

**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 Sixteen

**The Deep Thought concerning the Body of Christ in the Book of Romans—
the Practical Living of the Body of Christ in the Local Churches as the Procedure
to Be Brought into the Reality of the Body of Christ as the Goal**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; 8:4-6, 9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 12:2, 4-5, 11; 16:1-16, 21-24, 20

- I. The high peak of the divine revelation is that God became man so that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce the organic Body of Christ for the fulfillment of God's economy to close this age and to bring Christ back to set up His kingdom—John 1:12-14; 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; Rev. 11:15.**
- II. In Romans we can see the high peak of the divine revelation: God became man (8:3) so that man may become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead (1:3-4; 8:2, 10, 6, 11, 19, 21; 9:5; 10:12; Acts 10:36; Rom. 14:7-9) for the producing and functioning of the Body of Christ (12:4-5) as the organism of the Triune God.**
- III. The deep thought in Romans is that God became man so that, in God's complete salvation, sinners may be redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed, and glorified to become the sons of God, who are the same as God in life and nature, to be the members of the Body of Christ—1:3-4; 3:24; 5:10; 8:14, 29-30; 12:2, 4-5:**
 - A. God sent His Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and condemned sin in the flesh so that sinners—serpentine beings, children of the devil—could be reconciled to God and justified by Him in order to receive eternal life and thus become children of God—8:3, 16.
 - B. Jesus Christ our Lord, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, was designated the Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead—1:3-4.
 - C. The firstborn Son of God, the first God-man, is the prototype for the production of many God-men, who, as members of the Body of Christ, are exactly the same as the firstborn Son—8:14, 28-29.
 - D. The will of God is to obtain a Body for Christ to be His fullness, His expression—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 1:5, 9; Rom. 12:2, 4-5.
 - E. The life-giving Spirit is the germinating factor of the Body of Christ as the new creation of God—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:9-11; 12:4-5.
 - F. The mingled spirit is the unique organ for God to bring forth and build up the Body of Christ—1:9; 7:6; 8:4-6, 14, 16; 12:4-5.
- IV. The highest peak in God's economy is the reality of the Body of Christ; in actuality and practicality, the Body of Christ is the mingled spirit; to walk according to this spirit is the central and crucial point in the New Testament—Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:4:**
 - A. Christ is the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit mingled with our spirit; in the mingled spirit we live Christ, and we are the Body of Christ—vv. 9-11.

- B. The Body-Christ, the corporate Christ, is composed of the Head and the Body with its many members; this corporate Christ is the mingled spirit—1 Cor. 12:12; 6:17.
- C. When we are living, acting, and moving in the mingled spirit, we are living, acting, and moving in the Body of Christ—Rom. 8:4; 12:4-5.
- D. To have our being in the mingled spirit is to be the Body of Christ actually and practically—1 Cor. 6:17; 12:12-13, 27; Rom. 8:4; 12:4-5; Eph. 1:17; 2:22; 3:5, 16; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18.
- E. The Body of Christ is absolutely organic (Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; 12:4-5); Romans 12 speaks about the function of the Body because it talks about the Body based upon the organic union with Christ; if we do not see the organic union that we have with Christ, we cannot understand what the Body of Christ is.
- F. In order to be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to fully experience the organic union in Christ, with a thorough realization that we are organically one with Christ in life; as we remain in the organic union, abiding in Christ as branches in the vine, we are actually living in the Body of Christ—John 15:1, 4-5.
- G. The Body of Christ is an organism composed of a group of people who live and walk according to the mingled spirit; they are persons in the mingled spirit living Christ:
 1. We must serve God in the regenerated spirit by the life-giving Spirit, not in the soul by the power and ability of the soul—Rom. 1:9.
 2. The reality of all spiritual matters depends on the mingled spirit—2:28-29.
 3. God's organic salvation is carried out by Christ as the life-giving Spirit in our spirit—5:10; 8:10, 16.
 4. In order to reign in life, we must be in the mingled spirit—5:17, 21.
 5. Our regenerated spirit is a source of newness; everything that is related to or comes out of the mingled spirit is new—7:6.
 6. The Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God—8:16.
 7. Our regenerated spirit is life itself—v. 10.
 8. We should walk according to the mingled spirit—v. 4.
 9. Our being should be according to the mingled spirit—v. 5.
 10. The mind set on the mingled spirit is life—v. 6.
 11. The mingled spirit is the spirit of sonship—v. 15.
 12. If we are led by the Spirit in our spirit, we are sons of God in reality—v. 14.
 13. We need to pray in the mingled spirit—vv. 26-27.
 14. We live a grafted life in the mingled spirit, no longer living by ourselves but allowing the pneumatic Christ to live in us—6:5; 11:17; Gal. 2:20.
 15. We need to be burning in spirit with God as the divine fire—Rom. 12:11; Heb. 12:29.
 16. In the mingled spirit we live a life of the highest virtues for the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:9-21.
- V. The Lord's recovery is for the building up of the Body of Christ; thus, to know the Body is the proper recovery of the Lord—1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:16; Col. 3:15:**
 - A. The church takes the Body of Christ as its organic factor; without the Body of Christ, the church is lifeless and is a mere human organization—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-13, 27.
 - B. The Body is the intrinsic significance of the church; without the Body the church makes no sense and has no meaning—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4, 16.
 - C. The Lord urgently needs the reality of the Body of Christ to be expressed in the local churches; unless there is a substantial expression of the Body, the Lord Jesus will not return—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 5:27, 30; Rev. 19:7.
 - D. The Lord needs the overcomers to carry out the economy of God to have the Body of Christ and to destroy His enemy; without the overcomers the Body of Christ cannot be built up, and unless the Body of Christ is built up, Christ cannot come back for His bride—Eph. 1:10; 3:10; Rev. 12:11; 19:7-9.

