

Monday 9/15**Related Verses****Eph. 3:3-5**

3 That by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written previously in brief,
 4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
 5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,

Eph. 1:1-3, 9-10, 22-23

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
 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;
 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.

Related Reading

Ephesians 3:3-11 reveals that we may experience and enjoy Christ as the mystery of the church.

Christ as the mystery of the church was not made known to man in other generations but was revealed to the apostles and prophets in their spirit. In Ephesians 3:4-5 Paul speaks of the mystery of Christ...This mystery is God's economy, which is to dispense Christ, as the embodiment of God, into God's chosen people in order to produce a Body to be the increase of God's embodiment in Christ, that God may have a corporate expression.

The Mystery of the Church

Christ as the mystery of the church was hidden in other generations but has been revealed in the New Testament age. In the New Testament we have the revelation, the unveiling, of God's economy. In other ages and generations this economy was a hidden mystery. It was not made known to Adam, to Abraham, to Moses, to David, or to Isaiah and the other prophets. God's economy, which is to dispense Himself into man in order to produce a Body for His Son, had not been revealed to them. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 3375)

Christ, the Son of God, is the embodiment of God. God's economy is to dispense Himself into a great number of human beings in order to produce a Body for this embodiment of Himself. This means that the Son of God as the embodiment of God requires a Body, an increase, an expansion. This expansion can be produced only by God's dispensing of Himself into His chosen people. This is the greatest mystery in the universe. God's economy is to dispense Himself into His chosen people in order to produce the Body as the expansion of the Son of God for the full expression of God in the universe. Nothing is greater or more important than this.

The mystery was revealed to the apostles and prophets in spirit. The word *spirit* [Eph. 3:5] refers to the human spirit of the apostles and prophets, a spirit regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. It can be considered the mingled spirit, the human spirit mingled with God's Spirit. Such a mingled spirit is the means by which the New Testament revelation concerning Christ and the church is revealed to the apostles and prophets. We need the same kind of spirit to see such a revelation.

It is important to see that the hidden mystery is revealed to the apostles and prophets, not in their mind but in their mingled spirit. Our spirit is the organ in which God reveals His mystery to us...If we remain in our mind, we will be unable to see God's revelation, but if we turn to our spirit, we will have the vision of God's mystery. The revelation of God's hidden

mystery in Ephesians 3 can be seen only when we are in our spirit. This is the reason that the apostle Paul prayed that God would give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:17) so that we may understand the church, which is the mystery of Christ. In order to see the hidden mystery in God's eternal economy, we should exercise not only our eyes to read the Word and our mind to understand the Word but also our spirit to apprehend the Word. We need to open our being, be poor in spirit, and pray that the Lord would reveal to our spirit what is on His heart concerning the church.

Moreover, in order to see the revelation of the hidden mystery, we must be strengthened into our inner man, our regenerated spirit, and allow Christ to make His home in our heart (3:17). Being strengthened into the inner man is the secret of seeing the revelation of the mystery. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3375-3377)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 337

Tuesday 9/16**Related Verses****Rom. 16:25-26**

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages
 26 But has now been manifested, and through the prophetic writings, according to the command of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles for the obedience of faith;

Eph. 1:17-18

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,

The Mystery of the Church**Eph. 3:14-17**

14 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,

Eccl. 3:11

11 He has made everything beautiful in its own time; also He has put eternity in their heart, yet so that man does not find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Related Reading

We need to receive the same revelation given to the leading apostles and prophets...We must receive it ourselves personally and subjectively by being strengthened into our inner man. This revelation concerning Christ and the church is the economy of God, the hidden mystery...If we do not have the revelation, then we cannot be apostles and prophets. If we have the revelation of God's economy, we will be followers of the apostles and prophets in God's New Testament ministry. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 3377)

Regarding Christ as the mystery of the church, Ephesians 3:6 says that "in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel." The expression *fellow heirs* indicates that in God's New Testament economy the chosen, redeemed, and regenerated Gentiles and the believing Jews are fellow heirs of God, inheriting God. The phrase *fellow members of the Body* indicates that the saved Gentiles and the saved Jews are fellow members of the one Body of Christ as His unique expression. The words *fellow partakers* indicate that the Gentile believers and the Jewish believers are fellow partakers of God's

promise given in the Old Testament, concerning all the blessings of God's New Testament economy. Being fellow heirs is related to the blessing of the household of God; being fellow members of the Body, to the blessing of the Body of Christ; and being fellow partakers of the promise, to the blessing of the promise of God.

