

5/12-18 #21: The Mystery of the Church: CP1:I. Ephesians 3:3-11 reveals that we may experience and enjoy Christ as the mystery of the church. II. God's hidden purpose is the mystery, and the unveiling of this mystery is revelation; the Bible speaks of the revelation of the mystery: 3:5 (the mystery...) 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, 6 that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through 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, 11 according the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord... **A** The mystery of Christ, the church, was hidden in other generations but has been revealed in the New Testament age. **B** This mystery was hidden in God throughout the ages, but now the New Testament believers, having been enlightened, are able to see it. **C.1** The mingled spirit is the means by which the New Testament revelation concerning Christ and the church is unveiled to the apostles and prophets. **2** When our spirit is mingled with the divine Spirit, our spirit becomes the organ to which the mystery of Christ is revealed. 1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. **E** In Romans 16:25 and 26 Paul speaks of the revelation of the mystery: "The proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages but has now been manifested." *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....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.* **Prayer:** **O Lord Jesus, 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. In my spirit I see the vision of this mystery.**

CP2:III. The seventh trumpet, as the conclusion of the eternal economy of the processed Triune God, closes the present age of mystery; hence, Revelation 10:7

says, "The mystery of God is finished": Rev.10:7 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. **D** Christ Himself, the church, the kingdom of the heavens, the gospel, the indwelling of Christ, and the coming resurrection and transfiguration of the saints as the end of this dispensation of mystery are all mysteries that were hidden in times of the ages. Col.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, **E** All these mysteries will be completed, finished, and will be over at the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet. **F** 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. **G** In the dispensation from the incarnation of Christ to the millennial kingdom—the church age, the age of grace—everything is a mystery: **1** The incarnation of Christ, as the beginning of the age of mystery, is a mystery. **2** Christ is the mystery of God. **3** The church is the mystery of Christ. 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. **Prayer** **Oh Lord Jesus, in the church age, the age of grace, everything is a mystery. Today, before the turning of the age and the mystery of God is completed, I realize and experience the mystery of God in my spirit by faith.**

CP3: IV. The mystery of the church is the ultimate mystery in the universe: **A** The church is the hidden mystery in God's eternal economy: **6** Our spirit needs to be strong and full of wisdom and revelation so that we may know the mystery of the church. **B** The great mystery—Christ and the church—is the meaning of the universe and of human life: **2** The desire of God's heart is to have the mystery of Christ—the Body of

Christ as the increase and expression of Christ. **3** The Body life is the ultimate satisfaction of our spiritual experience. **5** The mystery of Christ and the mystery of the church should be our daily life; without this mystery, our life would be merely the life of a human being, not the life of a Christian. 1Tim.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. 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. *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.* **Testimony** As a businessperson, I would like to testify how I have made “the mystery of the church” the meaning of my life, even while working in an environment swirling with intense desires for promotion, honor, and money. When I started working at my first company at the age of 30, my supervisors and seniors often told me, “You lack seriousness.” What they meant was, “While everyone else is struggling desperately for money and recognition, you seem to lack desire and motivation.” Since I was told this repeatedly, I brought it before the Lord in fellowship and realized that even if I lacked desires for promotion or money, it was still right to work seriously. I felt I needed to repent and accept their words. I prayed, ***“Even though I don’t have a desire for wealth, I still need to work diligently, improve my performance, contribute to the company, and earn the trust of my supervisors. At present, I am not very trusted by them. I repent. May I work diligently in the Lord, with the Lord, and for the Lord’s testimony.”*** I was able to receive my supervisor’s correction as something from the Lord and learn from it.

After I began working more seriously, Satan began to threaten me, saying, “If you don’t go out at night and build relationships with your boss, you’ll be demoted and eventually fired.” The thought that being dismissed

could affect both my family’s livelihood and the church life made me feel discouraged. However, I recalled the vision of Christ and the church and prayed to both myself and the Lord: ***“Oh Lord Jesus, I cannot deny the vision of Christ and the church that has been revealed within me. Even if I were to be dismissed because of this vision of the mystery, I still cannot deny it. I once again consecrate myself and my entire life to You. May I bear a testimony that is opposite to that of the people of this world.”***

Each time Satan attacked me, I prayed like this—like speaking to myself—literally thousands of times. As a result, I was never once dismissed. On the contrary, I was always on the list of indispensable personnel who absolutely had to remain in the company. Through this, I became convinced that prayers aligned with the heavenly vision will surely be answered. At first, when I prayed, I still had some doubts and wondered if I might fail. But because of the Lord’s presence and blessing afterward, I now pray with full assurance. During those times of affliction, I also repeatedly read and prayed over the following words from the Bible. Whenever I did so, my eyes were opened, and I received fresh revelation and supply. Matt. 6:25 Because of this, I say to you, Do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat or what you should drink; nor for your body, what you should put on. Is not the life more than food, and the body than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of heaven. They do not sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father nourishes them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Who among you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? 28 And why are you anxious concerning clothing? Consider well the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil, neither do they spin thread. 29 But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. 30 And if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is cast into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? 32 For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself; sufficient for the day is its own evil.

証ビジネス・パーソンとして、私は昇進の名誉や金銭欲の情欲が激しく渦巻く環境の中で、どのように、「召会の奥義を人生の意義とする」のかを証します。私は30歳で就職して最初の会社で、上司や先輩によく、「真剣さが足りない」と言われました。彼らの意味は、「他の人は金や名誉のために必死でもがいているのに、あなたは欲がなく、やる気がない」と言うことでした。私は何度も言われたので、主と交わると、出世や金銭欲の情欲がなくても、真剣に働く必要があるというのは正しいので、悔い改めて彼らの言うことを受け入れる必要があると感じました。私は祈りました、「私は金銭欲がなくても、やはり**真剣に働き、業績を伸ばし、会社に貢献し、上司に信頼される必要があります。現時点で、私は彼らにあまり信頼されていません。私は悔い改めます。主の中で、主と共に、主の証のために勤勉に業務を行うことができますように**」。私は上司の指摘を主からのものとして取って、学ぶことができました。

その後、真剣に働くようになってから、サタンは、「夜の付き合いに参加して、上司と人間関係を作らないと、左遷され、最後にはクビになる」と脅してきました。私は解雇されると家族の生活や召会にも影響すると考えると、暗い気持ちになりました。しかし、キリストと召会のビジョンを思い出し、自分自身と主に向かって祈りました、「**おお主イエスよ、私はここで、私の中に啓示されたキリストと召会のビジョンを否むことはできません。仮に、この奥義のビジョンの故に解雇されても、私はビジョンを否めません。私は自分自身と私の全生涯を再びあなたに捧げます。私が世の中の人々と反対の証を立てることができますように**」。私はサタンが攻めてくるたびに、このように独り言のような祈りを何千回としました。その結果、私は一度も解雇されませんでした。それどころか、絶対に会社に残らなければならない人材のリストに何時も載っていました。私は天のビジョンに従った祈りは必ずかなえられると確信しました。最初祈っている時は、もしかしたら失敗するかもしれないと思いながら祈っていましたが、その後の主の臨在と祝福の故に、現在は確信をもって祈っています。また、これらの時、私は苦難の中で以下の御言葉を何度も読み、祈りました。そうすると、私の目が開かれ、新鮮な啓示と供給を受けることができました。