

I. In every age there is the vision of that age, and since we have the completed vision of the age through the ministry of the age, we need to serve God according to this vision and closely follow it: **A.** Today we can be in one accord because we have only one vision, an up-to-date, all-inheriting vision, the vision of the eternal economy of God. **B.** The governing vision of the Bible is the heavenly vision of God's eternal economy, which is God's eternal intention with His heart's desire to dispense Himself in His Divine Trinity as the Father in the Son by the Spirit into His chosen people to be their life and nature that they may be the same as He is as His duplication to become an organism the Body of Christ as the new man for God's fullness, God's expression, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem. **C.** "I [Witness Lee] told Brother Nee, 'Even if one day you do not take this way, I will still take this way. I am not taking this way because of you, and I will not leave this way because of you. I have seen that this is the Lord's way. I have seen the vision'".

II. The vision that the Lord has given to us in His present recovery is the all-inclusive vision of God's eternal economy with its ultimate consummation—the vision of the New Jerusalem: **A.** The totality of what the Bible reveals to us is the New Jerusalem; the New Jerusalem is the total composition of the entire revelation of the Bible. **B.** Our living out the New Jerusalem is for us to become the New Jerusalem, and our working out the New Jerusalem is for us to build the New Jerusalem by the flowing Triune God. **C.** Every local church should be a miniature of the New Jerusalem, and every believer should be "a little New Jerusalem"; whatever is ascribed to New Jerusalem should be both our corporate and personal experience. **D.** The New Jerusalem is the embodiment of God's complete salvation with its judicial and organic aspects. /The entire New Jerusalem is a matter of life built on the foundation of righteousness. **E.** As we experience each section of God's organic salvation, we go up level by level until we become beings in the New Jerusalem. /We are sanctified by participating in God's nature to become as holy as the holy city. /We are renewed by participating in God's mind to become as new as the New Jerusalem.

III. To live out and work out the New Jerusalem is to live out and work out God's complete salvation according to the intrinsic essence and totality of the unique New Testament ministry, the ministry of the age, for the reality of the Body of Christ and a new revival: **A.** The ministry of the Spirit is the ministry of the new covenant to deify us by inscribing our hearts with the Spirit of the living God as the divine and mystical "ink," making us the living letters of Christ—this is the highest peak of the divine revelation. /In order to be constituted the ministers of the new

covenant for the building up of the Body of Christ, we must experience all the aspects of the all-inclusive Spirit in 2 Corinthians—the anointing Spirit, the sealing Spirit, the pledging Spirit, the inscribing Spirit, the life-giving Spirit, the ministering Spirit, the freeing Spirit, the transforming Spirit, and the transmitting Spirit. **B.** The ministry of righteousness is the ministry of Christ as our objective righteousness for our justification and as our subjective righteousness "embroidered" into us by the transforming work of the Spirit for the living out and genuine expression of Christ—this is the God-man living. **C.** The ministry of reconciliation is the ministry of reconciling the world to Christ through the forgiveness of sins for their judicial redemption and the reconciling of the believers to Christ that they might be persons who live in the spirit, in the Holy of Holies, for their organic salvation—this is shepherding people according to God.

IV. The Lord's recovery brings us back to the unique ministry of the New Testament; this ministry has the following characteristics: **A.** It ministers the healthy teaching of God's economy and wars the good warfare against the different and strange teachings of the dissenters with the strange fire of man's natural enthusiasm, natural affection, natural strength, and natural ability. **B.** It produces the local churches as the golden lampstands to be the testimony of Jesus with the same essence, appearance, and expression, and it builds up the one Body of Christ by the one Spirit, perfecting all of us into the oneness of the Triune God. **C.** It prepares the overcomers to be Christ's bride, His "queen," in Himself as the "royal abode" and in the local churches as the "palaces of ivory" to consummate in the New Jerusalem as the "King's palace"; it betroths us to Christ, stirring up our love for Him in the simplicity and the purity toward Christ, to make us His queen. **D.** It strengthens us to follow Christ in the fellowship of His sufferings on the pathway to glory, the way of the cross, for the manifestation and multiplication of life. **E.** It dispenses Christ as grace, truth, life, and the Spirit into us for our revelation of Christ, our enjoyment of Christ, and our growth in life that we may be saved in life to reign in life. **F.** It sanctifies us through the word of the truth and the washing of the water in the word; it also shepherds us with the cherishing and nourishing presence of the pneumatic Christ. **G.** It tears down hierarchy and blends us into one, making us all brothers of Christ, slaves of Christ, and members of Christ to be the one Body of Christ in reality; it also tears down the high places and exalts Christ alone to make Christ everything in the church. **H.** It brings all of us into function to practice the God-ordained way and leads us to follow the Lamb wherever He may go for the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom to the whole inhabited earth. **I.** It brings us into a new revival of living out the New Jerusalem and working out the New Jerusalem to gain the reality of the Body of Christ as the highest peak in God's economy.

