

**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 Fifteen

**Warfare at the Cross
and
Christ Being Our Life**

Scripture Reading: Col. 2:15; 3:4; Gal. 2:20

Col. 2:15—Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display *of them* openly, triumphing over them in it.

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

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.

I. There was warfare at the cross as revealed in Colossians 2:15: “Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He [God] made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it [the cross]”:

- A. This verse portrays the warfare that took place at the time of Christ’s crucifixion:
 - 1. In His crucifixion Christ was working to accomplish redemption, and God the Father was also working to judge sin.
 - 2. At the same time the rulers and authorities were busy in the attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ.
 - 3. The reference to triumph in Colossians 2:15 implies fighting; it indicates that a war was raging.

Col. 2:15—Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display *of them* openly, triumphing over them in it.
 - 4. In His work on the cross, Christ caused the rulers and authorities to be stripped off, to be made a display of openly, and to be triumphed over in the cross by God.
 - 5. This means that He shamed them openly; man could not see this invisible scene, but all the angels, both good and bad, saw it.
 - 6. The words *stripping off* mean that Satan could not lay hold of anything or keep anything.
 - 7. Christ dealt with Satan’s evil power, “that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil”—Heb. 2:14c.

Heb. 2:14—Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

8. He went into death, fought with death, overcame the power of death, and then emerged victorious over everything.
 9. What a great matter this is!
- B. The pronoun *He* in Colossians 2:15 refers to God in verse 12:
Col. 2:15—Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display *of them* openly, triumphing over them in it.

Col. 2:12—Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with *Him* through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.

1. When Christ was on the cross, God wiped out the ordinances of the law.
 2. The law that was used to expose our sinfulness has been nailed to the cross.
 3. During the time of Christ's crucifixion, there was an invisible spiritual conflict between God and the rulers and authorities—evil angels that are subordinates of Satan working for him.
 4. God won the victory!
 5. At the time of Christ's crucifixion, the cross was the center of the universe:
 - a. God was judging sin and all negative things and nailing the law to the cross.
 - b. As He was doing this, the rulers and authorities gathered around God and Christ.
 - c. Both God and Christ were working:
 - (1) Christ's work was His crucifixion.
 - (2) God's work was to strip off, put off, the rulers and authorities.
 - d. The rulers and authorities who were swarming around God and Christ were also working to interfere.
 - e. If they had not pressed in closely, how could God have stripped them off?
 - f. The words *stripping off the rulers and the authorities* in Colossians 2:15 indicate that they were very close, as close as our garments are to our body.**Col. 2:15**—Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display *of them* openly, triumphing over them in it.
- C. Now that the law and the evil angels have been set aside, God has a clear ground and a peaceful environment to enliven His chosen ones, His believers:
1. He has a proper atmosphere to carry out the pleasant task of dispensing Himself into the ones He chose in eternity past.
 2. As the life-giving Spirit, the Triune God, having stripped off the rulers and authorities, is giving life to us by dispensing Himself into our being.

II. Christ is our life—3:4; Gal. 2:20:

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

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.

A. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life—Col. 3:4; John 5:26:

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

John 5:26—For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;

1. For Christ to be our life means that He is subjective to us to the uttermost—1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.

John 1:4—In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 14:6—Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 10:10—The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly.

1 Cor. 15:45—So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul”; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

Rom. 8:10—But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

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. It is impossible to separate a person from the life of that person, for a person’s life is the person himself; thus, to say that Christ is our life means that Christ has become us and that we have one life and one living with Him—John 14:6a; Phil. 1:21a.

John 14:6—Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

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

3. With Christ as the believers’ life there are three characteristics:

a. This life is a crucified life—Gal. 2:20.

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.

b. This life is a resurrected life—John 11:25.

John 11:25—Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

- c. This life is a life hidden in God—Col. 3:3; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18.

Col. 3:3—For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Matt. 6:1-6—But take care not to do your righteousness before men in order to be gazed at by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in the heavens. ²Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. ³But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. ⁵And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. ⁶But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt. 6:16-18—And when you fast, do not be like the sullen-faced hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so that they may appear to men to be fasting. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸So that you may not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

- B. In Galatians 2:20 we see the most basic truth of God's New Testament economy:

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.

1. According to God's economy, we should no longer live; rather, Christ should live in us.
2. In His economy God's intention is for the processed Triune God to be wrought into our being to make us a new person, a new "I."
3. As regenerated people, we have both an old "I" and a new "I"; the old "I" has been terminated, but the new "I" lives:
 - a. The "I" who has been terminated is the "I" who was without divinity.
 - b. The "I" who still lives is the "I" into which God has been added.
 - c. The old "I" had nothing of God in it, whereas the new "I" has received the divine life.
 - d. The old "I" has become the new "I" because God as life has been added to it.
 - e. The new "I" is the "I" who came into being when the old "I" was resurrected and God was added to it.
4. We and Christ do not have two lives; rather, we have one life and one living:
 - a. We live by Him, and He lives in us—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.
 - b. If we do not live, He does not live, and if He does not live, we cannot live.

5. “I,” the natural person, is inclined to keep the law that it might be perfect (Phil. 3:6), but God wants us to live Christ so that God may be expressed in us through Him; hence, God’s economy is that “I” be crucified in Christ’s death and that Christ live in us in His resurrection.

Phil. 3:6—As to zeal, persecuting the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, become blameless.

6. To keep the law is to exalt it above all things in our life; to live Christ is to make Him the center and everything in our life.