

# Outline of the Messages for the Memorial Day Conference

May 24-27, 2013

## GENERAL SUBJECT: THE COMPLETING MINISTRY OF PAUL

### Message Two

Hymns 496, 839

### The Central Vision

Scripture Reading: Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4; Rom. 9:21, 23; Phil. 2:13; Col. 1:12; Rom. 12:5

- Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
- Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
- Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
- Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
- 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;
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

#### **I. The central vision of Paul's completing ministry concerns Christ as the mystery of God (Col. 1:25-27; 2:2) and the church as the mystery of Christ (Eph. 3:4); this is the great mystery of Christ and the church (5:32):**

- Col 1:25 Of which I became a minister according to the stewardship of God, which was given to me for you, to complete the word of God,
- Col 1:26 The mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations but now has been manifested to His saints;
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
- Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
- Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
- A. God is a mystery, and Christ, as the embodiment of God to express Him (Col. 2:9), is the mystery of God.  
Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- B. Christ also is a mystery, and the church, as the Body of Christ to express Him, is the mystery of Christ.
- C. This mystery is God's economy, which is to dispense Christ, as the embodiment of God, into God's chosen people in order to produce a Body to be the increase of God's embodiment in Christ, that God may have a corporate expression—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:8-9.  
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.  
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 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,

#### **II. The central vision of Paul's completing ministry is God in us as our contents, Christ as the mystery of God, and the church as the mystery of Christ:**

- A. Man is a vessel to contain God—Gen. 2:7-9; Acts 9:15; Rom. 9:21-24; 2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:20-21:

- Gen 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
- Gen 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed.
- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before both the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;
- Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
- Rom 9:22 And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction,
- Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
- Rom 9:24 Even us, whom He has also called, not only from among the Jews but also from among the Gentiles?
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- 2 Tim 2:20 But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels but also wooden and earthen; and some are unto honor, and some unto dishonor.
- 2 Tim 2:21 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.
1. We must learn to turn away from all considerations of our behavior and care only to be filled with God.
  2. God is illustrated in the Bible as food, water, and breath; we must take Him in and be filled with Him, just as we take in the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe—John 6:35, 57; 4:10, 14; 7:37-39; 20:22; Lam. 3:55-56.
 

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

Lam 3:55 I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, / From the lowest pit.

Lam 3:56 You have heard my voice; do not hide / Your ear at my breathing, at my cry.
  3. Ephesians 4:6 reveals that the Father is not only over us and through us but also in us; God is housing Himself in us.
 

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
  4. Ephesians 3:19 says, “That you may be filled unto all the fullness of God”:
    - a. To be filled unto all God’s fullness means to be filled unto all that God is; the fullness of God implies that the riches of what He is become His expression.
    - b. All that God is should be our contents; we should be so filled with Him that we become His fullness, His expression—vv. 14-19.

- Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,  
 Eph 3:15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,  
 Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
 Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
 Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are  
 Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
5. Philippians 2:13 says, “It is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure”:
- a. The thought in this verse is that God is moving, acting, and working within us.
  - b. The God who operates (energizes) in us is the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—the very God who is Christ in us (2 Cor. 13:3a, 5) and the Spirit in us (Rom. 8:11); the three—the Spirit, God, and Christ—are one.  
 2 Cor 13:3a Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, ...  
 2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are disapproved?  
 Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
6. Hebrews 13:20-21 says, “Now the God of peace, He who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant, perfect you in every good work for the doing of His will, doing in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen”:
- a. The new covenant is not only a better covenant (7:22; 8:6) but also an eternal covenant; it is eternally efficacious because of the eternal efficacy of Christ’s blood, with which it was enacted (Matt. 26:28; Luke 22:20).  
 Heb 7:22 By so much Jesus has also become the surety of a better covenant.  
 Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry inasmuch as He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted upon better promises.  
 Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Luke 22:20 And similarly the cup after they had dined, saying, This cup is the new covenant established in My blood, which is being poured out for you.
  - b. God is doing in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ that we may be able to do His will; it is through the indwelling Christ that God works in us so that we can do His will—Gal. 1:15a, 16a; 2:20; 4:19.  
 Gal 1:15a But when it pleased God, ...  
 Gal 1:16a To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, ...  
 Gal 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 in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.  
 Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
7. First Timothy 3:16 says, “Great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory”:
- a. Christ is the individual manifestation of God in the flesh, and the church as the Body of Christ to express Him is the corporate manifestation of God in the flesh.