CP1: Seeing the vision of the Body of Christ, submit to the authority and function for the building with the sense of the Body

OL1: In every age there is the vision of that age, and since we have the completed vision of the age through the ministry of the age, we need to serve God according to this vision and closely follow it. **OL2:** The vision that the Lord has given to us in His present recovery is the all-inclusive vision of God's eternal economy with its ultimate consummation—the vision of the New Jerusalem. Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. Eph. 1:17 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. Rev. 22:1-2 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life...

On the way to Damascus, Paul saw a vision. The Lord said to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:4). The "Me" here is a corporate Me; it includes the Lord Jesus and all His believers. Although the word Me is a small word, it speaks of a great vision.... Paul's vision was indeed profound. At the beginning of Galatians, he refers to the Son of God (1:16). When we speak of the Son of God, we have to realize that this involves the Triune God. The Triune God was revealed to Paul, and Paul became one of His members. All the members together with Paul were constituted to become His Body and were joined to Him to become an enlarged "Me." Although the vision Paul saw at the beginning was so high and profound, he did not take up his ministry immediately. In Acts 13 a few prophets and teachers were serving the Lord and fasting together in Antioch. It was then that the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (v. 2). It was not until then that Paul became clear concerning the vision he had received earlier and was sent to fulfill the ministry that he had received.

Both Barnabas and Saul were Jews, yet they were sent to preach the gospel throughout the Gentile lands. This was not a small vision. In his own time Peter was sent only to make a brief contact with a Gentile and to visit his home. Here Paul received a serious commission: "Go, for I will send you forth far away to the Gentiles" (22:21). This means he was to go to the Gentile lands, nation by nation and city by city.

Whenever we would subject ourselves to this headship, we immediately sense something full of God's riches flowing within us. This is the flow of the Triune God as life, the life supply, and everything to our being. Within us we sense such a flow, and this flow is from the throne of God and of the Lamb as the water of life.

Application to newly saved, youth and college students

Young people and newly saved ones should take Paul as a pattern and see the heavenly vision of the Body of

Christ. The Head of this universal Body is the ascended Christ, and the Body is the believers on earth. When Saul was persecuting the believers on earth, the heavenly Head reacted. Because, just as the head and members of our body are one, the Head of the Body of Christ and the Body are one.

In order to carry out the vision of the Body, **1** experience the cross, not making self the head but making Christ the Head, **2** grow up into Christ, the Head in all things of everyday life, **3** with the senses of the Body, being dependent, being joined and being knit together, **4** in the Body with Christ, carry out the function of building up Christ in love.

In order to function as a member of the Body of Christ, you must experience **1** and **2** of the above, that there is the need to carry out, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). Because, the old man in you is not a member of Christ, but the new man in you is. Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

And by growing into Christ, the Head, the experience of **1** and **2** is, the same as submitting to the throne and making the throne the center of your being. The river of water of life in the New Jerusalem does not flow from anywhere, but from the throne of God and the Lamb, which is the center of the New Jerusalem. In other words, if you do not make Christ as your Head and do not submit to His throne, there will be no flow of water of life in you.

In order to have the sense of the Body of **3**, you must crucify your own senses on the cross. You cannot have both of your own senses and the sense of the Body. Just as the members of the body are in need of other members and are interdependent to each other, you must depend on other saints. The following testimony includes the experiences of **1** to **4** above.

Sister's testimony: Before, I served according to my own burden. Even when I heard the fellowship of the responsible ones in the church, I did not pay much attention to it and just served according to myself. However, no matter how hard I tried, there was almost no remaining fruit. With the help of more experienced brothers and sisters, I gradually came to recognize the Body. I then put myself down, and began to serve according to the burden of the responsible ones in the church. After that, I was able to bear much fruit naturally without much effort. At the beginning of the year, the responsible brothers had fellowshiped about the need of helping the young people with their finding jobs and their getting married according to God's economy. I have been serving in line with that burden. This year four young couples are getting married. The water of life flows out when you submit to deputy authority.

