

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

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

Message Twelve

**The Sealing of the Holy Spirit
unto the Redemption of the Body**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:30; Phil. 3:21; Rom. 8:23

Eph. 4:30—And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

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.

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.

I. “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption”—Eph. 4:30:

- A. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to displease Him.
- B. The Holy Spirit abides in us forever, never leaving us—John 14:16-17.
John 14:16-17—And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever, 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.
- C. The Holy Spirit is grieved when we do not walk according to Him (Rom. 8:4), that is, when we do not live according to the principle of reality with grace in the details of our daily walk.
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.
- D. The apostle's exhortation in Ephesians 4:17-32 not only takes grace and reality as the basic elements but also takes the life of God (v. 18) and the Spirit of God as the basic factors on the positive side and the devil (v. 27) as a factor on the negative side.
Eph. 4:17-32—This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness. ²⁰But you did not so learn Christ, ²¹If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in

Jesus, ²²That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit, ²³And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind ²⁴And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality. ²⁵Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation, ²⁷Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸He who steals should steal no more, but rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable, that he may have *something* to share with him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

Eph. 4:18—Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

Eph. 4:27—Neither give place to the devil.

- E. It is by the life of God in the Spirit of God, and by not giving place to the devil, that we can live a life full of grace and reality, as the Lord Jesus did.
- F. God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit as the sealing element.
- G. *In whom* means to be in the Holy Spirit as the element; this shows that God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit unto the day of the redemption of our body.
- H. “In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise”—1:13:
 - 1. To be sealed with the Holy Spirit is to be marked with the Holy Spirit as a living seal.
 - 2. We have been designated as God’s inheritance—v. 11.
Eph. 1:11—In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
 - 3. At the time we were saved, God put His Holy Spirit into us as a seal to mark us out, indicating that we belong to God—v. 13.
Eph. 1:13—In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
 - 4. The Holy Spirit, who is God Himself entering into us, causes us to bear God’s image, signified by the seal, thus making us like God.
- I. *Of the promise* in Ephesians 1:13 indicates that God planned according to His pleasure to seal us with His Spirit; the sealing of the Spirit is still taking place.
Eph. 1:13—In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

II. “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”—Phil. 3:21:

- A. The transfiguration of our body is the ultimate consummation of God's salvation.
- B. In His salvation God first regenerated our spirit (John 3:6), now is transforming our soul (Rom. 12:2), and consummately will transfigure our body, making us the same as Christ in all three parts of our being.

John 3:6—That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

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.

- C. *The body of our humiliation* describes our natural body, made of worthless dust (Gen. 2:7) and damaged by sin, weakness, sickness, and death (Rom. 6:6; 7:24; 8:11).

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.

Rom. 6:6—Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Rom. 7:24—Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?

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.

- D. One day this body will be transfigured and conformed to the body of Christ's glory; Christ's body of glory is His resurrected body, saturated with God's glory (Luke 24:26) and transcendent over corruption and death (Rom. 6:9).

Luke 24:26—Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and enter into His glory?

Rom. 6:9—Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more; death lords it over Him no more.

- E. The transfiguring of our body is accomplished by the Lord's great power, which subjects all things to Himself (Eph. 1:19-22); this is the almighty power in the universe.

Eph. 1:19-22—And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, ²⁰Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, ²¹Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²²And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

III. "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"—Rom. 8:11:

- A. The objective facts revealed in chapter 6 concerning our death and resurrection in Christ become our subjective experience only when we are in the indwelling Spirit, who is revealed in chapter 8.

B. In Romans 8:11 we have three matters:

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.

1. We have the entire Triune God—"the One who raised Jesus from the dead," "Christ," and "His Spirit who indwells you."
2. We have the process required for His dispensing, as implied in the words *Jesus* (emphasizing incarnation), *Christ* (emphasizing crucifixion and resurrection), and *raised* (emphasizing resurrection).
3. We have His dispensing of Himself into the believers, as shown by the phrase *give life to your mortal bodies*, which indicates that the dispensing not only occurs at the center of our being but also reaches to the circumference, to our whole being.
4. This does not refer to divine healing but to the result of our allowing the Spirit of God to make His home in us and saturate our entire being with the divine life.
5. In this way He gives His life to our mortal, dying body, not merely to heal it but also that it may be enlivened to carry out His will.

IV. "We ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body"—v. 23:

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.

A. To be redeemed in our body is to be glorified—v. 30.

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.

B. Glorification and the redemption of our body are synonymous.

C. No matter how mature we may become in the divine life, as long as we have not been glorified, we have not been redeemed in our body:

1. When we are glorified, our glorification will also be the redemption of our body.
2. The believers will be glorified and redeemed in their body simultaneously.

D. First Corinthians 1:30 tells us that Christ has become "wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption":

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,

1. In God's full salvation Christ is righteousness (for our past), by which we have been justified by God so that we may be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life—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.

2. Then Christ is sanctification (for our present), by which we are being sanctified in our mind, emotion, and will with His divine life—6:19-22.

Rom. 6:19-22—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. ²¹What fruit then did you have at that time? Things of which you are now ashamed, for the end of those things is death. ²²But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

3. Eventually, Christ will be our redemption (for our future), that is, the redemption of our body, by which we will be transfigured in our body with the divine life to have Christ's glorious likeness—Phil. 3:21.

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.

4. It is of God that we participate in such a complete and perfect salvation, making our entire being—spirit, soul, and body—organically one with Christ and making Christ everything to us.