

OL Summary:

I. “I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age” (Matt. 28:20):

A. The word consummation means that there is a process that will be brought to completion or fulfillment.

B. The consummation of the age and the end of the age refer to the same thing.

C. In Matthew 28:20 the consummation of the age indicates the end of the church age, which is the age of grace.

D. The consummation of the age will be the three and half a years of the great tribulation.

II. The present age—the age of grace, the age of the church—is the age of mystery:

A. Revelation 10:7 says, “The mystery of God is finished”; to finish the mystery of God is to close the age of mystery.

B. In the dispensation from Adam to Moses and from Moses to Christ, everything was unveiled, 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.

C. 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; through the incarnation of Christ, the infinite God was brought into the finite man. **2** Christ is the mystery of God: **a.** God is a mystery, and Christ, as the embodiment of God to express Him, is the mystery of God. **b.** As the mystery of God, Christ is the embodiment of God; all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily. **3** The church is the mystery of Christ: **a.** Christ is a mystery, and the church, as the Body of Christ to express Him, is the mystery of Christ. **b.** Christ and the church as one spirit are the great mystery. **c.** During the church age, the age of mystery, Christ is building up the church, the Body of Christ, to be His bride. **4** The kingdom of the heavens, the gospel, the indwelling of Christ, and the coming resurrection and transfiguration of the saints are all mysteries that were hidden in the times of the ages. **5** All the mysteries will be completed, finished, and will be over at the trumpeting voice of the seventh trumpet.

D. We need “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” (Eph. 3:9): **1** In the New Testament a mystery refers not only to things that are hidden and unknown to us but also to things that are hidden in God’s heart. **2** God’s mystery

is His hidden purpose, which is to dispense Himself into His chosen people; hence, there is the economy of the mystery of God. **3** The mystery hidden in God’s heart is 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 and redeemed people to be their life and nature so that they may be the same as He is as His duplication, to become an organism, the Body of Christ as the new man, which will become the New Jerusalem. **4** Paul preached the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ, and he also preached the gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God: **a.** The gospel concerning the economy of the mystery hidden in God is to produce the church for God’s expression and glorification according to God’s eternal purpose. **b.** Today we must announce the gospel concerning the mystery hidden in God in order to enlighten all so that they may see what is the economy of the mystery hidden in God, who created all things for the fulfillment of His will, the desire of His heart, and His eternal purpose.

III. The age of mystery is the age of faith:

A. God’s mystery are known by faith; for this reason the age of mystery is also the age of faith.

B. Faith is a substantiating ability by which we substantiate, give substance to, the things not seen or hoped for: **1** Faith assures us of the things not seen, convincing us of what we do not see; therefore, it is the evidence, the proof, of things not seen. **2** We do not regard, or look at, the things which are seen but the things which are not seen. **3** The Christian life is a life of things unseen, and the Lord’s recovery is to recover His church from things seen to things unseen.

C. Faith is the unique way for God to carry out His New Testament economy with man: **1** God’s economy is in faith—a matter initiated and developed in the sphere and element of faith; without faith we cannot realize God’s economy. **2** Faith is the unique requirement for people to contact God in His New Testament economy. **3** God’s requirement for us related to everything in the New Testament economy is faith. **4** Genuine faith is Christ Himself infused into us to become our ability to believe in Him; after the Lord Jesus has been infused into us, He spontaneously becomes our faith. **5** Through faith in Christ Jesus, we are brought into an organic union with Christ; in this organic union we experience Christ and live Christ. **6** In the Body “God has appointed to each a measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3); therefore, we should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think “but to think so as to be sober-minded” (12:3). **7** Faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return and to receive the reward of the kingdom.

CP1: The mystery of God is completed, and the era of the present mystery is over

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. **The mystery of the universe...God:** If you had the universe without God, the universe would be empty...If there were no God in this universe, we would all have to weep for its emptiness. There would be a big container but no content. The planets are here because of God. The flowers are so beautiful because of God. The animals are so wonderful because of God. Human beings are here because of God. God is the answer. The atheists may say that this is altogether superstitious and nonsensical. However, we know why there are the heavens and the earth. All the flowers, grains, animals, and birds exist because of God. There is a universe because of God.

