

Message One

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

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

OUTLINE

Day 1

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:

A. God Himself is the initiation, the origination, and the sphere of His eternal purpose—1:9:

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.
2. Everything is working for God's purpose, and nothing can overthrow it—Rom. 8:28-29.

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:

1. God's will, good pleasure, and eternal purpose are to have the church—3:9-11.
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.

Day 2

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:

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 Godhead for His enlarged and expanded expression—Eph. 3:2, 8-11.
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.
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.

Day 3

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:

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.
2. Salvation involves our being saved from a human life that is meaningless—Eccl. 1:2:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- 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.

Day 4

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:

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

Day 5

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:

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

Day 6

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.

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:

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.
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.

WEEK 1 — DAY 1

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.

The church is a great subject in the Bible....First, 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 [cf. Eph. 3:10-11]The Greek word for purpose means "plan."...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....Many passages in the New Testament tell us that this purpose was purposed not only in Christ but also for Christ.

Now we must ask what this purpose is.... [According to verse 10], the eternal purpose of God is that He would have a church. In the whole universe only the church is the subject, the center, and the content of God's eternal plan. This should make us very clear that our being saved to be the members of the church is something not only for this present age; it is something purposed, planned, long before the foundation of this world. (CWWL, 1963, vol. 3, "Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life," pp. 275-276)

Today's Reading

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. God planned in eternity past to have a church, and God expects to have the church in eternity to come. (CWWL, 1963, vol. 3, "Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life," p. 276)

God is a divine person with a mind, emotion, and will and who is full of wisdom and desire. Thus, in His divine mind there must be a purpose, and this purpose must be both divine and eternal.

The entire Bible reveals that in eternity past, according to His own desire, God purposed to do something. He purposed to do one thing—to gain a group of people who would be His living Body and would express God the Father in God the Son as God the Spirit. God's eternal purpose is to have a living, corporate Body [composed of human beings] through which He can express Himself.

God is mysterious, infinite, and unlimited, yet He desires to be expressed and manifested. To this end God created man. Man was the last item of God's creation. This indicates that everything God created prior to creating man was in preparation for man. Once God had made everything ready, He created man. This reveals that man is the center of God's creation. God created man as the center of His creation in a very purposeful way. Man was created in the image of God and committed with God's divine authority over all creation (Gen. 1:26). The fact that man was created in the image of God reveals that man was created to express God, for an image is an expression. For example, if I take a picture of you, the picture will capture your image and will be an expression of you. The fact that man was given authority over all the earth means that man is to be God's representative on the earth. From the way in which God created man, we can see that God's purpose in creating man was that man would express Him and represent Him. This is God's eternal purpose. (CWWL, 1963, vol. 4, "Contacting the Lord, Being Filled in Spirit, and Having Proper Christian Meetings for the Accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose," pp. 4-5)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1983, vol. 3, "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures," ch. 1; Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 31; CWWL, 1965, vol. 1, "The Vision, Practice, and Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ," chs. 1, 3; CWWL, 1964, vol. 2, "A General Sketch of the New Testament in the Light of Christ and the Church (Part 2—Romans through Philemon)," ch. 16

WEEK 1 — DAY 2

Morning Nourishment

1 John 3:2 ...We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

Rev. 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance...

21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

The purpose of God in the universe is to produce a group of people who will be exactly the same as He. In terms of image, they will be the same as He. He is jasper, and they will also be jasper. In terms of radiance and color, they will also be the same as He. Whatever kind of glory He has, they will also have. In other words, the condition of these people will be the same as that of God.

In Revelation 4 the One who is sitting on the throne, having the appearance of a jasper stone, is the same as the jasper wall of the city in chapter 21. At the beginning of the universe God was sitting on the throne, and only He had the appearance of a jasper stone, but at the end of God's work in the universe, a jasper wall is produced. The jasper wall surrounds the One on the throne who is like a jasper stone, indicating that God will eventually gain or produce a group of people who are exactly the same as He. Once this issue comes forth, the new heavens and new earth will come, and the eternal rest will begin, because God will have accomplished and fulfilled His eternal purpose. This is the unique subject of the Bible. (Spiritual Reality, p. 174)

Today's Reading

After we are saved, the Holy Spirit works in us that we may be transformed into the image of the Lord [2 Cor. 3:18]. This transformation is of the Lord's Spirit and is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit will continuously work in us until we are completely transformed and even our body is redeemed and conformed to the Lord's body of glory. First John 3:2 says, "If He is manifested, we will be like Him." Hence, at the end of Revelation, we see that all God's redeemed people are like jasper stone, being exactly the same as the image of God....From beginning to end God works in us to fulfill this unique purpose—to make every one of us the same as He.

