

**Outline of the Messages
for the Memorial Day Conference
May 26-29, 2017**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
KNOWING LIFE AND THE CHURCH**

Message One

**The Triune God Being Life to the Tripartite Man
for the Fulfillment of God's Eternal Purpose**

JL Hymns: 1325, 602

Scripture Reading: Eph. 3:11; Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 8:11, 28; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 John 5:11-12

- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
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.
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
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.

I. The eternal purpose—the purpose of the ages—is the eternal plan that God made in eternity past for eternity future—Eph. 3:11:

- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
A. God Himself is the initiation, the origination, and the sphere of His eternal purpose—1:9:
Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
1. God's purpose in creating man was that man would express Him and represent Him; the eternal purpose of God is to have a corporate man to express Him and represent Him—Gen. 1:26-27.
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
2. Everything is working for God's purpose, and nothing can overthrow it—Rom. 8:28-29.
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
B. God's purpose is to have the church, the Body of Christ, through which He can express Himself—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11, 22-23:
Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

- 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 1:22 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.
1. God's will, good pleasure, and eternal purpose are to have the church—3:9-11.
 - 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,
 2. God purposed to do one thing—to gain a group of people who would be the living Body of Christ for the expression of the Triune God—4:4-6.
 - Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
 - Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
 - Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- C. The purpose of God in the universe is to produce a group of people who will be exactly the same as He; this is the unique subject of the Bible—John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:2:
- 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.
- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.
1. God's eternal purpose is to dispense Himself into His chosen and redeemed people to make them the same as He is in life and nature but not in the God-head for His enlarged and expanded expression—Eph. 3:2, 8-11.
 - Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
 - Eph 3:8 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,
 2. In life, nature, image, appearance, radiance, glory, and outward expression, they will be the same as God—Rev. 4:2-3; 21:10-11, 18.
 - Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
 - Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.
 - Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
 - Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
 - Rev 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.
 3. God's eternal purpose is to work Himself in His Divine Trinity into His chosen and redeemed people to be their life, nature, and everything so that they may be saturated with God—Eph. 3:17.
 - Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

- D. God saved us and called us according to His own purpose, and now His purpose should become our purpose—Rom. 8:28-29; 2 Tim. 1:9; 3:10:
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- 2 Tim 3:10 But you have closely followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, endurance,
1. We need to view salvation from God’s perspective; the purpose of God’s salvation is for His created and redeemed ones to have eternal life in His Son and be conformed to the image of His Son so that the Son would be the Firstborn among many brothers—1 John 5:11-12; Rom. 8:29.

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.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
 2. Salvation involves our being saved from a human life that is meaningless—Eccl. 1:2:

Eccl 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; / Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

 - a. The gospel of God saves us out of a human life that is without meaning into the meaning of the universe—Rev. 4:11.

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.
 - b. God created a man who had great meaning and purpose, but man fell, and the meaning of human life was lost—Gen. 1:26-27.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 - c. With His salvation, God rescues us and brings us back to our original purpose, which is the meaning of the universe—2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 8:28.

2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- E. God’s eternal purpose is accomplished by the divine life dispensed into His chosen and redeemed tripartite people; as God’s life is wrought into His people, a metabolic reaction takes place within them that causes them to be transformed and to become the same as God in life, nature, and expression—John 3:15; 1 John 5:11-12; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29.
- John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may 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.
- 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.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

II. The thought of the Triune God being life to the tripartite man runs through the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation—Gen. 1:26-27; 2:8-9, 16-17; 3:1-6, 22-24; Psa. 36:8-9; John 3:16; Eph. 4:17-18; Rev. 21:1-2, 10-11; 22:1-2, 14:

- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 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.
- Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other animal of the field that Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?
- Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;
- Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.
- Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die!
- Gen 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.
- Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.
- Gen 3:22 And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever -
- Gen 3:23 Then Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to work the ground from which he was taken.
- Gen 3:24 So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.
- Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
- Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
- Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
- Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more.
- 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.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

- A. God's intention in creating man in His own image was that man would receive Him as life—Gen. 1:26-27; 2:9; 1 John 5:11-12.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 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.
- 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. God wants to be our life so that we may express Him; this is the desire of God's heart—John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:5.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
- 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 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- C. For the fulfillment of His purpose God wants to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to satisfy His chosen people for their enjoyment—Jer. 2:13:
- Jer 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.
1. The goal of this enjoyment is to produce the church as God's increase, God's enlargement, to be God's fullness for His expression—Eph. 1:22-23.

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. God is the fountain of living waters to His elect because He has a purpose—to produce a counterpart, a bride, for Himself—John 3:29; Rev. 19:7-8:

John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.

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.

 - a. God's intention is to dispense Himself as the living water to produce His increase, His enlargement, for His expression—Col. 2:19.

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.
 - b. Nothing apart from God as the fountain of living waters can satisfy us; nothing apart from God dispensed into our being can make us His increase for His expression—John 4:13-14; 7:37; Rev. 22:17.

John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again,

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.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

D. The divine life may be considered the first and the basic attribute of God—Eph. 4:18; John 5:26; 1 John 5:11-12; Rom. 8:2:

Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;

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.

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.

1. According to the divine and eternal nature of the life of God, God's life is the unique life; only the life of God can be counted as life—John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; 14:6.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. Life is the content of God and the flowing out of God; God's content is God's being, and God's flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us—Eph. 4:18; Rev. 22:1.

Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

3. Life is the Triune God dispensed into us and living in us—Rom. 8:11.

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.

E. God wants to be the fountain, the unique source, of our life and our being; when we take Him as the fountain of life, He becomes to us the fatness of God's house, the river of satisfaction, and the light of life—Psa. 36:8-9.

Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.

F. The Triune God has been processed and consummated in order to dispense Himself into our being as life—John 1:14; 12:24; 20:22; 7:37-39; Rom. 8:11:

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.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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

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.
- 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.
1. God's economy is to dispense Himself into our being so that our being will be constituted with His being; this can be accomplished only by God working Himself into us as the divine life—vv. 2, 6, 10-11.
 - 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 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 - 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.
 2. By dispensing Himself into us as life, God is fulfilling His purpose to have a corporate expression of Himself for eternity—Rev. 21:9-10; 22:1.
 - Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
 - Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
 - Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.