

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2026**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
FIRST AND SECOND TIMOTHY AND TITUS**

Message One

The Heavenly Vision of God's Eternal Economy

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 1:3-5, 11; 6:3-4; Rom. 1:16-17; 3:22; 10:17; Heb. 11:1; 12:1-2a

1 Tim. 1:3-5—Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things ⁴Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith. ⁵But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and *out of* a good conscience and *out of* unfeigned faith;

1 Tim. 1:11—According to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I was entrusted.

1 Tim. 6:3-4—If anyone teaches different things and does not consent to healthy words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the teaching which is according to godliness, ⁴He is blinded with pride, understanding nothing, but is diseased with questionings and contentions of words, out of which come envy, strife, slanders, evil suspicions,

Rom. 1:16-17—For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek. ¹⁷For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, “But the righteous shall have life and live by faith.”

Rom. 3:22—Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction;

Rom. 10:17—So faith *comes* out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Heb. 11:1—Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb. 12:1-2—Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles *us* and run with endurance the race which is set before us, ²Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

- I. We must walk in the truth of the heavenly vision of God's eternal economy, of the mark of God's eternal economy, and of the goal of God's eternal economy; this vision must be renewed in us day by day to be the controlling vision of all our life, work, and activity—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:16-19; 1 John 1:7; 3 John 3-4:**

Prov. 29:18—Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

Acts 26:16-19—But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this *purpose*, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you; ¹⁷Delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you, ¹⁸To open their eyes, to turn *them* from darkness to light and *from* the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. ¹⁹Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

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.

3 John 3-4—For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your *steadfastness in the truth*, even as you walk in truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth.

- A. God's eternal economy is His plan to dispense Himself into His chosen, predestinated, and redeemed people as their life, their life supply, and their everything to produce, constitute, and build up the organic Body of Christ—1 Tim. 1:3-5; 6:3-4; 2 Cor. 11:2-3; Titus 1:9; Col. 2:19.

1 Tim. 1:3-5—Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things ⁴Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith. ⁵But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and *out of* a good conscience and *out of* unfeigned faith;

1 Tim. 6:3-4—If anyone teaches different things and does not consent to healthy words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the teaching which is according to godliness, ⁴He is blinded with pride, understanding nothing, but is diseased with questionings and contentions of words, out of which come envy, strife, slanders, evil suspicions,

2 Cor. 11:2-3—For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present *you as* a pure virgin to Christ. ³But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

Titus 1:9—Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching *of the apostles*, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose.

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.

- B. God's eternal economy is to make man the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead and to make Himself one with man and man one with Him, thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression, that all His divine attributes may be expressed in human virtues—John 1:12-13; 3:15-16; 2 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2.

John 1:12-13—But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, ¹³Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:15-16—That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

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.

Rom. 8:16—The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor. 6:17—But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Rom. 12:1-2—I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

2 Cor. 4:16-18—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Phil. 3:21—Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

1 John 3:2—Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

- C. God's economy is "in faith" (1 Tim. 1:3-5); this means that what God does in His economy is according to the objective faith (referring to the things in which we believe) and by means of our subjective faith (referring to the believing action of the believers).

1 Tim. 1:3-5—Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things ⁴Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith. ⁵But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and *out of* a good conscience and *out of* unfeigned faith;

- D. The mark of God's eternal economy, the strategic and central point of God's eternal economy, is the indwelling, subjective Christ as the Spirit in our spirit, our mingled spirit, our spirit of faith—2 Cor. 3:17; 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:22; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17:

2 Cor. 3:17—And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor. 4:13—And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

2 Tim. 4:22—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Rom. 8:16—The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor. 6:17—But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

1. We must be narrowed down to and even zeroed in on the all-inclusive divine Spirit in our human spirit that we may be kept from missing the mark of the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:6; Mal. 2:15-16; Rom. 1:9; 8:4, 6; Gal. 5:25; Phil. 3:3; 2 Cor. 2:13.

1 Tim. 1:6—From which things some, having misaimed, have turned aside to vain talking,

Mal. 2:15-16—But did He not make *them* one? And the remnant of the Spirit was His. And why the one? He sought the seed of God. Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one be treacherous to the wife of his youth. ¹⁶For I hate divorce, says Jehovah the God of Israel; and he *who does it* behaves in violence, says Jehovah of hosts. Take heed then to your spirit, and do not be treacherous.