The image and the life of God are in His Son; thus, God, who wants us to also be His sons, requires the same of us. On the one hand, He works in us that we may have His image, and on the other hand, He causes us to have His life. Only those who have God's life and image can be exactly the same as He. This is the reason that God gave us His eternal life. The purpose is that we may be like Him. In other words, the unique purpose of God's being in us is to work in us to the extent that we would be the same as He is in life, nature, image, and radiance.

The beginning of Revelation mentions the "jasper God," and the end mentions the "jasper city." The jasper God becomes the center of the jasper city, and the jasper city becomes the perimeter of the jasper God. The jasper God is in the center, the jasper city is the perimeter, and the glory of God shines forth through the city. God and the city are completely one. The appearance, radiance, and nature of the city are absolutely the same as that of God. God and man are mingled together. God is in man, and man is in God. God is the content of man, and man is the expression of God. God is the center, and man is the perimeter.

When we touch this matter, the whole Bible is linked together, and all the spiritual experiences are also linked together. The incarnation of the Lord Jesus was for this. His death on the cross and the shedding of His blood to bear man's sin were for this. His resurrection, ascension, and becoming the life-giving Spirit were for this. He is saving sinners, edifying the saints, giving us grace, gifts, life, power, light, and vision for this. This matter is the center of the entire Bible. All the truths of the Bible hang securely on this because this matter is the center of God. The unique purpose of God in the universe is to make man the same as He. This is the unique subject of the Bible. (Spiritual Reality, pp. 175-177)

Further Reading: Spiritual Reality, ch. 17

WEEK 1 — DAY 3

Morning Nourishment

Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 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.

What is the meaning of the universe? This universe was created by God and has a meaning that is related to the gospel.... The gospel unveils the meaning of the universe. The gospel is not simply that the Lord Jesus was crucified to shed His blood and die for us. The entire Bible, from Genesis 1 through Revelation 22, is a book of the gospel. The entire Bible is a gospel message. (CWWL, 1971, vol. 1, "The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration," p. 137)

Today's Reading

The gospel of God saves us out of a human life that is without meaning into the meaning of the universe. Salvation involves being saved from a human life that otherwise would be meaningless....God created a man who had great meaning and purpose. Regrettably, man fell, and the meaning of his life was lost. This means that man lost his original purpose. With His salvation, God rescues us and brings us back to our original purpose....Now that we are saved by God, we have been brought back to our purpose, which is the meaning of the universe. (CWWL, 1971, vol. 1, "The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration," p. 137)

God predestinated us not only according to the good pleasure of His will, but also with a purpose, a plan (Eph. 1:11). It is according to His purpose that He predestinated us. His purpose was the plan which He made according to His will, that we might partake of His life and nature and have the position to enjoy and inherit all His riches.

God predestinated us unto sonship through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:5). "Through Jesus Christ" means through the Redeemer who is the Son of God. Through Him we were redeemed to be the sons of God with the life and position of God's sons. Eventually, we will be glorified with Him (Rom. 8:17b) and manifested with Him in glory (Col. 3:4).

Since God predestinated us unto sonship, He foreordained us to have His life, the eternal life (Acts 13:48). Once we believe in the Lord Jesus, we have this eternal life (1 John 5:12), and we are born of Him to be His children (John 1:12).

God chose and predestinated us according to His foreknowledge in order to conform us to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). Christ, the Son of God, is the mold. God has put us into Him (1 Cor. 1:30) to conform us to His image to be His many brothers, that He should be the Firstborn among us. Through this, the only begotten Son becomes the firstborn Son among many brothers. He is the firstborn Son, and we are the many sons to express God in a corporate way.

