

The Crystallization

KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING THE FULL MINISTRY OF CHRIST

God's economy is His administrative arrangement and plan to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity into His chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people to produce and build up the Body of Christ, which consummates in the New Jerusalem as the consummate, eternal, corporate expression of the Triune God. According to the complete revelation in the New Testament, this glorious divine economy is carried out by the full ministry of Christ in its three divine and mystical stages. The first stage—the stage of incarnation—is the stage of Christ in the flesh as recorded in the Gospels. In this stage, four wonderful things took place: the infinite God was brought into finite man; the Triune God was united and mingled with humanity in Christ; the rich and bountiful God with His attributes was expressed in Christ's humanity with His aromatic virtues; and Christ accomplished an eternal, all-inclusive redemption by fulfilling all the requirements of God's righteousness, holiness, and glory. The second stage—the stage of inclusion—is covered in the books from Acts through Jude. In this stage, with its focus on Christ's resurrection, Christ became the life-giving Spirit, who includes all the elements of His person and work. As the Christ who is both the High Priest in the heavens and the life-giving Spirit, the pneumatic Christ, in the regenerated human spirit, Christ is now endeavoring to carry out God's organic salvation—a subjective, organic, and experiential process in which one is saved in the divine life through a marvelous sequence which includes sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification. In His resurrection, Christ also was begotten in His humanity to be the firstborn Son of God, and through His resurrection God regenerated the believers to be the many sons of God, who are the members of the Body of Christ. The third stage of Christ's ministry—the stage of intensification—is unveiled in the book of Revelation. In this stage Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit produces the overcomers, builds up the Body of Christ, and consummates the New Jerusalem.

Sadly, a great many Christians do not know Christ in His full ministry and, as a consequence, do not know what the genuine Christian life is. Contrary to popular religious opinion, the Christian life is not a matter of trying to be

like Jesus or of asking "What would Jesus do?" and behaving accordingly. The Christian life is a life of oneness with the indwelling, pneumatic Christ. Actually, there is only one true Christian—Christ Himself—and only one authentic way to live the Christian life—to live out the Christ who, having become the life-giving Spirit, now lives in us. This implies that Christ's history becomes our spiritual experience as He lives in us the same kind of life that He lived on earth as the God-man.

If we would live the pneumatic Christ, we need to have a very particular experience of life—consecration. A believer should be a consecrated person. If one is a believer in Christ and yet is not consecrated to God, the spiritual condition of that one is abnormal. Concerning the experience of consecration, there are five main points: the basis of consecration, the motive of consecration, the meaning of consecration, the purpose of consecration, and the result of consecration. The basis of consecration is God's purchase. God has purchased us, redeemed us, through the precious blood of Christ, and

thus He righteously requires us to recognize His right of ownership. The motive of consecration is God's love. Although God has the legal right and basis to possess us, He does not force us to consecrate ourselves to Him. Rather, He motivates us by His great love. The meaning of consecration is to be a living sacrifice, that is, to be set apart for Him and offered to Him for His satisfaction. The purpose of consecration is to let God work in us according to His good pleasure so that eventually we may work for Him. The result of consecration is that we abandon our future both in the secular world or in the religious world. Now Christ is our future, and the goal of our living is to be one with Him for the fulfillment of God's eternal economy.

If we receive the New Testament revelation concerning incarnation, inclusion, and intensification, if we live the pneumatic Christ who dwells in our regenerated spirit, and if we consecrate ourselves to the Lord for His satisfaction, gradually we will come to know and experience the full ministry of Christ.

by the Editors