

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2021**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
CHAPTERS FIVE THROUGH EIGHT OF ROMANS—
THE KERNEL OF THE BIBLE**

Message Seven

Saved in Life from Self-likeness

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:10; 1:3-4; 8:19, 26-29; Eph. 1:5; Matt. 16:21-26

I. As believers in Christ, children of God, we need to be saved in life from self-likeness—Rom. 5:10; 8:29; Matt. 16:21-26:

- A. Self-likeness is the expression, the appearance, of the self—v. 24.
- B. The life in the Son of God is well able to save us from such self-expression—Rom. 5:10.
- C. We need to see a vision of the self so that the self may be exposed and denied—Matt. 16:21-26:
 - 1. The self is the soul-life with the emphasis on human thoughts and opinions—v. 23.
 - 2. The self is the embodiment of Satan; the self is the essence of Satan in the soul, making the soul independent from God to express its self-opinion and self-will—v. 24:
 - a. The origin of the self was Satan's injecting his thought into the human mind—Gen. 3:1-6.
 - b. The soul became the self when something of Satan was added to the soul; the thing that was added to the soul was the thought, or the mind, of Satan—Matt. 16:23; 2 Cor. 11:3.
 - c. The self is the soul plus the satanic mind—Matt. 16:23-25.
 - 3. As Christ is the embodiment and expression of God, so the self is the embodiment and expression of Satan—Col. 2:9; 1:15; Matt. 16:23-24.
- D. To be saved in the life of Christ from self-likeness is to be saved from the self—Rom. 5:10.

II. The way to be saved in the life of Christ from self-likeness is to be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God—8:29:

- A. Conformation, which is higher than transformation and is the consummation of the believers' transformation, denotes the shaping of life—v. 29; 12:2:
 - 1. Transformation is inward, is a matter of essence, and involves a change in form; conformation is outward and is a matter of shape—v. 2; 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:10, 21.
 - 2. The Lord is sanctifying us and transforming us so that we may be conformed to His image; therefore, transformation results in conformation—Heb. 2:11; 13:12.
 - 3. As the divine life grows within us and transforms us, it spontaneously shapes us into the image of the firstborn Son of God—2 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 8:2; Heb. 2:10.
- B. In order for us to see clearly that conformation is being conformed to the image of God's firstborn Son, we need to connect Romans 1:3-4 and 8:29:
 - 1. Christ's divinity and glory were concealed in His flesh; no one had the vision that could penetrate through His flesh to see that He was the glorious Son of God.
 - 2. After He passed through the process of death and resurrection, He was designated the Son of God; that is, He was marked out and manifested to be the Son of God.

3. Through His resurrection, Christ became the firstborn Son of God, full of the essence of God's holiness, not only in His spirit but also in His body—1:4.
 4. Through His incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, Christ, the Son of God, became the firstborn Son, and the many sons, who are the brothers of Christ, are being conformed to His image—Heb. 2:10-11; Rom. 8:29.
 5. In Romans 1:3-4 Christ, the Son of God, is the prototype, whereas in 8:29 the many brothers are those who have been “mass-produced” from the prototype:
 - a. In 1:3-4 the one Son is designated, but in 8:29 many sons are conformed.
 - b. The designation of the one Son is related to the prototype; the conformation of the many sons is the work of “mass production.”
 - c. Having gained the prototype, God is now seeking to have the “mass production” in order to produce many sons in the image of the Firstborn.
 - d. In 1:4 we have the formation of the prototype; in 8:29 we have the work of “mass production.”
 - e. In 1:4 we have the designation of the Son of God individually; in 8:29 we have the saturation, sanctification, conformation, and designation of the many sons collectively; the principle is the same.
 - f. Through the process of death and resurrection, the Spirit of holiness—the divine essence of holiness—permeated and saturated the Lord's humanity, including His flesh—1:4.
 - g. As believers in the Lord Jesus, we also have the Spirit of holiness, the divine essence of holiness, in our spirit—8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17.
 - h. Because this holy essence is concealed within our humanity, we need to pass through a process under God's sovereign arrangement that will enable this essence to saturate and permeate our entire being—Eph. 3:17.
- C. The Spirit intercedes for us, and God causes all things to work together for us so that we may be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son—Rom. 8:26-29:
1. Christ is the pattern, and the Spirit prays that everything that happens to us will mold us into this pattern, into the image of God's firstborn Son—vv. 26-27.
 2. In our groanings the interceding Spirit prays for us to be conformed to the image of the resurrected Christ, the firstborn Son of God—v. 26.
 3. God the Father is sovereign, arranges everything, and knows what is best for us; He answers the Spirit's intercession by causing all things to work together for good—our being conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God for the corporate expression of the Triune God—vv. 28-29.
- D. We are in the process of being conformed to the image of God's firstborn Son—Christ as the first God-man—so that God may have a group of God-men who are full-grown in life and the same as God in righteousness and holiness—2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24:
1. For Christ to be the firstborn Son of God, He needs us, the “twins,” to be conformed to His image—Rom. 8:29.
 2. When we have been saved from our self-likeness and have been fully conformed to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God, we will be sons of God in reality, and in every respect we will bear the appearance of God's sons—vv. 14, 19; Heb. 2:10.
 3. We are to be conformed to the image of God's firstborn Son that we may be a group of God-men who are exactly like Him—Rom. 8:29.
 4. In this way, Christ will be the Firstborn among God's many sons so that God may obtain the corporate expression of His firstborn Son with the many sons to accomplish His eternal purpose—Eph. 1:5, 11; 3:11; Heb. 2:10; Rev. 21:7.