

**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 Six

**To Know Christ,
the Power of His Resurrection,
and the Fellowship of His Sufferings,
Being Conformed to His Death,
to Attain to the Out-resurrection from the Dead**

Scripture Reading: Phil. 3:10-11; Eph. 1:19-20; Rom. 1:4

Phil. 3:10-11—To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

Eph. 1:19-20—And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, ²⁰Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

Rom. 1:4—Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

I. “To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death”—Phil. 3:10:

- A. In verse 8 to have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ is by revelation, but to know Him in verse 10 is by experience—to have the experiential knowledge of Him, to experience Him in the full knowledge of Him.

Phil. 3:8—But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil. 3:10—To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

- B. Paul first received the revelation of Christ and then sought the experience of Christ so that he could know and enjoy Christ in an experiential way.
- C. The power of Christ's resurrection is His resurrection life, which raised Him from the dead—Eph. 1:19-20:

Eph. 1:19-20—And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, ²⁰Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

1. The reality of the power of Christ's resurrection is the Spirit—Rom. 1:4.

Rom. 1:4—Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

2. To know, to experience, this power requires identification with Christ's death and conformity to it.
 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.
- D. The participation in Christ's sufferings (Matt. 20:22-23; Col. 1:24) is a necessary condition for the experience of the power of His resurrection (2 Tim. 2:11) by being conformed to His death:

Matt. 20:22-23—But Jesus answered and said *to them*, You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup which I am about to drink? They said to Him, We are able. ²³He said to them, My cup you shall indeed drink, but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but *it is for* those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.

Col. 1:24—I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;

2 Tim. 2:11—Faithful is the word: For if we died with *Him*, we will also live with *Him*;

1. Paul was pursuing to know and experience the life power of Christ's resurrection and the participation in His sufferings.
 2. With Christ, the sufferings and death came first, followed by the resurrection; with us, the power of His resurrection comes first, followed by the participation in His sufferings and conformity to His death.
- E. We must take Christ's death as the mold of our life:
1. Paul lived a crucified life continually, a life under the cross, just as Christ did in His human living.
 2. Through such a life the resurrection power of Christ is experienced and expressed.
 3. The mold of Christ's death refers to Christ's experience of continually putting to death His human life that He might live by the life of God—John 6:57.
John 6:57—As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 4. Our life should be conformed to such a mold by our dying to our human life to live the divine life.

II. "If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead"—Phil. 3:11:

- A. The result of being conformed to Christ's death is that we may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead—v. 11.
Phil. 3:11—If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- B. The out-resurrection is the outstanding resurrection, the extra-resurrection, which will be a prize to the overcoming saints—Rev. 20:4, 6:
Rev. 20:4—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.

Rev. 20:6—Blessed 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.

1. All believers who are dead in Christ will participate in the resurrection from the dead at the Lord's coming back—1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:52.

1 Thes. 4:16—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.

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.

2. The Lord's overcomers will enjoy an extra, outstanding portion of that resurrection, a resurrection in which they will receive the reward of the kingdom; this is what the apostle Paul sought after—Heb. 11:35, 26.

Heb. 11:35—Women received their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured *to death*, not accepting deliverance, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Heb. 11:26—Considering the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked away to the reward.

3. The out-resurrection should be the goal and destination of our Christian life—Phil. 3:11-15a.

Phil. 3:11-15—If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing *I do*: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, ¹⁴I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called *me* upward. ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

- C. To arrive at the out-resurrection indicates that our entire being is gradually and continually resurrected—1 Thes. 5:23:

1 Thes. 5:23—And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. God first resurrected our deadened spirit; then from our spirit He proceeds to resurrect our soul and our mortal body, until our whole being—spirit, soul, and body—is fully resurrected out of our old being by His life and with His life—Eph. 2:5-6; Rom. 8:6, 11.

Eph. 2:5-6—Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) ⁶And raised *us* up together with *Him* and seated *us* together with *Him* in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

Rom. 8:6—For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 8:11—And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

2. This is a process in life through which we must pass and a race that we must run until we arrive at the out-resurrection as the prize—Phil. 3:11-14.

Phil. 3:11-14—If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing *I do*: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, ¹⁴I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called *me* upward.

3. If we are conformed to Christ's death, every part of our being will be gradually resurrected; thus, the Christian life is a process of resurrection.
4. We can reach this goal only by being conformed to the death of Christ, by living a crucified life—v. 11; Gal. 2:20.

Phil. 3:11—If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

Gal. 2:20—I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the *faith* of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- D. The out-resurrection is a resurrection out of the old creation into the new creation—6:15; 2 Cor. 5:17:

Gal. 6:15—For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation *is what matters*.

2 Cor. 5:17—So then if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

1. To be in the out-resurrection means to leave everything of the old creation and to be brought into God.
2. In the out-resurrection there is no element of the old creation; instead, everything is full of the divine element—Rev. 21:5a.

Rev. 21:5—And He who sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said, Write, for these words are faithful and true.

- E. For Paul, to live was Christ as the out-resurrection—Phil. 1:21a; 3:11:

Phil. 1:21—For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil. 3:11—If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

1. The out-resurrection is actually the dear, precious, excellent person of Christ, the One who, through crucifixion and resurrection, has passed out of the old creation and has entered into God—John 14:3, 20; Heb. 6:19-20.

John 14:3—And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.

John 14:20—In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

Heb. 6:19-20—Which we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and firm and which enters within the veil, ²⁰Where the Forerunner, Jesus, has entered for us, having become forever a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

2. The Christ whom we should live is Himself the out-resurrection—Phil. 1:21a; 3:11.

Phil. 1:21—For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil. 3:11—If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

- F. In Philippians 3:12 Paul had already obtained the believers' common salvation by the believers' common faith, but he had not obtained the extra portion of resurrection:

Phil. 3:12—Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

1. To obtain that portion he had to pursue, to run, and to finish the course triumphantly—2 Tim. 4:7-8.

2 Tim. 4:7-8—I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth 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.

2. The Greek word for *pursue* in Philippians 3:12 is the same word as for *persecute*; this word means also “to press toward, to follow after”:

Phil. 3:12—Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

- a. In such a way Paul ran the race to obtain the prize and reach maturity.
- b. Before he was saved, he persecuted Christ; after he was saved, he pursued Christ to such an extent that he persecuted Christ, but in a positive way.

- G. We need to be conformed to Christ's death so that by any means we may attain to the out-resurrection.