The mystery of God...Christ: The divine mystery is first the mystery of God and second the mystery of Christ. We need to read, study, and pray over Colossians and Ephesians...The Jews have God in name, but they do not have God in reality. They have God in a mystery. They do not have God in reality, because they do not know the mystery of God. The mystery of God is Christ! If you do not know God and if you have not met God, just come to Christ, because God is embodied in Christ. All the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in this Christ. If you do not believe in Christ, you miss God. Without Christ, although you may say that you believe in God, you believe only in terms. You believe God as a mystery. You could never realize God. You could never touch God, get God, or get into God except through Christ.

The mystery of Christ...church: Today, the indwelling Christ and the church are a mystery.... When we say, "Praise the Lord! We have Christ in us," people may say, "Show us." To this, we can only reply, "I cannot show you, but I know that Christ is in me." Christ's dwelling in us is a mystery. When non-Christians receive too much money in change from a cashier in a restaurant, they are pleased and consider it a bargain. But when we receive extra change, we return it. This is mysterious to the cashier. The unbelievers cannot understand what kind of people we are.... Although today is a time of mystery, when the seventh trumpet is sounded, the mystery will be over. At the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet, Christ will be manifested and the whole earth will recognize Him. Then the cashiers will know why we, the mysterious ones, returned the extra change. Perhaps they will say, "We thought they were foolish, but now we understand." Although they cannot understand this mystery today, one day they will understand it.

Application to new ones and Youth/College student

The mystery of the universe...God: New ones and young

people, have you ever wondered? What is the mystery of the universe? There are hundreds of billions of items in the universe, which are also endless. What is this universe for? What are we humans for? **Psa.8:3** When I see Your heavens, the works of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, FN "heavens": Here David's view was turned in the night (indicated by the moon and the stars) from looking at the earth to contemplating the heavens. In looking away from the dark earth to the moon and the stars in the heavens, David saw God's creation and the divine order in the universe.

The mystery of the universe, the ultimate conclusion of the universe, is that there is a Creator, God. And the purpose of human existence, the center of all creation, is to receive God, be filled with God and express God.

4 What is mortal man, that You remember him, And the son of man, that You visit him? FN "visit": God in the heavens first remembered man; then, He came to visit man by becoming a man through His incarnation. After recognizing God, the Creator, we will look at two more greater mysteries. They are Christ, the mystery of God, and the mystery of Christ, the church. Hope you would move from the mystery of the universe to the great mystery of Christ and the church. You must live your student life and business life in God's economy about Christ and the church for you to be blessed.

The mystery of God...Christ: **Col.2:3** In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. **9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Please often call upon the name of the Lord in your daily life. There are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ. The whole abundance of God lives in Christ. With this recognition, if you call upon and breathe in the name of Christ, the mystery of God, your student life and business life will be enhanced.

The mystery of Christ...church: If you do not know that the church is the mystery of Christ and the mystery within the mystery, you will live the church life loosely. Christ is the life-giving Spirit today and is invisible to the eye. But Christ is in the church, which is a corporate expression of Christ. If you understand this mystery, you will respect and stay in the church life.

You shouldn't say that you can't understand these mysteries because you're young. Brother Watchman Nee and brother Witness Lee, when they were teenagers, saw the vision of Christ and the church and served the Lord with vision throughout their lives.

Prayer: "Oh, Lord Jesus, the mystery of the universe, the ultimate conclusion of the universe is that there is God, the Creator. And the purpose of human life is to receive God, be filled with God and express God. Through Christ, the mystery of God, I can touch God, get God, and get into God. And I respect the church, the mystery of Christ. Let me clearly see the great mystery, the vision of Christ and the church, and walk to the end faithfully and live a blessed life. Amen! "

CP2: Open to the divine dispensing, the economy of the mystery and enjoy it and supply the riches of Christ into people and build up the church

OL1: The church is the mystery of Christ. **OL2:** We need “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” (Eph. 3:9).

