

Message Three

**God's Intention in His Economy—
to Build Himself in Christ into Our Being**

Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; John 14:23; Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:4-6; Phil. 2:13

I. God's New Testament economy is for the processed and consummated Triune God to be wrought into us to become our life and our very being; this is the central work of God—1 Tim. 1:4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:16-17a; Rom. 8:9-10, 6, 11:

- A. The most crucial and mysterious matter revealed in the Bible is that God's ultimate intention is to work Himself into His chosen people—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 4:4-6.
- B. God's eternal purpose is to work Himself into us as our life and our everything so that we may take Him as our person, live Him, and express Him; this is the desire of God's heart and the focal point of the Bible—Eph. 1:9; 3:11; Phil. 1:20-21a.
- C. In His economy God's intention is for the processed and consummated Triune God to be wrought into our being to make us a new person, a new "I"—Gal. 2:20.
- D. God's economy and goal according to His heart's desire are to build Himself into man and to build man into Him—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. God's intention is to have Christ thoroughly worked into our being; however, in our spiritual seeking we may have no concern about this, caring instead only for our intention—Phil. 2:21.
 - 2. We all need to see that God's desire is to work Himself into us and to reconstitute us with Himself so that we may become His testimony—2 Cor. 5:17, 21; Rev. 1:12, 20.

II. God's economy is centered on His central work—John 5:17; 4:34; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10a:

- A. The central work of God in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17a.
- B. God desires not mainly to do things for us but to work Himself into our being—Eph. 3:17a.
- C. God's purpose is to work Himself into us, making Himself our inward elements:
 - 1. This purpose is the center of the universe, and apart from this purpose the Christian life is meaningless—Rev. 4:11.
 - 2. The principle in God's work is to gain persons and by gaining them to have a way to go on.
 - 3. The proper priority is not for us to work for God but for God to work Himself into us—Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13.
 - 4. Spiritual progress consists in allowing God to gain ground within us—Col. 2:19; Eph. 3:17a.

III. The governing vision of the Bible is the Triune God working Himself into His chosen and redeemed people to be their life and life supply in order to saturate their entire being with the Divine Trinity—Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; Rev. 1:4-5; 22:1-2a:

- A. The kernel of the divine revelation is that God created us and redeemed us for the purpose of working Himself into us to be our life, our life supply, and our everything—Gen. 1:26; 2:7; Rom. 8:10b, 6, 11.
- B. God's desire is to come into us to be our life and our person—Col. 3:4, 10-11:
 - 1. In this way, He becomes one with us, and we become one with Him; then as He lives in us, we live Him—John 14:19b; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21a.
 - 2. This is the basic principle of the divine revelation in the Bible.
- C. The New Testament revelation shows us the Triune God and how He has gone through a process to become the all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit to work Himself into us to become our life, our life supply, and our everything—John 7:39; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17a.
- D. The entire Bible was written according to the principle of the Triune God wrought into His redeemed people as their enjoyment, their drink, and their fountain of life and light—Psa. 36:8-9:
 - 1. This principle must govern and direct us in interpreting any portion of the Bible.
 - 2. We need to be constituted with this principle, and it must become a vision to us; then there will be an intrinsic principle within us, governing whatever we speak, teach, and preach—Prov. 28:19a; Acts 26:19.

IV. God's intention in His economy is to build Himself in Christ into our being—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a; John 14:20:

- A. God desires to work Himself in Christ into us, and everything that Christ is and everything that Christ has accomplished are for this one thing—Phil. 2:13; Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11.
- B. We need God to build Himself in Christ into our humanity, working Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our person—Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. As a result, we are not simply persons according to God's heart—we are God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead:
 - a. Merely to be a person according to God's heart means nothing, for one may be according to God's heart but still be empty, not having God wrought into his heart.
 - b. God wants those who can say, "I am not just a person according to God's heart. I am God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead."
 - 2. All the steps, great and small, that God takes in our daily life are to fulfill His intention of building Himself in Christ into our being—Rom. 8:28.