

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2025**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS**

Message Three

**Holding Forth the Word of Life as Luminaries
in the Day of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:15-16; 1:6

Phil. 2:15-16—That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, ¹⁶Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

Phil. 1:6—Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun in you a good work will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus;

I. “That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world”—Phil. 2:15:

- A. *Blameless* describes our outward behavior, and *guileless* our inward character.
- B. To be without blemish is the total quality of being blameless and guileless.
- C. Philippians 2:15 reveals that the believers are luminaries in the world:

Phil. 2:15—That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

- 1. The Greek word rendered “luminaries” refers to luminaries that reflect the light of the sun.
- 2. As children of God with the divine life and nature, we have a special function—the function of shining—cf. Acts 9:3; 22:6; 26:13; 2 Pet. 1:4:
cf. Acts 9:3—And as he went, he drew near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

cf. Acts 22:6—And as I journeyed and drew near to Damascus about midday, suddenly a great light flashed out of heaven around me;

cf. Acts 26:13—At midday, on the way, I saw, O king, a light from heaven beyond the brightness of the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.

cf. 2 Pet. 1:4—Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

- a. Because we have the divine life and nature, we have become luminaries reflecting Christ as the real sun.
- b. Whenever we cooperate with God's inward operation (Phil. 2:13) according to the divine life and nature, we shine with the light of Christ (Eph. 5:14).

Phil. 2:13—For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Eph. 5:14—Therefore He says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

- c. Actually, we have no light in ourselves.
 - d. Our shining is simply the reflection of light that we receive from the divine source.
 - e. Christ is the light, the real sun, and we reflect Him; therefore, our shining is our reflection of Christ as the source of our light.
3. Ultimately, the New Jerusalem, as the aggregate of all the redeemed and perfected saints, will be a great luminary—Rev. 21:11, 24a.

Rev. 21:11—Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev. 21:24—And the nations will walk by its light; and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it.

4. The Lord needs a group of saints who live Christ and who shine as luminaries holding forth the word of life.

II. “Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain”—Phil. 2:16:

A. We shine by “holding forth the word of life”—v. 16a:

1. If we come to the Bible with a living spirit, spontaneously, we will enjoy the word of life; then we will be supplied, strengthened, quickened, enlightened, refreshed, nourished, and washed.
2. As we experience the word of life in this way, we should hold forth the word to others, presenting it, offering it, and applying it to them; this is to speak the word of life to those around us.

3. Philippians 2:16-17 should be taken together:

Phil. 2:16-17—Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

- a. This indicates that the faith in verse 17 is related to the holding forth in verse 16.
 - b. The holding forth of the word of life is related experientially to the sacrifice of faith.
4. Paul's concept in these verses is that if we hold forth the word of life, we will have something of which to boast in the day of Christ—2 Pet. 3:10, 12.

2 Pet. 3:10—But the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the elements, burning with intense heat, will be dissolved, and the earth and the works in it will be burned up.

2 Pet. 3:12—Expecting and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements, burning with intense heat, are to be melted away?

5. The present age is the day of man (1 Cor. 4:3), and the coming age will be the day of Christ.

1 Cor. 4:3—But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you or by man's day; rather I do not even examine myself.

6. In the day of Christ, He will have authority; if in the day of man, the believers hold forth the word of life, Paul will be able to boast concerning them in the day of Christ that he did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

7. The day of the Lord's coming is called "the day of the Lord" (1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Thes. 2:2; 1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6) and "that day" (2 Tim. 1:18).

1 Thes. 5:2—For you yourselves know perfectly well that like a thief in the night, so the day of the Lord comes.

2 Thes. 2:2—That you be not quickly shaken in mind nor alarmed, neither by a spirit nor by word nor by a letter as if by us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

1 Cor. 1:8—Who will also confirm you until the end unreprouable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 1:14—Even as also you know us in part, that we are your boast, just as you also are ours in the day of our Lord Jesus.

Phil. 1:6—Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun in you a good work will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus;

2 Tim. 1:18—May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord in that day. And in how many things he served *me* in Ephesus, you know best.

8. In that day all believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward each deserves—2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:19-30.

2 Cor. 5:10—For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

Matt. 25:19-30—Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; behold, I have gained another five talents. ²¹His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master. ²²And he *who had received* the two talents also came and said, Master, you delivered to me two talents; behold, I have gained another two talents. ²³His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master. ²⁴Then

he who had received the one talent also came and said, Master, I knew about you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow. ²⁵And I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the earth; behold, you have what is yours. ²⁶And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow. ²⁷Therefore you should have deposited my money with the money changers; and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest. ²⁸Take away therefore the talent from him and give *it* to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him. ³⁰And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

B. “I may have a boast in the day of Christ”—Phil. 2:16b:

1. Second Peter 3:10a says, “The day of the Lord will come as a thief,” and verse 12a says, “Expecting and hastening the coming of the day of God.”
2. Peter’s word about the day of the Lord is mainly a warning.
3. In the New Testament the day of the Lord is mentioned mainly in relation to the Lord’s judgment—1 Cor. 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Thes. 5:2.