The believers have Christ, the mystery of God, dwelling in them, but worldly people do not realize that He is in the believers. To them, this is a mystery. The all-inclusive Christ is the mystery of the mysterious God. Such a Christ as the mystery of God produces a mysterious Body, the church. Thus, 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 church, the mystery within a mystery, is the mystery in God's economy.

The church as the mystery of Christ was not made known to the sons of men in other generations. In the New Testament age it was revealed first by Christ in the Gospels and then by the Holy Spirit in the Epistles to the apostles and prophets. Paul in [Ephesians 3:5](#) says that this mystery “has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit.” This mystery, which was hidden throughout the ages in God, who created all things, and was hidden from the Old Testament saints, has been revealed in the New Testament.

A great matter in Ephesians 3 is the economy of the mystery in verse 9. An economy is a dispensing, a distribution of riches. The apostle Paul was doing a particular kind of work—he was distributing Christ in His riches into people. As genuine Christians, we can testify that since the day we first called on the name of the Lord, something mysterious has been added into our being; Christ has been dispensed into us. The mystery of Christ is Christ experienced in all His riches. To experience the riches of Christ means that something of Christ, some element of His riches, has been dispensed into us...The more we experience Christ, the more He is dispensed into us. The dispensing of His riches into us is the economy of the mystery. Something eternal, mysterious, and incomprehensible yet sweet, rich, and high has been dispensed into our being and makes us joyful, living, powerful, loving, and lovable. This is the enjoyment of the riches of Christ.

Saints from many different nations meet together in the church life...When we see the other saints, regardless of their nationality, we spontaneously love them. The reason and motive for our mutual love is...that something within each of us corresponds to something within the other saints. Even if we cannot understand one another's language, we love one another because we experience the dispensing of the mystery. The reason for this love is the dispensing of the mystery.

Application to the serving ones

[Eph. 3:10](#) 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 to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

If you are a business person, you should understand the plan of the president of your company. Then you need to work every day according to the plan. If you don't understand the policy of your company and work in your own way, you would surely have problems. If you don't work according to the company's policy, your working would not help the company as a whole to reach its goal. And you would not receive any synergistic help from others nor be appreciated by helping others. Thus you would become a useless person to your boss and managers. This thing is a very important realization and practice which is always handled in the employee trainings and managers' trainings.

The goal of God's eternal economy is to build up the church as the Body of Christ. For this, you should go on from the mystery of the universe to Christ as the mystery of God and moreover to the church as the mystery of Christ. The church, the Body of Christ is the mystery of the mysteries and the mystery of God's economy. When Christ as the mystery of God is dispensed into a believer, he starts being involved in the church as the mystery of Christ. Due to the indwelling Christ, you became the family of God, a brother of Christ and the member of the Body.

You need to dispense Christ as gospel to the people who listen to you. You minister Christ, dispense Christ to listeners and not dispensing knowledge about Christ. To do this, exercise your spirit, confess your sins, enjoy the Lord and be one with the Lord. The church is not produced by teaching of the knowledge of Christ. Rather it is produced by dispensing the riches of Christ into people. The economy of the mystery is the dispensing of the riches of Christ.

[Brother Ed's testimony about brother Lee:](#) I can testify and I know you can also testify that brother Lee was always fresh. He was always new. This kept surprised me. Until he went to be with the Lord, he always saw something new. Brother Lee said “If I became old, I need to start worrying. I don't want to be old. I don't want to be stale. I want to be fresh. I want to be filled with the freshness of the Lord's presence”.

This testifies that brother Lee always kept opening to the divine distribution which is the economy of the mystery and kept enjoying the fresh dispensing. May your service be blessed in the dispensing of the economy of the mystery. [Prayer:](#) “Lord Jesus, the goal of God's eternal economy is to build up the church as the Body of Christ. This goal is produced by the dispensing and distribution of the riches of Christ. As brother Lee was always open to the Lord's dispensing and filled with the freshness of the Lord's presence, let me always enjoy the fresh dispensing and dispense the riches of Christ into people. Let me serve You according to God's economy, not according to my opinions. Amen!”

CP3: Faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith, build up the mysterious Body of Christ in the age of mystery.

