

**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 Eight

**Learning the Secret of Doing All Things in Christ as the Empowering One
for Us to Live Christ, Magnify Christ, and Gain Christ for His Glory in the Church**

Scripture Reading: Phil. 1:19-21a; 2:2; 4:8, 11-13

Phil. 1:19-21—For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil. 2:2—Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,

Phil. 4:8—Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

Phil. 4:11-13—Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content. ¹²I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack. ¹³I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

I. Paul learned the secret of doing all things in Christ as the empowering One—Phil. 4:11b-13; Hymns, #564:

Phil. 4:11-13— Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content. ¹²I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack. ¹³I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

- A. After Paul was converted to Christ, he was initiated into Christ and into the Body of Christ; he then learned the secret of how to take Christ as life (Col. 3:4), how to live Christ (Phil. 1:21a), how to magnify Christ (v. 20), how to gain Christ (3:8, 12), and how to have the church life (1:8, 19; 2:1-4, 19-20; 4:1-3).

Col. 3:4—When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

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

Phil. 1:20—According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

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. 3:12—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.

Phil. 1:8—For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

Phil. 1:19—For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil. 2:1-4—If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of spirit, if any tenderheartedness and compassions, ²Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing, ³*Doing* nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves; ⁴Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

Phil. 2:19-20—But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged by knowing the things concerning you. ²⁰For I have no one like-souled who will genuinely care for what concerns you;

Phil. 4:1-3—So then, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, in the same way stand firm in the Lord, beloved. ²I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord. ³Yes, I ask you also, genuine yokefellow, assist them, since they contended with me in the gospel, as well as with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

- B. Paul had been altogether in the Jewish religion under the law and had always been found by others in the law, but at his conversion he was transferred from the law and his former religion into Christ and became “a man in Christ”—2 Cor. 12:2a.

2 Cor. 12:2—I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago (whether in the body I do not know, or outside the body I do not know; God knows) such a one was caught away to the third heaven.

- C. Now he expected to be found in Christ by all who observed him; this indicates that he aspired to have his whole being immersed in and saturated with Christ so that all who observed him might find him fully in Christ; only when we are found in Christ will Christ be expressed and magnified—Phil. 3:9a; 1:20.

Phil. 3:9—And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God *and* based on faith,

Phil. 1:20—According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

- D. On the one hand, by the empowering of Christ we can live a contented life (4:11-12); on the other hand, by the empowering of Christ we can be true, dignified, righteous, pure, lovely, and well spoken of (v. 8).

Phil. 4:11-12—Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content. ¹²I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Phil. 4:8—Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

- E. Christ empowers us to live Him as our human virtues and thereby to magnify Him in His unlimited greatness; to live a life of these virtues is much more difficult than doing a Christian work—1:20.

Phil. 1:20—According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

II. When we believed and were baptized, we were put into Christ (1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27); now we need to learn the secret of abiding in Him as the empowering One; to abide in Christ is to dwell in Him, to remain in fellowship with Him, that we may experience and enjoy His abiding in us (John 15:4-5):

1 Cor. 1:30—But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Rom. 6:3—Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Gal. 3:27—For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

John 15:4-5—Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- A. To abide in Christ, taking Him as our dwelling place, and to allow Him to abide in us, taking us as His dwelling place, is to live in the reality of the universal incorporation of the processed and consummated Triune God with the redeemed and regenerated believers—14:2, 10-11, 17, 20, 23; Rev. 21:3, 22; Exo. 16:32-34; Heb. 9:4; Rev. 2:17.

John 14:2—In My Father's house are many abodes; if *it were* not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:10-11—Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.

John 14:17—*Even* the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

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

John 14:23—Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

Rev. 21:3—And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

Rev. 21:22—And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Exo. 16:32-34—And Moses said, This is what Jehovah has commanded, Let an omerful of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out from the land of Egypt. ³³And Moses said to Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omerful of manna in it, and place it before Jehovah, to be kept throughout your generations. ³⁴As Jehovah commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony to be kept.