Rom. 1:9—For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

Rom. 8:4—That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

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

Gal. 5:25—If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Phil. 3:3—For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

2 Cor. 2:13—I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.

2. In the “blueprint” of God’s original intention, man is the center of the entire universe, and the center of man is his spirit—Gen. 2:7; Prov. 20:27:

Gen. 2:7—Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Prov. 20:27—The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

- a. The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and man was created by God with a spirit that he may contact God, receive God, contain God, worship God, live God, fulfill God’s purpose for God, express God, and be one with God—Zech. 12:1; John 4:24.

Zech. 12:1—The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. *Thus* declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

John 4:24—God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

- b. Without God being the Spirit and without our having a spirit to contact God, to be one with God, the whole universe is empty and we are nothing—Eccl. 1:2; 3:11; Job 32:8; cf. Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Cor. 4:7.

Eccl. 1:2—Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

Eccl. 3:11—He has made everything beautiful in its own time; also He has put eternity in their heart, yet so that man does not find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Job 32:8—But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.

cf. Rom. 9:21—Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

cf. Rom. 9:23—In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

cf. 2 Cor. 4:7—But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

3. Christ as the life-giving Spirit can be everything to us when we live in and exercise our spirit; to live in our soul is to live in the principle of antichrist—Zech. 4:6; 12:1; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; 1 John 2:18-19; cf. Rev. 18:12-13.

Zech. 4:6—And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts.

Zech. 12:1—The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. *Thus* declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,

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.

1 Cor. 6:17—But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

1 John 2:18-19—Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out* that they might be manifested that they all are not of us.

cf. Rev. 18:12-13—Cargo of gold and silver and precious stone and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind* of thyrine wood, and every vessel of ivory, and every vessel of most precious wood and brass and iron and marble, ¹³And cinnamon and amomum and incense and ointment and frankincense and wine and oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargo* of horses and chariots and slaves and souls of men.

4. To enjoy the Lord as the Spirit in our spirit is to have grace with us; when this is lost, the degradation of the church is present—2 Tim. 4:22; Gal. 6:18.
2 Tim. 4:22—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Gal. 6:18—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

- E. The goal of God's eternal economy is the reality of the organic Body of Christ, consummating in the New Jerusalem—Eph. 1:22-23; Rev. 21:2-3, 9-10:

Eph. 1:22-23—And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, ²³Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Rev. 21:2-3—And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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. 21:9-10—And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. ¹⁰And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

1. Without the local churches, there is no practical expression of the Body of Christ, and there can be no reality of the Body of Christ—1:10-13; 2:7.

Rev. 1:10-13—I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea. ¹²And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³And in the midst of the lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment reaching to the feet, and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle.

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.

2. The local churches are not the goal of God's eternal economy but the procedure to reach the goal, which is the reality of the Body of Christ; any work outside of this is not on the central lane of God's eternal economy—Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16; cf. Psa. 48:2.

Eph. 4:1-6—I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, ²With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love, ³Being 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. 4:11-16—And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, ¹²For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, ¹³Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

¹⁴That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
¹⁵But 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.

cf. Psa. 48:2—Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, The city of the great King.

3. We must follow the footsteps of the apostle Paul to bring all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:24; Rom. 16:1-20.

1 Cor. 12:24—But our comely *members* have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the *member* that lacked,

Rom. 16:1-20—I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea, ²That you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been the patroness of many, of myself as well. ³Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; ⁵And *greet* the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ. ⁶Greet Mary, one who has labored much for you. ⁷Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. ⁸Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. ⁹Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. ¹⁰Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those of the *household of* Aristobulus. ¹¹Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the *household of* Narcissus who are in the Lord. ¹²Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord. Greet Persis, the beloved *sister*, one who has labored much in the Lord. ¹³Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as mine. ¹⁴Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them. ¹⁵Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints with them. ¹⁶Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. ¹⁷Now I exhort you, brothers, to mark those who make divisions and causes of stumbling contrary to the teaching which you have learned, and turn away from them. ¹⁸For such men do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own stomach, and through smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. ¹⁹For *the report of* your obedience has reached to all; therefore I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and guileless as to what is evil. ²⁰Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

4. For the Lord's recovery in this age, we must cooperate with the Lord to be the overcomers as today's Zion in today's Jerusalem (the church life) for the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem—Rev. 3:21-22; 14:1-5.

Rev. 3:21-22—He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev. 14:1-5—And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like *the sound* of harp-singers playing on their harps. ³And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth. ⁴These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men *as* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵And in their mouth no lie was found; they are without blemish.

