

EUROPEAN WINTER SCHOOL OF TRUTH TEACHERS TRAINING

Saturday 30th November 2019

- London – United Kingdom
- Brussels - Belgium
- Berlin - Germany
- Budapest – Hungary

Saturday 7th December 2019

- Bern - Switzerland
- Madrid - Spain

Name_____

TEACHER'S TRAINING FOR THE EUROPEAN WINTER SCHOOLS OF TRUTH

Schedule

London/Brussels/Bern/Berlin/Budapest/Madrid

9:30	Coffee/tea
10:00	Session 1 – The Proper Understanding of Teaching
11:30	break
11:45	Session 2 - The Structure of the Young People's Work — Truth, Life, the Church and the Gospel
13:15	Lunch
14:15	Session 3 – Practical Helps for Conducting the Small Group Sessions
16:00	End

EUROPEAN WINTER SCHOOL OF TRUTH— TEACHERS' TRAINING

Session One

The Proper Understanding of Teaching and Receiving the Word as the Breath of God to Produce God-men

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 3:16-17; John 6:63; Matt. 4:4; Eph. 6:17-18; 1 Tim. 2:4

I. The Scriptures teach us the things of God and the things concerning God, even teaching us God Himself; there is a great difference between teaching about God and teaching God—2 Tim. 3:16-17; John 6:63; Eph. 6:17:

- A. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, the Scriptures are God-breathed, indicating that the Scriptures are the breathing out of God and our reading of the Scriptures should be our receiving of God's breath.
- B. We need a clear understanding of the nature of our summer school of truth; we should not conduct the Summer School of Truth in a secular way; instead, our summer school is for the handling of the divine truth which is the reality of the Triune God:
 - 1. In a sense, our summer school is a kind of school, but actually it should be a "restaurant"; our intention is to serve, to minister, God as different "dishes" for eating; the nature of the Summer School of Truth is a matter of ministering, of serving, the Triune God to the young people.
 - 2. Through our teaching, everyone in our class should be brought to God; we need to labor to bring every young person in our class to the Triune God, so that by the time we have finished all the lessons, the students in our class will have gained the Triune God, not mere knowledge about God in letters.

II. Whereas all secular books are the same in nature, the Bible is different from other books; we need to see the uniqueness of the Bible:

- A. The Bible is God's breath, and God's breath is the Spirit of God, for God is Spirit; we must be a person who is continually breathing the Lord, a person who is always inhaling God; our reading of the Bible should be a kind of inhaling, and our teaching of the Bible should be a kind of exhaling—2 Tim. 3:16; John 4:24; cf. 20:22.
- B. The Lord's words are Spirit and life, the embodiment of the Spirit of life; when we receive His words by exercising our spirit, we get the Spirit, who gives life; when we read the Bible, we should receive life; and when we teach others concerning the Bible, they should receive life—6:63.
- C. The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit; it is common for Christians to be enlightened, rebuked, corrected, and instructed by the Bible, but not many experience the word of the Bible as a sword that kills the enemy—Eph. 6:17-18:
 - 1. Paul speaks of "the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God" (v. 17); the sword is not the word directly; rather, the sword is the Spirit directly, and then the Spirit is the word:
 - a. This indicates that if we would deal with the enemy Satan, the Bible must become the Spirit; if we would use the word of the Bible as a sword to kill the enemy, in our experience the word must be the Spirit.
 - b. If we would take the word of the Bible as a sword for fighting the enemy, we must touch the Bible in a way that is full of the Spirit.
 - 2. Ephesians reveals that our enemies are the evil spirits, "the world-rulers of this darkness," "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies"; experientially, the word we receive as the Spirit becomes the sword to slay these enemies—Eph. 6:12, 17:

- a. We need to realize that things such as our opinion, thought, temper, emotion, natural life, and point of view are often used by the powers of darkness in the air to damage the Body life.
 - b. If the enemy is to be defeated, we must learn to receive the word as the Spirit, which becomes the sword to deal with the enemy.
- 3. Without the word as the Spirit to be the killing sword, there would be no way for us to be kept in the church life over the years; we can be kept in the church life and in the ministry through the killing of the word as the Spirit.
- 4. The word becoming the Spirit which becomes a killing sword may be compared to the effect of an antibiotic on the germs that cause illness in our body:
 - a. In order for our body to be saved, the germs need to be killed by an antibiotic; the word that we receive in a living way as the Spirit is a spiritual antibiotic that kills the “germs” within us.
 - b. When the germs are killed, the evil forces in the air have no way to take advantage of us; then we can live a healthy Body life, a healthy church life.
- D. The word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is our real food indicating that the Bible is not only for life-imparting but also for nourishing; when we teach the Bible to others, we should nourish them—Matt. 4:4.

