

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

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**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—  
EPHESIANS**

Message Nine

**The Intrinsic Building Up of the Organic Body of Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:7-16

**Eph. 4:7-16**—But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Therefore *the Scripture* says, “Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men.” <sup>9</sup>(Now this, “He ascended,” what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>Until 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, <sup>14</sup>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, <sup>15</sup>But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, <sup>16</sup>Out 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.

**I. The intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the giving, the dispensing, of the divine grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ—Eph. 4:7:**

**Eph. 4:7**—But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

- A. Every member of the Body of Christ is an indispensable gift to the Body—1 Cor. 12:14-22; Rom. 12:4-5.

**1 Cor. 12:14-22**—For the body is not one member but many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, *it is not that* because of this it is not of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, *it is not that* because of this it is not of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be? <sup>18</sup>But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed. <sup>19</sup>And if all were one member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>But now the members are many, but the body one. <sup>21</sup>And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. <sup>22</sup>But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

**Rom. 12:4-5**—For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- B. The gift of Christ is a person constituted with Christ's life and element dispensed into him by the Divine Trinity—cf. 2 Cor. 1:15.

**cf. 2 Cor. 1:15**—And in this confidence I intended to come to you previously that you might have double grace,

- C. Each gifted person has a measure, and the divine grace is given, dispensed, into him according to that measure—Eph. 4:16; cf. Rom. 12:3.

**Eph. 4:16**—Out 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. Rom. 12:3**—For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly *of himself* than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

**II. The intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the giving of the gifted persons, such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers, who are constituted in the dispensing of the Divine Trinity, by Christ as the Head in His ascension (including His resurrection), to the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:8-12; Acts 2:24, 27; 1:9:**

**Eph. 4:8-12**—Therefore *the Scripture* says, “Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men.”<sup>9</sup>(Now this, “He ascended,” what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

**Acts 2:24**—Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

**Acts 2:27**—Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor will You permit Your Holy One to see corruption.

**Acts 1:9**—And when He had said these things, while they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him away from their sight.

- A. Ephesians 4:8 says, “Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men”:

1. *Height* in the quotation from Psalm 68:18 refers to Mount Zion (vv. 15-16), symbolizing the third heaven, where God dwells (1 Kings 8:30).

**Psa. 68:18**—You have ascended on high; You have led captive those taken captive; You have received gifts among men, Even the rebellious ones also, That Jehovah God may dwell *among them*.

**Psa. 68:15-16**—O mighty mountain, O mountain of Bashan, O many-peaked mountain, O mountain of Bashan: <sup>16</sup>Why do you look with envy, O many-peaked

mountains, At the mountain on which God desires to dwell? Indeed Jehovah will dwell *there* forever.

**1 Kings 8:30**—And listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear then in Your dwelling place in the heavens; and when You hear, forgive.

2. Psalm 68 implies that it was in the Ark that God ascended to Mount Zion after the Ark had won the victory (Num. 10:35); this portrays how Christ has won the victory and ascended triumphantly to the heavens.

**Num. 10:35**—And when the Ark set out, Moses said, Rise up, O Jehovah, and let Your enemies be scattered; And let those who hate You flee before You.

3. Through His universal traffic and in His ascension, Christ led as captives those who had been taken captive by Satan and made them gifts to His Body—Eph. 4:8-11:

**Eph. 4:8-11**—Therefore *the Scripture* says, “Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men.” <sup>9</sup>(Now this, “He ascended,” what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,

- a. The redeemed saints had been taken captive by Satan before they were saved by Christ’s death and resurrection—cf. Luke 4:18.

**cf. Luke 4:18**—“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,

- b. In His ascension Christ led them captive; that is, He rescued them from Satan’s captivity and took them to Himself—Psa. 68:18.

**Psa. 68:18**—You have ascended on high; You have led captive those taken captive; You have received gifts among men, Even the rebellious ones also, That Jehovah God may dwell *among them*.

- c. In His ascension Christ led them to the heavens as His captives in His train of vanquished foes and made them gifts to His Body.

- d. Now Christ is celebrating His triumph over them, His vanquished foes, and leading them as His captives in a triumphal procession in His move for His ministry to build up His Body—2 Cor. 2:14.

