

#5: Knowing and Experiencing the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ as the Mystery of God

(Thanksgiving Conference) 2020/2/10-16

Overview : As the mystery of God, the all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the definition, explanation, and expression of God—the Word of God. God’s history or story includes incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and enthronement. All the wisdom and knowledge pertaining to God’s stories are hidden in Christ, who is the mystery of God (I). For Christ to be the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead means that the fullness of the Triune God dwells in Christ in a bodily form. we may all receive grace upon grace from His fullness, just like the rolling waves of the sea that come in wave upon wave without ceasing (II). As believers in Christ, we are made full in Christ, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily (III).

I. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the mystery of God:

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.

A. God Himself is a mystery, and Christ is the mystery of this mystery.

B. The mystery of God indicates something incomprehensible and inexplicable.

C. As the mystery of God, the all-inclusive, extensive Christ is the definition, explanation, and expression of God—the Word of God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

D. As the mystery of God, Christ is the history of God; the whole “story” of God is in Christ and is Christ:

1. Although God is infinite and eternal, without beginning or ending, He also has a history, a story. **2.** The all-inclusive Christ—the mystery of God, the mysterious story of God—is the history of God. **3.** God’s history refers to the process through which He passed in Christ so that He may enter into us, and we may be brought into Him; this process includes incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and enthronement. **Mon**

E. In the all-inclusive, extensive Christ as the mystery of God, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden:

Col. 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

1. Wisdom is related to our spirit, and knowledge is related to our mind. **Eph. 1:3** Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence. **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. **2.** God is the unique source of wisdom and knowledge. **3.** This is the spiritual wisdom and knowledge of the divine economy concerning Christ and the church. **4.** Wisdom and knowledge also refer to all the “stories” of God. **5.** All the wisdom and knowledge pertaining to God’s stories are hidden in Christ, who is the mystery of God. **Tue**

II. As the mystery of God, Christ is the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead: **Col. 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

A. All the fullness of the Godhead refers to the entire

Godhead, the complete God: **1.** The word Godhead refers to deity and strongly indicates the deity of Christ. **2.** Since the Godhead comprises the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, the fullness of the Godhead must be the fullness of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. **3.** For Christ to be the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead means that the fullness of the Triune God dwells in Christ in a bodily form: **a.** This implies the physical body that Christ put on in His humanity, and it indicates that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ as the One who has a human body. **b.** Before His incarnation the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Christ as the eternal Word, but it did **c.** After He became incarnate, clothed with a human body, the fullness of the Godhead began to dwell in Him in a bodily way, and in His glorified body now and forever it dwells.

Phil. 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory...

B. Fullness in Colossians 2:9 refers not to the riches of God but to the expression of the riches of God: **1.** The riches are the quantity of an object, whereas the fullness is the flowing out, the overflow, of the object to become the expression of the object. **2.** What dwells in Christ is not only the riches of the Godhead but also the expression of the riches of what God is: **a.** God’s fullness is the overflow of His riches, and this overflow is God’s expression. **b.** The fullness of the Godhead is the expression of the Godhead, the expression of what God is. **3.** The Godhead is expressed both in the old creation, the universe, and in the new creation, the church.

C. When the Son of God was incarnated as a man, with Him was the fullness of God, and of this fullness we have all received: **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality. **16** For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

1. In John 1:16 grace does not refer to the riches of grace but to the fullness of grace; the riches of grace are in God, but the fullness of grace is in Christ Jesus. **2.** The grace we received is the fullness of grace; beginning from the time we are saved, we may receive grace upon grace. **3.** The phrase grace upon grace in John 1:16 can be compared to the rolling waves of the sea that come in wave upon wave without ceasing.

Wed/Thu

III. As believers in Christ, we are made full in Christ, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily: **Col. 2:10** And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority. **A.** The Greek word translated “full” in verse 10 implies completion, perfection.

B. Because all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ and because we have been put in Him, we have been made full in Him, filled up with the divine riches:

1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God; both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

1. All those who believe in Christ have been put into Christ; therefore, we are identified with Him and are one with Him.

2. We the believers have been put into the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, identified with Him, and joined to Him as our Husband; hence, we are one with Him. **1 Cor. 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. **3.** Because we are

one with Christ, we partake of all that He has accomplished, obtained, and attained; we inherit all that Christ has experienced and passed through, receiving all that He is and has. **4.** All that He has passed through is now our history, and all that He has obtained and attained is our inheritance.

5. The result is that all that He is and all that He has belong to us, and all that He has experienced has become our history. **Col. 3:1** *If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

C. We need to have a full realization of what we have in Christ and to exercise faith to partake of all that is ours in Christ.