III. On God’s side the Bible is God’s breathing; on our side the Bible is for us to receive profit in four matters—teaching, conviction or reproof, correction, and instruction—2 Tim. 3:16-17:

- A. If we have the proper and adequate spiritual experience, we will realize that teaching equals revelation; teaching is actually nothing less than a divine revelation:
 - 1. A revelation is the opening of a veil; as we are teaching the young people, we should be taking away a veil so that they may see something of the Triune God.
 - 2. To teach is to roll away the veil; go to the summer school for the purpose of rolling away the veil.
- B. Whenever we see something of God, we realize our mistakes, wrongdoings, shortcomings, and our sins; the result is that we are reproofed; this reproof comes from the revelation we receive.
- C. Conviction is followed by correction; correction is a matter of setting right what is wrong, turning someone to the right way, and restoring to an upright state.
- D. After we have been corrected, we will receive the proper instruction—the instruction in righteousness; righteousness is a matter of being right.
- E. The issue of teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness is that the man of God becomes complete; such a God-man, such a man of God, is produced by God’s breathing out of Himself; God’s breathing produces God-men—v. 17.

IV. The purpose of the Summer School of Truth is to bring our young people not only into God’s salvation but also into the full knowledge of the truth; we should endeavor to bring the young people into the experiential knowledge of the reality of the Triune God—1 Tim. 2:4.

**EUROPEAN WINTER SCHOOL OF TRUTH—
TEACHER'S TRAINING**

Session Two

**The Structure of the Young People's Work—
Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel**

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 2:4; Matt. 4:4; John 6:63; Psalms 110:3; 1 Tim. 4:7, 15;
2 Tim. 1:7; 4:22; 1 John 1:7, 9; Acts 2:46-47; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 14:26; John 15:5

- 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.**
- II. Today the whole world is opened to the Lord's recovery; if we have one thousand brothers and sisters, each one can immediately be sent out; for the accomplishment of this task, the young people must be equipped in the truth—Matt. 9:37-38; Luke 10:2; Col. 3:16; Psalms 119:11:**
 - A. We should not put too much emphasis on doctrines, not only when we have personal contact with them but also when we are preaching the gospel or giving messages to them.
 - B. If we give them only some doctrines and they come only to listen, there will not be much effect; the more we speak doctrines, the more the young people become dead, cold, and backsliding.
 - C. Because young people have many practical problems, we need to spend some time to study the problems of the young people in their practical living; based upon our studies, when we speak a word of edification to them, what we speak is practical and is related to the practical matters that we have touched in their lives.
- III. We must help the young people to pursue and grow in their spiritual life, earnestly maintaining a living fellowship with the Lord, fully consecrating themselves to Him and having proper dealings with Him; to be the Lord's overcomers, they must love the Lord and grasp the opportunity to love Him—Psalms 110:3; Matt. 26:6-13:**
 - A. To love the Lord with our best requires that we take time to behold Him, listen to His word, and receive a revelation concerning Him; the overcomers have the highest revelation of Christ and offer themselves willingly to the Lord in the splendor of their consecration—Psalms 110:3.
 - B. Even if we cannot do things very well, but by His mercy we minister life to others, the service is still successful; the main matter is to minister life to others—John 10:10b:
 1. There is at least one verse in the New Testament that says we can give life to the weaker ones—1 John 5:16a.
 2. We have the privilege of giving life to the weaker ones in order to swallow up their death; many saints are not sick physically, but they are sick spiritually and need us to pray for them and to give them life—cf. Luke 10:34.
- IV. We should endeavor to bring the young people into the practice of the church life—Acts 2:46-47:**
 - A. We should endeavor to bring the young people into the practice of the church life through the homes; the small group becomes our practical church life—Acts 2:46-47.

- 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. The young people should attend the regular meetings of the church: at a minimum, they should not miss the bread-breaking meeting and the fellowship meeting of the church, and attend the young people's meeting—Heb. 10:24-25.
 - 2. In the meetings of the church, they should not act as if they are guests or spectators; they should not wait for the older saints to function out of deference for their age.
 - 3. When they are in a meeting, they should try their best to release their spirit; in the church they are adults, and they must bear responsibility; they should open their mouth and release their spirit; they should give testimonies, sing hymns, and give praises—1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:18-20.
- 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:
 - 1. The young people should also bear responsibility in the children's meeting in every local church; the children's work is not less important than the young people's work.
 - 2. As energy and time allow, the young people should also take part in other miscellaneous services of the church; in these services the young saints are spontaneously blended into the church life through the practical coordination and fellowship with saints of all ages, including their peers.

V. 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:

- A. We are living in a time of great opportunity for the young ones; whether they are in high school or college, they have many classmates and roommates; if they do not take this opportunity to gain their friends, there is no better time.
- B. If we would spend time to work on the children in the church, after six years they will become young believers and new members of the church; then we may sow them as gospel seeds into the junior high schools so other junior high students may be saved—cf. Matt. 13:3, 37-38.
- C. There is no easier place to preach the gospel than at school, and there is nothing more precious than preaching the gospel to a fellow classmate; when so many young people are gathered together, it is very easy to "infect" them with the gospel—Acts 24:5.
- D. If the young people can lead "clusters" of young people to salvation, who then lead others to salvation, thousands of young people will be saved and loving the Lord in eight to ten years; this is not a small thing; I hope that they would grasp this great opportunity.

