

# WEEK 1 — OUTLINE

## Seeing God's Eternal Purpose concerning the Church and Enlightening All concerning the Economy of the Mystery Hidden in God

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:3-5, 8-11; Rom. 8:28; 16:25

### « DAY 1 »

#### **I. In order to participate in the recovery of the church, we need to see God's eternal purpose concerning the church (Eph. 1:9, 11; 3:9-11; Rom. 8:28):**

*A. A purpose is a determined intent to do something or to gain something:*

1. The determined will of God became the purpose of God (Eph. 1:5).
2. God's purpose is His determined intent to gain the church (vv. 9, 11).

*B. The eternal purpose (lit., "the purpose of the ages") was made by God in eternity past for eternity future (3:11):*

1. The purpose of the ages is the purpose of eternity, the eternal purpose.
2. In eternity past, before the foundation of the world, before the heavens, the earth, and all things were created, God made a purpose for something in the future, in eternity to come; therefore, it is called the purpose of eternity, the eternal purpose (1:4-5, 9, 11; 3:11).

*C. The word purpose in Ephesians 3:11 is equivalent to the word plan; we may speak of the eternal plan which God planned in Christ:*

1. God has a plan, which He planned in eternity; God's eternal purpose is God's eternal plan.

## « DAY 2 »

2. His purpose in Romans 8:28 refers to the purposeful determination in God's plan.
3. God's plan is to have a corporate expression of Himself in Christ the Son by the Spirit through the Body composed and built up with many regenerated and transformed people by the mingling of Himself with humanity (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16).

*D. Ephesians 3:10-11 reveals that the existence of the church is according to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord:*

1. The church was planned by God in eternity; before time began, in eternity, God purposed to have the church (1:4-5, 9, 11, 22-23).
2. In eternity past and for eternity to come, God planned and purposed to have the church in Christ and for Christ (3:10-11):
  - a. The church is not a temporary matter but an eternal matter in the eternal purpose of God; the church is the center and subject of God's eternal plan.
  - b. God planned in eternity past to have the church, and He expects to have the church in eternity to come.
  - c. The church is in this age and throughout this age, yet it is from eternity past and for eternity future (Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Rev. 21:2, 9-11).

*E. God planned to have the church composed of regenerated and transformed human beings who are coordinated and built together as a corporate Body (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 3:14-21):*

1. God planned that this corporate Body would be a corporate vessel into which He would work Himself (vv. 14-17).
2. God's purpose, His determined intention, is to have a corporate Body, a corporate vessel, with which He could mingle Himself and all that He has; this

vessel is the church (4:4-6, 16).

3. The church is dear, lovable, and precious to God because the church is His good pleasure, the desire of His heart (1:5, 9, 22-23).

### « DAY 3 »

*F. The existence of the universe is according to God's eternal purpose to have the church (Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9-11):*

1. The full revelation of the Scriptures unveils to us that all things in the universe are for the church (v. 9).
2. Even the three persons of the Godhead are for the divine purpose of having the church to fulfill God's eternal plan through the dispensing of God in His Divine Trinity into humanity so that the church may come into existence (1:3-23; Matt. 28:19; 16:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1:1).
3. The heavens, the earth, a multitude of other things, and the tripartite man are required in order that the church may exist to express God; without these things God cannot have the church in the universe to be His corporate expression (Zech. 12:1; Rev. 4:11).

### « DAY 4 »

*G. God's intention concerning the church is threefold: to express Himself through the sonship (Eph. 1:5), to make His multifarious wisdom known to the enemy (3:10), and to head up all things in Christ (1:10).*

**II. We need “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” (3:9):**

*A. The New Testament tells us that the church was a mystery in God; throughout all the generations before the New Testament*

time, the church was a mystery (vv. 3-6, 9; 5:32).