- F. Any teaching, even a scriptural one, that distracts us from the unique and healthy teaching of God’s eternal economy is a different teaching, a “wind of teaching,” a strange teaching, that separates us from the genuine appreciation, love, and enjoyment of the precious person of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as our life and our everything—1 Tim. 1:3-5; Acts 2:42; 2 Cor. 11:2-3; Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9.

1 Tim. 1:3-5—Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things ⁴Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God’s economy, which is in faith. ⁵But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and *out of* a good conscience and *out of* unfeigned faith;

Acts 2:42—And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

2 Cor. 11:2-3—For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present *you as* a pure virgin to Christ. ³But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

Eph. 4:14—That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

Heb. 13:9—Do not be carried away by various strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be confirmed by grace, not by the food *of sacrifices*, by which those who walk were not profited.

- G. Today we can be in one accord because we have only one vision, the vision of the eternal economy of God—Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 1:9-10; Jer. 32:39.

Acts 1:14—These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

1 Cor. 1:9-10—God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹⁰Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.

Jer. 32:39—And I will give them one heart and one way, to fear Me all the days, for their own good and for *the good of* their children after them.

- H. Job could not find the reason for God's treatment of him, but he believed that there had to be some reason hidden in God's heart (Job 10:12-13); the mystery hidden in God's heart is God's eternal economy; God's only goal in time is to dispense Himself into us day by day that we may be the same as He is, the Body of Christ, for God's fullness, God's expression, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem (Eph. 3:9; 1:22-23; 3:19; Rev. 21:2, 9-10).

Job 10:12-13—You have granted me life and lovingkindness, And Your visitation has preserved my spirit. ¹³But You have hidden these things in Your heart; I know that this is with You:

Eph. 3:9—And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Eph. 1:22-23—And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, ²³Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 3:19—And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Rev. 21:2—And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:9-10—And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. ¹⁰And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

II. God's eternal economy is "the gospel of the glory of the blessed God" (1 Tim. 1:4, 11); the key word concerning "the gospel of God" in Romans and the banner of God's eternal economy is Romans 1:17, which reveals the structure of the gospel of God—"the righteous shall have life and live by faith" (Hab. 1:5; 2:2, 4; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38):

1 Tim. 1:4—Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

1 Tim. 1:11—According to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I was entrusted.

Rom. 1:17—For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."

Hab. 1:5—Look among the nations, and see, And be amazed, utterly amazed. For I am doing a work in your days *Which* you would not believe if it were told *you*.

Hab. 2:2—Then Jehovah answered me and said, Write the vision, and render *it* plainly upon tablets, That *even* he who runs by may read it.

Hab. 2:4—See, he who is puffed up, his soul is not upright within him, But the righteous one will live by his faith.

Gal. 3:11—And that by law no one is justified before God is evident because, “The righteous one shall have life and live by faith”;

Heb. 10:38—But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul does not delight in him.”

A. The righteousness of God is the procedure of God’s salvation judicially—Rom. 1:16-17:

Rom. 1:16-17—For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek. ¹⁷For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, “But the righteous shall have life and live by faith.”

1. God cannot forgive sinful people without meeting the demands of His righteousness (Psa. 103:6-7); according to His righteousness, “the soul who sins, he shall die” (Ezek. 18:4), and “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23):

Psa. 103:6-7—Jehovah executes righteous acts, And judgments for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made His ways known to Moses; His acts, to the children of Israel.

Ezek. 18:4—Indeed all souls are Mine; indeed as is the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins, he shall die.

Rom. 6:23—For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

a. Christ died a vicarious death as the Substitute for sinners, a death that was legal according to God’s law and was recognized and approved by God according to the law—Isa. 53:5-6; 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 27:45-46.

Isa. 53:5-6—But He was wounded because of our transgressions; He was crushed because of our iniquities; The chastening for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we have been healed. ⁶We all like sheep have gone astray; Each of us has turned to his own way, And Jehovah has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

2 Cor. 5:21—Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Matt. 27:45-46—Now from the sixth hour darkness fell over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

b. Christ, the righteous One, was judged on behalf of us, the unrighteous, by the righteous God according to His righteousness, that He might remove the barrier of our sins and bring us to God—1 Pet. 3:18.

1 Pet. 3:18—For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the Righteous on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, on the one hand being put to death in the flesh, but on the other, made alive in the Spirit;

c. On the cross Jesus was made sin for us, condemned sin in the flesh, and by dying on our behalf fulfilled all of God’s righteousness; now for the

sake of His righteousness, God must forgive us—2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:3, 10; John 19:30.

