

LIVING AND SERVING IN THE DIVINE DISPENSING OF THE DIVINE TRINITY

Message Seven

The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity for the Producing of Materials for the Divine Building and for the Producing and Existence of the Church as the Body to Christ, the New Man to God, and the Dwelling Place to the Spirit

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 3:11-12; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:15-16, 21-22; 4:24; Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2

1 Cor. 3:11-12 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 2:15-16 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, **16** And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Eph. 2:21-22 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

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

Isa. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One, / Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: / I will dwell in the high and holy place, / And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, / To revive the spirit of the lowly / And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 66:1-2 Thus says Jehovah, / Heaven is My throne, / And the earth the footstool for My feet. / Where then is the house that you will build for Me, / And where is the place of My rest? **2** For all these things My hand has made, / And *so* all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is* poor / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

I. The divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity is for the producing of the materials for the divine building, the church of God —1 Cor. 3:11-12:

1 Cor. 3:11-12 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

- A. In order to be proper material for the divine building, we need to experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—John 3:14-16.

John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

- B. We experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in God's entering into the materials for His building: God the Father is expressed in the Son; God the Son is realized as the Spirit; and God the Spirit enters into the believers so that they may be mingled with the Triune God—14:7-11, 16-17a.

John 14:7-11 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and henceforth you know Him and have seen Him. **8** Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father and it is sufficient for us. **9** Jesus said to him, Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *is it that* you say, Show us the Father? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works. **11** Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever, **17** *Even* the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

- C. We may experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in transforming us into precious materials for God's building—

1 Cor. 3:6-7, 12:

1 Cor. 3:6-7 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. **7** So then neither is he who plants anything nor he who waters, but God who causes the growth.

1 Cor. 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

1. While Christ as the living foundation holds and supports the entire church, He is dispensing His divine element of life into all the members—v. 11.

1 Cor. 3:11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

2. This dispensing of Himself as the element of life into our being will transform us into precious materials for the divine building—v. 12; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:2.

1 Cor. 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

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.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

II. The divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity is for the producing and existence of the church as the Body of Christ, the new man, and the dwelling place of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:15-16, 21-22:

Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 2:15-16 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, **16** And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Eph. 2:21-22 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

- A. The existence of the church comes out of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 1:2; 13:14.

2 Cor. 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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. The church is a Body to Christ, a new man to God, and a dwelling place to the Spirit, who is the consummation and the aggregate of the Triune God; this means that the church is the dwelling place of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—who is now consummated as the Spirit—Eph. 2:15-16, 21-22.

Eph. 2:15-16 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, **16** And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Eph. 2:21-22 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

- C. The way to produce the church, which is the Body of Christ, the new man, and a dwelling place of the Triune God, and the way for this church to exist are by the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 13:14; Rom. 8:2, 9-11; 12:4-5; 16:1; Eph. 1:3-23; 3:14-21.

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.

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. 8:9-11 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him. **10** But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness. **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.

Rom. 12:4-5 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, **5** So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom. 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

Eph. 1:3-23 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ, **4** Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved; **7** In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, **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; **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, **12** That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ. **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, **14** Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory. **15** Therefore I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and your love to all the saints, **16** Do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, **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, **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, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, **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; **22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 3:14-21 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, **15** Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named, **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, **17** That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are **19** And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God. **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, **21** To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

III. Through the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity the church of God functions as the Body of Christ, the new man, and the dwelling place of God—2:15-16, 21-22:

Eph. 2:15-16 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, **16** And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Eph. 2:21-22 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

A. In relation to Christ, the church functions as the Body—1:22-23; 2:16; 4:16:

Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

1. The divine economy is God's eternal plan to dispense Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people to produce the

Body of Christ—1:10; 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,

2. The Body of Christ is the fullness of the all-inclusive Christ, the One who fills all in all—1:22-23:

Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

a. Christ is great to such an extent that He fills the whole universe and even becomes the dimensions of the universe—3:18.

Eph. 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

b. Christ, as the One who fills all in all, needs the Body, the church, to be His fullness, His expression—1:22-23.

Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

c. Christ, who is the infinite God without limitation, is so great that He fills all things in all things; such a great Christ needs the church, His Body, to be His fullness for His expression—vv. 22-23.

Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

3. We need to have a universal view of the universal Body of Christ—vv. 17-23; Acts 10:9-11; Rev. 21:10.

Eph. 1:17-23 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, **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, **19** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, **20** Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, **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; **22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Acts 10:9-11 And on the next day as they were journeying and drawing near to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray around the sixth hour. **10** And he became very hungry and wanted to eat. And while they were preparing, a trance came upon him; **11** And he beheld heaven opened, and a certain vessel like a great sheet descending, being let down by four corners onto the earth,

Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

B. In relation to God, the church functions as the new man to accomplish God's eternal economy—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11:

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.

Col. 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

1. In order to carry out His eternal plan, which is the economy of the ages, God needs a man—the one new man—Gen. 1:26;

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Col. 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

2. The church as the new man is the corporate man in God's intention; this new man fulfills the twofold purpose of expressing God and dealing with His enemy—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Gen. 1:26.

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.

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

3. As the new man, the function of the church is to move, work, act, and do things to accomplish God's great plan—Eph. 2:10.

Eph. 2:10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

4. This new man is a corporate and vast man, comprising all of God's chosen people, and we should consider ourselves as parts of this new man—4:24.

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

5. Through the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity, the church is produced as God's masterpiece, the new man in the new creation—2:5-8, 10:

Eph. 2:5-8 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) **6** And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, **7** That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God;

Eph. 2:10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

- a. Nothing other than the divine dispensing of the divine life can make us new—4:23; Col. 3:10-11.

Eph. 4:23 And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Col. 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

- b. It is through the dispensing of the divine grace, which is the Triune God as a gift given to us, that we become the living members of the Body of Christ and parts of the new man and are made the organic constituents of the church as the divine and heavenly poem—Eph. 2:7-8, 10.

Eph. 2:7-8 That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God;

Eph. 2:10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

6. We need to practice the church life in the consciousness of the one new man; if we are conscious of the one new man, we will realize that all the churches in the different countries are one new man—Col. 3:10-11; 4:7-17.

Col. 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Col. 4:7-17 All the things concerning me, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you, **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; **9** With Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all the things here. **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), **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. **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. **13** For I testify of him that he labors much for you and for those in Laodicea and for those in Hierapolis. **14** Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, as well as Demas. **15** Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house. **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. **17** And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it.

- C. In relation to the Spirit, the church functions as the dwelling place of God—Eph. 2:21-22; Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2:

Eph. 2:21-22 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Isa. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One, / Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: / I will dwell in the high and holy place, / And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, / To revive the spirit of the lowly / And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 66:1-2 Thus says Jehovah, / Heaven is My throne, / And the earth the footstool for My feet. / Where then is the house that you will build for Me, / And where is the place of My rest? **2** For all these things My hand has made, / And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is poor* / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

1. God's Spirit is the Dweller, not the dwelling place; the dwelling place is the believers' spirit indwelt by God's Holy Spirit—Eph. 2:22.

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

2. Ephesians 2:21 says that the holy temple is in the Lord, and verse 22 says that the dwelling place of God is in spirit:

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

- a. This indicates that for the building of God's dwelling place, the Lord is one with our spirit, and our spirit is one with the Lord—1 Cor. 6:17.

1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

- b. Our spirit is where the building of the church, the dwelling place of God, takes place—Eph. 2:22.

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

3. The high and exalted One, who inhabits eternity and whose name is Holy, dwells with the contrite and lowly of spirit and

looks to him who is poor and of a contrite spirit—Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2.

Isa. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One, / Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: / I will dwell in the high and holy place, / And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, / To revive the spirit of the lowly / And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 66:1-2 Thus says Jehovah, / Heaven is My throne, / And the earth the footstool for My feet. / Where then is the house that you will build for Me, / And where is the place of My rest? **2** For all these things My hand has made, / And *so* all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is poor* / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

4. According to Isaiah 66:2 and 57:15, the dwelling place God desires to have is a group of people into whom He can enter:

Isa. 66:2 For all these things My hand has made, / And *so* all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to *him who is poor* / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Isa. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One, / Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: / I will dwell in the high and holy place, / And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, / To revive the spirit of the lowly / And to revive the heart of the contrite.

- a. God intends to have a dwelling place that is the mingling of God and man, in which God is built into man and man is built into God, so that God and man, man and God can be a mutual abode to each other—John 14:2, 20, 23; 1 John 4:13.

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

- b. In the New Testament this dwelling place, this house, is the church, which is God's habitation in the believers' spirit—Eph. 2:22; 1 Tim. 3:15.

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

1 Tim. 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.