



International Conference - Sept. 2022

General Theme: **Introduction**
Message 02: **Our Mission: The Building Up
of the Body of Christ**

Ephesians 4:11-12

Word given by brother **Pedro Dong**, transmitted by Life For All Institute directly from the church auditorium in Belo Horizonte – Minas Gerais, no **07/31/2022**. Text not proofread by the author and may contain errors.



Today we are starting the study of a new book of the Bible: Ephesians. We will continue the task of the Gospel of Matthew, which ends by talking about the great commission: preaching the Gospel with the aim of building up the church. Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom aims to rescue men and seek them as materials for the building up of the Body of Christ. **Such edification will only take place when all the members of the body are perfected for that purpose, and will culminate in the conclusion of the age in which we live. Then all things will indeed be under the feet of the Lord.**

Mt 16:16-29; Eph 4:11-12; Eph 1:21-23; Eph 1:19-21; Mt 28:18-20; Zc 4

The theme of this message series is “Our Mission: Building the Body of Christ”. It is difficult to illustrate the building of the church, as it is not a material building, but we chose a symbol that will be explained below.

The great commission was first given to Jesus in Matthew 16: Christ, the anointed of God, was commissioned to build up the church, Himself being the cornerstone, the foundation of that building. Thank God we were rescued from this world to participate in this building as building materials. That's why we go to the streets helping to rescue people, to collect more material for the building. These people, however, need to undergo an improvement. When that age is completed, Christ will be not only the cornerstone, but also the capstone, the one that completes the building.

Rev 19:7-9; Eph 5:25-27,31

At the end of this age, there will be the great tribulation. The overcomers, however, those who cooperated with the building up of the church, will be caught up to the throne of God with the Man Son, and will come together with Christ in his parousia during the great tribulation. At the end of the three and a half years of the great tribulation, there will be a wedding.

Those called to this marriage are the bride herself. This marriage is to bring Christ and the church together in an organic and definitive union. **Today, we are being prepared like a bride: we live in the period when God is sanctifying his church, washing us with the water of the word. This washing removes from us all the elements of the flesh, of the old man, of human nature and puts in us the holy and divine elements, in order to present us as a glorious, holy and faultless church before Him that day.** In this marriage, Christ and the Church will be united into one, like a block of stone, a cube.

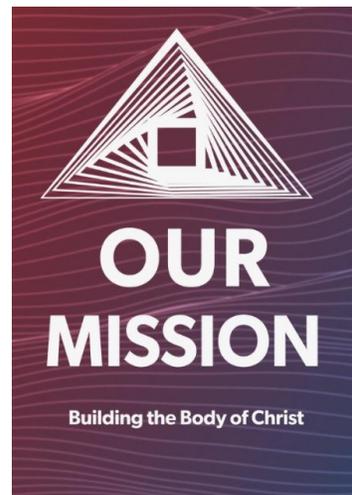
Dan 2:31-35,44; Ps 2:1-3; Rev 21:1-11,16; Rev 22:1-7

Babylon began with Nimrod trying to present to the world the possibility of man's independence from God. Then came the human government, now controlled by Satan. One day, however, that government will be destroyed. In the book of Daniel we see the passage of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The statue described

there represents that government, an affront to divine authority and which will be destroyed and taken by the Lord.

Man is increasingly announcing his independence from God, and the world has been led into a very strong tendency to sever any tie with the divine government and with the word of God. The antichrist will rise up against everything that refers to the Lord, positioning himself as a deity that must be worshiped. **We, as a church, position ourselves as those under divine authority, those who want to be ruled by Christ and used for His edification.**

The statue depicted in Daniel 2 represents all human government and authority. The hand-cut stone that is quoted demonstrates the union between Christ and the church, together in one block. The stone hits the statue's feet and crushes it, brings the ruin of all the great human empires, and becomes a great mountain that fills the whole earth. In the conference logo we can observe exactly this movement of the cube moving to become a big mountain. Revelation describes the city of Jerusalem, fully governed by divine authority, as a cube. **When the New Jerusalem is established, man will never again be detached from the government and throne of God.**



This semester we are going to enter the book of Ephesians in a different way. We ended the burden of the book of Matthew by talking about the sacrifice of Jesus. He did everything so that, through His sacrifice and resurrection, the church could receive His spirit and the great commission. This commission was given to Christ in Matthew 16. It was not about raising up a great religious movement here on earth, but about producing and dispensing the life of God among us. Through the building up of the church, we will bring the Kingdom and government of God to the earth, and that is our commission. Fulfilling this burden begins with preaching the gospel, "May I Pray for You?," dynamic colporting, putting into practice the tools we have been given.

It is precisely with this practical bias that we will enter the book of Ephesians.

Mt 28:18-20

It was necessary that Jesus would come to earth, fulfill the plan of redemption and become the other comforter, to be present today as Spirit, being the authority of the King here. He was the one who gave the authority for the church to go to all nations to preach, baptize and make disciples, bringing people back under God's authority. Those who are under divergent authorities often don't even have a direction in life, walking around confused. Therefore, the preaching of the gospel aims to bring them closer to the

authority of the Lord, restoring meaning to their lives. Baptism brings the organic unity of people into the Triune God.

