

LIVING AND SERVING IN THE DIVINE DISPENSING OF THE DIVINE TRINITY

(Saturday, First Morning Session)

Message Seven

The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity for the Producing of Materials for the Divine Building and for the Producing and Existence of the Church as the Body to Christ, the New Man to God, and the Dwelling Place to the Spirit

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 3:11-12; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:15-16, 21-22; 4:24; Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2

I. The divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity is for the producing of the materials for the divine building, the church of God—1 Cor. 3:11-12:

- A. In order to be proper material for the divine building, we need to experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—John 3:14-16.
- B. We experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in God's entering into the materials for His building: God the Father is expressed in the Son; God the Son is realized as the Spirit; and God the Spirit enters into the believers so that they may be mingled with the Triune God—14:7-11, 16-17a.
- C. We may experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in transforming us into precious materials for God's building—1 Cor. 3:6-7, 12:
 1. While Christ as the living foundation holds and supports the entire church, He is dispensing His divine element of life into all the members—v. 11.
 2. This dispensing of Himself as the element of life into our being will transform us into precious materials for the divine building—v. 12; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2.

II. The divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity is for the producing and existence of the church as the Body of Christ, the new man, and the dwelling place of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:15-16, 21-22:

- A. The existence of the church comes out of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 1:2; 13:14.
- B. The church is a Body to Christ, a new man to God, and a dwelling place to the Spirit, who is the consummation and the aggregate of the Triune God; this means that the church is the dwelling place of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—who is now consummated as the Spirit—Eph. 2:15-16, 21-22.
- C. The way to produce the church, which is the Body of Christ, the new man, and a dwelling place of the Triune God, and the way for this church to exist are by the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 13:14; Rom. 8:2, 9-11; 12:4-5; 16:1; Eph. 1:3-23; 3:14-21.

III. Through the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity the church of God functions as the Body of Christ, the new man, and the dwelling place of God—2:15-16, 21-22:

- A. In relation to Christ, the church functions as the Body—1:22-23; 2:16; 4:16:

1. The divine economy is God's eternal plan to dispense Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people to produce the Body of Christ—1:10; 3:9.
 2. The Body of Christ is the fullness of the all-inclusive Christ, the One who fills all in all—1:22-23:
 - a. Christ is great to such an extent that He fills the whole universe and even becomes the dimensions of the universe—3:18.
 - b. Christ, as the One who fills all in all, needs the Body, the church, to be His fullness, His expression—1:22-23.
 - c. Christ, who is the infinite God without limitation, is so great that He fills all things in all things; such a great Christ needs the church, His Body, to be His fullness for His expression—vv. 22-23.
 3. We need to have a universal view of the universal Body of Christ—vv. 17-23; Acts 10:9-11; Rev. 21:10.
- B. In relation to God, the church functions as the new man to accomplish God's eternal economy—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11:
1. In order to carry out His eternal plan, which is the economy of the ages, God needs a man—the one new man—Gen. 1:26; Col. 3:10-11.
 2. The church as the new man is the corporate man in God's intention; this new man fulfills the twofold purpose of expressing God and dealing with His enemy—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Gen. 1:26.
 3. As the new man, the function of the church is to move, work, act, and do things to accomplish God's great plan—Eph. 2:10.
 4. This new man is a corporate and vast man, comprising all of God's chosen people, and we should consider ourselves as parts of this new man—4:24.
 5. Through the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity, the church is produced as God's masterpiece, the new man in the new creation—2:5-8, 10:
 - a. Nothing other than the divine dispensing of the divine life can make us new—4:23; Col. 3:10-11.
 - b. It is through the dispensing of the divine grace, which is the Triune God as a gift given to us, that we become the living members of the Body of Christ and parts of the new man and are made the organic constituents of the church as the divine and heavenly poem—Eph. 2:7-8, 10.
 6. We need to practice the church life in the consciousness of the one new man; if we are conscious of the one new man, we will realize that all the churches in the different countries are one new man—Col. 3:10-11; 4:7-17.
- C. In relation to the Spirit, the church functions as the dwelling place of God—Eph. 2:21-22; Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2:
1. God's Spirit is the Dweller, not the dwelling place; the dwelling place is the believers' spirit indwelt by God's Holy Spirit—Eph. 2:22.
 2. Ephesians 2:21 says that the holy temple is in the Lord, and verse 22 says that the dwelling place of God is in spirit:
 - a. This indicates that for the building of God's dwelling place, the Lord is one with our spirit, and our spirit is one with the Lord—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - b. Our spirit is where the building of the church, the dwelling place of God, takes place—Eph. 2:22.

3. The high and exalted One, who inhabits eternity and whose name is Holy, dwells with the contrite and lowly of spirit and looks to him who is poor and of a contrite spirit—Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2.
4. According to Isaiah 66:2 and 57:15, the dwelling place God desires to have is a group of people into whom He can enter:
 - a. God intends to have a dwelling place that is the mingling of God and man, in which God is built into man and man is built into God, so that God and man, man and God can be a mutual abode to each other—John 14:2, 20, 23; 1 John 4:13.
 - b. In the New Testament this dwelling place, this house, is the church, which is God's habitation in the believers' spirit—Eph. 2:22; 1 Tim. 3:15.