

Message Two

The Focus of the Epistles—the Divine Trinity for the Divine Dispensing

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 4:4-6; Eph. 2:18;
2 Thes. 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:2; Jude 20-21

I. The Divine Trinity is the focus of the Epistles—Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 4:4-6; Eph. 2:18; 2 Thes. 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-6; Jude 20-21:

- A. “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. For while we were yet weak, in due time Christ died for the ungodly”—Rom. 5:5-6:
 - 1. Christ the Son died for us, the Spirit has been given to us, and through this Spirit the love of God has been poured out in our hearts—vv. 5-6.
 - 2. Now we enjoy the love of God through the Holy Spirit given to us on the foundation of the death of Christ for us, the ungodly.
- B. “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”—8:9:
 - 1. Here *the Spirit of God* and *the Spirit of Christ* are used interchangeably, indicating that the indwelling Spirit of life (v. 2) is the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit of the entire Triune God.
 - 2. God, the Spirit, and Christ—the three of the Godhead—are all mentioned in this verse; however, there is only one in us, the triune Spirit of the Triune God—John 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17; Rom. 8:11:
 - a. *The Spirit of God* implies that the Spirit is of the One who was from eternity past, who created the universe and is the origin of all things.
 - b. *The Spirit of Christ* implies that the Spirit is the embodiment and reality of Christ, the incarnated One, who accomplished everything necessary to fulfill God’s plan—v. 3.
 - 3. God the Father, Christ the Son, and God the Spirit are dwelling in us, making Their home in us; we have this wonderful triune Occupant inside of us—v. 11; cf. Eph. 3:16-17.
- C. “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. 8:11:
 - 1. In this verse we have the entire Triune God: “the One who raised Jesus from the dead,” “Christ,” and “His Spirit who indwells you.”
 - 2. In this verse we also have the process required for the divine dispensing, God’s dispensing of Himself, into the believers:
 - a. The process is implied in the words *Jesus* (emphasizing incarnation), *Christ* (emphasizing crucifixion and resurrection), and *raised* (emphasizing resurrection).
 - b. The divine dispensing is shown by the words *give life to your mortal bodies*.
- D. “That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit”—15:16:

1. Paul said that he was a minister of Christ Jesus, the Son, to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of the Triune God so that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
2. Paul was a laboring priest of the gospel of the Triune God, ministering Christ Jesus, the Son, to the Gentiles; eventually, the result of his work was to offer the Gentiles to God as a sanctified entity through the Holy Spirit.

II. Everything that is mentioned concerning the Divine Trinity in the New Testament is related to the divine dispensing—1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Thes. 2:13-14:

- A. The revelation of the Divine Trinity in the holy Word is not for mere doctrinal understanding but for the dispensing of the Triune God in His Divine Trinity into His chosen and redeemed people for their experience, enjoyment, and growth in life—2 Cor. 13:14.
- B. The crucial focus of Ephesians is the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity into the believers:
 1. Chapter 1 unveils how God the Father chose and predestinated the members in eternity, God the Son redeemed them, and God the Spirit sealed them as a pledge, thus imparting Himself into His believers for the formation of the church, which is the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all—vv. 3-14, 17-23.
 2. Chapter 2 shows us that in the Divine Trinity all the believers, both Jewish and Gentile, have access unto God the Father, through God the Son, in God the Spirit—v. 18.
 3. In chapter 3 the apostle prays that God the Father would grant the believers to be strengthened through God the Spirit into their inner man so that Christ, God the Son, may make His home in their hearts, that they may be filled unto all the fullness of God—vv. 16-19.
 4. Chapter 4 portrays how the processed God as the Spirit, the Lord, and the Father is mingled with the Body of Christ so that all the members of the Body may experience the Divine Trinity—vv. 4-6.
 5. Chapter 5 exhorts the believers to praise the Lord, God the Son, with the songs of God the Spirit, and give thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, to God the Father—vv. 19-20.
 6. Chapter 6 instructs us to fight the spiritual warfare by being empowered in the Lord, God the Son, putting on the whole armor of God the Father, and wielding the sword of the Spirit—vv. 10-11, 17.
- C. In our daily living we need to receive, experience, and enjoy the divine dispensing in a normal, gradual, and steady way—Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 13:14:
 1. The more we experience the divine dispensing, the more we grow in life for the building up of the Body of Christ—Eph. 3:16-19; 4:15-16.
 2. The processed and consummated Triune God is within us not in a spectacular way but in an ordinary way—Rom. 8:9, 11:
 - a. We need to live a life in the divine dispensing in a normal way and learn to be satisfied with ordinary days in the divine dispensing.
 - b. Our destiny is to live a normal life in the divine dispensing; it is a blessing to be satisfied with ordinary days in the divine dispensing.