B. *In the Bible a mystery refers not only to things that are hidden and unknown to us but also to things that are hidden in God's heart; this is the principle concerning the mysteries mentioned in the Bible (Mark 4:11; Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3; Eph. 1:9; 3:3-4, 9; 5:32; 6:19).*

## « DAY 5 »

C. *God's mystery is His hidden purpose, which is to dispense Himself into His chosen people; hence, there is the economy of the mystery of God (3:9).*

D. *From the beginning of the world the purpose of creation was a mystery hidden in God; no one knew what the purpose of creation was (Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16):*

1. Job was right in saying, "You have hidden these things in Your heart: / I know that this is with You"; what was hidden in God's heart was the mystery of the ages (Job 10:13; Eph. 3:9).
2. After creating man in His image and according to His likeness, God kept His intention hidden throughout the ages (Gen. 1:26; Rom. 16:25).
3. Before the New Testament time God did not unveil to anyone what His purpose was; the mystery, God's hidden purpose, was made known by revelation to the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:3-5).

E. *The mystery hidden in God's heart is God's eternal economy (1:10; 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:4), which is God's eternal intention with His heart's desire to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity as the Father in the Son by the Spirit into His chosen people to be their life and nature so that they may be the same as He is as His duplication (Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2), to become an organism, the Body of Christ as the new man (Eph. 2:15-16), for God's fullness,*

God's expression (1:22-23; 3:19), which will become the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2—22:5).

## « DAY 6 »

- F. In Ephesians 3:4 Paul uses the expression the mystery of Christ to explain the church as the Body of Christ in God's eternal economy, indicating that the church is the mystery of Christ.*
- G. The economy of God's mystery is to have the church for the manifestation of God (vv. 9-10).*
- H. Paul preached not only the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ; he also preached the gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God (vv. 8-9):*
1. The gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God is to produce the church for God's expression and glorification according to God's eternal purpose (vv. 10-11, 21).
  2. Today we must announce the gospel concerning the mystery hidden in God in order to enlighten all so that they may see what is the economy of the mystery hidden in God, who created all things for the fulfillment of His will, the desire of His heart, and His eternal purpose (1:5, 9, 11; 3:8-11).



# « WEEK 1 — DAY 1 »

## Morning Nourishment

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.

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.

Today the word “church” is very common. But when Paul comes to the revelation of the church, he uses certain mysterious expressions. He calls the church a mystery, even a hidden mystery. This mystery is hidden in God’s household arrangement. In eternity past, God the Father had a household arrangement, and in that arrangement a mystery was hidden.

We need to look into the details concerning God’s eternal economy. This economy is an eternal plan; it is also a purpose. In Ephesians the word purpose is used three times, twice as a noun (1:11; 3:11) and once as a verb (1:9). God is purposeful, and He has a purpose. But what does the word purpose mean?...A purpose is a strong intent to do something or to gain something. The eternal economy of God is of God’s determined intent, of God’s purpose. In eternity past God had such an intent to gain something, to have something. God is determined to have the church. With a definite and strong determination, God intends to have the church. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 2047)

## Today’s Reading

According to footnote 1 on Ephesians 3:11, God’s eternal purpose is the purpose of the ages. The purpose of the ages is the purpose of eternity, the eternal purpose, the eternal plan of God made in eternity past. Hence, the expression the purpose of the ages, a literal translation of the Greek, simply means the “eternal purpose.”

Besides the terms economy, mystery, and purpose, a number of other

important terms are used by Paul in Ephesians. The next term we shall consider is will. Three times in Ephesians 1 Paul speaks of God's will: the good pleasure of His will (v. 5), the mystery of His will (v. 9), and the counsel of His will (v. 11). God has an economy because in eternity God had a will. Because this will was hidden in Him, it was a mystery. But in His wisdom and prudence God has made this hidden mystery known to us through His revelation in Christ, that is, through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

God's eternal, determined intent is to have something. This intent, this purpose, plan, and arrangement, household administration, is of God's will....God's will is the source, and the purpose is the outcome. God's eternal purpose is of His will.

What is the will which is the source of God's purpose, the source of God's determined intent? The simplest answer is that God's will is what God wants....Every living person has a will. As soon as a child is born, he wants something, and what the child wants is his will.

