

Message Eight

Carrying Out the Stewardship of God for the One New Man

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:25; Eph. 3:2, 9; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 9:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:10

- 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,
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- Eph 3:9 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,
- 1 Cor 4:1 A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 1 Cor 4:2 Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.
- 1 Cor 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have no boast, for necessity is laid upon me; for woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.
- 1 Cor 9:17 If I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a stewardship.
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

Outline

I. In order to carry out His economy, God must have stewards to serve, minister, manage, and execute His economy—1 Cor. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:10:

- 1 Cor 4:1 A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

A. The Greek word for steward is of the same root as the word for economy in 1 Timothy 1:4 and Ephesians 1:10:

1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

1. It means “a dispensing steward,” “a household administrator, who dispenses the household supply to its members.”

2. A steward is a dispenser, one who dispenses the divine life supply to God’s children— Luke 12:42; 16:1; Titus 1:7; 1 Pet. 4:10:

Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is the faithful and prudent steward, whom the master will set over his service to give them their portion of food at the proper time?

Luke 16:1 And He said also to the disciples, There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and this one was accused to him of squandering his possessions.

- Titus 1:7 For the overseer must be unprovable as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a striker, not greedy for base gain;
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
- a. The apostles were appointed by the Lord to be such stewards.
 - b. The dispensing service, the stewardship, is the ministry of the apostles.
- B. In God's economy revealed in the New Testament, there are mainly two mysteries—Rom. 16:25; Rev. 10:7:
- Rom 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages
- Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.
1. The first mystery, revealed in the book of Colossians, is Christ as the mystery of God—2:2.

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,
 2. The second mystery, revealed in the book of Ephesians and explained in it, is the church as the mystery of Christ—3:4.

Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
- C. In the dispensing ministry it is most important that stewards be found faithful—1 Cor. 4:2; 7:25; Luke 12:42; Matt. 24:45; 25:21; Luke 16:10-12; 19:17; Eph. 6:21; Col. 1:7; 4:7, 9; 1 Tim. 1:12; 3:11; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:12; Rev. 2:10, 13; 17:14.
- 1 Cor 4:2 Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.
- 1 Cor 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.
- Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is the faithful and prudent steward, whom the master will set over his service to give them their portion of food at the proper time?
- Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?
- Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in the least is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in the least is unrighteous also in much.
- Luke 16:11 If therefore you have not become faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you what is true?
- Luke 16:12 And if you have not become faithful in that which belongs to another, who will give to you that which is your own?
- Luke 19:17 And he said to him, Well done, good slave. Because you have become faithful in the least, have authority over ten cities.
- Eph 6:21 But that you also may know the things concerning me, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you.
- Col 1:7 Even as you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow slave, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

- Col 4:7 All the things concerning me, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you,
- Col 4:9 With Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all the things here.
- 1 Tim 1:12 I give thanks to Him who empowers me, Christ Jesus our Lord, that He has counted me faithful, appointing me to the ministry,
- 1 Tim 3:11 Women similarly must be grave, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.
- 2 Tim 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also.
- 1 Pet 5:12 Through Silvanus, the faithful brother, as I account him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying fully that this is the true grace of God; enter into this grace and stand in it.
- Rev 2:10 Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- Rev 2:13 I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name and have not denied My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.

II. In the New Testament economy of God, there is the desperate need for the stewardship of God—1 Tim. 1:4; Col. 1:25:

- 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.
- 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,
- A. The stewardship is God's divine arrangement to carry out His New Testament economy—Eph. 3:2; 1 Cor. 9:17.
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- 1 Cor 9:17 If I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a stewardship.
- B. The economy of God has become the stewardship of God given to all believers—Eph. 3:2, 9:
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- Eph 3:9 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,
1. In Ephesians 3 Paul uses the Greek word *oikonomia* with two denotations:
- Eph 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles—
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- Eph 3:3 That by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written previously in brief,
- Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
- Eph 3:5 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,

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 3:7 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,
 Eph 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access in confidence through faith in Him.
 Eph 3:13 Therefore I ask you not to faint at my afflictions for your sake, since they are your glory.
 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.
 Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
 Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

a. In relation to God, *oikonomia* denotes God's economy—v. 9.

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,

b. In relation to us, *oikonomia* denotes the stewardship—v. 2.

Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

c. The stewardship of God is according to the economy of God; with God it is a matter of economy, and with us it is a matter of stewardship.

2. The stewardship of grace is the dispensing of the riches of Christ into our being so that we may grow and become the church—v. 8.

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

C. The central point of the whole Bible is the desire of God's heart to dispense Himself into man—Phil. 2:13; Eph. 1:5, 9; 3:17a:

Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

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 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1. God's economy is to carry out the dispensing of Himself into man—v. 9.

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,

2. The one new man, who can fulfill God's eternal purpose, receives God's continual and eternal dispensing—2:15; 4:24; 3:17a:

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 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

a. Like a steady stream, God dispenses Himself little by little into those who are parts of the new man—Rev. 22:1.

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.

b. God's continual, steady, and eternal dispensing constitutes us, coordinates us, and builds us up together.

D. Paul's stewardship was to complete the word of God in order to dispense Christ with all His riches into the churches—Col. 1:25; 1 Cor. 4:1-2:

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,

1 Cor 4:1 A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

1 Cor 4:2 Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.

1. Although Paul was used in the completion of the divine revelation centuries ago, there is still the need for its completion in a practical way today:

a. Satan, the enemy of God, is seeking to nullify the completion of the word of God.

b. It is the subtlety of the enemy to veil the word, which was completed through Paul—2 Cor. 4:3-4.

2 Cor 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled in those who are perishing,

2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

c. Without the completion of the word of God, God's purpose cannot be fulfilled, and Christ cannot obtain His bride or come with His kingdom.

