Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2012

-------------------------------------------

GENERAL SUBJECT:
WHAT CHRIST IS TO THE BELIEVERS IN HIS PERSON

Message Five

Righteousness and Life

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Col. 3:4; John 11:25; 1 John 5:11-12

I. To the believers Christ is righteousness—1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:21:

A. Christ Himself is our righteousness, for God has made Christ, the embodiment of God, our righteousness—1 Cor. 1:30.

B. Christ is both our objective and subjective righteousness—Rom. 3:24-26; 4:25; Acts 13:39; Gal. 3:24b, 27; Matt. 5:20; Rev. 19:8:
   1. As our objective righteousness, Christ is the One in whom we are justified by God—Rom. 3:24-26:
      a. Objective righteousness is the Christ we received when we believed in Him in order to be justified by God—v. 26.
      b. In Christ as our objective righteousness before God, we are justified, approved by God according to the standard of His righteousness—Acts 13:39; Gal. 3:24b, 27.
   2. As our subjective righteousness, Christ is the One dwelling in us to live for us a life that can be justified by God and that is always acceptable to Him—Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:24a; James 2:24; Matt. 5:20; Rev. 19:8:
      a. Subjective righteousness is the indwelling Christ lived out of us as our righteousness in our daily living—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21a; Matt. 5:20.
      b. When we live this Christ and express Him, He becomes our daily righteousness—John 6:57b; Phil. 1:21a; Rev. 19:8.
      c. As believers, we need not only to receive Christ as our righteousness objectively but also to live Him as righteousness subjectively—Luke 15:22-23.
      d. The subjective righteousness in Philippians 3:9 is God in Christ becoming our daily living, a living that is right with God and man:
         (1) We should not live in our own righteousness, the righteousness that comes from self-effort; our own righteousness is the expression of ourselves, the living out of ourselves—v. 9.
         (2) The living that is right with both God and man is God in Christ as our expression in our daily living, God in Christ lived out through us—1:20-21a; 3:9.
      e. The Christ who is our subjective righteousness is our life (Col. 3:4); He is the One whom we live and express as righteousness; this is the surpassing righteousness mentioned in Matthew 5:20.
C. Christ as our righteousness is related to the believers’ experience and enjoyment of Him; the more we contact Him, experience Him, and enjoy Him, the more righteous we become in Him—1 Cor. 1:30; 10:3-4; 6:17.

D. We need to be reconciled to God to such an extent that we become the righteousness of God in Christ—2 Cor. 5:18-21:
   1. Not only are we justified by God (Gal. 2:16)—we actually become the righteousness of God—2 Cor. 5:21.
   2. In resurrection Christ comes into us as life, and as life He lives within us to constitute us into the righteousness of God—Gal. 2:20.
   3. The phrase in Him in 2 Corinthians 5:21 denotes union with Christ, not only positionally but also organically in resurrection; in the organic union with Christ we are made the righteousness of God.
   4. To become the righteousness of God in Christ is to become right with God in our being; this is to have an inner being that is transparent and crystal clear—an inner being in the mind and will of God—v. 21.

II. To the believers Christ is life—Col. 3:4; John 11:25; 1 John 5:11-12:

A. Colossians 3:4 speaks of “Christ our life”:
   1. Christ is God and also life; the life which is God, the life that God is, is in Christ—John 1:4; 1 John 5:11-12.
   2. The Lord Jesus said that He is life and that He came so that we may have life—John 11:25; 10:10.
   3. He who has Christ has life, and Christ now dwells in the believers as life—1 John 5:11-12.

B. Life is a person, Christ the Son of God; since the divine life is a person, we should contact Him, love Him, experience Him, enjoy Him, be one with Him, live Him, and express Him—vv. 11-12; John 11:25; 14:6; 1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:20-21a.

C. The fact that Christ is our life is a strong indication that we are to take Him as life and live because of Him—John 6:57b; 14:19:
   1. We should live Christ in our daily life in order to experience the universally extensive Christ revealed in the book of Colossians—1:15-19; 2:2, 9, 16-17; 3:10-11.
   2. If we take Christ as our life and live Him, then all that He is and has attained will not remain merely objective to us but will become our subjective experience—1:27; 3:4.

D. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life and thus is subjective to us to the uttermost—v. 4; John 5:26:
   1. It is impossible to separate a person from the life of that person, for a person’s life is the person himself; thus, to say that Christ is our life means that Christ has become us and that we have one life and living with Him—14:6a; Phil. 1:21a.
   2. With Christ as the believers’ life there are three characteristics:
      a. This life is a crucified life—Gal. 2:20.
      b. This life is a resurrected life—John 11:25.
      c. This is a life hidden in God—Col. 3:4; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18.