2 Cor. 5:21—Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rom. 8:3—For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

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

John 19:30—Then when Jesus had taken the vinegar, He said, It is finished! And He bowed His head and delivered up His spirit.

2. Because God is bound by His righteousness to forgive us, righteousness is the power and the unshakable foundation of our salvation (Rom. 1:16-17; Psa. 89:14); God has put Christ to death on our behalf, He has recognized the death of Christ as the full payment of our debt of sins, and the resurrected and ascended Christ sitting at the right hand of God is the “receipt” of this payment (Rom. 4:24-25; 6:23).

Rom. 1:16-17—For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek. ¹⁷For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, “But the righteous shall have life and live by faith.”

Psa. 89:14—Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.

Rom. 4:24-25—But for ours also to whom it is to be accounted, who believe on Him who has raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification.

Rom. 6:23—For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Thus, whenever we claim the blood of Jesus and appeal to God’s righteousness, He has no choice except to forgive us—1 John 1:9; *Hymns*, #1003, #295.

1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4. Life is the goal of God’s salvation; thus, justification is “of life”; through justification we have come up to the standard of God’s righteousness and correspond with it so that now He can impart His life into us—Rom. 5:18.

Rom. 5:18—So then as *it was* through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also *it was* through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.

- B. The life of Christ is the purpose of God’s salvation organically—v. 10:

Rom. 5:10—For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

1. The result of our justification is the full enjoyment of God in Christ as our life; in God's organic salvation we have love, grace, peace, hope, life, glory, the Holy Spirit, Christ, and God as our enjoyment—vv. 1-11.

Rom. 5:1-11—Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²Through whom also we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and boast because of the hope of the glory of God. ³And not only so, but we also boast in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance; ⁴And endurance, approvedness; and approvedness, hope; ⁵And hope does not put *us* to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶For while we were yet weak, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will anyone die, though perhaps for the good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God commends His own love to us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified in His blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath. ¹⁰For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled, ¹¹And not only so, but also boasting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

2. The saving life of Christ is accomplishing the organic goal of God's dynamic salvation in the following ways—v. 10:

Rom. 5:10—For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

- a. This life makes the God-justified believers the many sons of God (8:14; Heb. 2:10), who are the many brothers of Christ (Rom. 8:29) through regeneration (1 Pet. 1:3) by the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2).

Rom. 8:14—For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Heb. 2:10—For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Rom. 8:29—Because 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;

1 Pet. 1:3—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Rom. 8:2—For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

- b. This life sanctifies us with the holy nature of God as the holy element—6:19-20.

Rom. 6:19-20—I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification. ²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness.

- c. This life renews us, by the Spirit of life, based upon the washing of regeneration, from the old element of our old man into the new constitution of our new man—12:2b; Titus 3:5.
Rom. 12:2—And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
Titus 3:5—Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
- d. This life transforms us metabolically by the Spirit of life with the element of Christ's divine life, from our old constitution to our new constitution, for the building up of Christ's organic Body—Rom. 12:2b, 5; 2 Cor. 3:18.
Rom. 12:2—And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
Rom. 12:5—So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
2 Cor. 3:18—But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- e. This life conforms us to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God so that we may be full-grown God-men for the Triune God's expression—Rom. 8:29.
Rom. 8:29—Because 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. This life glorifies us through the redemption of our body so that we may enter into the freedom of glory and our full sonship—vv. 21, 23, 30.
Rom. 8:21—In hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
Rom. 8:23—And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
Rom. 8:30—And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- g. This life makes us reign as kings over Satan, sin, and death—5:17, 21.
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.
Rom. 5:21—In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- C. The faith of the believers is the substantiation of God's salvation practically—Heb. 11:1:

Heb. 11:1—Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1. The faith of the believers is actually not their own faith but Christ entering into them to be their faith—Rom. 1:12; 3:22 and footnote 1; Gal. 2:16 and footnote 1:

Rom. 1:12—That is, that I with *you* may be encouraged among you through the faith which is in one another, both yours and mine.

Rom. 3:22—Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction;

Gal. 2:16—And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.

- a. When we look away unto Jesus, He transfuses Himself as the believing element into us so that He may believe for us; hence, He Himself is our faith, and we live by Him as our faith—Heb. 12:1-2a; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 3:22; Gal. 2:20.

Heb. 12:1-2—Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles *us* and run with endurance the race which is set before us, ²Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Cor. 5:7—(For we walk by faith, not by appearance)—

Rom. 3:22—Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction;

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. The Lord's recovery is to recover us from things that are seen to things that are not seen; hence, we need to be those who exercise our spirit of faith to walk by faith and not by sight—2 Cor. 4:13, 16-18; 1 Pet. 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:27.

