

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2023**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES**

Message Fourteen

**The Kingdom of God—the Reality of the Church Life—
a Life of Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 14:17; Matt. 5:6, 9, 20; 6:33; Psa. 89:14; Col. 3:15; Acts 13:52

I. The kingdom of God is righteousness—Rom. 14:17:

- A. Righteousness denotes that which is right and proper; those who live in the kingdom of God should be right and proper toward others, toward things, and toward God—Matt. 5:6; 6:33.
- B. Our experience of Christ rests upon the foundation of God's righteousness, especially upon His being righteous in the blood of Jesus—1 John 1:7, 9.
- C. The most righteous persons are those who live Christ; the Christ who lives within us will make us right in every way—Phil. 1:21a; Gal. 2:20.
- D. According to the New Testament, righteousness has four main aspects:
 1. Righteousness is being right with persons, things, and matters according to God's righteous and strict requirements—Matt. 5:20.
 2. Righteousness is the outward expression of the Christ who lives in us as the life-giving Spirit—2 Cor. 3:9, 18; 1 Cor. 15:45b:
 - a. The Spirit is the essence of God living, moving, and acting within us, and righteousness is the essence of God manifested outwardly as God's image to express Him—Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10.
 - b. The divine essence that has been inscribed into us will have a particular expression, and this expression is righteousness—2 Cor. 3:3, 9; Matt. 5:20.
 - c. Righteousness signifies the expression of God's image—Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10.
 3. Righteousness is a matter of God's kingdom—Matt. 6:33:
 - a. God's throne is established with righteousness as the foundation—Psa. 89:14; 97:2.
 - b. Righteousness issues from God for His administration and thus is related to God's rule and government—Isa. 32:1.
 - c. Righteousness first issues in the image of God and then establishes the kingdom of God—Rom. 8:4, 29; 14:17.
 4. Righteousness is a matter of being right with God in our being—1 Cor. 15:34; 2 Cor. 5:21:
 - a. To be right with God in our being is to have an inner being that is transparent and crystal clear—an inner being in the mind and will of God—Rev. 21:11, 18b, 21b; 22:1.

- b. To be righteous in this way is to become the righteousness of God in Christ—2 Cor. 5:21.

II. The kingdom of God is peace—Rom. 14:17:

- A. Our Father is the God of peace, having a peaceful life with a peaceful nature—15:33; 16:20; Matt. 5:9; Heb. 12:14; James 3:18; 2 Thes. 3:16a.
- B. The peace that is in Christ, the peace that is Christ, the peace that was made by Christ, and the peace announced by Christ as the gospel are the peace of the Body and in the Body—Eph. 2:14-15, 17; 6:23; Gal. 6:16; Col. 1:20; 3:15:
 - 1. To live in the Body and to keep the oneness of the Body are to live in the peace of the Body; to live in and for the Body of Christ, we must keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace—Eph. 4:3.
 - 2. As far as it depends on us, we should live in peace with everyone—Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14.
- C. For the Body life we need to let the peace of Christ arbitrate all things in our hearts—Col. 3:15:
 - 1. The arbitrating peace of Christ is Christ working within us to exercise His rule over us and to make the final decision—Isa. 9:6-7.
 - 2. For the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts, it must be enthroned as a ruler and decider of everything—Heb. 7:2.
 - 3. In the Body life the peace of God guards our hearts and our thoughts in Christ Jesus—Phil. 4:7, 9.
 - 4. In the Body life our heart should be in a peaceful condition toward the members, for we were called to the peace of Christ in one Body—Col. 3:15.

III. The kingdom of God is joy in the Holy Spirit—Rom. 14:17:

- A. God wants us to enjoy Him and live for His purpose—Neh. 8:10; Eph. 3:11.
- B. Living the kingdom life in the church requires that we live joyfully to God in the Holy Spirit—1 Pet. 1:8; Matt. 5:11-12; Acts 5:41; 13:52; Phil. 2:17-18:
 - 1. Not being joyful indicates that we are defeated, that something is wrong with us, and that we have cast off the divine restraint; as a result, our spirit is weighed down, and we cannot rejoice—4:4; 1 Thes. 5:16.
 - 2. If we live a life of righteousness and peace, we will live joyfully to God in the Holy Spirit—Rom. 14:17.
- C. The Triune God is a God of joy, and the apostles are fellow workers with the saints for their joy—15:13; John 15:11; 17:13; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22; 2 Cor. 1:24; Phil. 1:25; 2:17-18.
- D. We may experience the joy of the Lord's word being in our heart—Jer. 15:16.
- E. A sweet thought revealed in the Word of God is that in Christ God has given Himself to us as grace to be our enjoyment—John 1:14, 16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14:
 - 1. In the first reference in the Bible to God's relationship with man, God presented Himself to man as food; this shows that God wants us to enjoy Him—Gen. 2:7, 9; Psa. 16:11; Jer. 15:16.
 - 2. The secret to the Christian life is not how much we work for the Lord but how much we absorb Him and enjoy Him—John 15:4-5; Col. 2:6-7.
 - 3. If we look away unto Jesus and see that there is a joy set before us, we will be able to run with endurance the race which is set before us—Heb. 12:1-2.