D. Because this fullness is all-inclusive, it accomplishes everything for us, it fully satisfies and supplies us, and it makes us full, perfect, and complete.

E. We have the all-inclusive, inexhaustible fullness that dwells in Christ bodily, and in Him we are made full.

Eph. 3:8 *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.* **Fri/Sat**

Crucial Point(1): *Making Christ as wisdom and experience God's history, God's story in the business life*

OL1: Although God is infinite and eternal, without beginning or ending, He also has a history, a story.

OL2: God's history refers to the process through which He passed in Christ so that He may enter into us, and we may be brought into Him; this process includes incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and enthronement.

OL3: All the wisdom and knowledge pertaining to God's stories are hidden in Christ, who is the mystery of God.

Before we were saved, we were not wise. However, once we are saved, we can experience Christ as our wisdom. All believers should be wise. This is practical. We need to experience Christ as our wisdom in how we spend our time and our money. Christ is real wisdom. When we live by Christ, He is our wisdom. We are not wise when we do not live by Christ or when Christ is unable to live in us. Christ is always in us, but we often do not allow Him to live in us. When Christ lives in us, He becomes our wisdom.

Paul told the Colossian believers that all the treasures of genuine wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. This is the spiritual wisdom and knowledge of the divine economy concerning Christ and the church. Wisdom is related to our spirit, and knowledge is related to our mind.

Moreover, wisdom and knowledge refer to all the "stories" of God.... All the wisdom and knowledge pertaining to God's stories are hidden in this Christ who is the mystery of God.

Application to the young working saints and graduate students

God is infinite and eternal, but in relation to humanity, God has a history, a story. The eternal God has entered into the time and put on the humanity about 2000 years ago. Then the incarnated God has experienced human living on the earth and experienced human suffering, trials and labor and started His ministry on the earth at the age of 30. He preached the gospel, called out His disciples and sent them out to preach the gospel. At the age of 33 and half, He died on the cross to pay off all the debt of the righteous requirement of the law

toward the sinners and accomplished His redemption. Then He entered into Hades and traveled there for 3 days and resurrected from the dead and became the life-giving Spirit. Then the Lord has ascended to the right hand of God and started His heavenly ministry. Now He is interceding for the believers and gospel friends in His heavenly ministry. It is for the church to practice God's will on the earth. This is the history the eternal God had experienced in the humanity of Jesus. This history was designed by God in His wisdom (Hymn 24). Who can imagine the wonderful story of this mystery? And who can think of this excellent redemption of Christ? The dilemma between God's love and righteousness was solved by the redemption, and the way to carry out the plan by God's life was opened. Please experience God's story, His history by making Christ as wisdom in your business life.

1Cor. 2:9 *But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10* But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. **11** For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? In the same way, the things of God also no one has known except the Spirit of God.

This story of God was designed in the wisdom. This wisdom is hidden in Christ. You may have wisdom, but that wisdom is not of Christ. For example, when man earns money, it is likely to spend money and time for the silly things. The rich people have tendency to have women besides his own wife outside and commit fornication. Or they tend to waste money by getting several extremely expensive sportscars. This shows that they don't have wisdom to use money and time in a proper way.

Regardless of your being rich materially or not, please experience wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ and experience God's story in your business life. Because business life is busy, you need to experience Christ as wisdom in the matter of how to use money and time. If you frequently attend your boss or colleagues for the unnecessary party, your work efficiency will go down. Because the excessive overwork to build up relationship by relying on your own wisdom will exhaust you and prevent you from work in a refreshed way. Rather if you can cooperate with the heavenly ministry of Christ and go out for gospel and shepherding with brothers and sisters, you can be refreshed, revived and blessed. Then you can go home and sleep well in peace. And concerning the surplus, by offering to the church, you can be blessed materially and spiritually. Lord is the source of every blessing.

Prayer: *"Oh Lord Jesus, Christ as the mystery of God is God's history and story. This story was designed in God's wisdom. This is the wisdom far excelling above man's wisdom and it's hidden in Christ. Let me experience God's history and story by making Christ as wisdom and not to rely on my own wisdom in my business life or research life."*

Crucial Point(2): *Christ is the fullness of God from which we all receive and the we build up the church, the fullness of Christ.*

OL1: The riches are the quantity of an object, whereas the fullness is the flowing out, the overflow, of the object to become the expression of the object. **OL2:** When the Son of God was incarnated as a man, with Him was the fullness of God, and of this fullness we have all received.

