

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2022**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
LIVING IN THE REALITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST
BY LEARNING CHRIST AS THE REALITY IS IN JESUS**

Message Two

**Passing through the Process of Learning Christ as the Reality Is in Jesus
to Fulfill the Desire of God's Heart for the Reality of the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:20-24; John 7:37-39; Phil. 4:11-13; Mark 6:45-51; Dan. 4:25-26; 7:25

I. The desire of God's heart is that the reality of the Body of Christ, which is "the reality...in Jesus" (Eph. 4:21), the actual condition of the God-man living of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, would be duplicated in the many members of Christ's Body by the Spirit of reality to become the reality of the Body of Christ, the highest peak in God's economy (vv. 20-24):

- A. The four Gospels show the pattern of the life that God desires, the mold of the life that can satisfy God and fulfill His purpose; to learn Christ is to be molded into the pattern of Christ, to be conformed to the image of Christ—Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 4:20-21.
- B. When we live in the mingled spirit (the divine Spirit dwelling in our human spirit, and these two being mingled together as one spirit), we are learning Christ according to the reality in Jesus by the Spirit of reality (John 16:13; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 3:3); in this way His biography becomes our history (Gal. 6:17-18; Eph. 4:20-24; Phil. 1:8; 2:5, 13).

II. In the Spirit of the glorified Jesus, there is the transformed humanity of Jesus; to drink of and flow out the one Spirit for the one Body is to drink of and flow out the Spirit of the man Jesus, the humanity of Jesus, with His divinely enriched human virtues of lowliness, meekness, and long-suffering for bearing one another in love—John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 16:7; Eph. 4:2-3; 1 Thes. 1:5:

- A. In order to live in the reality of the Body of Christ in the church life, we need to experience Christ in His humanity as our lowliness and meekness; to be lowly is to remain in a low estate, and to be meek is to not fight for oneself—Eph. 4:2; Phil. 2:5-8; Matt. 11:29; 5:40; Mark 10:45; John 13:12-17.
- B. In order to live in the reality of the Body of Christ in the church life, we need to experience Christ in His humanity as our long-suffering with joy; to be long-suffering is to endure mistreatment for the sake of the Body—Col. 1:11, 24.
- C. In order to live in the reality of the Body of Christ in the church life, we need to experience Christ in His humanity for bearing one another in love; although at times we cause the Lord a great deal of trouble, the Lord Jesus always bears us; in the church life we should not forsake the troublesome ones but bear them in love as the expression of our enjoyment of Christ as life—Eph. 4:2, 31-32; Rom. 2:3-4; 1 Thes. 5:12-18; cf. Psa. 73:21-26.
- D. If we call on the name of the Lord and feed upon Him, we will enjoy Jesus as a man, and all the virtues of His uplifted humanity will be ours in the Spirit of Jesus for the practice of the recovered church life in the Spirit of reality as the reality of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 1:2; 10:3-4, 17; 12:3b, 13; John 16:13; Eph. 4:3-4a.
- E. We all need to spend an adequate amount of personal time with the Lord to privately fellowship with Him in our spirit so that we can be filled with His glorified humanity that

enables Him to shepherd others through us and to shine through us for others to see Him in us—John 4:24; Luke 15:20; Matt. 5:15-16.

III. We must learn to take Christ as our secret of sufficiency and as our living and indwelling pattern, enjoying Him as the unsearchably rich Spirit of reality, who is the reality of the Body of Christ—Phil. 4:11-13; 1:19:

- A. The Lord Jesus came to serve us with Himself as life; He served us in the past, serves us in the present, and will serve us in the future—Mark 10:45; Luke 22:26-27; Mark 6:45-51; John 10:10; 6:48; 8:12; 13:4-8; 18:7-9; Luke 12:37.
- B. The Lord's ministry is to serve us in the present with Himself as the only life that is a delight to God, a life that is a repetition of the life Christ lived on earth—John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Matt. 11:29a; 17:5b; 1 Pet. 2:21.
- C. In order to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus, we need to realize that we only have today; we do not have tomorrow; to rest in the Lord today and leave tomorrow with Him is to set our mind on the spirit (Rom. 8:6); our pneumatic Christ is the "I Am," the "now" Christ, the "today" Christ, the present presence of God, to meet our present need (Heb. 3:7, 13, 15; John 8:58; Exo. 33:11, 14).
- D. As members of the Body, we must look to the Lord for His mercy in the Body, through the Body, for the Body, and by the supply of the Body to be like the resurrection-enjoying Lazarus, who became a silent testimony of the Lord's power, a proof of the Lord's love, and a manifestation of the Lord's grace—Gen. 2:22; Rom. 9:16; John 12:1-3, 9-11; cf. Eccl. 9:4:
 - 1. We may have been dead, stinking, cold, and far away from the Lord, but we are still here; while we are sitting here, though we may not be doing anything or saying anything, we are reminders and a living testimony that the Lord Jesus has resurrected us; by this alone, God gains the glory—John 11:38-45; 12:9-11.
 - 2. Resurrection means that we cannot do anything by ourselves but that we can do it only in God and through God; this means that "the things that are impossible with men are possible with God"—Luke 18:27; Num. 16:3, 7-11, 36-38; 17:1-8; Rom. 12:4.

