

**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 Fifteen

**Warfare at the Cross
and
Christ Being Our Life**

Scripture Reading: Col. 2:15; 3:4; Gal. 2:20

- I. There was warfare at the cross as revealed in Colossians 2:15: “Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He [God] made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it [the cross]”:**
- A. This verse portrays the warfare that took place at the time of Christ’s crucifixion:
 - 1. In His crucifixion Christ was working to accomplish redemption, and God the Father was also working to judge sin.
 - 2. At the same time the rulers and authorities were busy in the attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ.
 - 3. The reference to triumph in Colossians 2:15 implies fighting; it indicates that a war was raging.
 - 4. In His work on the cross, Christ caused the rulers and authorities to be stripped off, to be made a display of openly, and to be triumphed over in the cross by God.
 - 5. This means that He shamed them openly; man could not see this invisible scene, but all the angels, both good and bad, saw it.
 - 6. The words *stripping off* mean that Satan could not lay hold of anything or keep anything.
 - 7. Christ dealt with Satan’s evil power, “that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil”—Heb. 2:14c.
 - 8. He went into death, fought with death, overcame the power of death, and then emerged victorious over everything.
 - 9. What a great matter this is!
 - B. The pronoun *He* in Colossians 2:15 refers to God in verse 12:
 - 1. When Christ was on the cross, God wiped out the ordinances of the law.
 - 2. The law that was used to expose our sinfulness has been nailed to the cross.
 - 3. During the time of Christ’s crucifixion, there was an invisible spiritual conflict between God and the rulers and authorities—evil angels that are subordinates of Satan working for him.
 - 4. God won the victory!
 - 5. At the time of Christ’s crucifixion, the cross was the center of the universe:
 - a. God was judging sin and all negative things and nailing the law to the cross.
 - b. As He was doing this, the rulers and authorities gathered around God and Christ.
 - c. Both God and Christ were working:
 - (1) Christ’s work was His crucifixion.
 - (2) God’s work was to strip off, put off, the rulers and authorities.

- d. The rulers and authorities who were swarming around God and Christ were also working to interfere.
 - e. If they had not pressed in closely, how could God have stripped them off?
 - f. The words *stripping off the rulers and the authorities* in Colossians 2:15 indicate that they were very close, as close as our garments are to our body.
- C. Now that the law and the evil angels have been set aside, God has a clear ground and a peaceful environment to enliven His chosen ones, His believers:
- 1. He has a proper atmosphere to carry out the pleasant task of dispensing Himself into the ones He chose in eternity past.
 - 2. As the life-giving Spirit, the Triune God, having stripped off the rulers and authorities, is giving life to us by dispensing Himself into our being.

II. Christ is our life—3:4; Gal. 2:20:

- A. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life—Col. 3:4; John 5:26:
- 1. For Christ to be our life means that He is subjective to us to the uttermost—1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.
 - 2. It is impossible to separate a person from the life of that person, for a person's life is the person himself; thus, to say that Christ is our life means that Christ has become us and that we have one life and one living with Him—John 14:6a; Phil. 1:21a.
 - 3. With Christ as the believers' life there are three characteristics:
 - a. This life is a crucified life—Gal. 2:20.
 - b. This life is a resurrected life—John 11:25.
 - c. This life is a life hidden in God—Col. 3:3; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18.
- B. In Galatians 2:20 we see the most basic truth of God's New Testament economy:
- 1. According to God's economy, we should no longer live; rather, Christ should live in us.
 - 2. In His economy God's intention is for the processed Triune God to be wrought into our being to make us a new person, a new "I."
 - 3. As regenerated people, we have both an old "I" and a new "I"; the old "I" has been terminated, but the new "I" lives:
 - a. The "I" who has been terminated is the "I" who was without divinity.
 - b. The "I" who still lives is the "I" into which God has been added.
 - c. The old "I" had nothing of God in it, whereas the new "I" has received the divine life.
 - d. The old "I" has become the new "I" because God as life has been added to it.
 - e. The new "I" is the "I" who came into being when the old "I" was resurrected and God was added to it.
 - 4. We and Christ do not have two lives; rather, we have one life and one living:
 - a. We live by Him, and He lives in us—John 6:57.
 - b. If we do not live, He does not live, and if He does not live, we cannot live.
 - 5. "I," the natural person, is inclined to keep the law that it might be perfect (Phil. 3:6), but God wants us to live Christ so that God may be expressed in us through Him; hence, God's economy is that "I" be crucified in Christ's death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection.
 - 6. To keep the law is to exalt it above all things in our life; to live Christ is to make Him the center and everything in our life.