

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE GOD-ORDAINED WAY**

Message Two

The Economy of God

Scripture Reading:

- 1 Tim. 1:4b ...God's economy, which is in faith.
- 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. 3:10-11 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.
- 1 Tim. 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.
- 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.
- Ezek. 1:15-20 I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, ...a wheel within a wheel Whenever they went, they went in their four directions; ...Wherever the Spirit was to go they went—wherever the Spirit was to go.

1. First, we need to see the definition of the word “economy”—1 Tim. 1:4b:

- A. In Greek the word economy is composed of two words, oikos (household, abode, dwelling place) and nomos (law), Oikonomia denotes household regulations or household management.
- B. This word refers to a household administration and management.

II. The economy of God is—Eph. 1:10, 3:9-11:

- A. God's household management, God's household administrative arrangement, the divine dispensation—Eph. 1:10, 3:9.
- B. An eternal plan God made in Christ—Eph. 3:11.
- C. The dispensing of God Himself into His chosen people in His Trinity in three steps:
 - 1. Of God the Father, who is the source, the origin—Eph. 1:3-6.
 - 2. Through God the Son, who is the course—Eph. 1:7-12.
 - 3. In God the Spirit, who is the instrument and sphere—Eph. 1:13-14
- D. For the producing of the church as the kingdom of God, consummating in the New Jerusalem Eph. 3:10; 1 Cor. 4:17, 20; Rev. 21:2; John 3:29.

III. The divine revelation shows us the divine economy and the divine dispensing—Eph. 1:9-11; 3:11:

- A. The divine economy is an issue of God's will, purpose, good pleasure, and counsel.
- B. God's will is God's wish. God's desire—1:9
- C. God's purpose is God's intent set beforehand—1:11
- D. God's good pleasure is what God likes, what pleases God—1:5
- E. God's counsel is God's resolution consummated in the council of the Divine Trinity—Acts 2:23; Gen. 1:26
- F. The intention of the divine economy, God's household administration, is the divine dispensing to dispense Himself into His chosen people—Eph. 3:8-11

IV. There are seven great matters in God's economy—1 Tim. 3:16:

- A. God becoming flesh—John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim 3:16.
- B. Christ's passing through human living—Phil. 2:6-8; Luke 4:17-19.
- C. Christ's crucifixion—Rom. 6:6; Heb. 2:14; John 1:29, 12:31; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 2:15a; John 12:24
- D. Christ's resurrection—Acts 13:33; Rom. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:3.

- E. Christ's ascension—John 20:17; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11.
- F. The Body of Christ—Eph. 1: 23; 4:1-6.
- G. The New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:12-14, 19-21.

V. The main emphasis of the Bible is concerning the economy of God; “God became man that man may become God but not in the Godhead” being the essence of the entire Bible

—1 John 3:2; Gen. 1:26; John 12:24:

- A. God became man through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.
- B. Man becoming God through regeneration, sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification.
- C. The New Jerusalem is the ultimate consummation of God's economy—Eph. 5:31-32; Rev. 21:2 9-10; 22:17.

VI. If we carry out the God-ordained way, we can practice the New Testament economy—Matt. 18:20; 1 Cor. 12:4-6:

- A. As we see the view of God's New Testament economy and the view of the God-ordained way, we can carry out God's New Testament economy—Acts:2:42
- B. If we come back purely to the scriptural way, we will afford God the opportunity to operate among His chosen people—Matt. 18:20
- C. When we take the God-ordained way, all of the saints have the opportunity to practice the New Testament economy—1 Cor. 12:4-6
- D. When we practice one way, the God-ordained way, we will arrive at the one goal, to complete God's eternal economy—Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:42

VII. The economy of God being likened to a great wheel with Christ as the center—Ezek. 1:15-21; Eph. 1:10; Dan. 2:34-35:

- A. The hub of the wheel signifies Christ as the center of God's economy.
- B. The rim signifies Christ's counterpart, the church, the Body of Christ.
- C. The many believers as the members of Christ are the spokes spreading from the hub to the rim spreading to the Body of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem.
- D. The great wheel is not just the economy of God but also the moving of the economy of God.
 1. From Genesis 1 until now, the move of God's economy has never stopped, and today this great wheel has reached us.
 2. In every age and in every generation, this great wheel has been moving and today we all are a part of the move of this great wheel on earth.