What does God want? God wants the church. God wants us for the church. The church is something of God's will, for the church is what God wants....His wanting to have the church is His will. Of this will God determined an intent, and this intent is His purpose. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 2047-2048)

The church is something of God's eternal plan, His eternal purpose. It is something planned by God in His eternal plan, something purposed by God in eternity and for eternity. Ephesians 3:10-11 gives us the scriptural ground to speak of the church as something of God's eternal purpose....[In verse 11], the Greek word for purpose means "plan." God has purposed a purpose, He planned a plan, and this purpose, this plan, is called the eternal purpose. In eternity past, before the foundation of this world, before the heavens, the earth, and all things were created, God made such a purpose for something in the future, in eternity to come. Therefore, it is called the purpose of eternity, the eternal purpose. (Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, pp. 7-8)

Further Reading: Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, ch. 1; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 189



# « WEEK 1 — DAY 2 »

## Morning Nourishment

Eph. 3:10-11 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, according to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In order to share in the recovery of the proper church life, we need to see what God's purpose was in the beginning. We need to understand that there are three different beginnings. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word." The beginning here is the beginning in eternity. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." In this verse the beginning denotes the time of creation. Finally, the beginning also refers to the start of the church life. Therefore, to go back to the beginning is to go back to the beginning in eternity, to the beginning in God's creation, or to the beginning of the church. (Life-study of Ephesians, p. 563)

## Today's Reading

God's eternal purpose is God's eternal plan. God has a plan, which He planned in eternity—He is not purposeless; He is a God of purpose. (CWWL, 1968, vol. 1, "The Practical Expression of the Church," p. 341)

["His purpose" in Romans 8:28 refers] to the purposeful determination in God's plan. This is God's purpose to produce many brothers of His firstborn Son. (Rom 8:28, footnote 5)

The church is a great matter; it was planned by God, and strictly speaking it is the very economy of God for His plan. God's economy is wholly related to the church. What God planned and what He is operating to carry out is the church, so the church is the very center of God's economy...In order to understand the church, we must realize that it is the center of God's plan and the very substance of His economy.

We may say that the aim of God's eternal purpose is to have the church, but

this is too general. If we study Ephesians with a spirit of revelation, we will realize that the aim of God's plan is to have an expression of Himself in Christ the Son by the Spirit through a Body composed and built up with many regenerated and transformed people by the mingling of Himself with humanity. (CWWL, 1964, vol. 2, "A General Sketch of the New Testament in the Light of Christ and the Church, Part 2—Romans through Philemon," p. 298)

Ephesians 3:10-11 unveils the fact that the existence of the church is according to the eternal purpose of God which He made in Christ....[The church] did not come into existence by accident but was planned in eternity. Before time began, in eternity, God purposed to have the church. (CWWL, 1968, vol. 1, "The Practical Expression of the Church," p. 341)

In eternity past and for eternity to come, God planned and purposed to have a church in Christ and for Christ. Therefore, the church is not a temporary matter but an eternal matter. The church is in this age and throughout this age, yet it is from eternity past and for eternity future. It is an eternal matter in the eternal purpose of God, and it is the center, the subject of God's eternal plan. (Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, p. 8)

What did God plan? He planned to have a church composed of a group of human beings coordinated together as a corporate Body with which He may mingle Himself in His divine nature. In other words, this corporate Body would be a corporate vessel, into which He would put Himself. This is the very thing God planned, and this is the very center of His purpose. God planned to have a corporate Body, a corporate vessel, with which He could mingle Himself and all that He is. This vessel is called the church.

The church, therefore, is the center of God's eternal plan. Why is the church so dear, so lovable, and so precious to God? It is because the church is the desire of God's heart, which He purposed before time began. God in eternity planned to have the church. (CWWL, 1968, vol. 1, "The Practical Expression of the Church," p. 341)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1968, vol. 1, "The Practical Expression of the Church," ch. 1; God's Plan concerning the Church, chs. 1-3

# « WEEK 1 — DAY 3 »

## Morning Nourishment

Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

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.

God's good pleasure is the desire of His heart, that is, to have the church, and God's revelation of His hidden will is according to this desire of His heart. This is according to His good pleasure.

