

The Crystallization

GOD'S ECONOMY, GOD'S DISPENSING

The Triune God in eternity past, mysteriously existing distinctly as three and inseparably as one, acted according to the deep longing of His heart to have a multifarious display of Himself in life, nature, and expression. According to His good pleasure, He formulated a plan, an administrative arrangement, an economy, which now is being carried out in time through the inseparable operations of the three of the Trinity which manifest the distinct actions of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The focus of God's economy is wonderfully and marvelously directed toward the object of His most significant creation—humankind, a tripartite vessel composed of spirit, soul, and body, which has the capacity to fulfill the Triune God's desire for image and dominion.

While many theologians and teachers readily acknowledge that God acts according to an eternal plan, their view of this plan is often quite limited. For example, most Christian teaching is focused merely on counteracting the effects of the fall. Consequently, there is a singular emphasis on the redemptive aspect of the person and work of Christ. While we treasure this aspect, it is based upon a view of God's plan that largely ignores the first two chapters of Genesis, which are a blueprint of the economy of God, and the last two chapters of Revelation, which are a photograph of the consummation of the economy of God.

Apart from sin, which is first mentioned in chapter three of Genesis, the Triune God signaled His ultimate desire for man by placing him in front of the tree of life and instructing him to eat, that is, to receive another life, the divine life of the Triune God. Even before the fall, the life of the Triune God was made available to man. The true loss of humankind in the fall was not a loss of innocence, but a loss of access to the divine, uncreated life of God, as signified by tree of life. With the accomplishment of redemption, the way to the tree of life has been reopened and those who access this life by faith participate in this economy by partaking of the divine nature.

There is a pressing need within today's Christianity for an enlarged view of the economy of God as the dispensing of the Triune God into His chosen, redeemed, and regenerated tripartite elect. The economy of God involves the operation of the divine life within the lives of the believers, and it has been made possible by the inseparable actions

of the three of the Trinity in the distinct activity of the Son in His incarnation, human living, death, resurrection, and ascension, and the distinct activity of the Spirit of life in His life-giving intensification.

The operation of the Spirit of life involves the dispensing of the life of the Triune God into the spirit, soul, and body of the believers. This dispensing is mysterious, divine, and mystical, but it is not serendipitous or miraculous in the sense of signs and wonders. Rather, the dispensing of the Triune God is a matter of the spontaneous operation of a scientific law—the law of the Spirit of life. It is possible for every Christian to access the operation of the divine life by “switching on” the law of the Spirit of life by exercising his spirit to contact the Lord every day, telling Him the intimate thoughts of his heart, by setting his mind on the spirit and walking according to the Spirit, by crying out to the Lord and praising Him, and by groaning in the Spirit's intercessory groaning.

As the economy of God, the dispensing of the life of the Triune God, becomes fully operational in our personal and corporate experience of Christ, the church has a living response to the degradation of the church—overcoming. The economy of God will produce overcomers who return to, maintain, and develop their first and best love for the Lord, who refuse to be mixed with the world, who repudiate any semblance of a clergy-laity system that nullifies the functioning of the members of the Body of Christ, who humble themselves under the Lord and before His word, who are intensely living and untouched by the defilement of spiritual death, and who have a proper zeal to pay any price to gain the Lord. This is the intensification of the economy of God as presented in Revelation.

The economy of God, from Genesis to Revelation, is the hope of our calling. A proper response to this calling depends upon the condition of our heart, first that we would see this economy, and second, that we would corporately enter into the experience of this economy. This is truly a worthy cause for which we should bow our knees, praying that the Father would strengthen us according to the riches of His glory through His Spirit into the inner man so that Christ could make His home in our hearts through faith.

by the Editors