

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

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

Message Nine

**Living in the Law of the Spirit of Life by Loving the Lord with the First Love**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:5; 8:2, 28-29, 31-39; John 14:21, 23; 21:15-17; Eph. 6:24; Rev. 2:4-5, 7

**I. The Christian life is a life that is Christ Himself lived through us by His operating in us as the law of the Spirit of life—*Hymns*, #403; Rom. 8:2:**

- A. Only Christ can be a true Christian, but in Himself He can only be Christ; He cannot be a Christian; He must enter into us, be mingled with us, and live Himself through us in order to be a Christian; we cannot be a Christian without Him, and He cannot be a Christian without us.
- B. As the law of the Spirit of life in our spirit, He is spreading into our inward parts, such as our mind, emotion, and will, and becomes several laws; in this way He is mingled with us and becomes our life supply; whenever we are enjoying Him, we are a true Christian, a Christ-man—Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10:
  - 1. By the working, the spreading, of the law of the Spirit of life within us, God makes us the same as He is in life, nature, and expression, and we are conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God—Rom. 8:2, 28-29.
  - 2. The firstborn Son is the prototype, the standard model, for the mass reproduction of the many sons of God, who are His many brothers to constitute His Body for God's corporate expression—v. 29; Eph. 4:20-21.
  - 3. God's way to mass reproduce this prototype is to work His living prototype, the firstborn Son, into our entire being; if we cooperate with and open up to this wonderful prototype, He will spread outward from our spirit into all the parts of our heart—3:16-21.
- C. When we take Christ as our burnt offering, the One who is absolutely for God's satisfaction, the law of the Spirit of life moves and works within us to live in us a life that is a repetition of the life that Christ lived on the earth, the life of the burnt offering—Lev. 1:3-4; Rom. 8:2; Eph. 4:20-21; Phil. 1:19-21a; Gal. 2:20; Acts 28:9, footnote 1:
  - 1. When we take Christ as our burnt offering, we are joined to Him, and He and we become one; all our weaknesses, defects, and faults are taken on by Him, and all His virtues become ours; this requires us to exercise our spirit through the proper prayer so that the law of the Spirit of life is activated within us to make us one with Him in an experiential way—Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:17-18; 1 Kings 8:48, footnote 1.
  - 2. Since the reality of the offerings in the Old Testament is Christ, the laws of the offerings correspond to the law of the Spirit of life; this shows that even in the enjoyment of Christ we should not be lawless but should be regulated by the law of the Spirit of life—Lev. 6:9; Rom. 8:2; cf. 1 Cor. 9:26-27; Gal. 6:15-16; Phil. 3:13-16.
- D. "Thy Spirit in my spirit now / Supplies Thyself, unites with me; / Thus I am all the time myself / And constantly am also Thee"—*Hymns*, #491, stanza 7.

**II. In order to live in the law of the Spirit of life, we need to love the Lord with the first love; to love the Lord with the first love, the best love, is to give the Lord the preeminence, the first place, in all things, being constrained by His love to regard and take Him as everything in our life—Rev. 2:4-5; Col. 1:18b; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Mark 12:30; Psa. 73:25-26; 80:17-19:**