IV. As we are in the process of learning Christ as the reality is in Jesus, we need to seek out the journey, the course, that the Lord has ordained for us according to His perfect will and to finish our course in living a heavenly life on earth for the reality of the Body of Christ—Mark 6:45-51; Acts 13:25, 36; 20:24; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; Acts 26:16:

- A. From the ascension of Christ to His coming again, the world is in a long night; "the night is far advanced" (Rom. 13:12), our boat is "in the midst of the sea," and we still have not reached the destination of our journey (Mark 6:45-48; John 6:21; cf. 2 Thes. 2:2; 2 Tim. 3:1-13).
- B. We need to realize that the journey of faithful believers is one in which the wind is "contrary" to them, and they experience being "distressed" as they "row"; we need to take the Lord into our "boat" (our married life, our family, our business, etc.) and enjoy peace with Him on the journey of human life—Mark 6:47-51; John 6:21.
- C. Before the Lord's coming, there will be a falling away (2 Thes. 2:3) and perilous times, and "evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:1-13); because men do not receive the love of the truth, "God sends to them an operation of error that they might believe the lie" (2 Thes. 2:11-12; Isa. 5:20).

V. In these days, just before the dawn of the Lord's coming (2 Pet. 1:19), we need to stand against the wearing-out tactics of Satan (Dan. 7:25), be empowered in the grace which is in Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 2:1), and receive mercy from the Lord to be faithful (1 Cor. 7:25b) in order to take the journey that He has ordained for us for the sake of the building up of His Body, the preparation of His bride, to bring Him back (Matt. 16:18; Gen. 2:22; Rev. 19:7):

- A. Satan always works to attack God's children; his attacks are not sudden; they mostly come gradually; this is why the Bible says that the love of the many will "grow" cold (Matt. 24:12); Satan wears out God's children gradually, repeatedly, frequently, and daily (Eph. 6:13):
1. Satan wears out the physical bodies of God's children; he depletes men of a little food today and a little sleep tomorrow; he makes them a little tired today and a little tired tomorrow; the cumulative effect of this tiredness eventually destroys their health completely; if we redeem the time, the most productive period of our life for our spiritual usefulness in God's service should be between the ages of seventy and eighty or even ninety years old; the Lord's servants must realize that health comes first; the work comes second—cf. Deut. 34:7.
 2. Satan wears out our heart; when we believed in the Lord and came into the church life, we were happy, joyful, and peaceful; but if we are not watchful and do not know the work of Satan, we will suddenly become restless one day, unhappy another day, and depressed the third day; we will backslide little by little and eventually become weary and discouraged; instead of this, we must be those who learn how to maintain our joy—Prov. 4:18-23; Rom. 14:17; Jer. 15:16.
 3. Satan wears out our spirit; he takes away our prayer and our trust in God little by little; he causes us to trust in ourselves, in our gift, and in our natural capability more and more, rather than being a lover of Christ, who leans on her Beloved, trusting in Him helplessly in and for everything—S. S. 8:5a; 2 Cor. 1:8-9.
 4. Satan wears out our time; we need to be those who are "redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16); every day is an evil day full of pernicious things that cause our time to be used ineffectively, to be reduced, and to be taken away; we should ask the Lord to teach us to number our days (Psa. 90:12) and to restore to us the years that the locust has eaten (Joel 2:25).
 5. Satan wears out our consecration; Samson was a Nazarite, and the source of his power, signified by his long hair, was his consecration to God; Satan used Delilah, who pressed Samson daily with her words; eventually, Samson's soul was vexed unto death, and he told her all that was in his heart, revealing the source of his power; thus, he lost his consecration, his power, his testimony of sanctification, and God's presence—Num. 6:2, 5; Judg. 16:6-21; cf. Lev. 6:12-13; 8:22.
- B. While we are in the process of learning Christ as the reality is in Jesus, we could become very depressed like Isaiah did when he observed the corruption among God's people and the increasing darkness among people on earth—Isa. 5:20; 6:1-8:
1. The One who appeared to Isaiah was Christ as the Lord, the King, Jehovah of hosts (v. 5; John 12:41 and footnote); on this earth everything changes and fluctuates, but Christ the Lord is still on the throne in His glory; hence, we should not look down at the situation on earth but should look up to Christ on the throne (Heb. 12:2; Col. 3:1-2).
 2. Under the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens, He administrates the universe (Dan. 4:25-26), including all the kings and kingdoms on the earth (Rev. 19:16), in order to fulfill His purpose, which is that Christ would be preeminent in all things (Col. 1:18); under the rule of the heavens, everything is working together for the good of God's elect for the purpose of making Christ preeminent so that they can be conformed to His image (Rom. 8:28-29).