**2 Cor. 2:14**—But 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.

- B. The more Christ ascends and descends within us, capturing and vanquishing us, the more He fills us with Himself to constitute us as gifts to His Body—cf. Eph. 4:8-10.

**cf. Eph. 4:8-10**—Therefore *the Scripture* says, “Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men.” <sup>9</sup>(Now this, “He ascended,” what is it

except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.)

- C. Psalm 68:12-13 poetically and typologically reveals the “spoil” of Christ’s victory, which includes all the gains of the accomplishment, consummation, attainment, and obtainment of Christ as the reapings of the victory of His death, resurrection, and ascension; this spoil is described in detail in verse 13—“There are dove wings covered with silver, / And its pinions, with greenish-yellow gold”:

**Psa. 68:12-13**—The kings of the armies flee. They flee! And she who abides at home Divides the spoil. <sup>13</sup>Though you lie among the sheepfolds, There are dove wings covered with silver, And its pinions, with greenish-yellow gold.

1. This spoil is actually the riches of the processed and consummated Triune God as the portion of God’s elect, typified by the dove (the Spirit), the silver (the Son), and the gold (the Father).
2. The dove wings signify the moving power of the Spirit.
3. Silver signifies Christ in His all-inclusive redemption for His believers’ justification as the entrance into His full salvation.
4. Pinions (the feathers at the end of a bird’s wings that supply the strength to fly and soar) signify the soaring power of the Spirit—Isa. 40:31.

**Isa. 40:31**—Yet those who wait on Jehovah will renew *their* strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and will not become weary; They will walk and will not faint.

5. The greenish-yellow, glittering gold, with which the pinions are covered, signify God in His nature glittering in the divine life and glory—2 Pet. 1:4; cf. John 4:24; 1 John 4:8; 1:5.

**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.

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

**1 John 4:8**—He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

**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.

6. The contents of the above items, as the spoil gained by Christ in His victory for the enjoyment of God’s elect, are actually the Triune God with all the items of His complete, full, and all-inclusive salvation—cf. Rom. 5:10, 17, 21.

**cf. 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,

**cf. 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. 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.

7. “Blessed be the Lord, who day by day loads us with good; / God is our salvation. Selah” (Psa. 68:19); the “good” here does not signify the “good” of material things but the “good” of the Triune God Himself enjoyed by us day by day as the spoil of Christ’s victory (Rom. 8:28-29; 2 Cor. 4:16) to constitute us into genuine gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ.

**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. <sup>29</sup>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;

**2 Cor. 4:16**—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

**III. The intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the gifted persons’ perfecting of the saints in the divine dispensing, that all the saints may be able to do the work of the New Testament ministry, that is, to build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12, 15-16:**

**Eph. 4:11-12**—And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

**Eph. 4:15-16**—But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, <sup>16</sup>Out 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.

- A. The gifted persons perfect the saints by nourishing them according to the tree of life with the life supply for their growth in life—Gen. 2:9; 1 Cor. 3:2, 6.

**Gen. 2:9**—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**1 Cor. 3:2**—I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able *to receive it*. But neither yet now are you able,

**1 Cor. 3:6**—I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.

- B. The gifted persons perfect the saints to do what they do for the direct building up of the Body of Christ—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:11-12; cf. 1 Tim. 1:16; 4:12:

**Matt. 16:18**—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**Eph. 4:11-12**—And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

**cf. 1 Tim. 1:16**—But because of this I was shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display all His long-suffering for a pattern to those who are to believe on Him unto eternal life.

**cf. 1 Tim. 4:12**—Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1. The apostles perfect the saints by visiting the churches (Acts 15:36, 40-41; 20:20, 31), by writing epistles to the churches (Col. 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:2), and by assigning their co-workers to stay in certain places to perfect the saints (1 Tim. 1:3-4; 3:15; Titus 1:5).

**Acts 15:36**—Now after some days Paul said to Barnabas, Let us return now and visit the brothers in every city in which we announced the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are doing.

