

GOD'S ECONOMY IN FAITH, Week 1**The Governing and Controlling Vision of God's Economy in Faith**

Scripture Reading: Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:18a; 1 Tim. 1:4; Gal. 2:16, 20

- Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; / But happy is he who keeps the law.
- Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.
- 1 Timothy 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- Galatians 2:16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.
- Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Day 1

- Acts 26:19** Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.
- Proverbs 29:18** Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; / But happy is he who keeps the law.

I. We in the Lord's recovery must have a **vision of God's economy—Acts 26:18a; Prov. 29:18a:**

- A. We need to be brought into another realm, not the so-called spiritual realm but the **realm of God's economy**—Rev. 21:9-10.
- B. We need to be **governed, controlled, and directed** by this vision—Prov. 29:18a.
- C. We must be **strong and unshakable** in the vision of God's economy, God's eternal will—Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:58.
- D. If we love the Lord and His recovery and if we mean business to practice the church life in the recovery, we need to **endeavor to see all the visions concerning God's economy**—Jer. 29:13; 33:3; Deut. 29:29.

After God's will, purpose, good pleasure, and counsel, there is God's economy. **God's economy is God's household administration, God's plan and arrangement.** With an administration there is the need of a plan, and with a plan there is the need of an arrangement. Based upon God's will He made a purpose. In His will and purpose, there is His good pleasure. Then the Divine Trinity had a council to make a decision, which was the divine counsel. Based upon that counsel God made a plan with an arrangement, and this plan with this arrangement is His household administration, His economy.

God's economy (dispensation, plan) is to head up all things in Christ. It is to bring all the items in the universe under the headship of Christ. **God's economy is God's dispensation, plan, arrangement, of the mystery of His will.** What God wanted in eternity past was a mystery. Based upon that mystery God made an arrangement, and that arrangement is His economy. (*The Central Line of the Divine Revelation, chapter 3*)

Day 2

Ephesians 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Ephesians 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

II. God's economy is God's household administration, which is to dispense Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people that He may have a house to express Himself, which house is the church, the Body of Christ—1 Tim. 1:4; 3:15:

- A. God's economy, as His household administration, is to produce and constitute a Body for His Son—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 3:6; 4:4, 16; 5:30.
- B. The central subject of the Bible is the economy of God, and the entire Bible is concerned with the economy of God—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 1:10:
 1. The governing and controlling vision in the Bible is the **divine economy**—Prov. 29:18a.
 2. In our reading of the Bible, we need to focus our attention on the **divine economy for the divine dispensing**—Eph. 3:9.
 3. Unless we know God's economy, we will not understand the Bible—Luke 24:45.
- C. **Christ** is the element, sphere, means, goal, and aim of God's eternal economy; **He is everything in God's economy**—Matt. 17:5; Luke 24:44.
- D. **God's economy** is to dispense Himself into our being that our being may be constituted with His being; this can be accomplished only by **God dispensing Himself into us as the divine life**—Eph. 3:16-17a; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
- E. The **economy of God** is that God became flesh, passed through human living, died, resurrected, and became the life-giving Spirit to enter into us as life and to dispense God into us so that we may be transformed for the producing of the church, which is the Body of Christ, the house of God, the kingdom of God, and the counterpart of Christ, the ultimate aggregate of which is the New Jerusalem—John 1:14, 29; 12:24; 20:22; 14:2; 3:3, 5, 29-30; Rev. 21:2.
- F. **God's economy** is **God becoming man that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce the organic Body of Christ, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem**—Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; 12:4-5; Rev. 21:10.

Ephesians 1 reveals the Father's **choosing** and **predestinating**, the Son's **redeeming**, and the Spirit's **sealing**. The sealing of the Spirit can be likened to a seal with ink being pressed upon a sheet of paper. The more the ink is applied, the more the paper is saturated and permeated with the ink. Eventually, the entire paper will be sealed, saturated, and permeated with the substance of the ink in the image of the seal. In the same way, the **Spirit is saturating and permeating us**.

This sealing, permeating, and saturating is going on constantly in the believers. As you are reading this chapter, the Spirit is permeating you. The Spirit as the sealing ink remains wet forever. It never dries. The Spirit's sealing saturates the sealed ones through the dispensing of the sealing ink unto, or for, the day of the redemption of their body. The redemption of our body is the transfiguration of our body. Until the transfiguration of our body, the sealing of the Spirit will go on continually to saturate and permeate our entire being. (*The Divine Dispensing for the Divine Economy, chapter 1*)

Day 3

Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.

Revelation 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

- G. According to the desire of His heart, **God's eternal economy** is to make man the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead and to make Himself one with man and man one with Him, thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression, that all His divine attributes may be expressed in human virtues—John 1:12-14; 1 John 3:1a, 2; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- H. The divine economy is to **produce the new creation** out of the chaotic old creation—Gal. 6:15; 2 Cor. 5:17:
1. The history of the universe is a history of God's economy and Satan's chaos—Gen. 1:1-2, 26; Rev. 20:10—21:4.
 2. Both in the Bible and in our experience, the satanic chaos always goes along with the divine economy—Eph. 3:8-10; 4:14-16; 6:24.
 3. The Lord needs the **overcomers**, who will be one with Him to conquer the destructive satanic chaos and to triumph in the constructive divine economy—Rev. 2:7b, 11b, 17b, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21.
- I. The Lord's recovery is for the **carrying out of God's economy**—Eph. 3:2.

According to Paul's teaching, Christians do not need to pay attention to outward blessings and peace. Instead, they should pay attention to the God who is within them. **God has already put Himself into us**. In addition, daily He is **dispensing Himself within us**. However, sometimes **we are not willing** to give Him the opportunity to do this. Although He is willing to dispense Himself, He cannot get through within us. If this is the case, we will not grow and will become a backsliding Christian. Eventually, when trying circumstances come upon us, we may be revived again. But we should not wait for trying circumstances to come before being revived. **We should live a revived life every day**. A Christian should have a dawning, a revival, and a new beginning once every twenty-four hours. God put into the laws of nature a dawning once every twenty-four hours. Dawn brings in a new beginning and new sunshine to all living creatures. This should be the way with our Christian life. Every morning we should have a rising up and a dawning. When we rise up early every morning to contact the Lord and to experience a certain amount of reviving, we **allow the Lord to dispense Himself into us**. (*The Economy and Dispensing of God, chapter 1*)

Day 4

1 Timothy 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

III. God's economy is initiated and developed in the sphere of faith—1 Tim. 1:4:

- A. On the negative side, to exercise faith is to **stop our work**, our doing; on the positive side, to exercise faith is to **trust in the Lord**—Heb. 11:6.

- B. **Faith** is a proclamation that **we are unable to fulfill God's requirements but that God has done everything for us** and that we receive all God has planned for us, all God has done for us, and all God has given to us—John 1:16.
- C. God's economy is carried out not by our doing in ourselves but **by our believing into Christ**, the embodiment of the Triune God—3:15-16.
- D. Faith is a matter of **seeing a view of the contents of God's economy**—Heb. 12:2:
 1. Because we have seen a revelation regarding the contents of God's economy, we **spontaneously believe in what we see**—Eph. 3:9.
 2. The ability within us to believe is a product, a result, of having a **proper view of God's economy**—Heb. 11:6, 9, 23-26; 12:2.

God's economy is in faith. It is not by our doing but **by our faith in God's grace**. It is not by our doing in ourselves but **by our believing in Christ**, the embodiment of the Triune God. In the Lord's ministry, we are not teaching the saints to observe something, to keep something, or to do something. We are ministering to the saints something that needs the exercise of their faith. Faith does not originate from us. Faith originates from what we see. **When we see God's economy, this generates and initiates a believing within us**. God's economy is God's will to dispense Himself into you and me to produce an organism, the Body of Christ, for His good pleasure. **Faith comes from seeing this vision**. We need a vision, a seeing. We need to see that in the whole universe God's good pleasure is to impart Himself, to dispense Himself, into us so that we may become parts of His organism, the organic Body of Christ. A dispensary is a place where medicine is dispensed to sick patients. God Himself is a dispensary, and He is also an all-inclusive dose, dispensing Himself into us, His patients. (*Living in and with the Divine Trinity, chapter 2*)

Day 5

Galatians 2:16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.

- E. The Christian life is a **life of faith**, a **life of believing**—Gal. 3:2, 14:
 1. We do not live according to what we see; **we live according to what we believe**—John 20:25-29.
 2. Our walk is **by faith**, not by sight—2 Cor. 5:7.