God not only predestinated us to have eternal life, to be conformed to the image of His Son, and to receive sonship, but He also foreordained us to obtain His glory (1 Cor. 2:7) that we might express Him. God's glory is God expressed. We are vessels of mercy which He has before prepared unto glory (Rom. 9:23), and He has called us into this glory (2 Thes. 2:14; 1 Pet. 5:10). Christ Himself is our hope of glory (Col. 1:27), and today we exult and boast in this hope of glory (Rom. 5:2). When this hope, Christ, is manifested, then we will also be manifested with Him in glory (Col. 3:4). That will be the redemption of our body, the transfiguration of our body. At that time, God's glory will be expressed from our spirit to our soul and through our body. The three parts of our whole being will be the same as Christ is and be fully saturated with God's glory. This is to be glorified, which is the ultimate consummation of God's full salvation. It is also the ultimate goal to which God predestined us in eternity. (Truth Lessons—Level One, vol. 3, pp. 22-23)

Further Reading: The Meaning of Human Life and a Proper Consecration, ch. 2; Truth Lessons—Level One, vol. 3, lsn. 26; The Living That Fulfills God's Eternal Purpose, chs. 3-5; CWWN, vol. 33, ch. 7

WEEK 1 — DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

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.

John 7:37 ...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to satisfy His chosen people for their enjoyment. 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. This is the heart's desire, the good pleasure (Eph. 1:5, 9), of God in His economy. The full development of this thought is in the New Testament, but it is sown as a seed in Jeremiah 2:13. (Life-study of Jeremiah, p. 17)

Today's Reading

God's economy is to dispense Himself as the living water to produce His increase, His enlargement, to be His expression....In John 1:1 and 14 we see that the Word, which was God, became flesh, full of grace and reality. Verse 16 goes on to say, "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." In chapter 4 of John the Lord Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman concerning living water (vv. 10,14). In John 7:38 He said, "He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." In Revelation 21 and 22 we have a vision of the New Jerusalem, which is a great sign of God's increase for His expression. Revelation 22:1 and 2 show us that in the New Jerusalem the river of life flows and that in this river grows the tree of life as the life supply to support and sustain the entire city.

God needs to be the fountain of living waters to us because He has an economy. What is God's economy? God's economy is to have an expression of Himself. God does not want to express Himself by Himself alone; rather, He wants to express Himself through His counterpart. For this reason, God created man and put him in the garden of Eden. Eventually, God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18a). In typology this signifies that it is not good for God to be alone. This indicates that the first husband mentioned in the Bible was not a human being but God. Who is His counterpart? Adam, who was created in God's image, was to be God's counterpart. In order to be God's counterpart, Adam had to drink of God, to receive God into him that he might have the divine life with the divine nature and the divine element in order to be divine to match God. Because God, the Husband, is divine, the wife, His counterpart, should also be divine that she might match Him. Since it was not good for the man to be alone, God builded from Adam's rib a woman to match him (Gen. 2:21-23).

God needs to be the fountain of living waters to His elect because He has an economy, and His economy is to produce a counterpart, a bride, for Himself. The purpose of God's economy is that God would no longer be alone but would have a wife to be His increase, His enlargement, and thus to match Him as the Husband. This is the significance of the word increase in John 3:30. In this verse John the Baptist, speaking of Christ, says, "He must increase." In the previous verse John had said, "He who has the bride is the bridegroom." The increase in verse 30 is the bride in verse 29. The Bridegroom is Christ, and the bride is His increase, His enlargement. Just as Eve was the increase of Adam, being built from Adam's rib, so God's elect as the bride are the increase of Christ as the Bridegroom.

God was burdened that Israel would drink Him to become His increase as His fullness that they might express Him. Israel should have drunk of God as the fountain of living waters, but instead they committed two evils. The first evil was to forsake God; the second evil was to hew out cisterns as another source. Those cisterns, however, were broken and could hold no water. This indicates that apart from God as the fountain of living waters, nothing can quench our thirst, nothing can satisfy us. Nothing apart from God Himself dispensed into us as living water can make us His increase for His expression. (Life-study of Jeremiah, pp. 18, 26-27, 19)

Further Reading: Life-study of Jeremiah, msgs. 3-4, 12, 22, 32

WEEK 1 — DAY 5

Morning Nourishment

Eph. 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God...

