

The Economy of God

The Persons of God and the Parts of Man

- Satan, the **god of this age**, **blinds** the minds of the unbelievers, lest “the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ” should shine on them.
- **God** created man so that man might be His **container**.
 - We are only **empty** containers, and God intends to be our **only** content.
 - If we do not contain God and know God as our content, we are a **senseless contradiction**.
- As containers, we must **receive** God into our being.

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit

- In order that God may put Himself into us as our **content**, He must exist in three persons.
- It is by His different persons that God works out His economy.
 - Without these different persons—the person of the **Father**, the person of the **Son**, and the person of the **Spirit**—God could never bring Himself into us.
- In the **Gospel of John** the **Father** is in the first chapters, the **Son** as the expression of the Father is in the succeeding chapters, and eventually, the **Spirit** as the breath of the Son is in 20:22.
- God’s economy is to work Himself into us by means of His **three persons**.
 - We can use a **watermelon** to illustrate this.
 - If you buy a watermelon, your intention is to **eat** and to **digest** it.
 - First you buy the **watermelon**; second you cut it into **slices**; then third, you chew it until it becomes **juice**.
 - These **three** things are just **one**.
 - Without being **cut into slices** and **received as juice**, the watermelon could never be **wrought** into us.

The Mind, the Heart, and the Image

- A human being is **not a simple container**, like a bottle containing a beverage.
 - Man has many different parts.
- In order for us to realize how we can contain God, we must **know** the different parts of our being.

- 2 Cor. 4:4 – In whom the god of this age has blinded the **thoughts** of the unbelievers...
- 2 Cor. 4:6 – Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our **hearts**...
- The **mind** is the **understanding organ**, and Satan has **blinded** the understanding of the unbelievers.
- Our **heart** must be **tuned and adjusted** properly that we may **receive** God.
- Once we have the **lens (mind)** and the **film (heart)**, we will now need the **light**.
- Spiritual experiences are just like taking pictures.
 - We are the cameras.
 - We must **learn** how to use our camera in order to **receive** God in Christ as the picture.
- Christianity is **simply Christ Himself**, the living One, being wrought into us.
- As the object, He must be wrought into us by the shining of the divine light through the lens onto the film.
- Spiritual experiences are simply the pictures of Christ taken into us, the camera, and impressed upon our spiritual film.
 - Everything depends on how much we **adjust the lens** and **take care of the film**—that is, how much we deal with our mind and properly tune our heart.

(The Economy of God – Chapter 5)