

## GOD'S N. T. ECONOMY

### DEFINING WORDS USED WITHIN

#### 1. SOME DEFINITIONS to better understand the meaning of ECONOMY

FROM WIKIPEDIA: "An **ECONOMY** is a set of human and social activities and institutions related to the production, distribution, exchange and consumption of goods and services. It is also an organized way a society provides for the wants and needs of its people."

In the **OLD ECONOMY**, known as the **LAW**, the wants and needs of the people were provided within a spiritual setting. Through the **LAW**, Israel understood the relationship that existed between **God** and man - as well as, between man and his neighbor.

The **FIRST THREE COMMANDMENTS** of the **LAW** stated what was required of man, relative to **God**; using negative terms. "...**have no other gods... not make a graven image... not take God's name in vain**" (Ex 20, Dt 4).

The **LAST SIX COMMANDMENTS** of the **LAW ECONOMY** deals with relations between man and his neighbor.

Then, the **FOURTH COMMANDMENT** - that of **REST** - naturally comes to man through **God's** eminent control of man through the **LAW ECONOMY**.

While, **MAN** was required to honor the Triune **GOD** by obedience to the first **THREE COMMANDMENTS**, the **LAW** also demanded respect for fellow men, as dictated by the last **SIX COMMANDMENTS** of **Parental Honor, stealing and murder, etc.**

Although, the **OLD ECONOMY** was a "setting up" of what **God** would do through His Son within the New Economy, the **LAW** did give an order of peace, bringing **REST** for man; as well as, **REST** between **God** and man.

2. W. E. Vine, M. A., says, "A **DISPENSATION** is not a **PERIOD** or **EPOCH**, but a MODE OF DEALING, an **ARRANGEMENT** or **ADMINISTRATION OF AFFAIRS**."

### **Old and New Economies Compared**

In the **LAW ECONOMY**, although restrictive and highly ordinate - called 'bondage' by Paul in Galatians 4:21-26 - Israel was allowed access to **God**.

But, the Old Economy, with its shadows and typical forms of fleshly arrangement, has been canceled (Col. 2:14).

The Old was removed when the CURTAIN VEIL of the Temple (Mt 27:51) was torn in two. By the blood of Jesus, the "Everlasting Covenant" (Heb 13:20) was ratified. When Jesus died, the New PASSED THROUGH THE OLD, AND A NEW COVENANT WAS STRICKEN. From that time, man can now access the very Throne of God (Heb 4:16).

Today, because of the New Economy, God deals with man's spirit. The flesh could never meet Spiritual requirements demanded by the LAW; therefore, the FLESH has been crucified with Christ (Col 2:11).

The arrangement and dispensing of the New Economy is based upon the Person of Jesus, God's Messiah. And, the New Economy grants SALVATION to man, by the Justifying, Reconciling and Sanctifying blood-offering of Jesus, God's Son.

Then God, in the Person of the Holy Spirit, administers the benefits of the New Economy. His first work is that of quickening every repentant person. They are removed from the Old and condemning Economy, and "pass from death unto life" (Jn 5:24) by entering the New.

*(Pastor Jim's necessary explanation: The New Economy cannot be separated from the blood of Jesus. Neither, can we separate the blood from a saved person; therefore, at the point in time of trusting Jesus as Savior, a person is saved by the blood and enters the New Economy, simultaneously.)*

However, it is the second work of the Holy Spirit that makes the New Economy function on earth and within the church. The Father is honored and glorified by the "assembling" of His people, the church (Gk. ekklesia means assembly). And, this makes perfect sense; for, only within those who have experienced the arrangement by faith, can represent the "crucified, buried and risen" Savior, in doctrine and by their living testimony within the church, as members of His body.

A living testimony is one that has experienced: death to the flesh; a burial in the watery grave; and, risen with Christ "through faith of the operation of God," Colossians 2:12.

*(Pastor Jim's second necessary explanation: While, the New Economy operates on the truth of defeating the Devil and establishing a New Order - taking mankind from old to new; from flesh to spirit and, from Law to grace - we must listen to Paul's word in 1st Cor. 10; along with Hebrews 4. These writings reveal that God saved us to give Him glory. Thus, in building His church, Jesus has a living witness of His finished work on earth. The church is a 'gospel body' of dead, buried and raised believers. It is called "the house (economy) of God," in 1st Tim 3:15. The church is where we learn that believers are "baptized into Christ," and "into His death," Rom 6:3. In the baptismal ordinance of the Church, the flesh is 'buried' (Ro 6:4) and, believers are "raised up to walk in newness of life," Rom 6:4.)*

In conclusion, we understand the reason that the church has continued from Jerusalem until the present time. It was because Jesus promised to send "another Comforter" (Jn 16:7) to His Church, to be "with you until the end of the age," Mt 28:19-20.

By the Holy Spirit indwelling the people of God, the church, gifts are granted to its members. Further, He leads and guides Her; as well as, assembling the

church to preach, teach and baptize. The church, being a physical body, in a particular location (i.e., Citrus Heights, Rome or Corinth), was given the KEYS TO THE KINGDOM. The CHURCH is God's executive body on earth, from whence the Holy Spirit administers this New Economy. If the New Economy is done RIGHTeously, believers must submit unto Her authority that was given by Her Head, Jesus Christ.

To help walk by faith, within the finished work of Christ, let us remember Paul's writing in Ephesians 4:4-5, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you were called in once hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism."