

The Divine Perspective in Ephesians

As genuine, regenerated Christians, who have believed into the Son of God as light and who have been born of God to become sons of light, we are now light in the Lord. As regenerated but untransformed Christians, however, we are still under the influence of the will of man and the will of the flesh. To see according to the light of life is to see according to God. To see according to the will of man and the will of the flesh is to see nothing at all, but to be in spiritual darkness. In order to participate in the fulfillment of God's economy, the eyes of our heart need to be enlightened to see according to the Triune God. No other book in the New Testament presents God's perspective and will more clearly than Ephesians, which is written from the perspective of the heavenlies, from eternity, and from God's eternal purpose. His purpose is related to the execution of His economy, which is His administrative arrangement to dispense Himself into His chosen and redeemed sons. Every chapter in Ephesians is structured to reveal this dispensing.

Chapter 1 unveils that God the Father chose and predestinated, God the Son redeemed, and God the Spirit is sealing and pledging in order to impart Himself as life into the believers to form the church, which is the Body of Christ. Chapter 2 shows that the Father's dispensing produces the church as His masterpiece, the Son's dispensing produces the new man, and the Spirit brings us to the Father in one Body. In chapter 3 the apostle prays that God the Father would grant us to be strengthened through God the Spirit into our inner man so that God the Son can make His home in our hearts, that we might be filled unto all the fullness of God. Chapter 4 portrays that the processed God as the Spirit, the Lord, and the Father is mingled with the Body of Christ so that all the members of the Body may experience the Divine Trinity. Chapter 5 exhorts us to praise God the Son with the songs of God the Spirit and to give thanks to God the Father. This is to praise and thank the processed God in His Divine Trinity for our enjoyment of Him, which constitutes us to be children of God who walk in love and light. Chapter 6 instructs us to fight the spiritual warfare by being empowered in God the Son, putting on the whole armor of God the Father, and wielding the sword of the Spirit.

becomes a stewardship of the grace of God. As a faithful steward the apostle Paul enjoyed and announced the person of Christ with His unsearchable riches as the gospel to produce the church as the fullness of Christ for the exhibition of the multifarious wisdom of God according to His eternal plan. The structure of this gospel is presented in Romans 1:17 as the righteousness of God, the life of Christ, and the faith of the believers. The righteousness of God is the procedure of God's salvation judicially, the life of Christ is the purpose of God's salvation organically, and the faith of the believers is the substantiation of God's salvation practically. Christ accomplished a judicial redemption for us so that He may become our righteousness through the dispensing of Himself as life into us for our organic salvation. The similarities between the gospel of God in Romans and the mystery of the gospel in Ephesians are not coincidental, because the content of both Epistles is based on the same revelation.

The revelation of the economy of God cannot be separated from the revelation of the Triune God Himself because a revelation of the Triune God reveals and also imparts the Triune God. In order for God's economy to operate to head up all things in Christ, the riches of His grace must abound, and in order for the riches of His grace to abound, the hidden mystery of God's will must be made known. Revelation is the catalyst that causes the riches of His grace to abound; therefore, God accomplishes His economy by making known the mystery of His will through revelation. Revelation is the key to the fulfillment of the economy in God. This fulfillment will not come about by knowledge or organization; it will come about by the Father of glory giving to us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, by the Spirit imparting revelation into our regenerated human spirit, by the riches of the Son being the content of the imparted revelation, by an enlightening ministry and a stewardship of grace that dispenses the content of the revelation, and by Christ becoming Head over all things to the church. The economy in God can be fulfilled only when the Triune God makes known the mystery of His will through revelation and when the recipients of this revelation, as stewards of the mysteries of God, are faithful to make known the economy of this mystery.

When the divine economy in Ephesians is thus revealed, it

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