

**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 Four

**Learning the Secret Being to Learn Christ as the Reality Is in Jesus
in Order to Live the Life of a God-man as the Reality of the Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:20-21; Phil. 1:8, 19-21a; 2:5, 12-16; 3:7-10, 13-14, 20-21; 4:12-13

- I. The reality of the Body of Christ is “the reality...in Jesus”—Eph. 4:21:**
 - A. The reality in Jesus is the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels; the only life that is pleasing to God is the life that is a repetition of the life Christ lived on earth—Matt. 3:15-17; 17:5; Luke 3:22; 2 Cor. 5:9; Heb. 13:21; 1 John 3:22-24.
 - B. A life that experiences Christ in His experiences is a God-pleasing life; such a life is a delight to God; as He lives in us and through us, He repeats in us His life as recorded in the four Gospels—*Hymns*, #403.
 - C. The way that the Lord Jesus lived on earth is the way that the members of the Body of Christ should live today; the reality in Jesus should be duplicated in His many members so that they may live corporately in the reality of the Body of Christ—John 14:19.
- II. The Lord’s God-man living constituted a prototype to His believers; this prototype is for the reproduction of the God-man in the believers—Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 2:21:**
 - A. Originally, such a life was in an individual man, Jesus Christ; now this life is being repeated in many men who have been redeemed and regenerated and who possess the divine life—1:18, 21, 23; 1 John 5:11-12.
 - B. To follow Jesus is to be a xerox copy of the first God-man (1 Pet. 2:21); as God-men, we should live as divine and mystical persons; everything in our living should be divine and mystical (1 John 2:6; 3:1; 4:6a, 15, 17b; Phil. 1:20b-21a).
 - C. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men yet who do not live by their life but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes are expressed through their virtues.
- III. Paul was a pattern of learning the secret of how to take Christ as everything, the secret of experiencing and enjoying Christ in everything and in every place—this is to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus—4:12; Eph. 4:20-21; 1 Tim. 1:16:**
 - A. The best way to shepherd people, to cherish and nourish them, is to give them a proper pattern; Paul fed his spiritual children with his own living of Christ—v. 16; 1 Thes. 2:1-12; 2 Cor. 1:23—2:14; 11:28-29; 1 Cor. 9:22; Acts 20:28:
 1. The apostles not only preached the gospel but also lived it; their ministering of the gospel was not only by word but also by a life that displayed the power of God, a life in the Holy Spirit and in the assurance of faith—“you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake”—1 Thes. 1:5.
 2. In the church the most important thing is the person; the person is the way, and the person is the Lord’s work; what you are is what you do—John 5:19; 6:57; Phil. 1:19-26; Acts 20:18-35; Matt. 7:17-18; 12:33-37.

B. Paul was infused with God to shine forth God in the ministry of the new covenant, which is the ministry of the Spirit, the ministry of righteousness, and the ministry of reconciliation—2 Cor. 3:18; 4:1; 3:6, 8-9; 5:18-20.

IV. During Paul's long imprisonment-voyage, he lived a life that was fully dignified, with the highest standard of human virtues, expressing the most excellent divine attributes—Acts 27:22, 24-25; 28:3-6, 8-9:

A. In his voyage Paul lived and magnified Christ; he lived the life of the God-man Jesus by the Spirit of the glorified Jesus—Phil. 1:19-21a; Eph. 6:19-20; Acts 16:7; John 7:37-39a.

B. This was Jesus living again on the earth in His divinely enriched humanity!

C. This was the wonderful, excellent, and mysterious God-man, who lived in the Gospels, continuing to live in the Acts through one of His many members!

D. This was a living witness of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and God-exalted Christ!

V. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to maintain our joy—2 Cor. 5:9; Heb. 11:5-6; Phil. 4:4:

A. We must exercise our spirit to praise the Lord and rejoice always—Heb. 13:15; Psa. 119:164; Rom. 14:17-18; cf. 1 Cor. 12:13; Psa. 116:12-13.

