

Economy, Dispensing, Union, Expression

The most crucial and mysterious matter revealed in the Bible is that God's ultimate intention is to work Himself in Christ into us, His chosen and redeemed people, as our life so that we may live Him for His corporate expression. The God-ordained process for the fulfillment of this intention involves a number of vital factors, including the divine economy, the divine dispensing, the organic union, and the corporate expression of God.

God's economy is His plan and arrangement to fulfill His purpose according to the desire of His heart. The divine economy includes God becoming flesh, passing through human living as a God-man, dying an all-inclusive death for redemption and the release of the divine life, resurrecting with a body of glory, and becoming the life-giving Spirit to enter into us as life and to dispense God into us so that we can be transformed to produce the church as the Body of Christ. As those who have believed into the Son of God to receive the eternal life of God, and who have been born of God by the Spirit in our spirit, we can live in an organic union with Christ. The goal of this living is the building up of the church for the corporate expression of the Triune God through the organic Body of Christ, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem. When the content of God's economy is revealed and received by us through the divine dispensing, an organic union with God is produced and matures into the corporate expression of God. These four vital matters are woven throughout the entire Bible, but especially the New Testament, and they can be clearly seen in the books of Romans, Hebrews, and Revelation.

Romans is rich in its unveiling of God's economy, which is implied in Paul's use of the terms *the will of God*, *the purpose of God*, *the grace of God*, and *the revelation of the mystery*. The economy of this mystery is accomplished by the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity, who is operating to impart Himself in Christ as the Spirit into the believers to be life to their tripartite being. Romans further reveals that an organic union is produced through the grafting of the divine life and the redeemed human life within all who have received Christ through faith, making the believers one with Christ and with the other members of His Body. God's complete salvation takes sinful human beings, who were created to express Him, and transforms them into glorious sons for His corporate expression as the Body of Christ and the kingdom of God, which can be

seen in the practice of the unique oneness of the Body of Christ in the local church life. Through the revelation contained in Romans, we can know the divine economy, experience the divine dispensing, live a grafted life in the organic union with Christ, and give ourselves to the Lord for His corporate expression through the unique Body of Christ expressed as local churches.

The Epistle to the Hebrews unveils the truth of the superiority of Christ in the economy of God. In His person Christ is superior to angels, Moses, and Aaron, and in His work the new covenant is superior to the old covenant. When this superior economical content is revealed in Hebrews, it is accompanied with sober warnings related to our need to experience the divine dispensing that imparts this content into our being. In this dispensing, God's indestructible life is supplied as grace, empowering us to heed the warnings and to reap the heavenly blessings inherent in God's economy. This dispensing is made practical and possible through our organic union with the heavenly Christ. Finally, Hebrews reveals that if we are practically joined to Christ and under the divine dispensing according to the divine economy, we will be rewarded with a glorious participation in the corporate expression of God in this age and in the coming millennial kingdom.

Revelation is the conclusion, completion, and consummation of these four great matters in the Bible. The revelation of Jesus Christ in the final book of the Bible is both ultimate and unique, conveying aspects of Christ in God's economy that are unveiled in no other book. Christ is the Son of Man in the midst of the churches as the heavenly High Priest in His priestly garments, caring for the churches in His humanity in love yet with a willingness to judge. He is also the One ministering in the heavens for the carrying out of God's economy in the opening of the seven seals. But even more than Christ's administration of the earth and heaven, Revelation reveals the dispensing of the riches of Christ into His members through the speaking of the sevenfold intensified Spirit to the churches, enabling the believers to experience the all-inclusive Christ and to participate in the Triune God in order to become His eternal corporate expression, the New Jerusalem, for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose. **AC**

by the Editors