God's good pleasure has been purposed by God in Himself. This means that God Himself is the initiation, origination, and sphere of His eternal purpose....The existence of the universe is according to God's purpose. Heaven, earth, millions of items, and the human race are all according to God's purposed desire. Eventually, all these things will issue in God's desire....Because this desire has been purposed by God, no one and nothing can overthrow it. Everything that takes place on earth is for this purpose. We, the sons of God, in whom God's grace abounds, are the focal point of His purpose, and everything is working for us. God has purposed this desire in Himself. He did not take counsel with anyone else regarding it. (Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 68-69)

## Today's Reading

God's good pleasure is what He has purposed in Himself for an administration (Eph. 1:10)....The Greek word rendered "administration" is oikonomia, from which we get the English word economy. God has purposed to have an economy. All the kingdoms in the universe—the angelic kingdom, the demonic kingdom, the human kingdom, the animal kingdom, and the plant kingdom—are for this economy, this administration, and are moving toward it. (Life-study of Ephesians, p. 69)

The full revelation of the Scripture reveals to us that all things in the universe are for the church. Even the three persons of the Godhead are for the divine purpose of having a church to fulfill God's eternal plan.

We are all familiar with the three persons of the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. These three persons of the Godhead do not exist so that we may have a doctrine of the Trinity but are for the accomplishment of God's plan to produce the church. They are for the dispensing of God Himself into humanity in order that the church may come into existence.

God the Father is the source of the heavenly electricity; God the Son is the current of the heavenly electricity; and God the Spirit is the application, the function, of the heavenly electricity. Thus, God Himself can be dispensed into us and applied so that the church may be produced and exist. For the producing and existence of the church, God must be in three persons.

In order that the church may exist in this universe to express God, the heavens, the earth, space, and a multitude of other items are required. Without these things God could never have a church in the universe to express Himself....Everything is for the church, and everything is because of the church.

For the producing of the church, there is also the need of a tripartite man, a man with three parts—spirit, soul, and body....Not only is there the need of man, but of man in three parts, with a body, a soul, and a spirit. Why must man be in three parts? The body of man is related to the creation. The soul of man is related to man himself, and the spirit of man is related to God. Thus, there could be a church composed of man in the universe.

Without God in three persons, without the creation of so many things, and without man in three parts, it is impossible for the church to come into existence. For the purpose of having the church, all these are necessary. God, creation, and man are all for the church; so eventually we see that the church is the center, the kernel, of God's eternal plan. (CWWL, 1968, vol. 1, "The Practical Expression of the Church," pp. 341-343)

Further Reading: God's Purpose for the Church; Life-study of Ephesians, msg.  
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# « WEEK 1 — DAY 4 »

## Morning Nourishment

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.

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

I am still burdened to speak about God's purpose concerning the church....Perhaps many of us have a little understanding, but we may not have been brought into a full realization. Moreover, we should be able to speak the things we have heard and minister what we have been impressed with.

There are three main items of God's purpose for the church. The first is that the church must have the full sonship (Eph. 1:4-5). The second is that God may show His wisdom to the enemy through the church (3:9-11). Third, God's purpose is to head up all things in Christ through the church (1:10, 21-23). This utterance is brief, clear, effective, and full. In studying the book of Ephesians, the verses cited above are the most difficult verses for people to understand. Nevertheless, God's purpose with the church is in these verses....The sonship, God's wisdom made known, and the heading up of all things are the three main items of God's purpose concerning the church. (CWWL, 1965, vol. 1, "The Vision, Practice, and Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ," p. 63)

## Today's Reading

Throughout all the generations before the New Testament time, the church was a mystery. Mystery indicates that something was hidden that no one knew about. Do you know why God created the heavens, the earth, and thousands and thousands of items? Do you know why God created the race of Adam, the human people? You need to answer this question by saying, "It was to have the church." The intention, the desire, of God is not to have heaven, not to have the earth, and not to have many different items. The intention, the desire, of God in this universe

is to have the church. Therefore, everything is for the church.

The heavens, the earth, and all things are for the church, but before the New Testament time God never told this to anyone. Adam did not know it, Abraham did not know it, Moses did not know it, and David did not know it. It was a mystery; no one in the Old Testament times ever knew it. Is this still a mystery to you today?

