

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

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
CHAPTERS FIVE THROUGH EIGHT OF ROMANS—
THE KERNEL OF THE BIBLE**

Message Eight

Setting the Mind on the Spirit

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:4-7; 12:2; Eph. 4:18, 23; 1 John 5:11-13; Phil. 4:7

I. We need to realize that the mind is a battlefield—Matt. 16:23; Eph. 6:12, 16-17:

- A. Because both Satan and God are in us, our mind has become a battlefield between God and Satan—2 Cor. 10:4-5; 11:3.
- B. The battlefield of the two kingdoms—the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God—is in our mind—Matt. 12:26, 28:
 - 1. An independent mind will be defeated, but a mind dependent on the spirit will have victory—Rom. 7:23, 25; 8:5.
 - 2. Whether we are one with Satan or one with God depends upon where we set our mind—v. 6.
 - 3. We must learn to repent; to repent means to turn our mind to the Lord—Matt. 3:2.
 - 4. In order to fight the battle against the enemy, we must know that the mind is the battlefield and that the way to protect and cover our mind is to turn it to the Lord all the time—Eph. 6:12, 16-17; Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:3, 19.

II. In Romans 8:6-8 the crucial item is the mind:

- A. The mind is the leading part of the soul, which is man's personality, his person; thus, the mind represents the soul, the person himself—12:2; 15:5; 1 Cor. 1:10; 2:16; Phil. 2:5; 4:2.
- B. In Romans 8 the mind is neutral, being between the regenerated, mingled spirit and the fallen body, the flesh.
- C. Romans 7 and 8 show that the mind may have two different functions, by which it can cause us to be either in the spirit or in the flesh:
 - 1. If the mind relies on and attaches itself to the regenerated spirit, which is mingled with the Spirit of God, the mind will bring us into the spirit and into the enjoyment of the divine Spirit as the law of life—vv. 2, 6.
 - 2. If the mind attaches itself to the flesh and acts independently, it will bring us into the flesh, causing us to be at enmity with God and to be unable to please Him—vv. 6-8.

III. Those who are according to the spirit mind the things of the Spirit—vv. 4-5:

- A. The things of the Spirit are the things concerning Christ, which the Spirit receives and declares to us—v. 5; John 16:14-15.
- B. As we exercise our spirit to mind the things of the Spirit, eventually our whole being will be according to the spirit—Rom. 8:4.
- C. Literally, "the mind set on the spirit" is the mind of the spirit.
- D. Setting the mind on the spirit is the same as minding the things of the Spirit in verse 5.

IV. Setting the mind on the spirit is the key to death or life—v. 6:

- A. The mind set on the flesh is death—v. 6a:

1. We know death because we have the feeling, the consciousness, of death; we feel uneasy and deadened instead of peaceful and living.
 2. The inner feelings of anxiety, dissatisfaction, emptiness, oldness, dryness, darkness, discord, restlessness, and bondage are aspects of the sense of death—Matt. 6:31-32.
 3. The sense of death should serve as a warning to us, urging us to be delivered from the flesh and to live in the spirit—Rom. 8:4.
- B. The mind set on the spirit is life—v. 6b:
1. In the whole universe only the life of God can be counted as life—John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25.
 2. Life is the content of God and the flowing out of God; God's content is God's being, and God's flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us—Eph. 4:18; Rev. 22:1.
 3. The life of God is divine, having the nature of God, and is eternal, being uncreated, without beginning and ending, self-existing, ever-existing, and never changing—John 3:15; 1 John 2:25; 5:13, 20.
 4. The eternal life of God is indestructible, indissoluble, and incorruptible, and it is the resurrection life that passed through the test of death and Hades, conquered death, and will swallow up death—Heb. 7:16; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18.
 5. The eternal life is the life that is in the Son of God and is the Son of God—1 John 5:11-12; 1:2.
 6. Life is the processed and consummated Triune God dispensed into us and living in us—Rom. 8:6, 10-11.
- C. The mind set on the spirit is peace—v. 6b:
1. When our mind is set on the spirit, our outward actions are in agreement with our inner man; there is no discrepancy between us and God, and we feel peaceful within—1:7; 5:1; 14:17.
 2. The New Testament speaks about both the peace of God and the God of peace—Phil. 4:7; Rom. 16:20:
 - a. The peace of God is actually God as peace infused into us through our fellowship with Him as the antidote to anxiety—John 16:33.
 - b. Our Father is the God of peace, having a peaceful life with a peaceable nature—Rom. 15:33; Matt. 5:9; Heb. 12:14; James 3:18; 2 Thes. 3:16a.
 3. The God of peace mounts guard over our hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus; He patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ—Phil. 4:7.
 4. We need to let the peace of Christ arbitrate all things in our hearts; for the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts, it must be enthroned as a ruler and decider in everything—Col. 3:15; Heb. 7:2.
- D. The more we set our mind on the spirit, the more our mind is renewed—Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23:
1. When the life-giving Spirit, who dwells in and is mingled with our regenerated spirit, spreads into our mind, this mingled spirit becomes the spirit of our mind; by this mingled spirit our mind is renewed for our transformation—v. 23; Rom. 12:2.
 2. The renewing of the mind, which results from setting the mind on the spirit, is the base for the transformation of our soul; our being renewed is for our transformation into the image of Christ—8:6; 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 3. Our mind is the leading part of our soul, and as it is renewed, our will and emotion automatically follow to be renewed also.
 4. To be renewed means that a new element is wrought into our being; this produces an inward metabolic transformation, making us suitable for the building of the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:2, 4-5.