Heb. 9:4—Having a golden altar and the Ark of the Covenant covered about everywhere with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna and Aaron's rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant,

Rev. 2:17—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

- B. We need to abide in Christ as our King and as our royal abode so that He can abide in us to make us His queen and His royal palace, His glorious church—Psa. 45:13, 8; John 15:4-5; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 22:5; Rom. 5:17; cf. S. S. 6:4:
Psa. 45:13—The king's daughter is all glorious within *the royal abode*; Her garment is a woven work inwrought with gold.

Psa. 45:8—All Your garments *smell* of myrrh and aloes, of cassia; From palaces of ivory, harpstrings have made You glad.

John 15:4-5—Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Eph. 5:27—That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Rev. 22:5—And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Rom. 5:17—For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

cf. S. S. 6:4—You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, As lovely as Jerusalem, As terrible as an army with banners.

1. To abide in Christ is to dwell in Him, the eternal God, as our Lord, having our living in Him and taking Him as our everything—John 15:4-5; 1 John 4:15-16; Rev. 21:22; Deut. 33:27a; Psa. 90.

John 15:4-5—Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1 John 4:15-16—Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God. ¹⁶And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

Rev. 21:22—And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Deut. 33:27—The God of old is *your* habitation, And underneath are eternal arms. And He drove out the enemy before you And said, Destroy!

2. We need to dwell in God, living in Him every minute, for outside of Him there are sins and afflictions—vv. 3-11; John 16:33.

Psa. 90:3-11—You return man to dust / And say, Return, you sons of men. ⁴For a thousand years in Your sight / Are like yesterday when it passes by / And *like* a watch in the night. ⁵You sweep them away as with a rain flood; they are *as in* a sleep: / In the morning *they are* like grass that comes up anew. ⁶In the morning it flourishes and comes up anew; / In the evening it is cut down, and it dries up. ⁷For we have been consumed by Your anger, / And by Your wrath we have been troubled. ⁸You have set our iniquities before You, / Our secret *sins* in the light of Your countenance. ⁹For all our days have passed away in Your overflowing wrath; / We bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰The days of our years are seventy years, / Or, if because of strength, eighty years; / But their pride is labor and sorrow, / For it is soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹Who knows the power of Your anger, / And Your overflowing wrath according to the fear that is due You?

John 16:33—These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

3. To take God as our habitation, our eternal dwelling place, is the highest and fullest experience of God—Psa. 91.
- C. We abide in Christ so that He may abide in us by loving Him—John 14:21, 23:
John 14:21—He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.

John 14:23—Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

1. When we love the Lord Jesus, He manifests Himself to us, and the Father comes with Him to make an abode with us for our enjoyment; this abode is a mutual abode in which the Triune God abides in us and we abide in Him—v. 23.
John 14:23—Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
2. The more we love the Lord, the more we will have His presence; and the more we are in His presence, the more we will enjoy all that He is to us; the Lord's recovery is a recovery of loving the Lord Jesus—1 Cor. 2:9-10; Eph. 6:24.
1 Cor. 2:9-10—But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and *which* have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰But to us God has revealed *them* through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Eph. 6:24—Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility.

- D. We abide in Christ so that He may abide in us by caring for the inward teaching of the all-inclusive anointing—1 John 1:5, 7; 2:20, 27:
1 John 1:5—And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:7—But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1 John 2:20—And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.

1 John 2:27—And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

1. Christ as the Head is the anointed One and the anointing One, and we are His members enjoying Him as the inner anointing for the fulfillment of His purpose—Heb. 1:9; 3:14; 2 Cor. 1:21-22.

Heb. 1:9—You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners";

Heb. 3:14—For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end—

2 Cor. 1:21-22—But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God, ²²He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

2. The anointing, as the moving and working of the compound Spirit within us, anoints God into us so that we may be saturated with God, possess God, and understand the mind of God; the anointing communicates the mind of Christ as the Head of the Body to His members by the inner sense, the inner consciousness, of life—Psa. 133; 1 Cor. 2:16; Rom. 8:6, 27.

