

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2019**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Message Fourteen

A Life Fully according to and for the Central Work of God

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 1:9; 3:16-17a; Col. 3:4, 10-11

I. We need to see the vision of the central work of God and be governed and directed by this vision—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19:

- A. God's eternal purpose is to work Himself into us as our life and our everything so that we may take Him as our person, live Him, and express Him; this is the desire of God's heart and the focal point of the Bible—Eph. 1:9; 3:11, 16-17a.
- B. God's eternal purpose is the center of the universe, and apart from this purpose the Christian life is meaningless—Rev. 4:11.
- C. God's unique work in the universe and throughout all the ages and generations is to work Himself in Christ into His chosen people, making Himself one with them—Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:17a.
- D. God's economy and goal according to His heart's desire are to build Himself into man and to build man into Him—2 Sam. 7:12-14a; Eph. 3:17a.
- E. God desires to work Himself in Christ into us, and everything that Christ is and everything that Christ has accomplished are for this one thing—Phil. 2:13; Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11.
- F. We need God to build Himself in Christ into our humanity, working Himself in Christ into us as our life, our nature, and our person—Eph. 3:17a:
 - 1. All the steps, great and small, that God takes in our daily life are to fulfill His intention of building Himself in Christ into our being—Rom. 8:28.
 - 2. God's work on us is not to improve us outwardly but to transform our being inwardly—12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - 3. God is working Himself into us through everything that happens to us so that He may become our constitution—Col. 3:10-11; Rom. 8:28.
 - 4. Spiritual progress consists in allowing God to gain ground within us—Eph. 3:17a; 4:15; Col. 2:19.

II. The Christian life is a life of experiencing the divine dispensing—Rom. 8:10-11:

- A. The accomplishment of the divine economy is by the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3-23; 3:14-21:
 - 1. The revelation concerning the Triune God in the holy Word is not for doctrinal understanding but for the dispensing of God in His Divine Trinity into His chosen and redeemed people for their experience and enjoyment—2 Cor. 13:14.
 - 2. The Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—has been processed to become the life-giving Spirit so that we can drink of Him and that He can become our enjoyment; this is the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—John 1:14; 4:14; 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 12:13; 15:45b.
- B. Romans 8 unveils to us how the Triune God dispenses Himself as life into our tripartite being—spirit, soul, and body—vv. 2, 6, 10-11:

1. In verse 11 we have the Triune God, the process required for His dispensing, and the dispensing of Himself as life into the believers.
 2. When we put together verses 10, 6, and 11, we not only see that our spirit is life and that our mind is life if it is set on the spirit, but we also see that life may be given to our mortal body through the Spirit.
- C. In the Christian life nothing is more crucial than the constant receiving of the Spirit by keeping ourselves open to the Lord and calling upon the name of the Lord—Gal. 3:2, 5; Rom. 10:13.
 - D. We must love the Lord and keep ourselves open to Him, giving Him every opportunity to do everything He wants to do—Mark 12:30; 1 Cor. 2:9; Eph. 3:16-17a.
 - E. We need to receive the divine dispensing in a slow and steady way and learn to be satisfied with ordinary days in the divine dispensing—Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 13:14.

III. Paul prayed that we would be strengthened into the inner man with the result that Christ could make His home in our hearts and thereby occupy, possess, permeate, and saturate our entire inner being with Himself—Eph. 3:16-17a:

- A. Since our heart is the totality of our inward parts, the center of our inward being, and our representative with regard to our inclination, affection, delight, and desire, when Christ makes His home in our hearts, He controls our entire inward being and supplies and strengthens every inward part with Himself.
- B. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in us, occupying every part of our inner being, possessing all these parts, and saturating them with Himself—v. 17a.
- C. When Christ spreads into our hearts, He becomes our person—v. 17a:
 1. The only way for Christ to be our person is for Him to make His home in our hearts.
 2. If we take Christ as our person, allowing Him to spread into our hearts, the person living in our hearts will not be the self but Christ—Gal. 2:20.

IV. The will of God concerning our Christian life is that we know the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, experience Him, be constituted with Him, and express Him—Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:9, 15-18; 2:16-17; 3:4, 10-11, 15; 4:12:

- A. God's intention in His economy is to work the wonderful, all-inclusive, extensive Christ into our being as our life and everything so that we may become the corporate expression of the Triune God—1:27; 3:4, 10-11.
- B. God's desire is that the all-inclusive, extensive Christ be our portion, life, constituent, and peace—1:9, 12; 3:4, 10-11, 15.
- C. We need to be infused, saturated, and permeated with the all-inclusive, extensive Christ until in our experience He is everything to us—1:27; 2:16-17; 3:4, 10-11:
 1. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is in us, but we need to see Him, know Him, be filled with Him, be saturated with Him, and be absolutely one with Him.
 2. We should allow the all-inclusive, extensive Christ to fill our whole being and to replace our culture with Himself—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11:
 - a. The more Christ replaces our natural life and culture with Himself, the more we will be able to declare, "To live is Christ"; to us, to live will be the Christ who takes full possession of us, occupies us, and fills us with Himself—Phil. 1:21a.
 - b. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ desires to replace every element of our natural life and culture with Himself so that we may be the one new man as His corporate expression for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose—Eph. 1:22-23; 2:21-22; Col. 3:9-11.