

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2024**

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

Message Fifteen

**Christ Crucified out of Weakness
and Our Being Weak in Christ
but Living Together with Him by the Power of God**

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 13:4; 10:10; Eph. 1:19-23; Phil. 3:10

I. “He was crucified out of weakness,” and “we are weak in Him”—2 Cor. 13:4a:

- A. Christ was crucified out of, or because of, weakness.
- B. If Christ had not been weak, He would never have been arrested—v. 4.
- C. The weakness in 2 Corinthians 13:4 is the weakness of the body, the same as in 10:10.
- D. For Himself, Christ did not need to be weak in any way, but for accomplishing redemption on our behalf, He was willing to be weak in His body so that He might be crucified—13:4.
- E. If He had not been weak, He could not have been crucified—Luke 23:21, 33.
- F. No person who is strong can be crucified; for one to be crucified, he must be weak:
 - 1. Christ was crucified out of weakness, allowing His persecutors to do what they wanted.
 - 2. Paul told the Corinthians that he followed the Lord Jesus to be weak in Him for their sake—2 Cor. 13:4.

II. “He lives by the power of God,” and “we will live together with Him by the power of God”—v. 4b:

- A. Christ was crucified out of weakness, but after being resurrected, He now lives by the power of God—v. 4b.
- B. We need to know “the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength”—Eph. 1:19:
 - 1. In Ephesians 1:19-22 God’s great power that God wrought in Christ is revealed in four aspects: resurrection power, transcending power, subjecting power, and heading-up power.
 - 2. God’s power toward us is surpassingly great:
 - a. It is according to the operation of the might of His strength—v. 19.
 - b. It is the power that God wrought in Christ—v. 20a.
 - 3. God’s power toward us is the same power that God wrought in Christ:
 - a. First, it has raised Christ from the dead; this power has overcome death and Hades—Rev. 1:18.
 - b. Second, God’s great power that God wrought in Christ has seated Him at God’s right hand in the heavenlies, far above all—Eph. 1:20b-21:
 - (1) God’s right hand is where Christ has been seated by the surpassingly great power of God.
 - (2) It is the most honorable place, the place of supreme authority—Matt. 28:18.
 - c. Third, God’s great power that God wrought in Christ has subjected all things under Christ’s feet—Eph. 1:22a:

- (1) To set Christ far above all is one thing; to subject all things under His feet is another.
- (2) The former is Christ's transcendency; the latter is the subjection of all things to Him.
- d. Fourth, God's great power that God wrought in Christ gave Christ to be the Head over all things to the church—vv. 22b-23a:
 - (1) The headship of Christ over all things is a gift from God to Him.
 - (2) It was through God's surpassingly great power that Christ received the headship in the universe.
4. Actually, God's great power that He wrought in Christ is the Triune God, who has passed through incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension and who has been installed in us as the all-inclusive power—Rom. 1:4, 16, 20; 9:17, 22; 15:13, 19:
 - a. The apostle Paul prayed that we may have a spirit of wisdom and revelation to know the surpassing greatness of this divine power—Eph. 1:15-18a.
 - b. Surely, we need to pray the same prayer.

III. We need to know and live by the power of Christ's resurrection—Phil. 3:10:

- A. The power of Christ's resurrection is His resurrection life, which raised Him from the dead—Eph. 1:19-20:
 1. The reality of the power of Christ's resurrection is the Spirit—Rom. 1:4.
 2. Death is the base of resurrection; to know, to experience, this power requires identification with Christ's death and conformity to it—Phil. 3:10.
 3. To experience the power of Christ's resurrection, we need to live a crucified life, as He did.
 4. Our conformity to His death affords the power of His resurrection a base from which to rise up so that His divine life may be expressed in us—v. 21.
- B. The Spirit compounded with Christ's resurrection and its power (1:19) indwells our spirit (Rom. 8:10-11) to dispense Christ's resurrection and its power not only to our spirit and soul but also to our mortal body (vv. 11, 13b; 2 Cor. 4:11).
- C. As far as His person goes, the Lord Jesus is the Christ; as far as His function goes, He is the power of His resurrection—Phil. 3:10.
- D. If we know the power of the Lord's resurrection, we will be willing to be conformed to His death—v. 10.
- E. The various kinds of situations and circumstances in our daily life are all for us to know the power of Christ's resurrection—cf. Rom. 8:28:
 1. When we encounter some troubles, difficulties, or even ill-treatment, we will have a genuine joy and release if we know the power of Christ's resurrection and are conformed to His death.
 2. Our natural disposition and virtues, such as our natural power, natural love, or natural humility, will gradually pass through death and be terminated.
 3. We will then enjoy the power of Christ's resurrection and will live out the love and humility of resurrection—Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 5:5.
- F. We should cooperate with the resurrecting Spirit to recognize that we have been resurrected with Christ (Col. 2:12; Eph. 2:6a) and to pursue the power of the resurrection of Christ:
 1. It is by this power of Christ's resurrection that we, the lovers of Christ, determine to take the cross by denying our self—Matt. 16:24; cf. S. S. 2:8-9.
 2. It is also by this power of resurrection that we are enabled to be conformed to His death, to be one with the cross—Phil. 3:10; cf. S. S. 2:14-15.
 3. In order to experience the life-giving Spirit as the reality of the flourishing riches of the resurrection of Christ, we have to discern our spirit from our soul—Heb. 4:12; cf. S. S. 2:14-15.
- G. Christ's resurrection with its power in the life-giving Spirit is the sufficient grace of the processed and consummated Triune God—2 Cor. 13:4, 14; 1 Cor. 15:10, 45b, 58; cf. Exo. 3:2-6, 14-15.