- b. Godliness refers to the living of God in the church, that is, to God as life lived out in the church.
8. We must see that God in resurrection through Christ has entered into us as the Spirit, is now indwelling us, is one with us, and has made us one spirit with Himself; as His vessels, we should be filled with Him, and whatever we do must be an expression of Him—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; Rom. 8:2, 4, 6, 9-11; John 14:23, 16-17; 2 Cor. 4:7.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- 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.
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- B. The mystery of God is Christ as the embodiment and manifestation of God, making God so real and enjoyable to us—Col. 2:2, 9; Rom. 9:5:
- Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Rom 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and out of whom, as regards what is according to flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.
1. Christ is everything to the believers—1 Cor. 1:9; 15:45b; Eph. 3:8; 2 Cor. 4:6-7; John 8:58:
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 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
- 2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- John 8:58 Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I am.
- a. Christ is the God-allotted portion to the saints—Col. 1:12; 2:6; 1 Cor. 1:2.
- 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 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
- b. Christ is our life—John 14:6a; Col. 3:4; Rom. 8:2, 4, 6.
- John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- c. Christ is the hope of glory—Col. 1:27; Eph. 1:18b; 4:4b; Rom. 8:19, 23-25.
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Eph 1:18b ... and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- Eph 4:4b ... even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.
- Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
- Rom 8:24 For we were saved in hope. But a hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees?
- Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly await it through endurance.
- d. Christ is our necessities and our enjoyment—John 8:12; 6:51, 57b; 1 Cor. 10:4; John 20:22; Gal. 3:27; John 15:7a; Col. 2:16-17; Matt. 11:28.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
- John 6:57b ... so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
- John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
- Gal 3:27 For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- John 15:7a If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ...
- Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
- e. Christ is God's power and God's wisdom to us—1 Cor. 1:24, 30.
- 1 Cor 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
2. Christ is everything to the church:
- a. Christ is the Head of the Body—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;
- b. Christ is the Body of the Head—1 Cor. 12:12.

- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- c. Christ is the foundation stone—Isa. 28:16; 1 Cor. 3:11.  
 Isa 28:16 Therefore thus says / The Lord Jehovah: / Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a foundation, / A tested stone, / A precious cornerstone as a foundation firmly established; / He who believes will not hasten away.  
 1 Cor 3:11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- d. Christ is the living stone, the cornerstone, and the topstone—1 Pet. 2:4, 6-7; Eph. 2:20; Zech. 3:9; 4:7.  
 1 Pet 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,  
 1 Pet 2:6 For it is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame."  
 1 Pet 2:7 To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,"  
 Eph 2:20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;  
 Zech 3:9 For here is the stone that I have set before Joshua-upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.  
 Zech 4:7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it.
- e. Christ is all the members of the new man—Col. 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.
3. God wants us to realize that in Christ the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—has passed through a process involving incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension:
- a. By incarnation Christ brought the infinite God into the finite man—John 1:14.  
 John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- b. In His human living the Lord Jesus expressed divinity in humanity—14:9-11.  
 John 14:9 Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how is it that you say, Show us the Father?  
 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.
- c. By crucifixion Jesus Christ terminated the old creation—Col. 1:15.  
 Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
- d. By resurrection He germinated us as the new creation—1 Pet. 1:3.  
 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- e. By ascension He was glorified, exalted, enthroned, appointed Lord, and commissioned with the divine government—Acts 2:33, 36.

