Outline of the Messages for the Full-time Training in the Fall Term of 2025

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES— PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

Message One

Living Christ and Magnifying Christ

Scripture Reading: Phil. 1:19-21

I. The book of Philippians unveils the living of a God-man who pursues Christ, lives Christ, and magnifies Christ—3:10; 1:19-21a; 4:12-13:

- A. According to 1:20 and 21, the bountiful supply is for the believers to live Christ.
- B. The living and magnifying of Christ is our daily salvation.
- C. We need to be saved daily by experiencing Christ to live Him and to magnify Him by the all-inclusive, bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

II. The subject and the controlling concept of the book of Philippians is the experience of Christ—3:7-10; 4:13:

- A. The experience of Christ is the master key that opens the book of Philippians to us.
- B. The experience of Christ is a Body matter—1:19; 2:1-2; 4:2-3, 10, 14-20:
 - 1. Whatever is in the Body and of the Body involves mutual fellowship; the experience of Christ requires such mutuality—2:1-2; 1 Cor. 12:25.
 - 2. The experience of Christ must be in the Body and for the Body; only by experiencing Christ in the Body can we fully experience Him—Eph. 4:16; Rom. 12:5.

III. Philippians is a book not only on the experience of Christ but also on living Christ—1:19-21a:

- A. The basic thought of the Bible is that the Triune God desires to work Himself into us so that we may take Him as our life and live Him—Eph. 3:16-17a.
- B. The Christian life is a life of living Christ for the constitution and building up of the Body of Christ—4:1-3, 12, 16; Col. 1:24; 2:19:
 - 1. The Christian life is to live Christ with His divine attributes expressed in His human virtues as a part of His organic Body—Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:14.
 - 2. For the Body, we should live a life that is Christ Himself, living as parts of His Body for the universal consummation of the eternal economy of God—Eph. 3:8-11.
- C. The Christian life is not a life of ethics, religion, culture, or even morality; the Christian life is Christ—Col. 3:4:
 - 1. As believers in Christ, we should live a life that is actually Christ Himself—John 6:57.
 - 2. The standard of the Christian life is Christ, and the normal experience of Christ is to live Christ—Eph. 4:20; Col. 2:2-3, 8; Phil. 1:21a.
- D. Paul's life was to live Christ—v. 21a; Gal. 2:20:
 - 1. Christ lived within Paul as his life, and Paul lived Christ without as His living; they lived together as one person with one life and one living.

- 2. When we live Christ, Christ and we live together: two lives have one living, two natures are mingled into one nature, and two spirits become one spirit—John 6:57; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- E. To live Christ requires that we remain in the inward parts of Christ—Phil. 1:8:
 - 1. Paul experienced the inward parts of Christ; he was one with Christ in His inward parts in longing after the saints.
 - 2. Paul did not live a life in his natural inner being; he lived a life in the inward parts of Christ.
 - 3. If we would be those who are in Christ, we must be in His inward parts, in His tender and delicate feelings—John 15:4a.
 - 4. To live Christ is to abide in His inward parts and there to enjoy Him as grace—Phil. 1:7; 4:23.
- F. The bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ was for Paul to live Christ—1:19:
 - 1. The bountiful supply of the all-inclusive Spirit includes divinity, humanity, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, the divine attributes, and the human virtues—Acts 16:7; Rom. 8:9.
 - 2. In Philippians 1:19 Paul speaks of the supply of the Body before speaking of the bountiful supply of the Spirit because the Spirit is upon the Body:
 - a. As a member of the Body, Paul realized that he needed the supply of the Body—1 Cor. 12:12, 14-22.
 - b. Paul had the clear sense within that he was in the Body, that the members of the Body were supporting him, and that the bountiful supply of the Spirit would come to him through the Body.
 - 3. Paul could be an overcomer because he experienced and enjoyed the all-inclusive Spirit with His bountiful supply dwelling in him—Rom. 8:37.

IV. If we magnify Christ by living Him, we will become strong factors, channels of supply, to enable the saints to grow in life and enjoy the Lord—Phil. 1:20-26:

- A. When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he was living in prison and not outwardly working; his speaking of "fruit for my work" indicates that his work was actually his living—v. 22; 4:22; Eph. 6:20.
- B. Because of Paul the churches could have the growth in life and be filled with the enjoyment of Christ; this should also be true of us today—Phil. 1:25:
 - 1. Because Paul lived and magnified Christ to the uttermost, he could transfuse Christ into the saints and minister Christ to all the churches.
 - 2. Paul's consideration to either depart and be with Christ or remain in the flesh was not selfish but was for the saints' sake; he was absolutely occupied by the Lord and the church:
 - a. It should matter to the church whether we remain or go to be with the Lord, but this depends on our living Christ, magnifying Christ, ministering Christ, and transfusing Christ from the depths of our being into that of the saints—cf. 2:25-30.
 - b. In the Body life there is the urgent need of certain ones to function as channels of supply—Zech. 4:12-14; Judg. 9:9.