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, let me see the vision of the Body and serve accordingly. The river of water of life flows from the throne of God and the Lamb, the center of New Jerusalem. If I do not make Christ my Head, and do not submit to His throne, there will be no flow of water of life, and I will not be watered and can supply nothing to others. I shall join with the brothers and sisters, respect the sense of the Body rather than my own, submit to deputy authority and function for the building in the rich flow of water of life.

CP2: Contact Triune God continually and live in the faith of the Son of God in the second stage of salvation

OL1: To live out and work out the New Jerusalem is to live out and work out God's complete salvation according to the intrinsic essence and totality of the unique New Testament ministry, the ministry of the age, for the reality of the Body of Christ and a new revival. **OL2:** The ministry of the Spirit is the ministry of the new covenant to deify us by inscribing our hearts with the Spirit of the living God as the divine and mystical "ink," making us the living letters of Christ—this is the highest peak of the divine revelation.

OL3: The ministry of righteousness is the ministry of Christ as our objective righteousness for our justification and as our subjective righteousness "embroidered" into us by the transforming work of the Spirit for the living out and genuine expression of Christ—this is the God-man living. John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life. Rom. 8:30 ...Those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified. Rev. 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal. 2 Cor. 3:6 [God]...made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 8-9 How shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory? For if there is glory with the ministry of condemnation, much more the ministry of righteousness abounds with glory.

First, as the God-men, we have the divine right to participate in God's life. John 3:15 tells us that everyone who believes into the Lord Jesus will have eternal life. Eternal life is the divine life, the life of God.... Through regeneration He has put, has dispensed, His life into our being. As God-men, we also have the divine right to participate in God's nature. [In] Ephesians 1:4...we see that God chose us in Christ with a particular purpose—to make us holy. Holy means not only sanctified, separated unto God, but also different, distinct, from everything common.

Because we have become God-men through regeneration, we also have the right to participate in God's mind. This means that we, who are human, can have a divine mind. Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." We need to let Christ's mind be our mind.

Objective righteousness is Christ as God's righteousness given to us to be our righteousness, and Christ as righteousness erases this judgment. Judgment comes from sin, but righteousness comes from grace. Grace is also Christ. It is God in the Son to be enjoyed by us. Objective righteousness issues in grace, and grace issues in subjective righteousness. Eventually, all three—objective righteousness, grace, and subjective righteousness—are Christ Himself. Objective righteousness is Christ given to us, grace is Christ

enjoyed by us, and subjective righteousness is Christ lived out of us.

Application to businessperson/graduate students

Excerpt from CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 1:

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 of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Living in the faith, the faith of the Son of God: The initial faith in the first stage came through hearing the word of God. But the faith in the second stage, the stage of living Christ, does not come by hearing of the Word. The faith in this stage comes into you by touching God in Christ. So you need to contact Triune God continually. You should contact the Son continually. Then you will contact the Father and also the Spirit. The faith in the second stage comes to us by contacting the Triune God. It is not simply to hear the Word.

In this stage, the faith comes into you like the flow of electricity in the building. You can tell that "flow" is progressing inside you. The more you say "Oh Lord Jesus", the more of the flow proceeds. The more you pray, the more the flow proceeds. This is why we are told to pray unceasingly. We should not stop this flow. This is the linking stage of faith. This faith inside of us is God Himself in Christ.

The electricity in the building links the building to the power plant, even if the power plant is hundreds of miles away. The electricity in the building also links all the lights together. There are many lights, but only one electricity. And this electricity is the linking factor, linking all the lights and the entire building to the power plant. Examine your experience. If you don't pray for one day, you will feel cut off from the divine power plant. If you don't pray for two days, not only are you cut off from God, but you are cut off from all the saints.

We live because the Lord lives in us: The Lord said in John 14:19 "because I live, you also shall live". It is as if He lives independently and we live independently. But the proceeding verse says, "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you"(v. 20). The Lord is not living independently. He lives in us and we live in Him. This is to coinhere. We can also see the linking here. The faith links us to the Triune God. The believers can live out the subjective righteousness only in the flow of the divine electricity by linking to the Triune God.

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, for the reality of the Body of Christ and the new revival, I need to "receive the objective righteousness, enjoy the grace and live out the subjective righteousness". To live out Christ in my living, I call on the name of the Lord "Oh Lord Jesus" and exercise spirit to pray read the Word to receive the flow of divine electricity. I link to Triune God by faith and let me live out the subjective righteousness in the flow of the divine electricity. Amen!