In Ephesians 3 Paul tells us that the revelation of the mystery concerning Christ for the church has been given to the apostles and prophets. Paul's revelation of Christ was mainly a revelation of Christ's unsearchable riches. According to verse 8, Paul announced the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel. The riches of Christ are what Christ is to us, such as light, life, righteousness, and holiness, what He has for us, and what He accomplished, attained, and obtained for us. These riches of Christ are unsearchable and untraceable.

To see and to understand such a mystery our human mentality is altogether inadequate. This is why the apostle Paul prayed that God would give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:17) that we may understand the church, which is the mystery of Christ.

In Romans 16:25 and 26 Paul speaks of...this mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages but has been revealed in the New Testament age, [which] is mainly of two aspects. The one is the mystery of God, which is Christ, who is in the believers as their life and their everything that they may become the members of His Body; the other is the mystery of Christ, which is the church as His Body to express His fullness (Eph. 1:22-23). Therefore, Christ and the church are the great mystery (5:32). The book of Romans first tells us how the believers have been baptized into Christ (6:3), how Christ has been wrought into the believers (8:10), and how the believers have put on Christ (13:14). Then Romans reveals how the believers are built together in one Body (12:4-5) to express Christ in local churches that have come into existence in many cities in a practical way, with all the saints loving one another and

fellowshipping with one another among all the churches to express the Body of Christ for the fulfillment of God's mystery. The eternal God, through the apostles and prophets, has made known this mystery to all the nations unto obedience of faith. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3377-3378, 2058)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Ephesians*, msg. 29

Wednesday 9/17**Related Verses****Rev. 10:7**

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.

Dan. 9:24

24 Seventy weeks are apportioned for your people and for your holy city, to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.

Col. 2:2

2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,

Matt. 13:11

11 And He answered and said to them, Because to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens, but to them it has not been given.

Eph. 6:19

19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,

The Mystery of the Church**Col. 1:26-27**

26 The mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations but now has been manifested to His saints;

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,

Related Reading

In the dispensations from Adam to Moses and from Moses to Christ, everything was unveiled, manifested, and there was no mystery. It will be the same in the dispensation of the millennial kingdom and in the new heaven and new earth—everything will be unveiled, and there will be no more mystery. But in the dispensation from Christ to the millennial kingdom, everything is a mystery. The incarnation of Christ, as the beginning of this dispensation of mystery, is a mystery (1 Tim. 3:16). Christ Himself (Col. 2:2), the church (Eph. 3:4-6), the kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 13:11), the gospel (Eph. 6:19), the indwelling of Christ (Col. 1:26-27), and the coming resurrection and transfiguration of the saints as the end of this dispensation of mystery (1 Cor. 15:51-52) are all mysteries that were hidden in the times of the ages (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:5; Col. 1:26). All these mysteries will be over, completed, and finished at the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet. At the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet, not only God's judgment of wrath upon the earth but also the mystery of God are finished. (*Life-study of Revelation*, pp. 299-300)

At the completion of His judgment of the world, Christ will come back to take full possession of the earth (Rev. 10:1-7; 18:1). The whole earth will belong to Him; not one part of it will belong to anyone else. Today many nations are fighting to increase their territory, but they are fighting in vain, for whatever they gain will eventually belong to Christ. In His coming back to take possession of the earth, Christ will be like another Angel. A number of times in the book of Revelation the title another Angel is used with respect to Christ (7:2; 8:3; 10:1; 18:1). This title is