OL3: The phrase grace upon grace in John 1:16 can be compared to the rolling waves of the sea that come in wave upon wave without ceasing.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. **Col. 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

It is not easy to understand [John 1:16]. A teacher of the Greek language once said that grace upon grace can be compared to the waves of the sea, which roll in wave upon wave without interruption. In this verse grace does not refer to the riches of grace but to the fullness of grace. The riches of grace are in God, but the fullness of grace is in Christ Jesus. Hence, the grace that we receive is the fullness of grace. The Jews do not know the Lord Jesus, and they do not receive Him. They only have the Father but not the Son. Hence, the most that they can enjoy is the rich love of God. They cannot enjoy the fullness of the love of God as Christians can.

Now we can understand John 1:16. This verse says that we have received "of His fullness," not "of His riches." Fullness, not riches, is used in this verse. This can be compared to water within a cup being the riches and to the water that overflows the cup being the fullness. The Lord Jesus is the overflow of God; the Son is the overflow of the Father. Here is an illustration. Before I was married in 1928, I was a bachelor. Even though I was young and strong, I did not have an "overflow." Today, however, my eight children, their spouses, and my third generation add up to more than thirty people. This is my overflow. The riches are seen in the father, and the fullness is seen in the children.

Application to the serving ones

The fullness is different from the riches. The fullness is overflowing of the riches. If water is in a cup, but is not overflowing out from the cup, then it is not fullness. Even water is rich in the cup, it can be fullness only after the water starts overflowing. You are receiving not from the riches but from the fullness. This means that it comes to you like the rolling waves that come in wave upon wave without ceasing. This indicates us the followings:

(1) All the fullness of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, dwells in Christ. As soon as you come to Christ, all the riches of God will overflow so that you can easily enjoy them. You do not need to get into the cup to find out them. Only you need is to come to the Lord. Then you can enjoy them.

(2) God the Father is the source of this fullness, the unlimited source that can keep flowing even after flowing from eternity to eternity. You never need to worry of running out.

(3) In your daily life, go to your office or school with full of joy and power by receiving this fullness. Never go with the gloomy face like unbelievers. Christ in whom the fullness of God is dwelling is in you. Going to your office with full of joy every day is very important for you.

(4) In your various services, you must overflow Christ and magnify Christ. For example, when you are going to do service of printing out the handouts and distributing them on the chairs, exercise your spirit and pray, "O Lord Jesus, I distribute these handouts by placing them straight carefully. May brothers and sisters sitting here after coming from their work or school, can return to their spirit and exercise their spirit to touch the words of the Bible in this handouts." Then not only you can prepare for the meeting outwardly but also

prepare for the meeting spiritually.

(5) You should build up the church as the fullness of Christ by receiving this fullness.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I am receiving grace upon grace from the fullness of the Lord. I come to Christ to receive the overflowing grace. In this matter, I need to set aside my old concept. According to the revelation of the Bible, because I am receiving from the fullness, I never become poor in my daily life and my services. Praise the Lord. In my services, may I be able to overflow Christ! It is for building up the church, the fullness of Christ. Amen!"

Crucial Point(3): Since the believers have been married to Christ, identified with Him, they are richer than the millionaire. Experience and announce the unsearchable riches of Christ by faith.

OL1: We the believers have been put into the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, identified with Him, and joined to Him as our Husband; hence, we are one with Him.

OL2: All that He has passed through is now our history, and all that He has obtained and attained is our inheritance. **OL3:** We need to have a full realization of what we have in Christ and to exercise faith to partake of all that is ours in Christ.

Eph. 3:8 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.

We are members of the all-inclusive Christ. We have been put into Him, identified with Him, truly "married" to Him. Hence, we are one with Him. All that He has passed through is now our history, and all that He has obtained and attained is our inheritance.

Although some Christians have a doctrinal knowledge of this, a mere mental understanding of our union with Christ is not adequate. We need to exercise faith in order to partake of all that is ours in Christ. We should not consider ourselves poor, just as a poor woman who has married a rich man should no longer think of herself as poor. Even though she may feel poor, she must practice applying the fact that the riches of her husband belong to her.

In their prayers, some Christians like to declare how poor, pitiful, and low they are. This kind of prayer is without faith or assurance. We need to believe with full assurance that we are one with the rich, all-inclusive Christ, with the One who is the embodiment of all the fullness of the Triune God. If we realize this with full assurance, we shall never consider ourselves poor.

Do not believe your feelings about yourself, but look away to Christ. Exercise your faith to realize what He is, what He has passed through, what He has obtained and attained, and where He is today. Since He is in the third heaven and we are one with Him, we are in the third heaven also.... We have been placed into the Christ who is unsearchably rich.

