

**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 Sixteen

**Being Constituted with the Spirit of Reality
and Learning Christ by Being Taught in Him as the Reality Is in Jesus**

Scripture Reading: John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6; Eph. 4:20-21; Phil. 3:10

I. For the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be constituted with the Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13:

- A. The writings of John reveal that the Spirit is the Spirit of reality—14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6.
- B. The Spirit is called the Spirit of reality because whatever the Father in the Son is and whatever the Son is, is realized in the Spirit—John 16:13.
- C. The Spirit of reality is the reality of the Triune God; that is, He is the reality of all that the Triune God is and all that He has accomplished, obtained, and attained—15:26.
- D. The Spirit is the reality of Christ and of the divine revelation; hence, the Spirit is called the reality—1 John 5:6.
- E. The Spirit of reality guides us into all the reality—John 16:13:
 - 1. The Spirit of reality guides the believers into all the reality of the Triune God and of all divine matters—2 Cor. 13:14.
 - 2. In John 16:13 *reality* refers to what the Father has, what the Son has, and what the Spirit receives of the Son and of what the Father has.
- F. As the Spirit of reality guides us into the divine reality by transmitting this reality into us, the divine reality—the processed and consummated Triune God—becomes the essence of our being—Eph. 3:14-17a.
- G. Because the Spirit of reality has come into us, reality abides in us—John 14:6, 17:
 - 1. Only that which is in the Spirit of reality is spiritual reality—16:13.
 - 2. All spiritual things must be in the Spirit of reality before they can be real, living, and organic in our daily living—14:6, 17.
- H. The Spirit of reality should become our reality, life, and living, and this reality should be applied to our entire being in everything and in every way and thereby become our reality in our daily walk—3 John 3.

II. In Ephesians 4:21 Paul does not say that the reality is in Christ; rather, he says that the reality is in Jesus:

- A. The expression *the reality is in Jesus* refers to the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels—Matt. 7:28—8:3; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 8:4-18; John 4:34:
 - 1. The reason for this is that when the Lord Jesus lived on earth as a man, in Him there was always reality—14:6.
 - 2. In Jesus, that is, in His human living and daily walk—whether He worked as a carpenter or carried out His ministry—there was reality at all times—1:14, 17.
- B. In Ephesians 4:17 we see a contrast between the reality in Jesus and the vanity of the Gentiles' mind:

1. In the human living of Jesus there was no vanity but only the reality—John 14:6.
 2. In our godless society there is nothing but vanity of vanities—Eccl. 1:2; Psa. 39:4-6a.
- C. Everything in the daily living of the man Jesus is the reality—John 1:14:
1. Whatever He did in His human living was reality—v. 17.
 2. Not one of His words was vain—cf. 1 Pet. 2:22.
 3. In the godless walk of the nations, the fallen people, there is vanity, but in the godly life of Jesus there is reality—Eph. 4:17, 21.
 4. Jesus lived a life in which He did everything in God, with God, and for God—John 17:4.
 5. God was in His living, and He was one with God; this is what is meant by *the reality is in Jesus*—5:17, 36.
 6. We, the believers, who are regenerated with Christ as our life and are taught in Him, learn from Him as the reality is in Jesus—Col. 3:4; Eph. 4:21.
 7. The four Gospels reveal that in every detail of the Lord's daily living, there is not vanity but only reality—John 1:14, 17.
 8. In nearly every page of the four Gospels, we see a striking contrast between the reality in the godly living of Jesus and the vanity in the living of others around Him, such as His opposers as well as His disciples—Matt. 23:1-36.
- D. Christ is not only life to us but also an example:
1. In His life on earth He set up a pattern, as revealed in the Gospels—Phil. 2:6-8.
 2. Then He was crucified and resurrected to become the life-giving Spirit so that He might enter into us to be our life—1 Cor. 15:3-4, 45b.
 3. We learn from Him according to His example, not by our natural life but by Him as our life in resurrection—Matt. 11:29; John 11:25.

III. To learn Christ is to be molded into the pattern of Christ, that is, to be conformed to the image of Christ—Phil. 3:10; Rom. 8:29:

- A. In His thirty-three and a half years on earth, the Lord Jesus formed the mold, the pattern, to which all those who believe in Him are to be conformed—Phil. 3:10; Rom. 9:20:
1. According to the record of the four Gospels, the life of the Lord Jesus was a life of reality.
 2. Reality is the shining of light—Matt. 4:16; Luke 1:78-79; John 1:5, 7-9:
 - a. Light is the source, and reality is its expression—vv. 4, 14, 17.
 - b. The Lord Jesus is the effulgence of God's glory; this means that He is the shining of God as light—Heb. 1:3; John 8:12.
 - c. Because in every aspect of the Lord's living on earth there was the shining of light, His life was a life of reality, a life of the shining of God Himself—1:9; 1 John 2:8.
 - d. That life of reality was the expression of God; for this reason, Paul says that we learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus—Eph. 4:21.
 - e. In other words, we learn Christ according to the mold of the life of Jesus, which is the reality—Phil. 3:10.
- B. After Christ established this mold, He passed through death and resurrection, and in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit; as such a Spirit, He comes into us to be our life—John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Col. 3:4:
1. When we believed in Christ and were baptized, God put us into Him as the mold (just as dough is placed into a mold)—cf. 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1.
 2. By being put into the mold, we learn the mold—Phil. 3:10; Eph. 4:20-21:
 - a. This means that by being put into Christ, we learn Christ—v. 20.
 - b. On the one hand, God put us into Christ; on the other hand, Christ has come into us to be our life—John 11:25; Col. 3:4.
 - c. Now we may live by Him according to the mold in which we have been placed by God.
 - d. We are in Christ as the mold, and He is in us as our life; in this way we learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus—1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 3:4; Eph. 4:20-21.