VI. In the work and in the church we are not measured by whether or not we are capable; we are measured by how many useful ones we are able to produce; the standard of success does not depend on our ability to do a certain thing; the standard is determined by how many useful ones we can produce—2 Tim. 2:2; Eph. 4:12.

EUROPEAN WINTER SCHOOL OF TRUTH— TEACHER'S TRAINING

Session Three

Practical Helps for Conducting the Small Group Sessions

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:16-18; Rom. 1:9; Luke 15:20, 4; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 2:2

I. Before the Winter School of Truth begins, we have to pray very much for this crucial time:

- A. In these coming weeks, we have to go to the Lord every day to pray for all the practical items; we need to pray thoroughly for the Winter School of Truth, for the practical arrangements, for the hospitality, the lessons, the groups, the transportation, for all the serving saints, the meal preparation, the activity times, the small group times, the messages, and everything else we may consider.
- B. When we come together, we should also pray for our being blended together; we also need to pray for our dynamic activities—the release of the word and the understanding of the young people, and especially for the oneness of all the serving saints—Eph. 1:17-18.
- C. Obtain a list of the names of the young people that you will be serving with and begin to daily mention these names before God—Rom. 1:9; Eph. 1:16; 1 Thes. 1:2; Phlm. 4.

II. Before the Winter School of Truth begins we also need a lot of personal preparation:

- A. In these coming weeks, read carefully through all the lessons that we will be covering from the book, *God's Full Salvation* or *The Church—The Vision and Building Up of the Church* to become familiar with the lessons and burdens of each session.
- B. In your reading, pray much over this material to see what kind of burden the Lord will give you concerning these crucial truths and the experiences of life.
- C. In your reading, ask the Lord to impress you on how to convert every point from doctrine to experience and how to lead the young people into the experience of these lessons.

III. From the first group session build up an atmosphere that is full of love, encouraging, positive, mutual and age-appropriate.

IV. Have a plan (strategy) for each group session—know what you want to accomplish in each session:

- A. Because of your preparation beforehand, have an idea and plan for what you want to accomplish during each of the group times.
- B. Because of the subjective nature of these classes, the group discussions will be most crucial to the young people's realization of the truth and their experiences of life; pray much for their apprehension and practice in preparation of these group sessions.

V. Doing your best to stir up and maintain an atmosphere of prayer in your group:

- A. As believers in Christ, we have received the eternal life and the divine Spirit, but there is a concern that you will go to your group with "ice water" instead of a flame—2 Tim. 1:6:
- B. We hope that there will be much prayer in the groups in the Winter School of Truth; adequate prayer will accomplish at least three things: it will impress the young

people in an experiential way with the points of the lesson; it will stir up the praying spirit within them; and it will cause them to become living.

- VI. Serving in a blended way and with a harmonious coordination between all the serving ones and helpers in each group:**
 - A. We need to pass through a period of time in which we can be blended with all the serving ones in our group and allow the Lord to gain us as one entity for the carrying out of His economy—Matt. 18:19; Acts 1:14.
 - B. The impact is with the one accord, and the one accord actually is the blending; if we do not have the one accord, God cannot answer our prayer—Matt. 18:19.
- VII. Your function during the group times is to facilitate the function of the young people; do not dominate the time by repeating the message or any other lengthy speaking.**
- VIII. If the serving ones are touched by the Lord's word in the messages, then the young people can also be touched; testify about what touched you, do not preach to them or exhort or rebuke them.**
- IX. We must learn how to teach in an experiential way, we must convert every point in the lesson from doctrine into experience; after making such a conversion during our time of preparation, we should then speak to the young people about each point in the way of experience—1 Thes. 2:11.**
- X. Our group times need a positive progression throughout the week; we need to be building from session to session until we reach the end:**
 - A. Do not consider the group times to be separate and independent times with no purpose other than to fill some time and accomplish some menial tasks.
 - B. The group times need to go higher and higher throughout the week, progressing in content, richness, openness, and participation.
 - C. Pray desperately for this kind of effect in your groups; pray beforehand and pray daily throughout the week to achieve this kind of an effect.