2 Cor. 4:13—And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

2 Cor. 4:16-18—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the

things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 Pet. 1:8—Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing *Him* at present, yet believing, you exult with joy *that is* unspeakable and full of glory,

2 Cor. 5:7—(For we walk by faith, not by appearance)—

Heb. 11:27—By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he persevered as one seeing the unseen One.

2. Our believing into Christ is our appreciation of Him as a reaction to His attraction—Rom. 10:17; Heb. 12:1-2a; cf. Acts 14:27.

Rom. 10:17—So faith *comes* out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Heb. 12:1-2—Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles *us* and run with endurance the race which is set before us, ²Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

cf. Acts 14:27—And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared the things that God had done with them and that He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

3. Faith comes out of the hearing of the word; when we come to the living word (Christ) in the written word (the Bible), He becomes the applied word (the Spirit) of faith to us—Rom. 10:8, 17; Gal. 3:2; John 5:39-40; 6:63; cf. Heb. 3:12.

Rom. 10:8—But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of the faith which we proclaim,

Rom. 10:17—So faith *comes* out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Gal. 3:2—This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

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.

cf. Heb. 3:12—Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

4. When man hears Christ, knows Him, appreciates Him, and treasures Him, He causes faith to be generated in man, becoming the faith in man that enables man to believe in Him—12:2a; Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:2, 5; 5:6.

Heb. 12:2—Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

Rom. 10:17—So faith *comes* out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Gal. 3:2—This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

Gal. 3:5—He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, *does He do it* out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

Gal. 5:6—For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything nor uncircumcision, but faith *avails*, operating through love.

5. Faith is to believe that God is and we are not; He must be the only One, the unique One, in everything, and we must be nothing in everything—Heb. 11:1, 5-6.

Heb. 11:1—Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb. 11:5-6—By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God. ⁶But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing *to Him*, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

6. As believers, we live by faith and infuse Christ as faith into others by exercising our spirit of faith—2 Cor. 4:13; Rom. 10:14-17; Acts 26:22-29.

2 Cor. 4:13—And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, “I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak,

Rom. 10:14-17—How then shall they call upon *Him* into whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe *into Him* of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without one who proclaims *Him*? ¹⁵And how shall they proclaim *Him* unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the news of good things!” ¹⁶But not all have obeyed the gospel, for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith *comes* out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts 26:22-29—Having therefore obtained the help which is from God, I have stood unto this day, testifying both to small and great, saying nothing apart from the things which both the prophets and Moses have said would take place, ²³That the Christ would suffer *and* that He, being the first to rise from the dead, would announce light both to the people and to the Gentiles. ²⁴And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, You are insane, Paul. Much learning is driving you insane. ²⁵But Paul said, I am not insane, most excellent Festus, but I am uttering words of truth and soberness. ²⁶For the king knows about these things, to whom also I speak freely, for I am persuaded that none of these things have escaped his notice; for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe. ²⁸And Agrippa *replied* to Paul, By so little are you trying to persuade me to become a Christian? ²⁹And Paul *said*, I would to God that both by little and by much, not only you, but also all those who hear me today might become even such as I am, except for these bonds.

7. Faith is the subjective God applied to our being; thus, just as nothing is impossible to God, nothing is impossible to faith—Matt. 17:20; 19:26; *Hymns*, #535.

Matt. 17:20—And He said to them, Because of your little faith; for truly I say to you, If you have faith like a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Matt. 19:26—And looking upon *them*, Jesus said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

8. The great irrepressible and unlimited power of faith motivates thousands to suffer for the Lord, risk their lives, and become overcoming sent ones and martyrs to spread the gospel of God's eternal economy unto the uttermost part of the earth—Luke 18:8; Rom. 16:3-4; Acts 20:24; 1 Tim. 1:4, 11-12; Matt. 24:14; 25:21, 23; Acts 1:8.

Luke 18:8—I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?

Rom. 16:3-4—Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

Acts 20:24—But I consider my life of no account *as if* precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

1 Tim. 1:4—Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

1 Tim. 1:11-12—According to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I was entrusted. ¹²I give thanks to Him who empowers me, Christ Jesus our Lord, that He has counted me faithful, appointing *me* to the ministry,

Matt. 24:14—And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matt. 25:21—His 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.

Matt. 25:23—His 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.

Acts 1:8—But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.