The New Testament tells us that the church was a mystery hidden in God. Ephesians 3:9 says, “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.” From the beginning of the world the purpose of creation was hidden in God as a mystery. All creatures could see that there is a creation, but no one knew what the purpose of it is. (Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, pp. 8-9)

First let us see what a mystery is. According to common understanding, a mystery is something hidden and generally unknown to people. The meaning of the mystery mentioned in the Bible, however, goes beyond this. Strictly speaking, in the Bible a mystery not only refers to things that are incomprehensible and unknown to men but also to things that are hidden in God’s heart.

For example, the universe with all the things created by God is very evident and therefore not a mystery. However, the purpose of God’s creation of the universe is a mystery. All the people in the world have seen the God-created universe, but from the ancient days to the present time, very few have been able to fathom the purpose of God’s creation. This is because the purpose for the creation of the universe was hidden in God’s heart. It is nearly impossible for man to touch God’s purpose, God’s plan, which is hidden in His heart. Hence, it is a mystery. This is the principle concerning mysteries mentioned in the Bible. (Our Vision—Christ and the Church, pp. 29-30)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1965, vol. 1, “The Vision, Practice, and Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ,” chs. 1-3; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 190

# « WEEK 1 — DAY 5 »

## Morning Nourishment

Eph. 3:3-5 That by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written previously in brief, by which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit.

In Ephesians 3:9 Paul speaks of “the economy of the mystery..., which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things.” God’s mystery is His hidden purpose. His purpose is to dispense Himself into His chosen people. Hence, there is the economy of the mystery of God. This mystery was hidden in God from the ages (that is, from eternity) and through all past ages, but now it has been brought to light to the New Testament believers.

God’s intention in His creation of all things, including man, was that man would be mingled with God to produce the church. Zechariah 12:1 says that the Lord stretched forth the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him. This indicates that the heavens are for the earth, that the earth is for man, and that man with the human spirit is for God. God’s marvelous creation, focused on man, is for the purpose of producing the church. Therefore, Ephesians 3:9 speaks of the mystery hidden in God, who created all things. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 2055)

## Today’s Reading

Job complained that God, knowing that he was not wicked and not acquitting him of his iniquity, ill-treated him without cause on his side and attacked him again and again according to what was hidden in God’s heart (Job 10:1-17). Job said to God, “Make known to me why You contend with me” (v. 2b). In verse 13 he went on to say, “You have hidden these things in Your heart; / I know that this is with You.” This indicates that Job could not find the reason for God’s treatment of him, but he believed that there had to be some reason hidden in God’s heart. Job was right; something was hidden in God’s heart. Ephesians 3:9 tells us of the

mystery hidden in God. This is the mystery of the ages.

Adam himself did not know why God created him in His image according to His likeness (Gen. 1:26). God kept His intention hidden throughout the ages, not telling Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, or any of the prophets. The Creator did a lot in His creation, but before the New Testament time He did not unveil to anyone what His purpose was.

The hidden mystery is that God in His Divine Trinity desires to be dispensed and wrought into His creation, man, to make man His duplication, to make man His expression. (Life-study of Job, pp. 50-51)

One day the Lord came, and He died, resurrected, ascended, came down as the Holy Spirit, and raised up a number of persons. Some of these persons were apostles, prophets, and teachers, who received the revelation. The mystery hidden in God was revealed to them at that time. They saw and came to know that the purpose of creation is to have the church. The church was a mystery hidden in God in the past generations until it was revealed to the apostles and prophets in the New Testament time. (Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, pp. 9-10)

The Bible, which consists of sixty-six books, begins with God and His creation in Genesis and consummates with the New Jerusalem in Revelation. Between these two ends of the Bible, there are history, teachings, prophecies, and types. But if we understand the Bible only according to these things, we still do not know the Bible. We need to see the eternal economy of God, which is God's eternal intention with His heart's desire to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity as the Father in the Son by the Spirit into His chosen people to be their life and nature that they may be the same as He is for His fullness, His expression. (Life-study of Job, p. 57)

Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 337; Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 29



# « WEEK 1 — DAY 6 »

## Morning Nourishment

Eph. 3:8-9 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 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.