THE CHURCH—THE VISION AND BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH

Lesson Two

The Status of the Church (1) The Assembly, the House Of God, the Kingdom of God, and the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:2; Matt. 18:20; Gen. 28:12, 16-17; John 1:51; 1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:17; Eph. 2:22, 19; Rom. 14:17; Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23; 5:23; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 15, 21; Eph. 3:8, 19; Col. 3:11; John 6:48, 57, 63

I. The assembly of the called out ones—ekklesia—Matt. 18:17:

- A. The basic concept of the church as the assembly is that the church is a gathering of the called out ones—1 Cor. 1:2; Matt. 18:20.
- B. The first status of the church is that of the assembly of those who have been called out of the world by God to Himself for the fulfillment of His purpose—Gen. 1:26; Matt. 18:20.
- C. Because the church has the status of the assembly, the ekklesia, we need to gather together; we must assemble and meet in order to have a congregation for God to work and move among us.

II. The house of God—1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:17:

- A. As God's dwelling place, the church is both God's house and His household, His family; in the New Testament the dwelling place and the family are one; according to God's New Testament economy, God's house is His family—1 Tim. 3:15.
- B. In Old Testament times, the house of God was the house of Israel; today the house of God is the church; God is the Father and the church is His house—Heb. 3:6.
- C. God's house, or household, is the church composed of the believers; from this house, as His own house, God begins His governmental administration by His disciplinary judgment over His own children—1 Pet. 4:17:
 - 1. This is so that He may have strong ground to judge, in His universal kingdom, those who are disobedient to His gospel and rebellious to His government—v. 17.
 - 2. In speaking of the church as the house of God, Paul specifically refers to God as the living God; the living God who lives in the church must be subjective to the church and not merely objective—1 Tim. 3:15.

III. The dwelling place of God—Eph. 2:22:

- A. The church, the dwelling place of God on earth, is the place in which God can have His rest and put His trust; in this dwelling place God lives and moves to accomplish His will and satisfy the desire of His heart.
- B. Because the church is God's dwelling place, the church is where God expresses Himself; a house is always the best place for a person to express himself.

IV. The kingdom of God—to live in the kingdom of God is a matter of bearing responsibility and of being regulated—Eph. 2:19:

- A. The kingdom of God is the living of the Church; the kingdom life is the reality of the Body life—Rom. 14:17:
 - 1. As the believers live the kingdom life in the church, they will live righteously toward themselves; this means that we must be strict with ourselves and make no excuses for ourselves—v. 17.
 - 2. To live the kingdom life in the church also means that we live peacefully toward others; our relationships with others must be characterized by peace.

3. Living the kingdom life in the church also requires that we live joyfully to God in the Holy Spirit.
- B. The believers who develop and grow in the life of God in the church life shall be richly and bountifully supplied with the entrance into the kingdom of God—cf. 1 Pet. 1:3-11.

V. The Body of Christ—the organism of the Triune God is the Body—Eph. 4:4:

- A. Christ is the Head of the Body; being the Savior is a matter of love, whereas the Head is a matter of authority; we must be subject to Him as our Head—v. 23.
- B. The members of the Body of Christ are the God-chosen, Christ-redeemed, and Spirit-regenerated people.
- C. The Body receiving from the Head—The phrase “to the church” implies a continuous transmission from Christ the Head to the church His Body; all that He is, all that He has, all that He has accomplished, and all that He has obtained and attained is being transmitted into all the members all the time—Eph. 1:22.
- D. The church as the Body of Christ is the fullness of Him who fills all in all; through the enjoyment of Christ’s riches, we become His fullness to express Him—Eph. 1:23; 3:8.
- E. We are filled unto all the fullness of God; we are filled, resulting in an expression of God; fullness means expression:
 1. Paul prayed that the Father would strengthen us with power through His Spirit into the inner man that Christ might make His home in our hearts, and that we might know Christ’s dimensions—the breadth, length, height, and depth—that we might be filled unto, resulting in, the fullness of God, the expression of God—Eph. 3:14-19.
 2. The church today should be such an expression, issuing out of the rich enjoyment of the unsearchable riches of Christ—v. 19.

FOCUS:

In their appreciation of the vision of the church the young people need to be impressed with the various statuses of the church: as the assembly for their meeting life; the house of God for the family life of the church, for the Dwelling place of God in our spirit; the kingdom of God with its rights and responsibilities; and as the Body of Christ with the Head and all the members. By seeing and appreciating these statuses, the young people can be brought into the experience and enjoyment of the church life in these various aspects.

QUESTIONS:

1. How does the first status of the church show that the church is not a physical building, but the built-up believers?
2. In this age the church is the reality of the kingdom. What is God’s requirement for us to be in this kingdom today?
3. What is required of us in this age to enter into the manifestation of the kingdom in the next age?
4. What is the significance of Christ being the Head of the Body?
5. We have seen that the Body of Christ is composed of organic members. Could you hire or fire anyone for a particular function in the Body? Why?
6. How do we as members of the Body of Christ become His fullness?
7. Write a prophesy (100 words) listing each status of the church. Write a brief explanation of each status.

