Outline of the Messages for the Full-time Training in the Spring Term of 2023

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES

Message Nine

The Triune God Dispensing Himself into the Tripartite Man

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 13:14; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11, 14, 16; Gal. 3:26; 4:5-7

I. We need to see a vision of the central matter in the Bible—the divine intention, the divine economy, and the divine dispensing of the Triune God into the believers in Christ for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the eternal corporate expression of the Triune God—Eph. 1:5, 9-11, 22-23; 3:14-21; 4:16; Rev. 21:2, 10-11.

II. The Triune God created a tripartite man to be a living vessel to contain Him-Gen. 2:7:

- A. The basic teaching of the Scriptures is that we are vessels created in the image of God to receive and contain God as our unique content—1:26; Rom. 9:21, 23.
- B. We need to be vessels open to the Lord, continually receiving the divine dispensing for God's expression—2 Cor. 4:7.

III. The accomplishment of the divine economy is by the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—the Triune God dispensing Himself into the tripartite man—13:14:

- A. The divine economy is God's plan and arrangement out of His desire and purpose; the divine dispensing is God's dispensing and distributing according to this plan and arrangement—Eph. 1:3-23; 3:14-21.
- B. Everything that is mentioned in the New Testament concerning God is related to the divine dispensing for the divine economy—Rom. 8:3, 11; Eph. 1:3-23:
 - 1. The revelation concerning the Triune God in the holy Word is not for theology or doctrinal understanding but for the dispensing of God in His Divine Trinity into His chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people for their experience and enjoyment—2 Cor. 13:14.
 - 2. The Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—has been processed to become the life-giving Spirit so that we may drink of Him as the living water—John 4:10:
 - a. The Father as the origin is the fountain, the Son as the expression is the spring, and the Spirit as the transmission is the flow—v. 14; 7:37-39; Rev. 22:1.
 - b. This is the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—1 Cor. 12:13; 15:45b.

IV. The matter of the divine dispensing is revealed in a full and rich way in Romans 8; this chapter unveils to us how the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—dispenses Himself into our tripartite being—spirit, soul, and body—to make us His sons for the constituting of the Body of Christ—vv. 2, 6, 10-11, 14; Gal. 3:26; 4:5-7:

- A. The word *dispense* means "to distribute"; when we speak of the divine dispensing of the Triune God, we mean that God distributes Himself to us, dispenses Himself into our tripartite being.
- B. In Romans 8 we have the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—vv. 2-3, 5, 9, 11, 13-14, 16, 23, 26-27.

- C. In Romans 8:11 three crucial matters are covered—the Triune God, the process, and the dispensing:
 - 1. In this verse we have the entire Triune God: "the One who raised Jesus from the dead" (the Father), "Christ" (the Son), and "His Spirit who indwells you" (the Spirit).
 - 2. The One who dwells in us is the Triune God who has been processed through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection; the Father is embodied in the Son, the Son is realized as the Spirit, and the Spirit indwells us.
 - 3. The dispensing of the Triune God is saturating our whole being—v. 11; 1 Thes. 5:23.
- D. Through the dispensing of the Triune God as life, our spirit is life (Gk. *zoe*)—Rom. 8:10:
 - 1. The spirit's being life because of righteousness refers to our regenerated human spirit—John 3:6.
 - 2. Our spirit has not only been regenerated and made living; it has become life—Rom. 8:10.
 - 3. When we believed in Christ, He as the divine Spirit of life came into our spirit and mingled Himself with it to become one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17); now our spirit is not merely living—it is life.
- E. Through the dispensing of the Triune God as life, our soul (represented by our mind) becomes life; "the mind set on the spirit is life"—Rom. 8:6:
 - 1. The more we experience the mind set on the spirit being life, the more our mind is renewed and becomes the base for the transformation of our soul—12:2; Eph. 4:23.
 - 2. Our mind is the leading part of our soul, and as it is renewed, our will and emotion automatically follow to be renewed also—Rom. 12:2.
- F. Through the dispensing of the Triune God as life, the indwelling Spirit gives life to our mortal bodies—8:11:
 - 1. The dispensing of the Triune God into our tripartite being is shown in the words *give life to your mortal bodies* (v. 11), which indicates that the dispensing not only occurs in the center of our being but also reaches to the circumference of our whole being.
 - 2. Not only are both our spirit and our mind life, zoe, but even our body can be full of zoe.
 - 3. God gives life to our mortal, dying bodies so that we may be enlivened to carry out His will—12:2; Col. 1:9.
- G. The Triune God dispensing Himself into the tripartite man makes the believers sons of God—Rom. 8:14, 19; Gal. 3:26; 4:5-6:
 - 1. Through the dispensing of the Triune God, we will become sons of God in life—3:26.
 - 2. As sons of God, we have within us the life of God, the nature of God, and the Spirit of the Son of God—John 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4; Gal. 4:6.
 - 3. Sons of God are children of God who are in the stage of the transformation of their souls; they have not only been regenerated in their spirit and are growing in the divine life, but they are also living and walking by being led by the Spirit—Rom. 8:16; 12:2.
 - 4. The ultimate issue of the dispensing of the Triune God is to produce sons to be the members of the Body—8:14; 12:4-5.
- H. The dispensing of the Triune God into our tripartite being deifies us, that is, makes us, children of God, the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead:
 - 1. In the book of Romans we can see the high peak of the divine revelation: God becoming man and man becoming God—8:3; 1:3-4.
 - 2. The deep and divine thought in Romans is that in God's complete salvation sinners may be redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed, and glorified to become sons of God, who are the same as God in life and nature to become members of the organic Body of Christ—3:24; 5:10; 8:14, 29-30; 12:4-5.
- I. If we allow the Triune God to carry out His refined and gentle dispensing into our tripartite being every day, we will grow in life by His growth within us—Col. 2:19.