used to denote Christ because, as God's Administrator, He behaves like an angel. In the Old Testament, Christ was called the Angel of Jehovah (Gen. 22:11-12; Exo. 3:2-6) who was sent by God to carry out God's commission. When He comes to take over the earth, He will come as One who has been commissioned by God for this purpose. He will be another Angel with great authority and will come in His glory (Rev. 18:1). In His coming, Christ will place "His right foot on the sea and the left on the land" (10:2). This indicates that He will tread upon the sea and the land, which means that He will take possession of them (Deut. 11:24; Josh. 1:3). In the Bible, whatever your feet tread upon becomes your possession. Since Christ will tread upon the sea and the land, both the sea and the land will belong to Him. After Christ possesses the earth, He will finish the mystery of God (Rev. 10:7). At that time the economy of God will be fully manifested. It will no longer be a mystery but an open secret. (*Life-study of Revelation*, p. 23)

The book of Colossians reveals that Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God. "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (2:9). The entire Triune God is embodied in Christ, for all the fullness of the Godhead, that is, of the Triune God, dwells in Christ bodily. Hence, the title Christ in Ephesians 3:11 indicates that this One is God's embodiment.

Because the Triune God has embodied Himself in Christ, Christ is the mystery of God, the mysterious story of God. Outside of Christ there is no God, and outside of Christ we cannot find God or contact God, because the Triune God is altogether embodied in Christ. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 2051)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 189

Thursday 9/18**Related Verses****Col. 2:2-3**

2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

Eph. 3:4

4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,

Eph. 3:8-10

8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
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,
10 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,

Related Reading

The mystery of the universe is God. The mystery of God, the New Testament reveals, is Christ (Col. 2:2). The mystery of Christ is the church (Eph. 3:4). Actually, these are simply three stages of one mystery. God is to be found in Christ, and Christ is to be found in the church. The church, then, is the mystery of Christ, who in turn is the mystery of God, who Himself is the mystery of the universe.

The mystery of God in Colossians 2:2 is Christ, whereas the mystery of Christ in Ephesians 3:4 is the church. God is a mystery, and Christ, as the embodiment of God to express Him, is the mystery of God. Christ is also a mystery, and the church, as the Body of Christ to express Him, is the mystery of Christ. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 2053)

The Mystery of the Church

When we consider Ephesians 3:4 in context, we see that the mystery of Christ is the church...God is a mystery, Christ is the mystery of God, and the church is the mystery of Christ. Hence, the church is actually a mystery within a mystery...The first stage is God Himself as the mystery of the universe; the second stage is Christ as the mystery of God; and the third stage is the church as the mystery of Christ.

In God's economy...there are mainly two mysteries. The first mystery, revealed in the book of Colossians, is Christ as the mystery of God. In 2:2 Paul speaks of the "full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ." Christ is God's mystery. In Himself God is a mystery. He is real, living, and almighty; however, He is invisible. Because no one has ever seen God, He is a mystery. This mysterious God is embodied in Christ. Hence, Christ is the mystery of God. Christ is not only God, but He is God embodied, God defined, God explained, and God expressed. Therefore, Christ is God made visible. The Lord Jesus said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). The first mystery in God's economy is Christ, God expressed, as the mystery of God.

The second mystery, revealed in the book of Ephesians and explained in it, especially in chapter 3, is the mystery of Christ. Christ also is a mystery. In Ephesians 3:4 Paul uses the expression "the mystery of Christ." Furthermore, Colossians 1:27 says, "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." As believers, we have Christ dwelling in us. But this Christ whom we have is a mystery. Although Christ lives in us, worldly people do not realize that He is in us. To them, this is a mystery. But although Christ is mysterious, the church is the manifestation of Christ. As the Body of Christ, the church is the expression of Christ. When we see the church, we see Christ. When we come into the church, we come into Christ. When we contact the church, we contact Christ. The church is truly the mystery of Christ.