THE CHURCH—THE VISION AND BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH

Lesson Ten

The Meetings of the Church for the Building up of the Church and the Prayer Ministry of the Church

Scripture Reading: Heb. 10:25; Col. 1:2; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20, 23-25; 14:23, 26; Matt. 18:19-20; Acts 2:46; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 3:17; Eph. 5:18-19; Matt. 16:18-19; Eph. 6:17-20; Ezek. 36:37; Isa. 62:6-7; 1 John 1:9; Acts 1:14; 4:31; 12:5; 13:2-4; 20:36

I. The meetings of the church for the building up of the church:

- A. God has ordained the way in which every living thing in the universe should exist; God's ordination is the very law by which a particular living thing lives; God's ordination for us, which becomes our law of existence and blessing, is the meetings—Heb. 10:25.
- B. The spiritual life we believers have received, being the life of God in us, also possesses many characteristics; one of the many characteristics of our spiritual life is to flock together, to meet together—cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2.
- C. The purpose of the church meetings is multifaceted: to remember the Lord and worship the Father, for prayer, for preaching the gospel to save sinners, to care for one another in love, and for teaching the truth to perfect one another.
- D. The goal of the church meetings being to gather together to exhibit Christ; when we come together we should present the Christ whom we have experienced and offer Him to God to be His food.
- E. The types of church meetings:
 - 1. The first kind of regular meeting for us who have been redeemed by the Lord's death is the meeting to break bread—Acts 20:7.
 - 2. The second kind of meeting is the prayer meeting; this kind of prayer is more powerful than the prayer of an individual—Matt. 18:18.
 - 3. The next meeting mentioned is for the exercise of spiritual gifts and for mutual building up; in this kind of meeting everyone should exercise the spiritual gifts—1 Cor. 14:26.
 - 4. We may also need to meet together occasionally to read the word of God in the Bible—Acts 15:30-31.
 - 5. Sometimes we should also meet to listen to spiritual messages spoken for God by the Lord's minister of the word that we may be edified and established—Acts 20:7.
 - 6. God's ordained way for Christian meetings is to have two different sizes of meetings: small and large.
 - a. The smaller size is to be held or practiced in the believers' homes—Acts 2:46; 5:42.
 - b. The church should also have large meetings in a larger place for the whole church to come together—1 Cor. 14:23
- F. Two examples of the meetings in the New Testament:
 - 1. In the first meeting of the Lord with His disciples after His resurrection, we have the Lord's presence, the peace, the Lord's sending, the breathing, and the authority to bind and loose—John 20:19-23.
 - 2. On the day of Pentecost, after the outpouring of the Spirit, the disciples preached the gospel and 3,000 people were baptized; the church life in Jerusalem had begun—Acts 2:46.
- G. How the believers meet:

1. The most crucial thing in the believers' meeting is to be gathered into the Lord's name; this means that we have to meet in the name of the Lord—Matt. 18:20.
2. In all of our meetings there should be four basic factors and elements: the word, the spirit, praying, and singing; if we handle these four elements in a proper and living way, there will be a rich display and expression of Christ in all of our meetings.

II. The prayer ministry of the church:

- A. When God works, He does so with specific law and definite principle; in spite of His exceeding greatness and His ability to operate according to His will, God always acts along the line of the law or principle which He has laid down.
- B. Believers need to realize that the ministry of the church includes bringing down to the earth the will that is in heaven—Matt. 6:10; 18:18-19:
 1. The church carries this out by praying on earth; prayer is not a small, insignificant, non-essential thing as some would tend to think.
 2. After the church knows the will of God, she opens her mouth to ask for it; this is prayer; if the church does not have this ministry, she is not of much use on earth.
 3. Here lies a most important principle: God works through the church today; He cannot do whatever He desires to do unless He does it through the church.
- C. There are mainly two types of prayer, the prayer to have fellowship with God and prayer for God's work—Phil. 4:6; Eph. 6:17:
 1. The significance of the prayer of fellowship is that we use our spirit to contact God, to absorb God, and to have our entire being brought back to our spirit to have fellowship with Him.
 2. After having the proper fellowship with God in prayer, a foundation is laid for us to go on to petition God for His work.
- D. We need to pray individually and corporately; on one hand we need to enter into our private room to pray to the Father who is in secret and on the other hand we need to pray corporately for the Lord's work and move—Matt. 6:6; 18:18-19.
- E. Many times our prayers are ineffective because we are too general; we must pray in a specific way; we should persevere in prayer, to continue to pray—Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2.
- F. We need set times of prayer every day so that we will be strong in spirit to pray unceasingly—1 Thes. 5:17; cf. Dan. 6:10; Psa. 55:17; Acts 3:1; 10:9.
- G. The best way to pray is with the Word; we should also have a notebook with us when we pray—Eph. 6:17-19.

