

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2024**

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

Message Eleven

**Working Together with God by an All-fitting Life
and
Being Enlarged in Our Hearts**

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 6:1-13; 7:2-3

- I. Every believer who loves the Lord and who wants to come up to God's standard should become a minister of the new covenant—Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 1:16:**
 - A. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to recover the ministering of Christ by all the believers so that the church as the Body of Christ may be built up—Eph. 4:16.
 - B. In order to be new covenant ministers, we need a life of ministering Christ to others for the sake of His Body—Matt. 24:45-46.
 - C. This excellent, marvelous ministry needs excellent ministers with an excellent life, whose living and being match their doing.

- II. We need to work together with God by a life (not by any gift) that is all-sufficient and all-mature, able to fit all situations, able to endure any kind of treatment, to accept any kind of environment, to work in any kind of condition, and to take any kind of opportunity, for the carrying out of our ministry—Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5; John 14:6a; Acts 27:22-25:**
 - A. To work together with God means that we are in God; only a person who is in God can bring others into God—2 Cor. 5:20.
 - B. The apostles not only were commissioned by God with their ministry but also were working together with Him; they were God's co-workers—1 Cor. 3:9a:
 1. God is a worker—v. 9.
 2. While the ministers of Christ, His fellow workers, are working, He is also working.
 3. What a privilege and glory that we can be God's fellow workers, working together with God!
 - C. If we would have an all-fitting life, we need an enlarged heart, a heart to embrace all of God's people—2 Cor. 6:1-13; 2 Chron. 1:10; 1 Kings 4:29:
 1. To be enlarged by growing and maturing in life is equivalent to being fully reconciled to God—2 Cor. 5:18-20.
 2. With an enlarged heart we are able to embrace all believers regardless of their condition, and with an open mouth we are free to speak to all believers frankly concerning the real situation into which they have been misled—Matt. 5:7; 6:14-15; 7:1-2.
 3. We need to be enlarged to have the intimate concern of the ministering life—2 Cor. 7:2-3; 1 Thes. 2:8; Phil. 2:19-20:
 - a. From 2 Corinthians 7:2 to the end of the chapter, the apostle Paul in his entreating expressed his intimate concern for the believers, that they might be consoled and encouraged to go on positively with the Lord after being fully reconciled to Him—5:20.

- b. If we have ability to carry on a work but lack an intimate concern, our work will be fruitless.
 - c. Paul could honestly say, “We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one”—7:2.
 - d. How fruitful we are does not depend upon what we are able to do but on whether or not we have an intimate concern—1 Cor. 12:31b; 9:22; Matt. 9:12.
 - e. A ministering life is a life that warms up others by cherishing them in the humanity of Jesus to nourish them in the divinity of Christ with the riches of Christ—Eph. 5:29.
 - f. “I have said before that you are in our hearts for our dying together and our living together”; this is the expression of an intimate concern—2 Cor. 7:3b.
- D. In 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 and 7:2-3 the apostle Paul presents himself as a pattern of a person whose heart has been enlarged, a person with a life that is all-fitting for the carrying out of the new covenant ministry—11:23-24, 27-28.

III. To be fully reconciled to God will cause us to be enlarged in our hearts—5:18; 6:11-13:

- A. How large our heart is depends on the degree of our reconciliation to God.
- B. Narrowness of heart is a strong indication that we have been reconciled to God only partially and that the percentage of our salvation is quite low—v. 2; Rom. 5:10.
- C. If we are able to forgive an offense and then forget it, that is a sign that we have become an enlarged person, a person with a large heart—Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13.
- D. In order to be strict with ourselves and not with others, we need to be enlarged; those who are very straight are usually narrow as well, and thus they need to have their hearts enlarged—2 Cor. 6:13.
- E. God gave King Solomon, in addition to wisdom, also a large heart—1 Kings 4:20, 29:
 - 1. “God gave Solomon wisdom and very much understanding and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the seashore”—v. 29.
 - 2. Solomon’s wisdom was a shadow of the real wisdom that was to come—cf. 1 Cor. 2:6-7.
 - 3. Wisdom and largeness of heart are two aspects of one thing; the secret of wisdom is to have a large heart.
 - 4. Those who are wise have a large heart, but those who have a narrow heart are foolish.
 - 5. When a person is narrow and his heart is narrow, it is easy for him to be proud; pride is the expression of the narrowness of a person.
- F. We need to be impressed with the contrast between narrowness of heart and largeness of heart:
 - 1. Narrowness of heart—not forgiving another party unless and until he repents; largeness of heart—having the loving and forgiving heart of our Father God—Luke 15:20-24; 23:34a; Acts 7:59-60; Mark 11:25.
 - 2. Narrowness of heart—caring for our own things; largeness of heart—caring for the things of Christ Jesus—Phil. 2:19-21.
 - 3. Narrowness of heart—caring for individual spirituality; largeness of heart—caring for the church—1 Cor. 14:3-4, 12, 18-19.
 - 4. Narrowness of heart—having a heart only for certain believers and churches; largeness of heart—having a heart for all believers and all churches, no matter what their condition may be—Phil. 1:8; 2:1-4; 2 Cor. 11:28.
 - 5. Narrowness of heart—caring for our local church more than for the Body of Christ; largeness of heart—caring more for the Body of Christ than for our local church—Eph. 1:22-23.
 - 6. Narrowness of heart—caring for our own work; largeness of heart—caring for the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem—4:16; Col. 2:19; Rev. 21:2.