- E. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion—the overcomers as Zion are the reality of the Body of Christ and consummate the building up of the Body of Christ in the local churches to bring in the consummated holy city, New Jerusalem; in the church life we must endeavor to reach today's Zion—Psa. 48:2; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 20-21; 14:1; 21:1-3, 16, 22.

VI. God has blended the Body together (1 Cor. 12:24); the word *blended* means “adjusted,” “harmonized,” “tempered,” and “mingled,” implying the losing of distinctions:

- A. In order to be blended for the reality of the Body of Christ, we have to go through the cross and be by the Spirit to dispense Christ to others for the building up of the Body of Christ.
- B. Blending means that we should always stop in order to fellowship with others; we should not do anything without fellowshipping with the other saints who are coordinating with us, because fellowship adjusts us, harmonizes us, tempers us, and mingles us.
- C. A group of responsible brothers may meet together often without being blended; to be blended means that you are touched by others and that you are touching others by going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing everything to dispense Christ for His Body's sake.
- D. The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ; the blending is for the building up of the universal Body of Christ (Eph. 1:23) to consummate the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2) as the final goal of God's economy according to His good pleasure (Eph. 3:8-10; 1:9-10).

VII. We need to follow in the apostle's footsteps to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ; the apostle brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and that we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ—Rom. 16:1-16, 21-24, 20:

- A. We need to be in the local churches as the procedure to be brought into the reality of the Body of Christ as the goal; the highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can really, practically, and actually carry out God's economy is for God to produce not many local churches in a physical way but an organic Body to be His organism.
- B. Paul's thought of the church being one bread (1 Cor. 10:17) was not his own invention; rather, it was taken from the Old Testament with the meal offering (Lev. 2:4); every part of the flour of the meal offering was mingled with the oil—that is the blending.
- C. Hardly anyone speaks about blending because this is not only very high and deep but also very mysterious; it is not a physical matter; the significance of our blending is the reality of the Body of Christ:
 - 1. The reality of the Body of Christ is the corporate living by the perfected God-men, who are genuine men but are not living by their life but by the life of the processed God, whose attributes have been expressed through their virtues—Phil. 4:4-9.
 - 2. The reality of the Body of Christ is the mingling living in the eternal union of the regenerated, transformed, and glorified tripartite God-men with the Triune God in the resurrection of Christ; we use the word *mingling* because this living is still going on.
 - 3. This corporate and mingling living by the perfected God-men (Rom. 8:4, 16; 1 Cor. 6:17; Gal. 5:25) consummates ultimately in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth as God's increase and expression for eternity.
 - 4. God's desire for the mingling of divinity and humanity, the joining of humanity to divinity (Lev. 2:4-5; Matt. 1:18b, 20b; John 14:21, 23; 17:21-23; Eph. 4:4-6; Rev. 21:12; 22:2), is worthy of our appreciation and worship! How blessed and how glorious it is that we can participate in this! This is worthy of our unceasing singing and praise for eternity!