B. "I maintain my joy, so please do not worry. I hope you will also take care of yourself and be filled with joy in your heart" (from a letter written in prison by Watchman Nee to his sister-in-law on April 22, 1972)—cf. Lev. 1:9; 6:10.

VI. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to experience Christ in His inward parts—Phil. 1:8:

A. Christ's inner being, His inward affection, is absolutely focused on His believers, who are the members of His Body, the church—Eph. 5:25, 30.

B. We need to be one with Christ in His inward parts, His inward affection, toward the church with all the believers—2 Cor. 12:15; Phil. 2:19-21.

VII. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to take Christ as our living for His expression by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—1:19-21, 24-25:

A. Christ lived in Paul to be his life, and Paul lived Christ for Christ to be his living—Gal. 2:20; 6:17.

B. Paul enjoyed the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ as the compound Spirit; this enjoyment is for the Body and for God's priestly service—Psa. 133.

VIII. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to take the mind of Christ as our mind—Phil. 2:5:

A. The way to set our mind on the spirit is to set our mind on God's Word—1 Cor. 2:16; Eph. 4:23; Rom. 8:6; Psa. 119:105, 130.

B. The more we allow the light of the Scriptures to penetrate our mind, the more the thinking of Christ as the Slave-Savior will be our thinking, and we will have the mind of Christ for the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:2-3; Mark 10:45.

IX. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to experience Christ as the inner operating God to hold Him forth as the word of life—Phil. 2:12-16:

A. God operates in us both the inner willing and the outer working for His good pleasure.

B. To hold forth Christ as the word of life is to apply, present, and offer Him to others by living Him out—Acts 5:20; Matt. 5:16.

- X. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to aspire to gain Christ, be found in Him, and know Him subjectively—Phil. 3:7-10:**
- A. We should be one with Paul to count all things as refuse that we may gain, win, the Christ whom we have received.
 - B. Paul aspired to have his whole being immersed in and saturated with Christ that all who observed him might find him fully in Christ.
- XI. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to take Christ as our lived-out righteousness—v. 9:**
- A. Paul wanted to live not in his own righteousness but in the righteousness of God, and to be found in such a transcendent condition, expressing God by living Christ, not by keeping the law.
 - B. The overcomers who live out Christ as their righteousness in this age will become His bride at His marriage dinner, and they will be “clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints”—Rev. 19:8; 3:18.
- XII. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to take Christ as our goal—Phil. 3:13-14:**
- A. We must continually exercise to forget the things which are behind and stretch forward day by day to gain more of the vast unexplored territory of the Christ before us.
 - B. We must pursue toward our goal—the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ.
- XIII. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to experience Christ as our virtues—4:8:**
- A. Christ is true, dignified, righteous, pure, lovely, and well spoken of; He is the reality of these praiseworthy virtues.
 - B. When we pursue Him to experience Him as our content, He will become the reality of our virtues—2 Cor. 2:15; 3:3.
- XIV. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to learn Christ as our secret—Phil. 4:11-12:**
- A. We must learn the secret of how to take Christ as life, how to live Christ, how to magnify Christ, and how to gain Christ in any environment and in any matter.
 - B. We need to tell the Lord everything, talk to the Lord, to enjoy Christ as our secret of sufficiency—vv. 6-7.
- XV. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to take Christ as our power—v. 13:**
- A. On the one hand, we are able to do all things in Christ who empowers us; on the other hand, we can do nothing apart from Him—John 15:5.
 - B. As the dynamo within us, Christ empowers us to live Him, magnify Him, and press on toward Him as the goal—1 Cor. 1:24; Eph. 1:19-23.
- XVI. In following Paul as our pattern of living the life of a God-man, we need to take Christ as our expectation—Phil. 3:20-21:**
- A. The evil slave says in his heart that his master delays his coming—Matt. 24:45-51.
 - B. The ones who love Christ’s appearing will be rewarded with Him as the crown of righteousness and as the morning star—2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:28.
- XVII. The corporate living of the God-men—a living that is the reality of the Body of Christ—will end this age and will bring Christ back to take, possess, and rule over the earth with these God-men in the kingdom age—11:15; 20:6.**