FOCUS:

In most places the young people have difficulty enjoying and participating in the meetings of the church. The burden of this lesson is to inspire the young people for their appreciation and participation in the meetings of the church. The meetings of the church are most crucial for the building up of the church. We also want to impress the young people with the prayer ministry of the church and help them enter into a prayer life both personally and corporately in the church and with their companions.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why should Christians meet together?
2. List the different types of meetings and their purpose.
3. Explain how the word, the spirit, praying, and singing are the basic factors and elements in the meetings.
4. List the seven steps of the principle of God's work.
5. What are the two types of prayer? Explain why both are important.
6. Use Matthew 18:18 to explain the church's responsibility in its prayer ministry to God.

EUROPEAN WINTER SCHOOL OF TRUTH— TEACHER’S TRAINING

Background, burden and focus from all the outlines WST 2019

The Vision and Building Up of the Church

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:9-11; Matt. 18:17; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 2:19, 22; 4:4; 2:10; 4:22-24; 5:22-23; Rev. 1:12, 20; Matt. 16:16; 18:17; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Rom. 12:4-5; 2 Tim. 1:15

Lesson One—The Vision Concerning the Church and God’s Purpose for the Church

Background: The background to this series of lessons on the church is the fallen, natural, degraded concept concerning what the church is. To most, the church is a building, or a religious order. It usually describes a human religion of forms, teachings, regulations and traditions. Going to church is a common expression in the world today with many negative connotations.

Burden to Impart: When we come to the vision of the church we are touching something that is so sweet and precious to God. The young people need to be impressed that all of their fallen concepts concerning the church are erroneous and fallen, and that the Lord has to uplift our vision and understanding concerning this marvelous vision of the church. We first have to show them that God's eternal purpose can only be fulfilled through the church. So God's purpose for the church is strategic.

Focus: *In the first lesson we want to help them begin the process of seeing the church in God's economy and gaining an appreciation of the church for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose. This lesson needs to give them a clear vision of the church and that God's purpose for the church is that the church would have the divine sonship in the universe; would deal with God's enemy and would head up all things in Christ.*

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, Chapters 1-2.

Notes to prepare for WST

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Lesson Two—The Status of the Church (1) The Assembly, the House Of God, the Kingdom of God, and the Body of Christ

Background: *In our common language and understanding the meaning of the church is that it is a physical structure where religious meetings are held. In our helping the young people to develop a love, appreciation, and aspiration for the church, we need to uplift their understanding from something physical to something heavenly.*

Burden to Impart: *In this lesson we want to begin redefining what the church is according to the divine thought. In our sharing of these statuses of the church we need to impress the young people with how precious each status is. Even by themselves each one is very precious and inspiring. We must infuse the young people with an appreciation of the practical church.*

Focus: *In their appreciation of the vision of the church the young people need to be impressed with the various statuses of the church: as the assembly for their meeting life; the house of God for the family life of the church, for the dwelling place of God in our spirit for our being joined with Him; the kingdom of God with its rights and responsibilities; and as the Body of Christ under the Headship of Christ, with all the members. By seeing and appreciating these statuses, the young people can be brought into the experience and enjoyment of the church life in these various aspects. Every aspect can be so real and practical to us.*

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, Chapters 3-4.

Notes to prepare for WST

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Lesson Three—The Status of the Church (2) God’s Masterpiece, the New Man, the Bride of Christ and the Golden Lampstands

Background: *In this lesson we continue to deal with the fallen concept of what the church is in the minds of the young people. While the church is filled with people, some who have only recently been saved, we may only see them as natural men, with a natural view. It may be a group of people we normally would not associate or like, but it is the church. In the world and with the young people the natural friendships are very important, but in the church our relationships are of a different nature.*

Burden to Impart: As God's masterpiece, the new man, the many different kinds of people are being built together. Where on the earth can different kinds of peoples, with different philosophies, languages, cultures and backgrounds come together in a loving and peaceful way? It is here in the church that we are being prepared to be the Bride of Christ, where our love for Him is increasing day by day, and where we can be the lampstands in our localities bearing the testimony of Jesus on the earth and shining in the dark night of the church age.

Focus: *In their appreciation of the vision of the church the young people need to be impressed with the various statuses of the church: as God's masterpiece in His working on them, building us together; the new man for their taking Christ as their person and dropping all their differences to be in harmony among all kinds of peoples; as the Bride of Christ for their corporate loving the Lord supremely and preparing themselves to meet Him; and as the golden lampstands to shine in this dark age as the testimony of Jesus. By seeing and appreciating these statuses, the young people can be brought into the experience and enjoyment of the church life in these various aspects.*

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, Chapters 5-6.

Notes to prepare for WST

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Lesson Four—The Two Aspects of the Church—Universal and Local

Background: As we continue to open up the vision of the church to the young people there may be the thought that somehow the church is an organization with a headquarters somewhere. We must impress the young people that the church is not an organization and it is characterized by these two aspects.