**Acts 15:40-41**—But Paul chose Silas and went out, having been commended to the grace of the Lord by the brothers. <sup>41</sup>And he passed through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

**Acts 20:20**—How I did not withhold any of those things that are profitable by not declaring *them* to you and by *not* teaching you publicly and from house to house,

**Acts 20:31**—Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.

**Col. 4:16**—And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.

**1 Cor. 1:2**—To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* theirs and ours:

**1 Tim. 1:3-4**—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 <sup>4</sup>Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

**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.

**Titus 1:5**—For this cause I left you in Crete, that you might set in order the things *which I have begun* that remain and appoint elders in every city, as I directed you:

2. The prophets perfect the saints by teaching them to speak the Lord into people, by speaking in the meetings to set up a model, and by helping the saints to live a prophesying life by being revived every morning and over-coming every day—Acts 13:1; 1 Cor. 14:31; Prov. 4:18.

**Acts 13:1**—Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**1 Cor. 14:31**—For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

**Prov. 4:18**—But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

3. The evangelists perfect the saints by stirring them up to be burning in the gospel-preaching spirit, by teaching them with the gospel truths, by training them to preach the gospel, by helping the saints to be equipped with the power of the economical Spirit, and by setting an example of loving the sinners and praying for them—2 Tim. 4:5.

**2 Tim. 4:5**—But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry.

4. The shepherd-teachers perfect the saints by shepherding—feeding and nourishing the young saints and teaching the growing saints—Acts 11:25-26; 13:1.

**Acts 11:25-26**—And he went forth to Tarsus to search for Saul; <sup>26</sup>And when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it happened with them that for a whole year they were gathered in the church and taught a considerable number and that the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

**Acts 13:1**—Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

- C. The result of this perfecting is that we will all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, and at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ—Eph. 4:13; cf. John 17:23.

**Eph. 4:13**—Until 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,

**cf. John 17:23**—I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

- D. This perfecting will cause us to 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 satanic system of error—Eph. 4:14.

**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,

#### **IV. The intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ is by the direct building by all the members—into the Head and out from the Head—vv. 15-16:**

**Eph. 4:15-16**—But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, <sup>16</sup>Out 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.

- A. In order to be built up, we must hold to truth in love, growing up into the Head, Christ, in all things—v. 15:

**Eph. 4:15**—But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,



1. We must “truth it” by holding to the divine truth of God’s eternal economy, of the all-inclusive Christ, and of the church as the Body of Christ.
2. We must be subject to the Head, Christ (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23; 1:22, 10), and allow His divine life to expand and increase into all our inward parts (Rom. 8:10, 6, 11; 2 Cor. 5:4).

**1 Cor. 11:3**—But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.

**Eph. 5:23**—For a husband is head of the wife as also Christ is Head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the Body.

**Eph. 1:22**—And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

**Eph. 1:10**—Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

**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 Cor. 5:4**—For also, we who are in this tabernacle groan, being burdened, in that we do not desire to be unclothed, but clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

- B. Out from the Head, in the divine dispensing, all the Body is joined closely together through every joint of the rich supply and knit together, interwoven, through the operation in the measure of each one part—Eph. 4:16.

**Eph. 4:16**—Out 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.

- C. The joints supplying and the parts functioning cause the growth of the Body, in the dispensing of the Divine Trinity, unto the building up of the Body itself in the divine love—v. 16:

**Eph. 4:16**—Out 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.

1. All the Body causes the growth of the Body—cf. 1 Cor. 14:4b, 31.

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

**cf. 1 Cor. 14:31**—For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.



2. The Body builds itself up in the divine love, with which God and Christ love us and by which we love Christ and the fellow members of His Body—John 17:23, 26; 13:34; 15:12-17; 1 John 3:14; 4:8, 19; 1 Cor. 8:1.

**John 17:23**—I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

**John 17:26**—And I have made Your name known to them and will *yet* make *it* known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

**John 13:34**—A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

**John 15:12-17**—This is My commandment, that you love one another even as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all the things which I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you that you may love one another.

**1 John 3:14**—We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.

**1 John 4:8**—He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

**1 John 4:19**—We love because He first loved us.

**1 Cor. 8:1**—Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.