OL1: The age of mystery is the age of faith.

OL2: God's mysteries are known by faith; for this reason the age of mystery is also the age of faith.

OL3: The Lord's recovery is to recover His church from things seen to things unseen.

OL4: Faith is the unique way for God to carry out His New Testament economy with man.

OL5: Faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return and to receive the reward of the kingdom.

God is mysterious, and the Spirit of God is mysterious. Christ in us is mysterious, and our salvation, regeneration, justification, and sanctification are mysterious. The Body of Christ is also a mystery. It is by faith that we know that the church is not merely a gathering or a congregation but the Body of Christ, and it is by faith that we know that we are brothers.... We should not trust in our feelings concerning the divine Spirit and the human spirit. According to our feelings, there may be no divine Spirit and no human spirit. When we come to the matter of the two spirits, we must be in faith. Paul declares, "Having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, 'I believed, therefore I spoke,' we also believe, therefore we also speak" (2 Cor. 4:13). Paul spoke not in the spirit of knowledge, feeling, or sensation, but in the spirit of faith.

Faith always has an object. The object of our faith is the Word of God. By faith we know that there is a God because the Bible tells us that there is a God. Likewise, by faith we know that God has an economy....It is a fact that the Spirit is in our entire being. According to our experience and exercise, however, the Spirit sometimes seems to not even be in our spirit. We must be clear about what the Bible says....This is why we all have to come to the Word often. The more we come to the Word and know what is in it, the more we spontaneously believe.

In the whole universe there are two categories of things: the visible things and the invisible things. According to history and according to the real situation of the universe, the unseen things control the seen things. For instance, the visible part of our being, our body, is not the controlling factor of our being. Rather, the invisible part, the part that cannot be seen, is the controlling factor. We are controlled not by our body but by something within that is invisible yet real. Furthermore, our destiny, our future, is not according to the things that are seen but according to the unseen things. God is invisible, and the entire universe is under His control. Psa. 103:19 Jehovah has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. If we consider human history in light of the Bible, we will realize that all human history is controlled and directed not by visible things or by visible persons but by Someone who cannot be seen.

Application to Business person/Graduate students

The definition of faith: Heb.11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The story of faith: 7 By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen and being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. 8 By faith Abraham, being called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 24 By faith Moses, ... 26 Considering the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked away to the reward.

Brother's testimony: In 1998, I lived in Seishin-chuo, Nishi-ku, Kobe because of my work, bought an apartment in Motoyama, and started the meeting there. And when Brother Yoshida came to Kobe, he said, "You should move near the meeting hall." At that time, I began to make various excuses in my heart to avoid moving. But my inner faith immediately said, "Don't make excuses. Brother Yoshida is saying the right thing, so you have to obey." And by faith, I sold the apartment I owned. Then, in the summer of 1999, I bought the land of Motoyama meeting hall. I borrowed about 55 million yen from bank in my name. If I had not sold the apartment in Seishin Chuo under the guidance of brother Yoshida and paid off the bank loan, I could not borrow that 55 million yen from bank for Motoyama meeting hall. At that time, the number of people in the meeting was little over ten, so the purchase funds for the Motoyama meeting hall accounted for more than 90% of the offering from my father-in-law and bank loans. Furthermore, without the Motoyama meeting hall, there would be no Uozaki meeting place, and no Rokko student center nor Mt. Rokko rejoice garden after that. And there could not have been Sannomiya meeting hall that was the office and the house of the person who worked for the maintenance and management of these meeting halls.

It all started with the speaking and obeying the Lord's speaking through Brother Yoshida, saying "Amen!" by faith. I don't know what will happen tomorrow, but the Lord knows everything. I can testify that I was able to receive great blessings by uniting with the Lord by faith and walking with Him.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers. It is by faith that I was saved and regenerated. And it is by faith that we know that we are brothers and the church is the Body of Christ. When Abraham was called, he went out according to the Lord, not knowing where he was going. I also say "Amen!" and obey the Lord's speaking by faith. By faith, I build up the mysterious Body of Christ in the age of mystery. Amen!"