>

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss in your groups what the present evil age is today and how we can escape from its influence.
2. Fellowship how there can only be two things on the earth, the present evil age and the testimony of Jesus.
3. Openly fellowship where you see yourself and if the Lord came today would you be considered by Him to be part of His testimony of the earth today.

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Morning Revival

Day Two

Verses for Pray-reading:

Gen. 6:8 But Noah found favor (grace) in the sight of Jehovah.

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Ministry Reading:

(Life-study of Genesis, Msg 28, pp. 375-377, 379-380)

<http://www.ministrybooks.org/books.cfm?id=%23%2A%3C%25%5D%0A>

Simple prayers:

“Lord, I am coming to the throne of grace. At Your throne of grace I find grace for my timely need.”

“Lord, I need Your grace every minute. Without Your grace, I simply cannot bear anything.”

“Lord, I need Your grace every minute. I know that You are gracious and that You have grace ready for me.”

“Lord, since grace needs my cooperation, I kneel before the throne of grace to find grace to meet my need.”