

The Crystallization

DIVINE ECONOMY — DIVINE MYSTERIES

According to the divine revelation in the New Testament, there is an intrinsic connection between the economy of God and the mysteries of God. The economy of God is God's administrative plan and arrangement to carry out His purpose according to His good pleasure. The focal point of the divine economy is the divine dispensing of God in His Divine Trinity into His chosen people as their life, their life supply, and their everything for the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem as the consummate, eternal, corporate expression of the Triune God in Christ as the firstborn Son of God with the believers in Christ as the many sons of God.

Paul's striking use of the expression *the economy of the mystery* indicates that the divine economy is intimately related to the divine mysteries—the deep and hidden things concerning God and His will, the universe and humankind, Christ, the church, the indwelling Christ, and godliness, the manifestation of God in the flesh. If we would be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, we need, in our regenerated spirit and enlightened heart, to receive and experience the divine mysteries, which are actually the contents of the divine economy.

The mystery of the universe is God, the mystery of God is Christ, and the mystery of Christ is the church. Thoughtful people realize that the universe with its incredible vastness is a mystery, and many have sought desperately to know the meaning of the universe and all created things. The meaning of the universe is the mystery of the universe, and the mystery of the universe is God, who created all things for His purpose and then concealed this purpose as a mystery hidden within Himself until, at the time of the apostles, He opened His heart and made known to them the mystery of His will, the economy of the mystery.

The mystery of God is Christ, the God-man, the One who is the infinite God and a finite man. Although the universe declares the power and characteristics of God, the person of God, the Godhead, is made known only in Christ. Embodied in Christ is all that God is, all that God has, and all that God has done, is doing, and intends to do. As the embodiment and expression of the unknown God, Christ is the declaration and definition of God. Since Christ alone is the explanation of God, if we would

know God, we must know Christ. Apart from Christ we cannot know God, enter into God, be one with God, and experience and enjoy the reality of God.

Just as Christ is the mystery of God, so the church is the mystery of Christ. God is revealed in Christ, and Christ is expressed through the church. If we want to know God, we must contact Christ, who is the mystery of God, and if we want to know Christ, we must come to the church, which is the mystery of Christ, the corporate expression of Christ. The church is a corporate organic entity, which issues out of Christ as the mystery of God. This means that the church is a mystery within a mystery—the mystery of Christ within the mystery of God. Therefore, the church is part of a threefold mystery, a mystery in three stages, for the church is the mystery of Christ, who is the mystery God, and God with His mysterious will is the mystery of the universe. This, in essence, is the economy of the mystery.

The effective operation of the economy of the mystery depends upon revelation. There must be a revelation from God of the mystery hidden within Him, and this revelation must be taught to humankind through faithful ministers of God. Because the divine mysteries in the divine economy were revealed to the apostles and even committed to them, the apostles became, in Paul's words, stewards of the mysteries of God. These stewards knew and experienced the divine mysteries and ministered them to God's chosen people.

To the apostles chosen by God, the mystery was made known by revelation in spirit, and it is only by the exercise of our regenerated human spirit, an enlivened spirit mingled with the divine Spirit, that we can understand the mysteries of God. However, we should not be content with a spiritual understanding of the divine mysteries; we need the spiritual experience of these mysteries. Then, having a measure of spiritual understanding and spiritual experience, we can be, by God's grace, today's stewards of the mysteries of God. Only through the ministry of faithful stewards can the mystery of God be carried out through the economy of God for the fulfillment of the heart's desire of God.

by the Editors