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.

The divine life may be considered as the first and the basic attribute of God. Although the word life is used many times in the New Testament, the phrase the life of God is found only once. Ephesians 4:18 is the unique verse that speaks of the life of God...The life of God is eternal, uncreated. Man did not receive this life at the time of creation. After being created, man with the created human life was placed before the tree of life (Gen. 2:8-9) to receive the uncreated divine life. But man fell into the vanity of his mind and became darkened in his understanding. In such a fallen condition man is not able to touch the life of God until he repents (has his mind turned to God) and believes in the Lord Jesus to receive God's eternal life (Acts 11:18; John 3:16).

Actually in the whole universe only the life of God can be counted as life.... [First John 5:12] indicates that unless we have the life of God we do not have life. In the sight of God only His life is life. Therefore, when the life of God is mentioned in the New Testament, it is treated as if it is the unique life (John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; 14:6). (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 73-74)

Today's Reading

Our human life is not the life on which the Bible focuses. Our human life (bios and psuche) is mortal (Luke 8:43b; 21:4b; Matt. 16:25-26). Our human life is not life, because it dies and is destined to die. The real life is immortal. Whatever is mortal is not life. Both our physical life (bios) and our soulish life (psuche) are mortal, so the human life is not life. In Luke 8:43b and 21:4b the Greek word for livelihood and living is bios. Bios refers to the physical life. In Matthew 16:25-26 the Greek word for soul-life is psuche.

Life (zoe) is eternal. Eternal means "immortal." First John 1:2 says, "The life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us." Then Psalm 90:2b says, "Indeed from eternity to eternity, You are God." Strictly speaking, all lives that are mortal are not life. The real life is immortal and eternal, and this real life is God Himself because God is from eternity to eternity. God is eternal, so only God Himself is the real life.

Life is God's content and God's flowing out. God's content is God's being, so life is God's inner being (Eph. 4:18a). God's flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us. In Revelation 22:1 we see the river of water of life flowing out from the throne of God. This is God's flowing out. Life is God's content, His inner being, and life is God flowing out into us and being imparted into our being.

Life is Christ (John 14:6a; Col. 3:4a; 1 John 5:12a). Christ is the embodiment [and expression] of God, who is life. Colossians 2:9 says that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily. God as life is embodied in Christ, and Christ is the expression of God. John 1:18 says that no one has ever seen God, but the only begotten Son has declared Him. Then Hebrews 1:3 shows that Christ is the effulgence of God's glory.

Life is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the reality of Christ (John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:45b)...Romans 8:2a uses the term the Spirit of life, and 2 Corinthians 3:6b says that the Spirit gives life. Thus, the Holy Spirit today is the Spirit of life who gives life to us...On the one hand, He is the Spirit of power; on the other hand, He is the Spirit of life.

Life is the Triune God dispensed into us and living in us. The Father is the source, the Son is the course, and the Spirit is the flow. The Triune God is dispensed into us in His Divine Trinity and is now living within us. (CWWL, 1979, vol. 1, "Basic Lessons on Life," pp. 517-518)

Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 8; CWWL, 1979, vol. 1, "Basic Lessons on Life," lsns. 3, 7, 12; Knowing Life and the Church, chs. 1-2

WEEK 1 — DAY 6

Morning Nourishment

Psa. 36:8-9 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, and You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life...

Rev. 21:9-10 ...I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.... And [he] showed me the holy city, Jerusalem...

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.

