

**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 Fourteen

**The Experience of the Grace of God in the Economy of God**

Scripture Reading: John 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12; 12:7-9; 13:14; Rom. 5:17, 21

- I. The new covenant ministers' living is the living of grace, the experience of grace:**
- A. First Corinthians takes the history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament as a type of the New Testament believers (5:7-8; 10:1-13), but there is no reference to the good land in 1 Corinthians, because, spiritually speaking, the reality of the good land is in 2 Corinthians.
  - B. The reality of the good land in 2 Corinthians is Christ Himself as the divine grace; the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is the central thought and the subject of 2 Corinthians—13:14; 1:12; 4:15; 6:1; 8:1, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9.
  - C. *Not I but the grace of God* in 1 Corinthians 15:10 equals *no longer I...but...Christ* in Galatians 2:20; the grace that motivated the apostle Paul and operated in him was not some matter or some thing but a living person (John 1:16-17), the resurrected Christ, the embodiment of God the Father (Col. 2:9; John 14:7-11) who became the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17), who dwelt in the apostle for his empowering enjoyment (2 Tim. 4:22; 2:1).
- II. Grace is the wonderful Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God in three aspects: what He is, what He gives, and what He does on our behalf for our enjoyment; Christ can be everything to us as grace because He has been processed and consummated to be the life-giving Spirit indwelling our spirit—Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23; Philem. 25:**
- A. Grace is the wonderful Christ in what He is—John 1:14, 17; 8:58; Rom. 5:17, 21; 1 Cor. 15:10; cf. Gal. 2:20.
  - B. Grace is the wonderful Christ given to us, dispensed into us, superabounding with faith and love in Christ Jesus—1 Tim. 1:14:
    - 1. If we are short of something, this shortage is our opportunity to be supplied with more of Christ as grace to meet our timely need for our growth in Him—Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:17; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; 1 Pet. 5:5.
    - 2. When we cannot do anything, when we are not able to move, and when we have no strength, that is the time to trust in and enjoy the supply of God as grace—S. S. 8:5-6; Heb. 11:21; Gen. 47:29, 31.
  - C. Grace is the wonderful Christ doing everything in us on our behalf:
    - 1. Grace is Christ as our burden bearer; the more burdens we have, the more opportunities we have to experience Christ as grace—2 Cor. 12:7-9; 1 Cor. 15:10, 58; Phil. 4:6-7.
    - 2. We need to be empowered in the grace which is in Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 2:1) to be good stewards of the varied grace of God (1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 3:2; 4:29) as teachers (2 Tim. 2:2), soldiers (vv. 3-4), contenders (v. 5), farmers (v. 6), workmen (v. 15), and vessels unto honor (v. 21).

**III. Grace is God in Christ as the Spirit for our enjoyment, and we need to continually receive this grace, even grace upon grace, so that we may be saved in life to reign in life through the abundance of grace reigning within us—John 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; Rom. 5:17, 21:**