Psa. 133:1-3—Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity! ²It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon

Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments; ³Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

1 Cor. 2:16—For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

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

Rom. 8:27—But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.

3. When the Head wants a member of the Body to move, He intimates it through the inner anointing, and as we yield to the anointing, life flows freely from the Head to us; if we resist the anointing, our relationship with the Head is interfered with, and the flow of life within us is stopped—Col. 2:19. **Col. 2:19**—And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

4. If our natural life is dealt with by the cross and if we submit to the headship of Christ and live the Body life, we will have the Spirit's anointing and enjoy the fellowship of the Body—Eph. 4:3-6, 15-16; 2 Cor. 2:12-15.

Eph. 4:3-6—Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace: ⁴One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵One Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Eph. 4:15-16—But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, ¹⁶Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

2 Cor. 2:12-15—Furthermore, when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door was open to me in the Lord, ¹³I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia. ¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place. ¹⁵For we are a fragrance of Christ to God in those who are being saved and in those who are perishing:

- E. We abide in Christ so that He may abide in us by dealing with the constant word in the Scriptures, which is outside of us, and the present word as the Spirit, which is within us—John 5:39-40; 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6; Rev. 2:7:

John 5:39-40—You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me. ⁴⁰Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 6:63—It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

2 Cor. 3:6—Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, *ministers* not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Rev. 2:7—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

1. By the outward, written word we have the explanation, definition, and expression of the mysterious Lord, and by the inward, living word we have the experience of the abiding Christ and the presence of the practical Lord—Eph. 5:26; 6:17-18.

Eph. 5:26—That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word,

Eph. 6:17-18—And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which *Spirit* is the word of God, ¹⁸By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

2. If we abide in the Lord's constant and written word, His instant and living words will abide in us—John 8:31; 15:7; 1 John 2:14.

John 8:31—Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples;

John 15:7—If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

1 John 2:14—I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.

3. We abide in Him and His words abide in us so that we may speak in Him and He may speak in us for the building of God into man and man into God—John 15:7; 2 Cor. 2:17; 13:3; 1 Cor. 14:4b.

John 15:7—If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

2 Cor. 2:17—For we are not like the many, adulterating the word of God for profit; but as out of sincerity, but as out of God, before God we speak in Christ.

2 Cor. 13:3—Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.

1 Cor. 14:4—He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

- F. The believers are disciples, learners, who are learning the secret, which is to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus by allowing the Spirit of reality to guide them into all the reality of the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, a life in which Jesus did everything in God, with God, and for God; God was in His living, and He was one with God—John 16:13; Eph. 4:20-21:

John 16:13—But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

Eph. 4:20-21—But you did not so learn Christ, ²¹If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

1. The followers of Christ were disciplined through Christ's human living on the earth as the model of a God-man—living God by denying Himself in His humanity (John 5:19, 30), revolutionizing their concept concerning man (Phil. 3:10; 1:21a).

John 5:19—Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30—I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

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

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

2. Because Christ lived God by denying Himself in His humanity, He “learned obedience from the things which He suffered” (Heb. 5:8), “becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross” (Phil. 2:8).

Heb. 5:8—Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Phil. 2:8—And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and *that* the death of a cross.

3. We learn Christ (Matt. 11:29) according to His example, not by our natural life but by His life in resurrection, which is a life of obedience; a disciple is one who lives the divine life in his human life.

Matt. 11:29—Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

4. “I was in the recovery observing how Brother Watchman Nee acted for eighteen years. All that I observed in him became things disciplining me” (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1994–1997*, vol. 5, “The Vital Groups,” p. 76).

III. To learn the secret of doing all things in Christ as the empowering One is to “pray to fellowship with Jesus” (*Hymns*, #784); prayer that contacts God consists of words spoken genuinely from the heart:

- A. We may be in a situation of sorrow, depression, and disappointment; we should bring our problems to the Lord and tell Him about them; He is the best listener; He knows our emotion, and He sympathizes with our heart; He can comfort us and help us.
- B. We should realize that when we have a thorough talk with the Lord and pour out our heart to Him, our intimacy with the Lord is one step further, and we

know Him a little more; intimate contact with Him at these times is hundreds of times better than our ordinary fellowship with Him; it is by these contacts that we grow in life—Psa. 62:6-8; 56:8; cf. 1 Sam. 1:15.