2. What we are ministering today is the completion of the divine revelation given to Paul.

3. In the Lord's recovery we need more stewards who are able to complete the word of God—2 Tim. 2:2.

2 Tim 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others also.

III. The stewardship of God is the stewardship of grace—Eph. 3:2:

Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

A. The stewardship of grace is the economy of grace to carry out God's New Testament economy—v. 2.

Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

B. Grace is God Himself in Christ as the Spirit given to us, gained by us, and enjoyed by us—John 1:17; Acts 20:24; Eph. 3:2:

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:24 But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

1. The grace given to us in Christ was bestowed on us before the world began—2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:11.

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

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God, bringing salvation to all men, has appeared,

2. God, who was in the beginning, became flesh in time as grace for man to receive, possess, and enjoy, making God contactable, touchable, receivable, experienceable, enterable, and enjoyable—John 1:1, 14, 16-17.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

3. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is the bountiful supply of the Triune God (who is embodied in the Son and realized as the life-giving Spirit) enjoyed by us through the exercise of our human spirit—Gal. 6:18.

Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

4. Grace is the Divine Trinity transmitted into us for our enjoyment, the manifestation of the Triune God in His embodiment in three aspects—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—2 Cor. 13:14; Num. 6:22-27; Psa. 36:8-9:

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.

Num 6:22 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,

Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;

Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.

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.

a. The grace of the Lord is the Lord Himself as life to us for our enjoyment (John 1:17; 1 Cor. 15:10), the love of God is God Himself (1 John 4:8, 16) as the source of the grace of the Lord, and the fellowship of the Spirit is the Spirit Himself as the transmission of the grace of the Lord with the love of God for our participation—2 Cor. 13:14.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

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.

b. In 2 Corinthians 13:14 the grace of the Lord is mentioned first because this book is on the grace of Christ—1:12; 4:15; 6:1; 8:1, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9.

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.

2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

2 Cor 4:15 For all things are for your sakes that the grace which has abounded through the greater number may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

2 Cor 6:1 And working together with Him, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;

2 Cor 8:1 Furthermore we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor in order that you, because of His poverty, might become rich.

2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound unto you, that, in everything always having all sufficiency, you may abound unto every good work;

2 Cor 9:14 While in petition on your behalf they also long after you on account of the surpassing grace of God upon you.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

c. The Holy Spirit as the circulation, the transmission, of the grace of Christ with the love of the Father is the supply in our Christian life and church life.

5. Day by day a marvelous divine transmission should be taking place: God is supplying the Spirit of grace bountifully, and we should be receiving and dispensing the Spirit of grace continually—John 1:16; Heb. 10:29b; Gal. 3:2-5; Eph. 3:2; 4:29.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Heb 10:29 By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the

- covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
- Gal 3:2 This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?
- Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
- Gal 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain, if indeed it was in vain?
- Gal 3:5 He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- C. The gospel of the grace of God is the stewardship of grace to dispense God into people for their enjoyment; Paul, in his ministry, solemnly testified of the gospel of the grace of God to minister God into people—3:1-2; Acts 20:24.
- Eph 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles-
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- Acts 20:24 But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.
- D. The Christian living is the living of grace, the experience of grace, so that we may carry out our stewardship of grace, the dispensing of grace—2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Tim. 4:22; Eph. 3:2.
- 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- E. The practical life and building up of the Body of Christ comes forth out of the inward enjoyment of Christ as the grace of God—1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 13:14.
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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.

IV. Those who bear responsibility in the churches need to share in the stewardship of God—Titus 1:7, 9:

- Titus 1:7 For the overseer must be unreprouvable as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a striker, not greedy for base gain;
- Titus 1:9 Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching of the apostles, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose.

- A. The elders should take the lead to dispense the riches of Christ into others.
- B. All those who take the lead in the Lord's recovery and bear the responsibility for the care of the churches need to realize that they have a part in such a divine stewardship.

V. Because Paul, a faithful steward in God's economy, was conscious of the one new man, what was in his heart was not simply a particular local church or a

certain saint but the universal one new man—1 Cor. 4:1-2; 9:16-17; Col. 3:10-11; 4:7-17:

- 1 Cor 4:1 A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 1 Cor 4:2 Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.
- 1 Cor 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have no boast, for necessity is laid upon me; for woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.
- 1 Cor 9:17 If I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a stewardship.
- 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.
- Col 4:7 All the things concerning me, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you,
- Col 4:8 Whom I have sent to you for this very thing, that you might know the things concerning us and that he might comfort your hearts;
- Col 4:9 With Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all the things here.
- Col 4:10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, as well as Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, (concerning whom you received commandments, If he comes to you, receive him),
- Col 4:11 And Jesus, who is called Justus; these alone of the circumcision are my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, ones who have become a consolation to me.
- Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.
- Col 4:13 For I testify of him that he labors much for you and for those in Laodicea and for those in Hierapolis.
- Col 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, as well as Demas.
- Col 4:15 Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house.
- Col 4:16 And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.
- Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it.

- A. “If we are conscious of the one new man, we should no longer think that the churches in our country have nothing to do with the churches in other nations. Instead, we shall realize that all the churches are the one new man today. May we look to the Lord that we may not be sectarian in any way. We would not be sectarian either individually as believers or corporately as local churches. On the contrary, all of us, all the saints in all the churches, are just one new man” (Life-study of Colossians, p. 262).
- B. “We also should rejoice that on earth today there is another man, the new man, that includes all the believers. This new man, who is born through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is now spreading and growing throughout the earth. Praise the Lord that we are part of this new man!” (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1982, vol. 2, “The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John,” p. 444).