

Message Six
**Being a Vessel Open to the Lord and Living Ordinary Days
in the Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity**

RK Hymns: 1159

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:7; Rom. 9:21-23; 2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:20-21

- Gen 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
- Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
- Rom 9:22 And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction,
- Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- 2 Tim 2:20 But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels but also wooden and earthen; and some are unto honor, and some unto dishonor.
- 2 Tim 2:21 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

I. The first step of God's procedure in fulfilling His purpose was to create man as a vessel to contain Himself as life—Gen. 2:7:

Gen 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

A. God chose us so that we may be vessels of honor filled with the Triune God—Rom. 9:21-23; 2 Cor. 13:14:

Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

Rom 9:22 And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction,

Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

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.

1. God created man as a vessel to contain Him, and out of the many vessels, He chose us to contain Him, the God of honor, that we might be vessels of honor—4:7.

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

2. Honorable vessels are constituted of both the divine nature (gold) and the redeemed and regenerated human nature (silver)—2 Tim. 2:20-21.

2 Tim 2:20 But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels but also wooden and earthen; and some are unto honor, and some unto dishonor.

2 Tim 2:21 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

3. God makes known His glory upon us, the vessels, that we may become vessels of glory—Rom. 9:23; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:6-7:

Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

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.

2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power

- may be of God and not out of us.
- a. All of this is out of His mercy and according to His mercy; it cannot be obtained by our efforts.
 - b. For this reason we must worship Him and thank Him for His mercy—Rom. 9:15-16, 18.
 - Rom 9:15 For to Moses He says, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."
 - Rom 9:16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.
 - Rom 9:18 So then He has mercy on whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills.
- B. The summary of Paul's fourteen Epistles can be expressed in two words: *open vessel*:
1. The New Testament shows us that God wants believers as vessels loving Him and keeping themselves open to Him—2 Cor. 3:16:
 - 2 Cor 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
 - a. If in the depths of our being we are not open to the Lord, He cannot dispense Himself into us and make His home in our heart—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,
 - b. An open vessel is doing nothing but keeping itself open to be filled by the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 13:14.
 - 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. A genuine Christian life is one that loves the Lord and keeps itself open to the Lord and stops its doing—Mark 12:30; 1 John 4:16-21:
 - Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."
 - 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.
 - 1 John 4:17 In this has love been perfected with us, that we have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world.
 - 1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear has punishment, and he who fears has not been perfected in love.
 - 1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.
 - 1 John 4:20 If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.
 - 1 John 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also.
 - a. Then the Lord comes in and does everything; the vessel simply contains the Lord and enjoys the Lord's filling and doing.
 - b. We simply need to love the Lord and keep ourselves open to Him, giving Him every opportunity to do everything He wants to do—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,
 - c. This is the proper and genuine Christian life—Gal. 2:20.
 - 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.
 3. We should pray, "Lord, by Your grace I would not have any part of my being closed to You; I choose to keep myself entirely and thoroughly open to You":
 - a. This proper prayer, deeper prayer, genuine prayer, is to love the Lord and be open to Him—Eph. 3:17-19.
 - 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.
- b. If we have this kind of prayer, we will be living, open vessels, and the Lord will have the way to fill us with Himself—vv. 14-18.
 - 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
- c. When the Lord fills us, He does everything for us—v. 19.
 - Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

II. As believers in Christ, we need to learn to be satisfied with a life of ordinary days in the regular and normal experiences in the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; Eph. 3:16-17a:

- 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.
- 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 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- A. We need to receive the divine dispensing little by little, day by day, receiving this dispensing again and again in a slow, steady way—2 Cor. 13:14; Matt. 6:11; Psa. 68:19:
 - 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.
 - Matt 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.
 - Psa 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who day by day loads us with good; / God is our salvation. Selah.
- 1. Very few spiritual things are accomplished in us once for all; rather, as with our physical life, most spiritual things must be repeated again and again—John 6:57b; 4:14; 1 Cor. 10:3-4.
 - John 6:57b ... so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 - 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.
 - 1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same spiritual food,
 - 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
- 2. Whatever God gives to us is not given all at once so that it becomes unbearable; instead, the divine supply is given bit by bit.
- B. The processed and consummated Triune God is within us not in a spectacular way but in an ordinary way; for this reason we need to live a steady and normal Christian life; the less special and the more normal we are, the better—Col. 1:27; 3:4; Eph. 3:16-17a.
 - Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 - Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

- 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 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- C. All the things of life that the Triune God gives to us through the divine dispensing are quiet and calm, and our life as believers should also be quiet and calm; day by day we need to live in this way, simply living an ordinary life of receiving the divine dispensing—Rom. 8:6; 1 Thes. 5:23; 2 Thes. 3:16.
 Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 1 Thes 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2 Thes 3:16 Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace continually in every way. The Lord be with you all.
- D. Our destiny is to live an ordinary life in the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity, for our Father has destined that we live in an ordinary way under His continual dispensing—Matt. 6:11, 32-34; 24:40-41.
 Matt 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.
 Matt 6:32 For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
 Matt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
 Matt 6:34 Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself; sufficient for the day is its own evil.
 Matt 24:40 At that time two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left.
 Matt 24:41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left.
- E. As believers, we experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity by faith; God wants us to do everything by depending on Him, by taking Him as life, and by allowing Him to dispense Himself into us—Eph. 3:17a; Heb. 11:1.
 Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- F. In this way we will become normal spiritually, and our spirituality will be regular and normal without anything spectacular—Rom. 8:4, 6; Gal. 5:22-23.
 Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
 Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
 Gal 5:23 Meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

III. A life of ordinary days in the divine dispensing is according to the miraculous normality of the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9:

- 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.
 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,
- A. The experiences of Christ, of the Spirit, of the Triune God, and of the divine life with the divine nature are altogether normal—vv. 16-17a.
 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 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- B. All the spiritual and divine things provided by God for our experience and enjoyment are normal; nevertheless, these normal things are miraculous, and for this reason we may speak of the miraculous normality of the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9.
 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.

- 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,
- C. Regeneration is the greatest miracle, yet it takes place in a normal way; thus, regeneration is a normality that is miraculous, a miraculous normality in our Christian life—John 3:3, 5-6, 8; 1 Pet. 1:23.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- John 3:8 The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from and where it goes; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.
- 1 Pet 1:23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.
- D. Calling on the name of the Lord is a normality, yet it is miraculous that when we call, we receive the totality of the processed and consummated Triune God—Rom. 10:12; Jer. 33:3.
- 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;
- Jer 33:3 Call unto Me, and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things, which you do not know.