

The Crystallization

A TIME FOR RECOVERY

If, to us, God is real, living, and increasingly active in His indwelling, rather than just a theological or ethical construct, then, as believers who have been chosen, redeemed, and regenerated, we bear particular responsibility before our Lord to walk worthily of His calling. Such a worthy walk must bear the principal characteristic of faithfulness to the truth: “It is sought in stewards that one be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). To be faithful to the truth, even to elevate and express the truth, is a responsibility that has been delegated to the church, which is the pillar and base of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). Rather than buying the truth and selling it not (Prov. 23:23), however, the history of the church is more a testimony of falling away than one of being headed up in Christ. Spiritual death and division, significant indicators of decline and degradation, abound in the Body of Christ, grieving the Holy Spirit and holding the church up to the ridicule of the world. In such a situation, there is a need for recovery.

Thankfully, our God is real and living, and through His indwelling, He is the source of recovery. The indwelling Spirit of reality, who guides the believers into all the reality (John 14:17; 16:13), has been active throughout the history of the church to progressively reveal many items of truth that comprise the mystery of God and of Christ (Eph. 3:3-5). Despite the leavened lump of teachings in Christendom (1 Cor. 5:6-7; Matt. 13:33), many precious truths have been recovered, especially since Luther’s foundational recovery of justification by faith. Following Luther, other items of truth, essential to a living that is in accord with God’s economy, were also recovered. These include proper practices, deeper spiritual experiences, and the spread of the gospel. Through many constituted gifts, deeper and higher truths in God’s Word have been seen and heard.

In this present age, these precious truths have been developed in accord with the apostles’ teaching. Rather than just knowing that God is triune, we now know that God is revealed as triune for the dispensing of Himself as life into the members of the Body of Christ. Rather than just knowing about a historical Jesus, we now know that our all-inclusive Christ passed through the process of incarnation, human living, death, resurrection, ascension, and descension to impart Himself as life into us. Rather than just knowing that there is a Holy Spirit, we now know that the Spirit seals and pledges us with Himself as a consummated compound of all of Christ’s attainments and

obtainments, bringing the eternal, uncreated life of God into our spirit, soul, and even body. And rather than relegating the oneness of the Body to some point after the consummation of this age, we now know that the church organically grows and matures—both universally and locally—through the dispensing of the divine life.

This truth is no longer hidden under a bushel basket (Matt. 5:15); it is time for the Body of Christ to put aside childish things (1 Cor. 13:11), recognize and repent of the depths of our degradation and division (Rev. 2:5, 16, 22; 3:3, 19), and begin to earnestly pursue the things of Christ (Phil. 2:21). We are at the dawn of a new millennium, and we simply cannot waste time with trends and fads that only reflect the course of this fallen age, not God’s economy. We must be willing to consecrate ourselves, prostrate ourselves before God, and beseech the Father of glory to daily bring us into the transmission of His economical recovery (Eph. 3:14-15). In response to such prayer, He will strengthen our inner man with power through His Spirit, and Christ will make His home in our hearts (vv. 16-17). This dispensing will produce both image and dominion, the corporate expression of Christ and the corporate exercise of God’s delegated authority through the church.

The dispensing of the Triune God into satanified humanity will also produce deified believers who are God in life and nature but not in the Godhead. This is the highest gospel that needs to be recovered according to the revelation contained in the holy Scriptures. As God’s chosen, redeemed, and regenerated elect, it is our life-course to advance from being serpents, infected with the satanic life and nature, to being the bride, the corporate increase of Christ, by living in the realm of the divine species, the kingdom into which we were born by believing into Christ.

Today, our God is interested only in the fulfillment of His divine economy, and He is sounding forth a call to His slaves to come out of everything degraded and divisive (Rev. 18:4). May some be exercised to seize this kingdom of life (Matt. 11:12) and be absolute to reject everything of self and sin to satisfy the deep longing of our Triune God for the fullest expression of Himself in His Son, the Christ who has been enlarged and expanded in the church through the economical dispensing of the Divine Trinity.

The Editors