- A. We must always remember that our enjoyment of the Lord is not for ourselves but for others who are under our care; it is “the stewardship [Gk. *oikonomia*] of the grace of God which was given to me for you”—Eph. 3:2; Luke 11:11-13; John 4:10; 7:37-38; Gal. 3:2-5; John 3:34.
- B. The multiplication of grace is the grace that multiplies in our daily life in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; the grace of God in His economy is rich, multiplying, and abounding—1 Pet. 1:2b; 2 Pet. 1:2; John 1:16; Eph. 1:6-8; 2:7; Rom. 5:17, 21; 1 Tim. 1:14; Rev. 22:21.
- C. “Our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you”—2 Cor. 1:12:
  - 1. To conduct ourselves in the singleness of God, the simplicity of God, means that we do not trust in ourselves or in our natural human ability to work out a solution to our difficult situation; to conduct ourselves in the sincerity of God is to be in the grace of God.
  - 2. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of grace, is with our spirit, which has been regenerated to be the dwelling place and vessel of the Triune God—Heb. 10:29b; Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23; Philem. 25; 2 Tim. 4:22:
    - a. We need to exercise our spirit, fanning it into flame, to enjoy the riches of Christ as our all-sufficient grace in order to stand against the downward current of the church’s decline and carry out God’s economy—1:6-7; 4:22.
    - b. We need to set our mind on the spirit, to pay attention to our spirit, to take heed to our spirit—Rom. 8:6; Mal. 2:15-16; 2 Cor. 2:13.
- D. Christ as grace becomes power tabernacling over the new covenant ministers, overshadowing them in their weaknesses to become their dwelling place to sustain, support, maintain, protect, and keep them—12:9b.
- E. We need the grace of God in Christ applied to us as strength and power for our move, our protection, and our coordination in the Body—Ezek. 1:6b, 9a, 11; Exo. 19:4; Isa. 40:31; 2 Cor. 4:7; 1:12; 12:9; 1 Cor. 15:10; Psa. 17:8; 57:1; 63:7; 91:4.
- F. “Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help”—Heb. 4:16:
  - 1. How can we come to the throne of God and of the Lamb, Christ, in heaven while we still live on earth?
  - 2. The secret is our spirit, referred to in Hebrews 4:12; the very Christ who is sitting on the throne in heaven (Rom. 8:34) is also now in us (v. 10), that is, in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22), where the habitation of God is (Eph. 2:22).
  - 3. At Bethel, the house of God, the habitation of God, which is the gate of heaven, Christ is the ladder that joins earth to heaven and brings heaven to earth (Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51); since today our spirit is the place of God’s habitation, it is now the gate of heaven, where Christ is the ladder that joins us, the people on earth, to heaven, and brings heaven to us; hence, whenever we turn to our spirit, we enter through the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder.
- G. We need to see that the Lord Himself is the throne of glory and the throne of grace (Isa. 22:23; Heb. 4:16); when we allow grace to reign in us, grace is enthroned within us (Rom. 5:21) as God’s ruling presence for our enjoyment (Ezek. 1:22, 26).

- H. We reign in life by receiving the abundance of grace; day by day a marvelous divine transmission should be taking place: God is supplying the Spirit of grace bountifully, and we should be receiving the Spirit of grace continually—Gal. 3:2-5; John 3:34; Rom. 5:17.
  - I. The enjoyment of the Lord as grace is with those who love Him in incorruptibility—Eph. 6:24; John 21:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:8.
  - J. Those who wait on the eternal God (who stop themselves with their living, doing, and activity and receive God in Christ as their life, person, and replacement) will experience the resurrection power of Christ as grace to support, sustain, strengthen, cover, and protect them—2 Cor. 12:9; Isa. 40:31; Ezek. 1:8; Psa. 17:8; 57:1; 63:7; 91:4.
  - K. We need to enjoy the word of His grace (Acts 20:32; Jer. 15:16) to be good stewards of the varied grace of God, speaking the oracles of God and ministering out of the strength and power of grace, which God supplies (1 Pet. 4:10-11; Luke 4:22; Eph. 4:29; Isa. 50:4).
  - L. We need to experience the Spirit of grace and of supplications to bring us into the enjoyment of the Triune God—Zech. 12:10.
  - M. God gives grace to the humble, but He resists the proud—1 Pet. 5:5:
    1. In the church life all of us need to gird ourselves with humility toward one another so that we may enjoy God as the Grace-giver—cf. John 13:3-5.
    2. Self-boasting, self-exaltation, self-glorification, and lusting after vainglory are ugly and base expressions of pride—Gal. 5:26.
    3. Humility saves us from all kinds of destruction and invites God's grace, whereas pride makes us a top fool—James 4:6; Psa. 138:6; Prov. 29:23.
    4. We must be willing to be made humble, lowly, under the mighty hand of God in His discipline and to throw our life with its cares upon God, because He cares for us lovingly and faithfully—1 Pet. 5:5-7; cf. Psa. 55:22.
    5. Even with Paul, the Lord was wary of his being exceedingly lifted up because of the transcendence of the revelations he received, so He let him have a thorn in his flesh from Satan; this issued in Paul experiencing the Lord as his all-sufficient grace—2 Cor. 12:7-9.
  - N. We need to enjoy the grace of life in the church life to keep ourselves in the genuine oneness—Psa. 133.
  - O. In the church life, when we have grace upon us, the church will be built up, and the grace we receive will be visible—Acts 4:33; 11:23.
- IV. The consummate and ultimate product of the grace of God in His economy is the Body of Christ to be the New Jerusalem as the poem of God, expressing His infinite wisdom and divine design; as the New Jerusalem in the new heavens and new earth, we will enjoy to the uttermost the untraceable riches of God Himself, which will be publicly displayed for eternity—Eph. 2:7-10; Rev. 22:5, 14, 17, 21.**