

The Triune God being Life to the Tripartite Man for the Fulfillment of God's Eternal Purpose

This subject may seem familiar and basic, yet it is profound, rich, and practical. Praise the Lord for **life** and **the church**! The Lord is burdened at this time to bring us back to these basic matters. We should not belittle such matters by considering them to be basic; instead, we must realize that they are **fundamental**. As the Lord is moving and advancing in His recovery, He is burdened that **we would not miss** these two precious and vital matters. The Lord desires not only a prevailing move outwardly but also a commensurate increase of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. We should not have merely an outward move. We need to allow His life unlimited access in our being so that we can see in His recovery both a prevailing move and the fullness of life.

Life and the church are the foundation of the Lord's recovery. Life and the church are the source and the basis of the Lord's blessing of His recovery. If we do not know life and the church in a thorough way, our church life will be **a shell without reality**. Deep within I thank the Lord that He has brought us to consider these two great, precious and vital matters, which are our foundation. We should never tire of these nor graduate from them. We must consider the matters of life and the church **in the context of God's eternal purpose**. Life and the church are **not isolated** and separate truths, and they must be seen from the viewpoint of God's eternal purpose.

The Bible is a wonderful and great book. It reveals not only what God did but also **what is His purpose** and goal. In the Bible we can see how God created the heavens and the earth, how man became fallen, and then how God prepared His Son as a sacrifice to die for man in order to accomplish redemption. These steps are part of the process, the procedure. The Bible reveals that God does not do things aimlessly or randomly. His creation, His redemption, and His operations within us are accomplished with His eternal purpose in view. We are here not just for life and the church but also for the most crucial matter -- God's eternal purpose. I can testify that when I saw **God's eternal purpose** in my late teens, my life was wrecked in the sense that the direction of my whole life became **set** and **determined**.

We hope that those who are in the next generation, who are now growing up in the Lord's recovery, can be brought to see this vision of God's eternal purpose so that they would **not live a vain** and aimless human life or a routine, **religious life** but a life that is **in accordance with** God's eternal purpose. This kind of life is the most meaningful life a human being can live on the earth.

The purpose of God should **become** our purpose. In 2 Timothy 1:9 Paul says that God *"has **saved us and called us...according to His own purpose** and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages."* Then in 3:10 Paul speaks to his young co-worker concerning his purpose: *"You have closely **followed my...purpose**."* Paul had a purpose, a purpose that was one with God's purpose. May we be refreshed by the seeing of God's eternal purpose, though not in an objective way. Rather, may God's purpose become our purpose. Seeing His purpose will "wreck" our life, because the course of our human life will be **set and determined** by the purpose of God. We will not take another way or move in

another direction. Our direction will be set by God's direction because God's purpose has become our purpose. This is the most meaningful way to live our human life; otherwise, we will live a life of vanity.

The Bible as a Book of Life

The Bible is **a book of life**. Our God is a God of life. The thought that runs through the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, shows us that life is the main emphasis. We can see this emphasis in the first two chapters of the Bible. Although God did many things in the six days of creation, the record of creation emphasizes **what God did in relation to life**... The tree of life seen in Genesis 2 reappears in Revelation 22. However, this thought, which runs throughout the Bible, may not be our thought. We may still be veiled by our natural concepts, our culture, and our religious thoughts. Our emphasis may still be on improving ourselves, behaving ourselves, being good, being helpful, and being spiritual. But God's thought is altogether to **be life to man**. God wants to be our life. He wants us to live Him, not to live anything else.

The **divine life** may be considered the **first** and the basic attribute of God. God has many attributes. He is holy and righteous, and He is love and light itself. But the first and basic attribute of God is that **He is life**... Any other life -- the human life, animal life, or plant life -- is not the real life. Sooner or later, our human life will end. Human life is limited by time and space. However, there is another life that is eternal, indestructible, and incorruptible -- the divine life. The eternal life of God is the real life. This eternal, divine life is in us. We praise the Lord that in the midst of our limited, corruptible, destructible life, there is an eternal life within us. Our human life will eventually pass away, but the eternal life will remain. Everything is false, but we have something that is real and genuine within us -- the life of God.

God's economy is to dispense Himself into our being so that our being will be constituted with His being; this can be accomplished only by God working Himself into us as the divine life. **Our spirit** was made life the moment we received Christ. As we begin to cooperate with the Lord by setting **our mind**, the leading part of **our soul**, on the spirit, our soul will also become life. Eventually, even **our mortal body** will be saturated by life. The Triune God is dispensing Himself into our tripartite being in order to make every part of our being life. He is the life itself, and we are being filled with Him as life. Hence, we match Him. We are being saturated with Him as our very life, thus making us His duplication and reproduction to be the church, the Body of Christ.

By dispensing Himself into us as life, God is fulfilling His purpose to have a corporate expression of Himself for eternity (Rev. 21:9-10; 22:1). We praise the Lord for **God's eternal purpose, for life, and for the church**. God's goal is to have the church, and the way for God to gain the church is by dispensing Himself into us as life. I pray that the Lord will have mercy on us so that we would not be closed or turn away from Him. May we receive mercy to be those who come to Him with an open spirit and turned heart to **drink of Him** as the fountain of living waters and to **eat of Him** as the fatness so that we may be filled with Him as life. In so doing, we will become the Body of Christ, the increase and the fullness of the One who fills all in all. (*Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word, vol. 21. No.8, Knowing Life and the Church*)