

Message Two

Experiencing the Grace of God in the Economy of God

CC, LH Hymns: 497

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:10; 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:4; Gal. 6:18; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Pet. 3:18a

- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Eph 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 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
- 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.
- 2 Pet 3:18a But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ...

I. God's eternal economy is to gain a group of people, that the Triune God may dispense Himself into them to be their life and everything so that they may be joined to Him as one, be filled and occupied with Him, and be one organic entity with Him on earth to be the Body of Christ, the church, for His corporate expression—Eph. 1:3-23:

- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;
- Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
- Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,
- Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.
- Eph 1:15 Therefore I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and your love to all the saints,
- Eph 1:16 Do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,
- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
- Eph 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
- Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

- A. The eternal economy of God is the central line of the entire Scripture—v. 10; 3:9.
 - Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
 - Eph 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. The interpretation of the Scriptures should be strictly governed by this central line under its enlightenment—Luke 24:27, 32, 44.
 - Luke 24:27 And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, He explained to them clearly in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
 - Luke 24:32 And they said to one another, Was not our heart burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was opening to us the Scriptures?
 - Luke 24:44 And He said to them, These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and Psalms concerning Me must be fulfilled.
- C. The one thing that should be focused on, emphasized, and ministered is the New Testament economy of God—1 Tim. 1:4.
 - 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.
- D. The Christian life is a life that is for God's economy—2 Cor. 5:14-15.
 - 2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
 - 2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

II. “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit”—Gal. 6:18:

- A. The mark of God's economy is that Christ today is the grace of God in our spirit—v. 18:
 - Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
 1. Our regenerated spirit indwelt by the Spirit is the focus of God's promised blessing—John 3:6; Rom. 8:10; 15:29; Eph. 1:3.
 - John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
 - 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 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.
 - Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
 2. We need the grace of the Lord, which is the bountiful supply of the all-inclusive Spirit, to be with our spirit—Phil. 1:19; 2 Tim. 4:22.
 - Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 - 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
- B. The grace of 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—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Tim. 4:22; Philem. 25:
 - 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.
 - 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
 - 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
 - Philem 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
 1. Grace is God the Father embodied in the Son who is realized as the Spirit; ultimately, the Spirit is grace—Heb. 10:29.
 - 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?

2. This grace, the ultimate consummation of the Triune God, now dwells in our spirit—Phil. 4:23.
Phil 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
 3. Our spirit is the only place where we can experience grace—2 Tim. 4:22.
2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
 4. In order to receive and enjoy grace, we need to turn to our spirit and remain there, recognizing the Lord as the Head and the King, respecting His position, honoring His authority, and seeing that the throne of grace is in our spirit—Gal. 6:18; Heb. 4:16.
Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
- C. As children of God, we should be those who receive and enjoy the grace of our Lord in our spirit—2 Cor. 13:14; Philem. 25:
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.
Philem 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
1. The receiving of Christ as the Spirit of grace is a lifelong, continuous matter— John 1:16; Rev. 22:21.
John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.
 2. Day by day a marvelous divine transmission should take place as God supplies the Spirit of grace bountifully, and we receive the Spirit of grace continually—Gal. 3:2-5; John 3:34.
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?
John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit not by measure.
 3. The way to open ourselves to the heavenly transmission in order to receive the supply of the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit of grace is by exercising our spirit to pray and call on the Lord—1 Thes. 5:16-18; Rom. 10:12-13.
1 Thes 5:16 Always rejoice,
1 Thes 5:17 Unceasingly pray,
1 Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
 4. As we receive and enjoy the processed and consummated Triune God as our grace, we will gradually become one with Him organically; He will become our constituent, and we will become His expression—2 Cor. 1:12; 12:9.
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 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.

III. “By the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain,...yet not I but the grace of God which is with me”—1 Cor. 15:10:

- A. Grace, mentioned three times in 1 Corinthians 15:10, is the resurrected Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit (v. 45) to bring the processed Triune God in resurrection into us to be our life and life supply that we may live in resurrection:

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 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

1. Grace is the Triune God becoming life and everything to us—John 1:17; Gal. 2:21.
John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
Gal 2:21 I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness is through law, then Christ has died for nothing.
2. It is by this grace that Saul of Tarsus, the foremost of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15-16), became the foremost apostle, laboring more abundantly than all the apostles.
1 Tim 1:15 Faithful is the word and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost.
1 Tim 1:16 But because of this I was shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display all His long-suffering for a pattern to those who are to believe on Him unto eternal life.
3. Paul's ministry and living by this grace are an undeniable testimony to Christ's resurrection—2 Cor. 1:12; 12:9.
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 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.

- B. *Not I but the grace of God* in 1 Corinthians 15:10 equals *no longer I...but...Christ* in Galatians 2:20; this shows that Christ Himself is the grace of God—God Himself working through the apostle:

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.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

1. The grace that motivated the apostle Paul and operated in him was not some matter or some thing but a living person, the resurrected Christ, the embodiment of God the Father who became the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit, who dwelt in the apostle as his everything.
2. This corresponds to Paul's declaration in Philippians 4:13: "I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me":
 - a. In Philippians 4:13 *Him* refers to the resurrected Christ who became the life-giving Spirit.
Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
 - b. In such a Christ, Paul was empowered to do all things; this is the grace of God.

IV. "Grow in the grace...of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"—2 Pet. 3:18a:

- A. Grace is the Triune God being life and the life supply to us and in us; to grow in grace is to grow in this inward source of the supply of life—1 Pet. 5:10.

1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

- B. Grace is God processed through incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension; all these elements of grace are within us to be one with us—Phil. 4:23:
[Phil 4:23](#) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
1. Grace is God Himself as our life to be one with us, to save us, to make His home in us, and to be formed in us; to grow in grace is to grow in the increase of God—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.
 2. Grace is God's visitation to us to stay in us and make Himself one with us; we need to grow in such grace for His glory today and unto the day of eternity—Rev. 22:21.
[Rev 22:21](#) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.