Today we have the treasure of the prophetic word, which has blessed us and given us direction, leading us to live one of the happiest moments in the life of the church until today. The word is the invisible presence of the Lord among us, that is how He is present here until His second coming takes place. That is why it was necessary for there to be shedding of blood and water during the crucifixion: the water, representing the word, is only seen by those who follow the Lord closely. Today, if we want the presence of God, we need to be close followers of the word.

Eph 1:17-23

The power given to Christ was also extended to the church and is with us today. We need now to ask the Lord that He will give us revelation to know the hope of our calling and the efficacy of the power of Him in whom we believe. God, in His supreme greatness, resurrected Jesus and made Him to be seated in heavenly places, above all authority, power and dominion. Christ, who has already received all authority in heaven and on earth, has extended this authority to us too: He has been given to the Church as our head to govern us. What is most lacking in the world these days is the government head. A chicken without a head is still able to walk a few steps, but it has no direction and soon falls. Men today are like headless chickens, no matter how good they look. Today we have a head that is in heaven: Christ. **Everything is under his feet, and our commission is that all things should also be placed under the feet of the church, properly headed by Christ.**

Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; Acts 11:15

For the church to carry out this responsibility, it must also be anointed. Christ was anointed as a son of the living God, and now it's our turn. At Pentecost the church was anointed to preach the gospel and carry out the edification, moving forward to the end of the age. In this building, we need to follow the Lord through the word. Today, the most important ministry we have is the ministry of the word, for it is what confirms the presence of the Lord to us. **We are glad that we have not been deprived of the word and God has graced us with his presence.**

Mt 27:55; Luke 8:1-2; Rom 12:1-7

The ministry of the word is not alone, but it needs support. During the time that Jesus was on earth, there was a group of women who followed Him, performing a hidden service. In the same way, today the ministry of the word needs numerous support services, from arranging chairs to physically feeding the brothers. **We need to be willing to serve on these countless fronts that support the prophetic word wherever it goes. The church needs to seek excellence in its services.**

In addition to Jesus, the disciples were also always present. More people means more mouths to feed, and also more costs. Everything generates a monetary cost: food, chairs, meeting places, etc., and this concerns yet another hidden service: that of offerings and material wealth. Then there are the three pillars, which bring stability in whatever terrain. If we want to fulfill the prophetic word, we need this tripod: the word, the service and the offerings. These three fronts need to be taken care of. The prophetic word and services have flowed very well among us, thank the Lord! We have already boosted dynamic colporting, gospel preaching, the networks of care, church service and GTCs. We need to boost GTC and our number of colporteurs even more, so that we can experience more of the renewal that this context brings us.

There is no service without the presentation of our bodies: we need to be physically present in service, in preaching the gospel. Each one has been entrusted with a gift and ministry, but all services

must be in line with prophecy, that is, with the prophetic word. **In the church life we cannot be autonomous, acting of our own free will, but we must always follow under the blessing and guidance of the prophet.**

Mt 5:20; Gen 14:14,16-20; 28:20; 2 Cor 8:1-4, 9:6-11; Isa 55

There is also a strong need to supercharge the ministry of material offerings and riches. Fidelity is already observed regarding specific destination offers, but my task today is to convey the needed opportunity to boost our normal offers. Our regular offerings, our tithing, must be done with reverence. We need to honor the Lord according to what He gives us. **He has given us a wage to live on, and what do we live for? We live for this great commission: building the church, preaching the gospel. So our material possessions are also for His work.** When we receive our salary, let us have the heart to take what is necessary for our survival and give the rest to the Lord. Our goods are seeds that must be used in the divine sowing.

Some religious groups follow the regular offerings, the tithe, strictly and in a controlled way. These groups have a healthy financial life, as do their offerings. We also need to exercise this practice in order to maintain a healthy life of regular offerings within the church life.

What we earn each month, we receive from the Lord. The tithe, in fact, is little, because God is the one who gives us everything, but this is the value defined by justice since the old testament. **We, however, can exceed that righteousness and seek to surrender even more to the Lord! If we applied the law of the Pharisees, we would in fact take a tenth part of each one's salary, but let us not fulfill our offerings as a burden or simple commitment before men, it is before the Lord that we must present our offerings, according to the value that He places in each one's heart. Each one must go before Him and ask for guidance as to this value, so that there is a monthly commitment of offerings.** The default value of tithing should not serve as a limit for us; on the contrary, it is to be used by us as an excuse to exceed the law of the Pharisees, and deliver even more for the Lord. In addition to our special offers, we also need to have a monthly commitment value in the church's account, which can meet the needs of the work, so that we can not only maintain the church's regular expenses, but also boost the service fronts and preaching of the Gospel that the Lord has entrusted us.

What the Lord asks of us does not go beyond what we have received, he asks us according to what we have and our ability. We need to see that giving is sowing. The Lord has given us seeds not to stand still, but to sow. **The money that comes into our lives is primarily for sowing: the best seeds must go to the fields so they can bear fruit, and the rest is what remains for food and sustenance.**

I hope the Holy Spirit speaks to each one's heart. Let's normalize our daily offers! We need to remember that if He gives us a salary, it is for us to continue serving Him and the rest must be invested in His own things. When this happens, we boost the ministry of the word, the ministry of service and also that of offerings and material riches!