Burden to Impart: *The burden to impart in this lesson is that the church that Christ is building is the universal church comprising all believers for all time and space. But in time and in every locality, the Lord needs a local representative of that universal church. These are the local churches. What God is doing universally on the whole earth throughout the church age is practically being worked out and expressed in my local church. We all need a practical local church that we can say is our local church that is so lovely and sweet to us.*

Focus: *The young people need to be equipped with this crucial truth of the two aspects of the church. This should become a controlling vision to them for their practice of the church life. The universal aspect is heavenly and intangible and is the goal of God's eternal economy. The local church is the church life on the earth in a locality, and is practical, and is the procedure to reach the goal of God's eternal purpose. We must get into the practical church life.*

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, Chapter 7.

Notes to prepare for WST

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Lesson Five—The Ground of the Church

Background: *A very common question among Christians is, “What church do you go to?” With the strong background of Christianity with the myriads of divisions, we need to help the young people see that the local churches in the Lord’s recovery is not another division among thousands of divisions. Every denomination declares that Christ is the foundation of their church. But what is the ground of the church where the foundation is laid? In order for our young people to be able to share with their friends concerning the church, this is a crucial lesson to define the ground of the church for them.*

Burden to Impart: Our young people often struggle in answering the question of what church do they go to. The burden in this lesson is to help them receive a clear understanding of who are we? We need to impress them that as believer meeting as the church we have no choice but to meet as the church in our city. We cannot freely come and go to the church of our choice. They need to be deeply impressed with the oneness of the Spirit, the proper ground of oneness, and the reality of the Spirit which makes the ground real and practical to us. Finally, a proper and weighty warning needs to be given concerning making divisions.

Focus: This lesson is for the young people to see this crucial truth of the ground of the church and to understand why we meet the way we do, why we take this stand, and why we call ourselves “the church” in a city. This lesson will also equip them with this most important truth for them to stand against any opposition or questions concerning our stand. We must show them that the divinely inspired word of God is so consistent when it comes to this matter of the church ground and we have no choice but to meet on this ground for the Lord’s testimony.

Reading Assignment:

The Ground of the Church (Lee/LSM)

Young People's Training (Lee/LSM), pp. 185-198.

Notes to prepare for WST

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Lesson Six—The Original Condition of the Church, the Failures in the Churches, and the Degradation and Recovery of the Church

Background: When asked why there are so many divisions among Christians, the common thought is that this is the way it has always been. Because the situation has been in degradation for so long it has become the new “normal.” It is now “normal” for Christians to be divided. It is “normal” for Christians to not be able to get along and meet together. How urgently we need to impress the young people with what the real normal should be.

Burden to Impart: We need to give the young people a clear understanding of how the church started in its original condition. We need to impress them how pure, how proper, how blessed the church was in its original condition. Then we need to show them how under Satan's direct attacks the failures and degradation came in to damage the church. But Lord will never be defeated and His eternal purpose will be fulfilled, so we need to see what the Lord is doing to recover the church.

Focus: *As we come to the heart of this series of lessons we want the young people to see the original condition of the church at its beginning and the subsequent failures and degradation that came in. The purpose of this lesson is to impress the young people with the Lord's need for a recovery of the truth and of the proper church life where He can fulfill His eternal purpose and economy.*

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 10

Notes to prepare for WST

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Lesson Seven—The Seven Churches in Revelation Signifying the Seven Stages of the Church

Background: There may be the thought among our young people that the churches in the Lord's recovery are a new movement of God at the end of the age. But in this lesson we need to show the young people that two thousand years ago in the book of revelation, the seven stages of the church were predicted clearly. They need to see that the churches in the Lord's recovery must be the fulfillment of the church in Philadelphia as foretold in Revelation 3.

Burden to Impact: Every local church in Revelation 2-3 has up-to-date lessons and applications for us today. May we be those who love the Lord with our first love, and overcome to eat the tree of life and the hidden manna; who overcome lukewarmness to be the church of brotherly love with little power, who keep His word and do not deny His name.

Focus: Through the letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we see the degradation and recovery of the church life through the eyes of church history. This lesson should impress the young people with how two thousand years of church history are described in detail through these seven churches. This lesson should also impress the young people with the way to overcome the degradation of the church and what the Lord needs at the end of this age.

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 11

Notes to prepare for WST

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Lesson Eight—The Indirect Building Up Of the Body of Christ by the Gifts to the Body and the Direct Building Up Of the Body of Christ by the Perfected Saints

Background: In Christianity there are pastors who are the professionals to run the church. Among them is no thought of the building up of the Body of Christ. But the greatest prophecy in the Bible is “I will build My church...” So we must ask the question what does it mean to build the church? How is this done, and who does it? This lesson has to impress the young people with both the need for the church to be built and the way that the Lord takes to build His church.

Burden to Impart: From the beginning the Lord prophesied that He would build His church. In addition to showing the vital importance of this building work, we have to show them how the Lord in His ascension gave gifts to the church. These gifted one perfect the saints to do what they do. The young people need to be impressed with their need for perfecting and their need to be willing to be perfected so they can function in a normal way in the church life.