IV. Faith is the **unique requirement** for us to contact God in His economy and the **unique way** for us to carry out His economy—Gal. 2:16, 20:

- A. Galatians 2:16 says that we are justified through faith in Jesus Christ, literally, **faith of Jesus Christ**:
 1. Faith is related to the **believers' appreciation** of the person of the Son of God as the most precious One—1 Pet. 2:7.
 2. Christ is infusing Himself into us to be the faith in us; **He becomes in us the faith by which we believe and the capacity to believe** through our appreciation of Him—Gal. 2:16.
 3. Faith in Jesus Christ denotes an **organic union with Him through believing**; in this organic union we and Christ are one—John 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17.
 4. **When we believe in Christ, we enter into Him**; we believe ourselves into Christ and thereby become one spirit with Him—John 3:15; 1 Cor. 6:17.

The believers live Christ by this faith, the faith of Christ, the Son of God. We cannot live Christ by and in ourselves. **We live Christ by a linking organ**. This linking organ is **faith**. So Paul says in Galatians 2:20 that the life that he lived, he lived by faith, the faith of Jesus the Son of God. It is as if Paul is saying, "I live Christ not by my faith but by the faith of Jesus the Son of God; that is not my faith but His faith." This implies a lot. Here we need another kind of crystallization

How could you live Christ? **You need to call upon Him** by saying, "O Lord Jesus, I love You." Call on Him and say just this much to Him. Then right away He "jumps" within you, and this "jumping" Jesus becomes your faith. This "jumping" Jesus as the faith imparted into you links you with Him. Then you cannot help but live Him during the day. **When you call on Him in this way, He becomes the faith imparted into you so that you spontaneously live Him by this faith**. (Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 9)

Day 6

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the *faith* of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Romans 3:26 With a view to the demonstrating of His righteousness in the present time, so that He might be righteous and the One who justifies him who is of the faith of Jesus.

- B. In Galatians 2:20 the apostle Paul says, “I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God”:
1. The faith of the Son of God refers to the **faith of Jesus Christ in us**, which becomes the faith by which we believe in Him—vv. 16, 20; 3:22.
 2. As we treasure Him, **He causes faith to be generated in us**, enabling us to believe in Him—Matt. 17:5; Heb. 12:2.
 3. According to our Christian experience, the genuine living faith that operates in us is not only **of Christ** but **also in Christ**—Rom. 3:22, 26; Gal. 2:16, 20:
 - a. Paul’s thought is that the faith is both **of Christ and in Christ**—vv. 16, 20.
 - b. Faith is related not only to the Christ who has been infused into us but also to the **Christ who is continually infusing Himself into us**.
 - c. As Christ operates in us, **He becomes our faith**; this faith is of Him and also in Him.
 4. A secret of experiencing Christ living in us is revealed in the **words in faith**—v. 20:
 - a. Paul lived by the faith that is **both in and of the Son of God**.
 - b. The faith that we need is not only **faith in the Son of God but also faith of the Son of God**; in and by this faith we can carry out God’s economy in faith—v. 20; 1 Tim. 1:4.

Romans 3:22 speaks of the faith of Jesus Christ, and verse 26, of the faith of Jesus. Some Bible students say that the faith of Jesus Christ refers to our act of believing in Jesus Christ, and others claim that this refers to the faith of Jesus, that the faith of Jesus becomes ours. I prefer to say that genuine believing is to believe in the Lord Jesus by His faith, even by Him as our faith. **Our faith is actually the Lord Jesus believing within us**. Therefore, the phrase “through faith of Jesus Christ” means believing in Jesus Christ by His faith.

The faith of Christ is actually Christ Himself, the One who has entered into the believing ones to be their believing element and ability. Such faith is reckoned to the believing ones as righteousness by God. This means that God considers this kind of faith a righteous act. In ourselves we are sinners and do not have any righteousness before God. But if we take God’s word, stand on it, and obey it, and if we believe in His Son Jesus Christ, God will count our believing in His Son according to His word as righteousness. We can have this righteousness easily. We simply need to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus. God will regard this as the highest righteousness, and we shall be justified with this righteousness. **The more we believe in Christ, the greater will be our sense that God is pleased with us**. This is a matter of the righteousness of God being reckoned to us as the issue of our faith in Christ.

When Christ comes into us as the believing ones, He becomes our faith. Then God reckons our faith as righteousness. In this way we have faith and righteousness, both of which are actually Christ Himself. **Christ is the faith by which we believe in Him, and He is also the righteousness which God reckons to us**. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament: The Believers, Volume 1, chapter 128*)