

Outline of the Messages for the Thanksgiving Conference

November 25-28, 2010

GENERAL SUBJECT:

THE NEED FOR A FRESH VISION OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Message Two

Christ in the Divine Economy

Scripture Reading: John 20:31; Col. 1:12, 18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:10; Rev. 22:13

- John 20:31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 4:10 He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)
- Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

I. The divine economy is God's household administration to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity into His chosen and redeemed people so that He may have a house, a household, to express Himself, which household is the church, the Body of Christ, consummating in the New Jerusalem— 1 Tim. 1:4; 3:15; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; Rev. 21:2.

- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

II. In the divine economy Christ is God's Anointed, the Messiah—John 1:41;

- John 1:41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ).
- A. In John 20:31 we see that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God:
- John 20:31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.
1. *The Christ* is a title of the Lord Jesus according to His office—Matt. 16:16, 20:
- Matt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- Matt 16:20 Then He charged the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ.
- a. This title refers to the Lord's commission for the accomplishment of God's purpose to have the church; for the carrying out of God's administration, the Lord Jesus is the Christ, the anointed One—v. 18.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- b. Christ's commission is to accomplish God's eternal purpose through His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and second advent—vv. 21, 27; Eph. 1:22-23.
- Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

- Matt 16:27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
2. *The Son of the living God* is a title of the Lord Jesus according to His person—Matt. 16:16; John 20:31:
- Matt 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- John 20:31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.
- a. His commission is a matter of God’s work, and His person is a matter of God’s life—3:15-16; 1 John 5:11-12.
- John 3:15 That every one who believes into Him may have eternal life.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
- 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- b. The Lord’s person embodies the Father and issues in the Spirit for a full expression of the Triune God—John 14:10-12, 16-18.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
- John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.
- John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes into Me, the works which I do he shall do also; and greater than these he shall do because I am going to the Father.
- John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
- John 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you *as* orphans; I am coming to you.
- B. The Lord Jesus is the anointed One to accomplish God’s purpose to dispense Himself into us; through the function of God’s Anointed, the Triune God is dispensed into us for the producing of the church—2 Cor. 1:2, 21; 13:14.
- 2 Cor 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Cor 1:21 But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God,
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. As the One anointed by God, Christ is the appointed One—the One who has been commissioned by God to carry out the desire of His heart—Eph. 1:5.
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

III. In the divine economy Christ is the One having the preeminence in all things—Col. 1:18:

- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- A. God’s purpose is to give Christ the preeminence in all things; thus, God’s intention in His administration is to make Christ preeminent, to cause Him to have the first place in everything—v. 18.
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- B. Both in the old creation and in the new creation, both in the universe and in the church, Christ occupies the first place, the place of preeminence—vv. 15, 18.
- Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

- C. For Christ to be the first means that He is all; since Christ is the first both in the universe and in the church, He must be all things in the universe and in the church—3:10-11.
 Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
 Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- D. For Christ to have the preeminence in all things, God needs a people; apart from God's having a people, there is no way for Christ to be made preeminent—Eph. 3:21; 1 Tim. 3:15.
 Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- E. Christ must have the preeminence in our personal universe, where many things are happening to make Christ preeminent—Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31.
 Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, *do* all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

IV. In the divine economy Christ is the Head and center of all things—Eph. 1:10, 22:

- Eph 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;
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- A. God has seated Christ at His right hand in the heavenlies, subjected all things under His feet, and made Him Head over all things to the church—vv. 20-22.
 Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
 Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
 Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- B. Through all the dispensations of God in all the ages, all things will be headed up in Christ; this will be God's eternal administration and economy—v. 10:
 Eph 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;
 1. The entire universe is under Christ's heading up; at the economy of the fullness of the times everything will be headed up in Christ—v. 10.
 Eph 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;
 2. "In His Christ to head up all things / Is our God's economy; / Taking Christ as Head and Center, / All is one in harmony"—*Hymns, #981*.
- C. Christ is not only the Head of all things but also the center of all things; Christ is the center for the heading up of all things in Himself—v. 10.
 Eph 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;

V. In the divine economy Christ is the One who fills all in all—v. 23; 4:10:

- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 Eph 4:10 He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)
- A. Through the enjoyment of Christ's riches, we become His fullness to express Him; this is the fullness of Christ as the One who fills all in all—3:8; 1:23.
 Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
 Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- B. "He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things"—4:10:

1. Christ descended from heaven to earth in His incarnation; He descended farther, from earth to Hades, in His death; and eventually He ascended from Hades to earth in His resurrection and from earth to heaven in His ascension.
2. Through such a journey Christ cut the way so that He might fill all things.

VI. In the divine economy Christ is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, and the Alpha and the Omega—Rev. 22:13:

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

- A. *The First* indicates that nothing is before Him, and *the Beginning* means that He is the origination of all things—1:17; 2:8; 22:13.

Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; and He placed His right hand on me, saying, Do not fear; I am the First and the Last

Rev 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived *again*:

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

- B. *The Last* indicates that there is none after Him, and *the End* means that He is the consummation of all things—1:17; 2:8; 22:13.

Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; and He placed His right hand on me, saying, Do not fear; I am the First and the Last

Rev 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived *again*:

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

- C. For Christ to be the Alpha and the Omega means that He is the complete content and continuation of God's operation; He is able to accomplish everything in the divine economy—1:8; 22:13.

Rev 1:8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, He who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty.

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

VII. In the divine economy Christ is the portion of the saints—Col. 1:12:

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

- A. The Father has qualified us for a share of the all-inclusive Christ as our portion for our enjoyment—cf. Deut. 8:7-10.

Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;

Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;

Deut 8:9 A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.

Deut 8:10 And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.

- B. As our portion, Christ includes all the other aspects of His person in the divine economy: God's Anointed, the One having the preeminence in all things, the Head and center of all things, the One who fills all in all, and the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, and the Alpha and the Omega; such a Christ is our portion.

- C. All the aspects of Christ in the divine economy are applicable in our daily life, and they should all become our subjective experience and enjoyment—Col. 3:17.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or in deed, *do* all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.