- Acts 2:33      Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.
- Acts 2:36      Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.
- f.      Following this He came down upon the church as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit—1:8; 2:4.
- Acts 1:8      But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- Acts 2:4      And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, even as the Spirit gave to them to speak forth.
4.      As the life-giving Spirit, the Lord is waiting for people to receive Him by believing into Him—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 1:12-13; 3:15:
- 1 Cor 15:45b    ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 2 Cor 3:17      And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- John 1:12      But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
- John 1:13      Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- John 3:15      That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
- a.      As soon as a person calls on the name of the Lord Jesus, Christ will immediately come into him, regenerate his spirit, indwell his spirit, and mingle Himself with his regenerated spirit to cause him to become truly one with Him—v. 6; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- John 3:6      That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 1 Cor 6:17      But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- b.      A new believer must come to know the two spirits—his regenerated spirit and the life-giving Spirit—so that he may be transformed and built up with others to be the Body, the organism to express the Triune God for the fulfillment of His purpose—2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.
- 2 Cor 3:18      But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- Eph 2:21      In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22      In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 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.
- C.      The mystery of Christ is that the Triune God through death and in resurrection is mingling Himself with us, making us the living members of His organic Body:
1.      The central vision is the vision that Christ, the expression of God, has become the life-giving Spirit so that He may impart Himself into us as our life to make us the living members of His Body to express Him organically—1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 12:5.
- 1 Cor 15:45b    ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- Rom 12:5      So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
2.      The Lord is recovering Christ as life and everything to us and the church as His Body, His fullness—Col. 3:4, 11, 16; 2:19.
- Col 3:4      When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

- 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.
- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
3. The Lord wants a church composed of believers who are infused, filled, and saturated with Himself to be His Body for His expression; eventually, this living Body will become Christ's loving bride, who will prepare the way for His coming back—Eph. 1:22-23; Rev. 19:7-9.
- 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.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
4. We should not care for insignificant things or be distracted by doctrines or practices; instead, we should care to become a living testimony by having the Triune God dispensed into us to make us members of His organic Body to express Him—Eph. 3:6, 19b, 21.
- Eph 3:6 That in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel,
- Eph 3:19b ... that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
5. We need to see the church as the mystery of Christ in the following aspects:
- a. The church was mysteriously chosen and predestinated in Christ by God the Father before the foundation of the world—1:3-5.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- b. The church was mysteriously redeemed in the Beloved after the foundation of the world—vv. 6-12.
- Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;
- Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
- Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- 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 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,

- c. The church was mysteriously sealed with the Holy Spirit and received the Holy Spirit as the pledge at the time of its redemption—vv. 13-14.
- Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.
- d. The church mysteriously participates in the resurrection power of Christ and in everything that He has attained and obtained in ascension, thereby becoming the Body of Christ—vv. 19-23.
- Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- 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,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- e. The church mysteriously becomes the universal new man, as God's kingdom and God's house, and is being built up as the habitation of God—2:15, 19-22.
- Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
- Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
- Eph 2:20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- f. The church is mysteriously enjoying the unsearchable riches of Christ—3:2, 7-11.
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- Eph 3:7 Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God which was given to me according to the operation of His power.
- 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 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,
- Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- g. The church is strengthened into the inner man with power by God through His Spirit, that Christ may mysteriously make home in the believers' hearts, that the church may be filled with the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth of what Christ is, to become all the fullness of God—vv. 15-19.
- Eph 3:15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18      May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

Eph 3:19      And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

h.      The mysterious life union of Christ and the church is the great mystery in the universe—5:32.

Eph 5:32      This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

i.      The church, which is joined to and mingled mysteriously with the Triune God today, is a miniature of the New Jerusalem and needs to take the holy city as its highest standard and matchless hope in everything—Rev. 21:2.

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.