In the Old Testament, the temple of God, the house of God, signified that God Himself was enterable. Through the type of redemption, God's people could enter into Him and enjoy Him. Today, through the reality of the redemption of Christ, we can enter into God to enjoy the fatness of His house, the flow of His life, and the light of life. (The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man, p. 14)

Today's Reading

Psalm 36:8-9 mentions four main points concerning our enjoyment of God as life: fatness, a river of pleasures, the fountain of life, and light. God's dwelling place, His house, has the fatness. This indicates that God's house is a matter of life. There is also a river of pleasures, a river of joy. We must learn to drink of the river of God's pleasures. There is also the fountain of life and the light. All of these four items point to one thing: God is for us to enjoy. But in order to enjoy Him, we must take Him as life and live by Him. He is the fountain of life, but we must take Him as our life. When we take Him as our life, He becomes the fatness, the river of satisfaction, and the light of life. (The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man, p. 14)

What God wants from us is mentioned mainly in Jeremiah 2:13, which reveals that God is the fountain of living waters. God wants us to take Him as the fountain of living waters for our living. This means that He wants us to take Him as the source, the fountain, of our being. How can we take Him as our source? The only way to take God as the fountain of living waters is to drink of Him day by day. By drinking we take into us the living water that issues from God as the fountain.

The importance of drinking of God as the fountain is illustrated in John 4. To the Samaritan woman who had come to the well to draw water and whom the Lord Jesus had asked to give Him a drink, He said, "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" (v. 10). When she asked Him where He could get this living water, He answered, "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 fountain of water springing up into eternal life" (v. 14). The Lord's word here indicates that whatever we drink becomes one with us. When we drink of God as the fountain of living waters, He becomes one with us, and we become one with Him. The more we drink of God, the more He is one with us and the more we are one with Him and constituted with Him in His life and nature.

Jeremiah 2:13 says, "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." The most evil thing in the eyes of God is to forsake Him as the source, as the fountain of living waters, and to turn to some other source. All other sources are idols. In this verse the idols are likened to broken cisterns, which cannot hold water. People today are busy hewing out for themselves all kinds of cisterns. Actually, these cisterns are idols. As we consider this situation, we need to realize that God wants us to take Him as the fountain, the source, of our life and our being. (Life-study of Jeremiah, pp. 259-260)

Further Reading: The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man, chs. 1-4; Life-study of Jeremiah, msgs. 3, 6, 17, 33, 38, 40; CWWL, 1963, vol. 1, "Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life," ch. 1; CWWL, 1963, vol. 4, "Contacting the Lord, Being Filled in Spirit, and Having Proper Christian Meetings for the Accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose," ch. 1

WEEK 1 — HYMN

God eternal has a purpose

Ultimate Manifestation — God's Eternal Purpose

1325

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Eb, Bb7, Cm, Fm/Ab, Fm, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb, Cm, Fm, Fm/Ab, Bb7, Eb, Eb7, Ab, Eb, Ab, Fm, Eb/G, Ab, Bb7, Eb, Bb7, Cm, Fm/Ab, Fm, Bb7, Eb.

1. God e - ter - nal has a pur - pose, Formed in His e - ter - nal past,
Spread - ing to e - ter - nal fu - ture; 'Twill these ends all time is cast.
For with time there is the pro - cess, Time for His ac - com - plish - ment;
And in time we're mere - ly trav - elers— For e - ter - ni - ty we're meant.

2. God would have a group of people
Built together in His plan,
Blended, knit, coordinated
As His vessel—one new man.
God would come into this vessel
With His nature, life and ways,
Mingling Spirit with our spirits
For His joy and to His praise.

3. God has worked in three directions
For His plan so marvelous:
As the Father, Son, and Spirit
To dispense Himself to us!
All creation gives the setting—
Heav'n and earth are for this plan;
'Tis for this God made a body,
Soul and spirit—three-part man.

4. As the center, as the kernel,
Of God's plan our spirit is;
Calling on the name of Jesus
Makes our spirit one with His.
From the center to circumference
God would saturate each part;
Feeling, mind, and will renewing,
Making home in all our heart.

5. Thus in life we're built together,
Then in love we're knit as one;
God is now His plan fulfilling,
Finishing what He's begun.
Lord, increase Thyself within us
That we might be built by Thee
Into that great corporate vessel
Filled with God exclusively.

6. As the product, the fulfillment,
Will the church in glory stand,
Consummation of the purpose
In eternal ages planned.
God will have His corporate vessel,
All His glory to contain;
Lord, we're wholly for Thy purpose
All Thy goal in us attain.