1 Cor. 1:8—Who will also confirm you until the end unreprouvable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 5:5—To deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

2 Cor. 1:14—Even as also you know us in part, that we are your boast, just as you also are ours in the day of our Lord Jesus.

2 Tim. 4:8—Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

1 Thes. 5:2—For you yourselves know perfectly well that like a thief in the night, so the day of the Lord comes.

4. The day of God is the day of the Lord—2 Pet. 3:10a, 12a.

2 Pet. 3:10—But the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the elements, burning with intense heat, will be dissolved, and the earth and the works in it will be burned up.

2 Pet. 3:12—Expecting and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements, burning with intense heat, are to be melted away?

5. *Day* is used mainly in the sense of judgment for governmental dealing.
6. Before the Lord comes, it is “man’s day,” in which man judges.
7. Then it will be “the day of the Lord,” which will begin with the Lord’s parousia (with all its judgments) and will end with the judgment upon men and the demons at the great white throne—Rev. 20:11-15.

Rev. 20:11-15—And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose face earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the

dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened; and another scroll was opened, which is *the book* of life. And the dead were judged by the things which were written in the scrolls, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, each *of them*, according to their works. ¹⁴And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

8. The Lord's parousia will begin when the overcoming saints are raptured to the throne of God in the heavens before the great tribulation of three and a half years—12:5-6.

Rev. 12:5-6—And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. ⁶And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place there prepared by God so that they might nourish her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days.

9. At the end of the great tribulation, Christ with the overcomers will come to the air (10:1), and the dead saints will be resurrected and raptured together with the majority of the living believers, who will have passed through the great tribulation, to meet the Lord in the air (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 14:14-16).

Rev. 10:1—And I saw another strong Angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon His head, and His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire;

1 Cor. 15:52—In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

1 Thes. 4:16-17—Because the Lord Himself, with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are living, who are left remaining, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will be always with the Lord.

Rev. 14:14-16—And I saw, and behold, *there was* a white cloud, and on the cloud One like the Son of Man sitting, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, Send forth Your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come because the harvest of the earth is ripe. ¹⁶And He who sat on the cloud thrust His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.

10. After this, all the believers will be judged by the Lord at His judgment seat in the air—2 Cor. 5:10.

2 Cor. 5:10—For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

11. Then the Lord will have His wedding feast with the overcoming saints—Rev. 19:7-8.

Rev. 19:7-8—Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. ⁸And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

12. Immediately after this, the Lord with His bride, composed of the overcoming saints as His army, will come to the earth (Zech. 14:4-5; Jude 14; 1 Thes. 3:13) to fight and defeat Antichrist and his army.

Zech. 14:4-5—And His feet will stand in that day on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split at its middle toward the east and toward the west into a very great valley, so that half of the mountain will remove to the north and half of it to the south. ⁵And you will flee into the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach unto Azel; yes, you will flee, just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah the king of Judah. And Jehovah my God will come, *and* all the saints with Him.

Jude 14—And Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied also of these, saying, Behold, the Lord came with myriads of His saints

1 Thes. 3:13—So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

13. Following this, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss, the bottomless pit—Rev. 20:1-3.

Rev. 20:1-3—And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years ³And cast him into the abyss and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, that he might not deceive the nations any longer until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be loosed for a little while.

14. The Lord will judge the nations, and the millennial kingdom will come—Matt. 25:31-46; Joel 3:2; Rev. 20:4-6.

Matt. 25:31-46—But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, at that time He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²And all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand and the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me a drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in, ³⁶Naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. ³⁷Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when have we seen You hungry and have fed *You*, or thirsty and have given *You* a drink? ³⁸And when have we seen You a stranger and have taken *You* in, or naked and have clothed *You*? ³⁹And when have we seen You sick or in prison and have come to *You*? ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done *it* to one of these, the least of My brothers, you have done *it* to Me. ⁴¹Then He will say also to those on the left, Go away from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you did not give Me *anything* to

eat; I was thirsty and you did not give Me a drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison, and you did not visit Me. ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when have we seen You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not minister to You? ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, neither have you done *it* to Me. ⁴⁶And these shall go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Joel 3:2—I will gather all the nations And will bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there Because of My people and My inheritance Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations. And they have divided My land

Rev. 20:4-6—And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and *of those* who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵The rest of the dead did not live *again* until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.