

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2017**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE MENDING MINISTRY OF JOHN**

Message One

**The Enthroned Christ in God's Administration
and
the Mending Ministry of Life**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 4:2; 3:21; 5:6; John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; 1 John 1:1-2

- I. The ministry of the apostle John was a mending ministry, a ministry of mending, or restoring, what had been damaged after the time of Paul's completing ministry; John mended the broken spiritual net, perfecting it and making it stronger—John 21:11; 1 John 1:1-2; 2:7-8.**
- II. Through the mending ministry of John, we receive a vision of the ascended and enthroned Christ as the center of God's universal administration—Rev. 4:2; 3:21; 5:6:**
 - A. We need to see a vision of the throne of God as the center of God's administration—4:2; 5:1.
 - B. Christ in His ascension has been enthroned to execute God's administration, His governmental operation—Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21:
 1. Christ's ascension was for His enthronement for God's administration; Christ is sitting on the throne of the divine administration.
 2. The Lamb, the Redeemer, the One slain for our sins, is now on the throne, carrying out God's administration over the universe—5:6.
 3. As the Lamb with the seven eyes, the seven Spirits of God, He is carrying out God's administration for the accomplishment of God's economy—Eph. 1:10.
 - C. The enthroned Christ is the Ruler of the kings of the earth—Rev. 1:5:
 1. The affairs of the nations are under Christ's rulership.
 2. If we study history in light of the Bible, we will see that the human history has been under the hand of Christ as the Ruler of the kings.
- III. The ministry of the apostle John was a mending ministry of life—John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; 1 John 1:1-2; 5:11-13, 16:**
 - A. The Gospel of John is a book of life—1:4; 3:15-16, 36; 5:24; 11:25; 14:6; 20:31:
 1. The life that John speaks of is the eternal, uncreated life; this life is actually the Triune God Himself—5:26; 11:25; 6:63.
 2. The Lord Jesus came that we may have life abundantly; through His death and resurrection He released this life and imparted it into us—10:10; 12:24; 19:34; 20:17, 31.

- B. This life is a wonderful person, indescribable in human language; when John referred to Him in 1 John 1:1, he could only say, “That which was from the beginning,” speaking of the One who was with the Father from eternity and was manifested to the apostles, who declared Him as life—vv. 2-3.
- C. Today’s broken situation among the believers and in the churches can be mended only by the life-giving mending ministry; only life can mend—5:16:
 - 1. There are “holes” in us and many broken things that need to be mended.
 - 2. The holes and breaks must be mended by life in love; we can be mended only by the ministry of life—2:25; 3:16.
- D. The central requirement for the building up of the church today is the mending ministry of life; it is in this ministry that we experience Christ as our life and become the dwelling place of God—John 2:19-22; 11:25; 14:2-3.

IV. As believers in Christ and children of God, we not only have eternal life and may experience eternal life, but we can minister this life to other members of the Body of Christ—1 John 5:11-16:

- A. To minister is to have the outflow of life—John 19:34; 7:37-39:
 - 1. Life is the content of God and the flowing out of God; God’s content is God’s being, and God’s flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us—Eph. 4:18; Rev. 22:1.
 - 2. Having the outflow of life requires that we be one with Christ in His life-releasing death; this is to be identified with the smitten Christ, typified by the smitten rock—John 19:34; Exo. 17:6.
- B. If we would minister life to others, we need to be aware of the attack upon the church by death—Matt. 16:18; Rom. 5:17, 21:
 - 1. What is of God is characterized by life, and what is of Satan, by death; in the church everything that issues from God is life, and everything that issues from Satan is death—John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; Heb. 2:14.
 - 2. The attack upon the church will come from death, from the gates of Hades—Matt. 16:18.
 - 3. Satan’s greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death—2 Tim. 1:10.
 - 4. The eternal life within us can overcome death both in ourselves and in other members of the church—1 John 5:11-13, 16.
 - 5. We need to experience and enjoy the eternal life within us, and we need to minister this life to others by being a channel through which eternal life can flow—John 7:37-39; Phil. 1:24-25.