Psa. 62:6-8—He alone is my rock and my salvation, My high retreat; I will not be shaken. ⁷On God my salvation and my glory *depend*; The rock of my strength, my refuge, is in God. ⁸Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge to us. Selah

Psa. 56:8—You have counted my wanderings. Put my tears into Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?

cf. 1 Sam. 1:15—And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord. I am a woman oppressed in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before Jehovah.

- C. If a person has never shed tears before the Lord, never shared his joy or sorrow with the Lord, and never talked with the Lord about his private matters, he has never had any intimate fellowship with the Lord, and he has never had any deep acquaintance with the Lord; one can only be drawn closer to the Lord through telling Him everything.
- D. He is sympathetic to every one of our problems; our Lord is willing to bear all our anxieties, and He is happy to listen to our speaking; in order to enjoy Him as the living water of life, we need to speak to Him as our spiritual rock—Num. 20:8; 1 Cor. 10:4; Exo. 17:6; *Hymns*, #248.

Num. 20:8—Take the rod, and gather the assembly, you and Aaron your brother, and speak to the rock before their eyes, so that it yields its water. Thus you shall bring forth water for them out of the rock and give the assembly and their livestock something to drink.

1 Cor. 10:4—And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed *them*, and the rock was Christ.

Exo. 17:6—I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

- E. The title of Psalm 102 says, “A Prayer of an afflicted one, when he is fainting and pours out his complaint before Jehovah”; we may complain to God, but our complaining may be the best prayer, the most pleasant prayer to God; while we are complaining, God is rejoicing because He is causing all things to work together for good that we may be conformed to the image of His Son—Rom. 8:28-29. **Rom. 8:28-29**—And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- F. Psalm 73 is a record of the sincere prayer of the seeking psalmist who was nearly stumbled by his own suffering and by the prosperity of the wicked; he considered that he had purified his heart in vain because, instead of enjoying material prosperity, he was plagued all day long and chastened every morning—vv. 12-16:

Psa. 73:12-16—Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they heap up riches.
¹³Surely I have purified my heart in vain, And I have washed my hands in innocence.
¹⁴For I have been plagued all day long And chastened every morning. ¹⁵If I had said, I will speak thus; Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. ¹⁶When I considered this in order to understand *it*, It was a troublesome task in my sight,

1. The solution to the psalmist's perplexity was obtained in God's sanctuary (v. 17); God's sanctuary, His habitation, is in our spirit (Eph. 2:22), and it is the church (1 Tim. 3:15); in our spirit and in the church, we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems (Psa. 73:25-26).

Psa. 73:17—Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I perceived their end.

Eph. 2:22—In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

1 Tim. 3:15—But if I delay, *I write* that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

Psa. 73:25-26—Whom do I have in heaven *but You?* And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth. ²⁶My flesh and my heart fail, *But* God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

2. God's intention with His seekers is that they may find everything in Christ and not be distracted from the absolute enjoyment of Christ; God's ultimate desire in His economy is for us to live Christ, magnify Christ, and gain Christ for His glory in the church—Phil. 1:19-21a; 3:7-8; Isa. 43:7; 1 Cor. 10:31; 6:20; 1 Pet. 4:11; Eph. 3:16-21.

Phil. 1:19-21—For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil. 3:7-8—But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ. ⁸But 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

Isa. 43:7—Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created, formed, and even made for My glory.

1 Cor. 10:31—Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Cor. 6:20—For you have been bought with a price. So then glorify God in your body.

1 Pet. 4:11—If anyone speaks, as *speaking* oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as *ministering* out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Eph. 3:16-21—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, ¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are ¹⁹And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God. ²⁰But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us, ²¹To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.