Focus: In this lesson the series turns from the vision of the church to the building up of the church. We want to impress the young people with how the Lord builds His church. First it is Christ who will build His church indirectly through the gifts He gave to the church in His ascension. These gifts need to perfect the members to do what they do for the direct building up of the church. On our side we need to see that we need a lot of perfecting and should be willing to be perfected so the church can be built up through us.

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 13-14

Notes to prepare for WST

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Session Nine—The Building Up Of the Body of Christ in Oneness and the Increase and the Spread of the Church

Background: *With the strong Christian culture of division, it may be hard for the young people to realize how critical and vital our oneness in the Body of Christ is. Because of their preferences and natural relationships it is hard for them to see the significance of oneness and one accord. We have to impress them that for the gospel to be prevailing and for the churches to spread to every country, we have to be in oneness and have a one accord.*

Burden to Impart: *The building up of the Body can only be carried out in a condition of oneness. Based upon this oneness, and as a result of this oneness, we are bold to preach the gospel for the increase of the church locally and the spread of the church universally. Oneness is the master key that unlocks all the blessings in the New Testament.*

Focus: *In this lesson we need to impress the young people that for the building up of the church we must remain in the oneness of the Body of Christ. The building takes place in oneness and must be the characteristic of our practical church life. The oneness of the church is a real test to us. We also need to enter into this up-to-date burden for the increase of the church through our gospel preaching and the spreading of the church through migration by seeing how this took place in the early church.*

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 15-16

Notes to prepare for WST

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Session Ten—The Meetings of the Church for the Building up of the Church and the Prayer Ministry of the Church

Background: Most of the time the young people avoid the church meetings and consider them not for them, but for the adults. Even when they do come to the meetings, they usually sit in the back and remain indifferent to what is happening in the meeting. It is not that common for the young people in the church to be active and aggressive in the church meetings. We want to wake up the function of the young people in the church meetings and bring them fully into function in the church by realizing that the meetings are for them to be built up with the other saints.

Burden to Impart: *We have to help the young people realize that in the church meetings they are adults and then need to begin to bear responsibility in the spiritual family. They should function, exercise their spirits, sing, praise, and testify along with all the other saints. They should not hesitate and withdraw in their function with the older saints out of deference to their age. We want to impress the young people with the purpose, the goal, and kinds of meetings. But most importantly we want to impress them with the prayer ministry of the church.*

Focus: The burden of this lesson is to inspire the young people for their appreciation and participation in the meetings of the church. The meetings of the church are most crucial for the building up of the church. We also want to impress the young people with the prayer ministry of the church and help them enter into a prayer life both personally and corporately in the church and with their companions.

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 17-18

Notes to prepare for WST

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Session Eleven—The Holy, Royal, and Gospel Priesthood for the Building up of the Church

Background: Just as the term “church” has been damaged by the common usage among people today, so also the term “priest” and “priesthood” has been damaged. The typical concept of what a priest is can be compared to a holy or religious man wearing religious garments. However, in God’s economy all the believers in Christ are priests unto God. We need a fresh vision to see what a real priest is and the function of the priests is for the building up of the church.

Burden to Impart: *There are several kinds of priest in the Bible. The holy priests, the royal priests and the New Testament priests of the gospel. As the holy priests we are separated unto God and spend time with the Lord to be filled with Him. Then as royal priests we go to man to feed and supply then with what we have enjoyed of Him. Finally, as priest of the gospel we bring our friends to God and then we bring the gospel from God to our friends and offer them to God.*

Focus: This lesson is to help the young people enter into the experiential and practical working out of the universal priesthood of bringing man to God (Holy) and God to men (Royal). The result of this priesthood is the New Testament priesthood of the gospel. This lesson stresses the practical working out of the God-ordained way to carry out our New Testament priesthood of the gospel.

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 19

Notes to prepare for WST

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Session Twelve—Our Entrance into the Church and Our Attitude in the Church Life

Background: One of the ongoing burdens related to the young people's work is for them to enter into their own church life. They need to be deeply impressed that they need the brothers and sisters, the older ones, the younger ones and from every background. The young people need to surround themselves with companions to remain firmly in the center of God's plan for the building up of the church. Our entrance into the church is by faith and baptism and is eternal and there is no going out. But our attitude toward the church will make a great difference in whether we can be built up in oneness in the one Body of Christ.

Burden to Impart: *In this last lesson we want to instill in the young people a real love for the church. To have a proper attitude implies that they love the church, the saints, the children, the practical services of the church. The church must become their life, the church-life.*

Focus: In this concluding lesson we need to impress the young people with their need to enter into the practical church life in their locality. In order for all these lessons to be worked out on the earth we need to give ourselves to the church in a practical and experiential way. That means we need to enter into the church life practically. We also have to maintain a proper and balanced attitude toward the church to remain in the church life for the long run.

Reading Assignment:

The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 20-21

Notes to prepare for WST

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