- A. The processed and consummated Triune God as the indwelling law of the Spirit of life is love itself; the more He operates in us, the more we are brought into love as the heart of God and the more He attracts us and causes us to love Him—1 John 4:8, 16, 19; Eph. 3:16-21; Rom. 5:5; 8:2, 28-29, 31-39.
- B. Through faith we receive the Lord (John 1:12-13), and through love we enjoy the Lord whom we have received (14:21, 23; 21:15-17; Gal. 5:6; 6:15).
- C. The beginning of love in everyone toward the Lord is a vision of His person; the leaving of the first love toward the Lord is the source of and main reason for the failure of the church throughout the ages; nothing but love can keep us in a proper relationship with the Lord—2 Cor. 11:2-3; 2 Tim. 1:15; Eph. 1:4; 3:17; 4:2, 15-16; 5:2; 6:24; Rev. 2:4-5, 7.
- D. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to repent and do the first works; the first works are works that issue from the first love; if we have left our first love toward the Lord and do not repent and do the first works, we will lose the testimony of the Lord, and the lampstand will be removed from us—vv. 4-5, 7; 1 Thes. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:5; cf. 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10; 2 Cor. 1:24.
- E. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to have a personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual relationship with the Lord—S. S. 1:1-4.
- F. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to live a day-by-day life of morning revival so that we may satisfy Christ by being His young men like the dew from the womb of the dawn (Psa. 110:3), so that we may have the tongue of an instructed one to know how to sustain the weary with a word (Isa. 50:4-5), and so that we may fellowship with God, seeking God's will and pleasure for His gospel service (Mark 1:35).
- G. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to live a day-by-day life of consecration, becoming today's Nazarites, who are fully separated unto God and saturated with God in order to bless the children of God by dispensing God in His Divine Trinity into them—Psa. 110:3; Num. 6:1-9, 22-27.
- H. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to live a life of prayer—1 Sam. 12:23; Matt. 6:6; 14:22-23; Dan. 6:10; 2:17-18; 1 Tim. 2:1; 2 Tim. 1:3; 1 Thes. 5:17.
- I. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to love, treasure, and muse on God's word—Psa. 119:11, 14-15, 23, 48, 72, 78, 97, 99, 111, 113, 119, 127, 140, 147-148, 159, 162-163, 165, 167.
- J. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to be governed by the direct, firsthand presence of the Lord—Exo. 33:11, 14; 13:21-22; 2 Cor. 2:10; Exo. 25:30, footnotes 1 and 2.
- K. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to love the church in the church-loving Christ—Eph. 5:25; 2 Cor. 12:15; 1 Cor. 16:24.
- L. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to love the ministry that builds up the church—2 Cor. 8:5; 1 John 1:3; Eph. 4:11-12.
- M. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to live and walk by the Spirit, to serve by the Spirit, and to minister the Spirit—Gal. 5:25; Phil. 3:3; 2 Cor. 3:6; Zech. 4:6; Judg. 9:9; cf. 1 Sam. 2:30b.

- N. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to take Him as the fountain of living waters; God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to dispense Himself into His chosen people for their satisfaction and enjoyment to produce the church, God's counterpart, as God's enlargement to be God's fullness for His expression—Jer. 2:13; John 4:14b.
- O. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to eat Him as the tree of life; eating Christ as the tree of life, that is, enjoying Christ as our life supply, should be the primary matter in the church life—Rev. 2:7.
- P. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to continually come to Him to contact Him, take Him, receive Him, taste Him, and enjoy Him—Isa. 57:20, footnote 1.
- Q. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to take Him as our centrality—our holding center—and our universality—our everything; we need to take Him as the center, content, and circumference of our personal universe—Col. 1:17b, 18b.
- R. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to determine to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him by exercising our spirit of faith to believe that God is and we are not—2 Cor. 4:13; 5:9; Heb. 11:5-6; Gen. 5:22-24.
- S. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to have a clear sky like awesome crystal with God's sapphire throne above it; this means that there is nothing between us and the Lord and that we are filled with the heavenly atmosphere, condition, and situation of His ruling presence—allowing Him to rule and reign within us as our King, thus enthroning Him as the Ruler and Decider of everything in our life—Ezek. 1:22, 26; Isa. 6:1-8; cf. John 12:41-43.
- T. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to hold Him as the Head, staying intimately connected to Him, growing up into Him, and functioning out from Him so that all the Body can cause the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love—Col. 2:19; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16.
- U. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to ask for the counsel of Jehovah in every detail of our Christian life and work; this is to speak to Christ as the smitten rock, asking Him in faith to give us the Spirit, so that we can receive the living Spirit as the bountiful supply—Josh. 9:14; Phil. 1:19-21a; Luke 11:13.
- V. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to give the flow of life, the flow of the Lord Jesus within us, the preeminence in all that we are and do; then He is the shining One, the redeeming One, the reigning One, the flowing One, and the supplying One within us—Ezek. 47:1; Rev. 22:1-2.
- W. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to be dominated, governed, directed, led, and moved by our mingled spirit, caring for the rest in our spirit by being His captives and by praying, “Lord, make me Your captive. Never let me win. Defeat me all the time”—2 Cor. 2:13-14.
- X. To love the Lord with the first love, to give Him the first place in all things, is to enthrone Him with our praises; praise is the highest work carried out by God's children—Psa. 22:3; 119:164; 34:1.