As a mystery, the church is in the Triune God, in the Father, in the Son, and in the Spirit. With the believers there is an amount of mystery, but not as much as with the church. The divine mystery is much more with the church corporately than with the believers individually. The church is a corporate unit produced out of Christ, who is the mystery of God. This all-inclusive Christ is the mystery of the mysterious God, and such a Christ as the mystery of God produces a unit which is the church. By this we can realize that the church is the continuation of the mystery which is Christ. Mystery surely produces mystery. Christ, who is the mystery of God, brings forth the church, the mystery of Christ. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 2053-2055)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 190

Friday 9/19

Related Verses**Col. 1:26-27**

26 The mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations but now has been manifested to His saints;

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,

Eph. 5:32

32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

1 Cor. 6:17

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Rev. 21:2, 10-11

2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

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,

11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev. 22:17

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

Related Reading

The believers have Christ, the mystery of God, dwelling in them (Col. 1:27), but worldly people do not realize that He is in the believers. To them, this is a mystery...Such a Christ as the mystery of God produces a mysterious Body, the church.

The mystery of Christ—the church—"in other generations was not made known to the sons of men" (Eph. 3:5).

John the Baptist received more revelation than the Old Testament prophets. He spoke concerning Christ being the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world (John 1:29), being the One who would baptize people in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11), and being the Bridegroom who would have the bride (John 3:29). However, not even John had a clear vision concerning the church as the mystery of Christ. Hence, in the ages before the New Testament, the mystery of the church was hidden from men. It has been revealed to the apostles and believers only in the New Testament age (Eph. 3:5; Col. 1:26). (*Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 1, pp. 136-138)

In Colossians 1:26] *from the ages* means from eternity, and *from the generations* means from the times. The mystery of the church was hidden from eternity past throughout the Old Testament times, but in the New Testament age it has been manifested to all the believers in Christ. This indicates that the saints today have the position and privilege to receive that which was not revealed to God's people in the Old Testament age. (*Truth Lessons—Level Four*, vol. 1, p. 139)

The last mystery...is the mystery of the church. This mystery is in the universe and also in the Bible,

The Mystery of the Church

especially in Revelation. This is the ultimate mystery.

From Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 [we go] from God, heaven and earth, and man to Jesus Christ, to the church—the golden lampstand, and finally to the holy city, New Jerusalem—the bride of the Lamb.

The Old Testament begins from God [Gen. 1:1], passes through heaven and earth, and reaches man, even the spirit of man [Zech. 12:1]...Finally, at the end of Revelation, when the city of New Jerusalem appears, it is a huge golden lampstand, which is a great city on a great mountain. This great city is the beloved bride of Christ. How glorious! Revelation 21:2 says, “I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” When Christ returns, He will marry the church as His bride (19:7). The New Jerusalem is the ultimate manifestation of this bride, the final fulfillment of that which is typified by Eve in Genesis 2.

The God who created all things came into the midst of men through His incarnation. This One who came was Jesus Christ. This Jesus Christ needed to be enlarged, and His enlargement is the church. The church shining brightly on the earth today is the golden lampstand. This golden lampstand has God as its substance, Christ as its form, and the Holy Spirit shining for its expression. In eternity the ultimate manifestation of this church is the New Jerusalem, the beloved bride of Christ. Revelation 22:17 says, “The Spirit and the bride say, Come!” The Spirit and the bride, having become one, speak together as one. God and man will become an eternal couple. Therefore, the New Jerusalem is the ultimate expression of God’s entering into man. This is the story of the universe, the ultimate manifestation of the universe. God obtains an eternal and full expression in the man whom He created. This is the ultimate mystery in the universe—the mystery of the church. (CWWL, 1983, vol. 1, “The Five Great Mysteries in the Bible,” pp. 197-199)

Further Reading: *Truth Lessons*—Level Four, vol. 1, Isn. 13

Saturday 9/20

*Related Verses***1 Tim. 3:15-16**

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.

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.

Eph. 1:17-19

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,

Zech. 12:1

1 The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

Rev. 4:11

11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

Related Reading

There is a relationship between creation and the church. God created all things for the church. God created the heavens, the earth, and billions of items in order to have the church.

God’s intention in His creation of all things, including man, was that man would be mingled with God to produce the church. Zechariah 12:1 says that

the Lord stretched forth the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him. This indicates that the heavens are for the earth, that the earth is for man, and that man with the human spirit is for God. God’s marvelous creation, focused on man, is for the purpose of producing the church. Therefore, Ephesians 3:9 speaks of the mystery hidden in God, who created all things.