In Ephesians 3:8 Paul speaks of the unsearchable riches of Christ. We are more than billionaires because the riches we have are greater than can be counted. We simply have no idea what vast riches we possess in Christ. Often we have prayed, "Lord, I am poor and pitiful." But not many have prayed in this way: "Lord, I thank You that I am rich, complete, and full. Lord Jesus, because I am in

You, I am richer than the wealthiest billionaire. I am short of nothing." I hope that after reading this message, you will begin to pray in this way. Tell the Lord, the angels, and even the demons that you are richer than any earthly billionaire because you are in the Christ whose riches are unsearchable.

Application for the new ones, the young people and college students

Many Japanese people are serious and tend to pay too much attention to detail. As a result, they easily fall into unbelief. Being serious is good, but don't be unbelief. Many Christians are like "wives who are married to millionaires but cannot escape from their poor living habits." Everything that Christ has passed and experienced is your property and can be your experience because you are married to Christ and united with Christ. Hallelujah! Thank and praise the Lord.

For example, you are having trouble with your teacher at school and not doing well with your classmates. You get dark when you think about this and start thinking that you don't want to go to school. At this time, you turn your eyes to the heaven, exercise your spirit, apply your mind to your spirit, and remember you have married Christ. And you can fellowship in the prayer as follows. "O Lord Jesus, in my daily life, I often forget that I am married to you, a millionaire. Lord, please forgive my unbelief. I should not be poor because I married you, but my condition is miserable. This result is due to unbelief. I forget the feelings from my unbelief and believe in God's Word. By faith, I live a Going-Up life. Raise my school life because of Christ, the fullness of God. And I will experience and announce the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel with brothers and sisters." In this way, you can experience Christ as patience, as a power to be compatible with others, as a power to sympathize and love others, as wisdom to understand things correctly.

Topic of the week: Spread of Coronavirus infection in Wuhan, China and Preaching of the gospel (2)

The number of infected by Coronavirus is 17,238, the suspected are 21,558, those with serious case are 2,296 and the number of dead is 361 as of the report of 13:00, Feb. 3rd, 2020. The number of dead in the mainland of China surpasses 349, the number of dead due to SARS which prevailed during 2002-03.

According to the Revelation 6:1-8, at a four horse race, that are the gospel, the war, the famine and the death, the gospel is taking the lead and three other horses which are caused by Satan are helping the preaching of the gospel. The more we listen to the news of Corona Infection, the more we need to pray and preach the gospel based on the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

The First Seal: A White Horse and Its Rider – The Preaching of the Gospel

Rev. 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, Come. 2 ...and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

FN "White horse": White signifies clean, pure, just, and approvable. The white horse is a symbol of the preaching of the gospel, which is clean, pure, just, and approvable both to men and to God.

FN "The riders": The first four seals comprise four horses with their riders in a four-horse race. All four riders are not real persons but personified things. It is evident that the rider of the second horse, the red horse, is war, the rider of the third horse, the black horse, is famine, and the rider of the fourth horse, the pale horse, is death....Immediately after Christ's ascension, these four things—the gospel, war, famine, and death—began to run like riders on four horses and will continue until Christ comes back.

FN "a Bow": A bow is for fighting with an arrow. But here there is a bow without an arrow. This indicates that the arrow has already been shot to destroy the enemy, and the victory has been won for the constitution of the gospel of peace. Now the fighting is over, and the gospel of peace is proclaimed in a peaceful way.

FN "conquering and to conquer": Or conquering and that he might conquer. Throughout all the centuries, wherever the gospel is proclaimed, it has conquered and has overcome all kinds of opposition and attack and it is still conquering today. We are not told that the riders on the second, third, and fourth horses went forth conquering. Only the rider on the first horse, the preaching of the gospel, has been conquering continuously. Wherever the preaching of the gospel goes, there is this conquering.

The Second Seal: A Red Horse and Its Rider – The Spread of War

3 And when He opened the second seal, ...4 ...and behold, another horse, a red one, went forth; Red here signifies the shedding of blood. Thus, the red horse is a symbol of the raging of war, which is altogether a matter of shedding blood.

The Third Seal: A Black Horse and Its Rider – The Increase of Famine

5 And when He opened the third seal, ... and behold, a black horse; Here, black, indicating the death, signifies the color of the visage of famished people.

The Fourth Seal: A Pale Horse and Its Rider – Rampant Death

7 And when He opened the fourth seal, ... 8 ... and behold, a pale horse, and he who sits upon it, his name is Death; the pale horse is a symbol of the killing of death, causing a pale appearance.

God, in His love and wisdom, uses even war, famine and death which are caused by Satan to soften people's heart toward the Lord to urge them to believe the Lord, call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Please pray using these words for many friends who are afraid of the spread of Coronavirus and send them this message through LINE or Wechat to preach the gospel.