According to Ephesians 3:4 the church has a particular title—the mystery of Christ. God is a mystery. He is real, living, and almighty, but invisible. No one has ever seen God (John 1:18a), and therefore God is a mystery. This mysterious God is embodied in Christ; hence, Christ is the mystery of God (Col. 2:2). In Ephesians 3:4 Paul used the expression the mystery of Christ to explain the church as the Body of Christ in God's eternal economy, indicating that the church is the mystery of Christ. (Truth Lessons—Level Four, vol. 1, p. 136)

## Today's Reading

The first thing which God may have done before the foundation of the world in eternity past was to make an economy to produce the church to manifest God. The economy of the mystery hidden in God throughout the ages was to produce the church for the showing forth of God's multifarious wisdom. (The History of God in His Union with Man, p. 17)

We must also have the high standard of the gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God (Eph. 3:9-11)...This deeper mystery is the purpose, the meaning, and the significance of the universe. This mystery was not known to man but was revealed to the apostles, especially to the apostle Paul. Thus, Paul told us that he preached not only the unsearchable riches of Christ but also the economy of this mystery hidden in God from the ages...What God desires is to gain a group of people to contain Him that they may become the members of the Body of Christ, that Christ may be their life, their Head, and their manifestation, and that they and He could be one universal new man to express Christ as the embodied God to fulfill His eternal purpose. The mystery of God is Christ, the

mystery of Christ is the church, and Christ and the church are the great mystery (5:32) hidden in God from the centuries and revealed to the apostle Paul.

The highest gospel is the gospel of Christ with the church. We must value, appreciate, and treasure the church. We enjoy the church life as the highest standard of the gospel.

The gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God is to produce the church for God's expression and glorification according to God's eternal plan, or purpose. The church is so lovable because it is the very expression and glorification of God. When God has the church, He is expressed and He is glorified. We need to enjoy God in His expression and in His glorification in such a high standard.

Paul preached the divine economy as the very gospel. Ephesians 3:8 reveals the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ, while verse 9 reveals the gospel of the economy of the mystery hidden in God throughout the ages. We must realize, experience, and preach this economy to the new ones as the high standard of the gospel. Many Christians enjoy the gospel of grace, and some enjoy the gospel in the aspect of life, but few among today's Christians enjoy the gospel of the kingdom by being under the divine ruling in the divine life. Few enjoy the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ and the gospel of the economy of the mystery hidden in God from the ages. (CWWL, 1987, vol. 2, "The God-ordained Way to Practice the New Testament Economy," pp. 415-417, 416)

The regenerated ones, who are divinely human and humanly divine, spontaneously become an organism, the Body of Christ, which is the church of God as the new man in God's new creation to carry out God's new "career," that is, to build up the Body of Christ for the fullness, the expression, of the Triune God. This fullness as the organism of the Triune God will consummate in the New Jerusalem. (Life-study of Job, p. 58)

Further Reading: The God-ordained Way to Practice the New Testament Economy, ch. 26; Truth Lessons—Level Four, vol. 1, lsn. 13

# « WEEK 1 — HYMN

## The church is Christ's deep longing

The Church — As Christ's Bride

1229

1. The church is Christ's deep long - ing And His good plea - sure  
too. His ev - ery word and ac - tion Is made with her in  
view. His heart's love is es - ta - blished, And nought can Him de -  
ter; Be - fore the earth's foun - da - tion His thoughts were filled with her.

2. The eve of all creation  
He mused on His delight,  
And pondered every feature,  
Well-pleasing in His sight.  
Creation sprang to being,  
But deep in Him did hide  
A heart of depth unfathomed  
Fixed on a glorious Bride.

3. And thus His will was 'stablished  
His counterpart to gain:  
This blessed, firm intention,  
Eternally the same.  
Though sin should e'en beguile man,  
Then mock his helpless state,  
He never could forsake her,  
His yearning ne'er abate.

4. Then mercy richly flourished,  
And love was, oh, so vast,  
As graciously He sought her  
With wisdom unsurpassed.  
The love He gave to win her  
God only comprehends!  
His life laid down, an offering  
Whose fragrance yet ascends.

5. And now in resurrection  
To her He draws most near,  
And with untold affection  
In glory does appear.  
As she beholds her Bridegroom,  
His glory floods her heart,  
'Til she, His Bride, is raptured,  
His longed-for counterpart.