The basis of God’s work in creation was God’s will and plan (1:10-11). Revelation 4:11 says that all things were created according to God’s will. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure...God has a will, and according to that will, He conceived His plan. Then according to that will and plan, He created all things so that He may have the church. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 2055-2056)

God’s heart’s desire is to have the real expression of Christ, the Body of Christ, the increase of Christ. Furthermore, this is the ultimate satisfaction of man’s spiritual experience. Unless you attain to this ultimate point, you can never be fully and ultimately satisfied. You may attain to some level of satisfaction through a certain amount of spiritual seeking and exercise; but after you achieve this satisfaction, you will still feel that you are short of something. You will never be fully satisfied until the Lord brings you to this ultimate point and you realize that you are a member of the Body of Christ. You will never be ultimately satisfied until you realize that this Body is the expression of Christ, the increase of Christ, and the enlargement of Christ. And you will never attain to this highest level of satisfaction until you are continually receiving the power of the Holy Spirit to reject yourself and give Christ as the Spirit the ground, chance, and opportunity to live in you and through you. When you reach this point, you will realize the genuine church life. Then you will be satisfied in an ultimate way. You will say to the Lord, “O Lord, this is it. This is what You want and what I need. This is Your heart’s desire and the very thing that I have been looking for.”

The Mystery of the Church

Especially in these last days, the Lord is seeking to recover the last of the divine things. Thus, we all must go along with the Lord to give Him the free way. (CWWL, 1961–1962, vol. 4, “The Mystery of God and the Mystery of Christ,” pp. 181-182)

If we want to know about the life that a Christian should live, we have to know about the mystery of Christ. The mystery of Christ should be our daily life. Without this mystery our life would just be the life of a human being; it would not be the life of a Christian. The Christian life is a mystery, and this mystery has to do with Christ. This Christ is already in us as our life. He lives in us daily. In our daily life, everything whether positive or negative, enjoyable or bitter, should be the expression of this mystery. The reason for this is that we are not the one who is living, but a mysterious One is living within us. Everyone in the world lives unto themselves. Whether they are happy or sorrowful, there is no mystery at all. But a Christian is different. In smooth circumstances he would give thanks. In adverse circumstances he would offer up praise. Others are bewildered by him. This is the mysterious story of Christ. (CWWL, 1990, vol. 2, “The Mysteries in God’s New Testament Economy,” p. 192)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1990, vol. 2, “The Mysteries in God’s New Testament Economy,” ch. 2

Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis**Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 25:19-34

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 55-56

Level 2—Topical Study

Crucial Point: Melchizedek

Scripture: Gen. 14:18-20

Assigned Reading: *The Priesthood*, ch. 5

Supplemental Reading: *Truth Lessons, Level Three*, Vol. 1, ch. 5

Questions: See the church website at

churchinnyc.org/bible-study

Lord’s Day 9/21**Related Verses****Eph. 2:4-10**

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 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;

9 Not of works that no one should boast.

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.

Further Reading:

The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 337

Hymn: #821

1 The Church the vessel is to Christ,
Him to contain and Him express,
Just as the human body doth
Man’s life show forth, his life possess.

2 As was the temple to the ark,
Receptacle and resting-place;
So Christ the Church’s content is,
And in the Church, Christ’s dwelling-place.

3 As Christ is God’s true mystery,
God to explain and God express;
So is the Church Christ’s mystery,
Christ to explain and manifest.

4 The members of the Church of Christ
Are all primarily of clay;
They need to be transformed and made
Transparent, precious day by day.

5 By transformation they are built,
A vessel they to Christ afford;
His all-inclusiveness they hold;
Transparent, they express the Lord.

6 Thru all the transformation work
The triune God performs in them,
The Church a corporate vessel is
And like the new Jerusalem.

7 How precious she in each respect,
Transparent too in every phase;
Christ with God’s fulness she contains,
Christ with God’s glory she displays.

8 With Christ as life, with God as light,
And with the Spirit’s living flow,
The triune God she manifests
For all the universe to know.