CP3: The ministry of reconciliation is to shepherd people according to God, bringing the believers to the second stage of reconciliation

OL1: The ministry of reconciliation is the ministry of reconciling the world to Christ through the forgiveness of sins for their judicial redemption and the reconciling of the believers to Christ that they might be persons who live in the spirit, in the Holy of Holies, for their organic salvation—this is shepherding people according to God. [2 Cor. 5:18](#) ...God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation; [19](#) ...and has put in us the word of reconciliation. [20](#) On behalf of Christ then we are ambassadors...; we beseech you on behalf of Christ, Be reconciled to God. In 2 Corinthians 5:19 it is the world that is to be reconciled to God. In verse 20 it is the believers, those who have already been reconciled to God, who are to be reconciled to Him further....These two steps of reconciliation are clearly portrayed by the two veils of the tabernacle. The first veil is called the screen. A sinner was brought to God through the reconciliation of the atoning blood to enter into the Holy Place by passing this screen. This typifies the first step of reconciliation. The second veil still separated him from God who is in the Holy of Holies. This veil needed to be rent that he might be brought to God in the Holy of Holies. This is the second step of reconciliation. The Corinthian believers had been reconciled to God, for they had passed through the first veil and had entered into the Holy Place. But they still lived in the flesh. They needed ...to enter into the Holy of Holies to live with God in their spirit. **OL2:** It ministers the healthy teaching of God's economy and wars the good warfare against the different and strange teachings of the dissenters with the strange fire of man's natural enthusiasm, natural affection, natural strength, and natural ability. [2 Cor. 11:2](#) For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. [3](#) But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ. Paul's word in [2 Corinthians 11:2]...touches our heart in a deep way and stirs up our love for the Lord Jesus.... Spontaneously you say, "O Lord Jesus, dear Bridegroom, I love You. Lord, thank You for Your word, for Your ministry, and for Your recovery."...The genuine ministry stirs up our love for the Lord Jesus as our Bridegroom.

Whenever there is the preaching of the genuine gospel and the real Jesus with a sincere spirit, the Lord Jesus will be ministered to others so that they may appreciate Him, love Him, follow Him, and take Him as everything. Throughout the centuries, many have preached from the Bible and taught the Bible, but their preaching and teaching nevertheless distracted the believers from the precious Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. In principle, such ones distract the believers in the same way as that taken by the serpent in Genesis 3.

Application to the serving ones

Ambassador of Christ: As a serving one in the church, please follow Paul in the ministry of reconciliation. To do so, you must first become an ambassador of Christ. An ambassador of Christ does not do his own work according to his own ideas. The ambassador knows the thoughts of the one who sent him, and communicates them and carries them out. To be an ambassador of Christ, you need to put your natural zeal, your natural love, your natural strength, and your natural ability to the cross.

Ministry of reconciliation: Believing in the name of the Lord Jesus is the first stage of reconciliation. After being saved, living according to the spirit and not according to the flesh is the second stage of reconciliation. Shepherding according to God means that you, the ambassador of Christ, help the six kinds of new ones so that they can live Christ in the spirit. Every saved person needs to be "reconciled to God in the second stage". [Rom. 5:10](#) For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled, This second stage of reconciliation is also the experience of [Romans 5:10](#), "much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled". The second stage of reconciliation is that the indwelling life of Christ will save you from your individualism, concepts, stubbornness, corruption, hidden desires, natural strength, and pride, etc. You should cry out again and again, "Lord Jesus, I love you". Then the Lord may ask you, "Do you love me more than these? ([John 21:15](#)). Regarding the Shepherding of the indwelling Christ, let's consider Peter in [John 21:15](#). Please read the excerpt (Message 49) from the life-study of the gospel of John. How did the Lord deal with Peter's natural strength? By temporarily taking His hand off him. In [10:28](#), the Lord said that [no one is able to snatch the believers out of His hand](#). When Peter betrayed the Lord, denying Him to His face three times, it meant that the Lord had taken His hand off him for a while. The Lord seemed to be saying, "Peter, you have too much confidence in yourself. You don't know that your standing depends upon My holding you in My hand. If I don't hold you, you cannot stand. Let Me take My hand away for a while and see if you are able to stand." Then the Lord stood back a little, and Peter fell. Do not think that you have the power to stand. No, an unseen hand upholds us all the time. I appreciate the fact that throughout the years, and even now, many saints have been praying for me. ... I know the source of the power of ministry. ...This was the Lord's dealing. **Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I crucify my natural zeal, natural love, natural strength, natural ability to be an ambassador of Christ. And as an ambassador of Christ, I need to help the six kinds of new ones to live according to the spirit. The indwelling life of Christ saves me from individualism, concepts, stubbornness, corruption, hidden desires, natural strength, and pride. I receive the shepherding of the indwelling Christ and learn to help new ones.