

**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 Three

**Dead in Offenses  
and Made Alive Together with Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:1-10

**I. “Dead in your offenses and sins”—Eph. 2:1:**

- A. Offenses are acts that overstep the limit of one's rights, and sins are evil doings.
- B. Before we were saved, we were dead—v. 1:
  - 1. *Dead* refers to the deadness of our spirit, which pervaded our entire being.
  - 2. By being dead in offenses and sins, we lost the function that enables us to contact God:
    - a. Spiritual death has annulled the function of our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22a.
    - b. No matter how active we were in our body and soul, we were deadened in our spirit, unable to be one with God and have fellowship with God.
  - 3. Being dead in our offenses and sins, we “once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience”—Eph. 2:2.
  - 4. *This world* refers to the satanic system, which is composed of many ages—4:14.
  - 5. *The age* here refers to a part, a section, an aspect, the present and modern appearance, of the system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and occupy people and keep them away from God and His purpose—6:12.
- C. *The spirit* (2:2), in apposition to *the authority of the air*, refers to the aggregate of all the evil angelic authorities, over which Satan is the ruler.
- D. When we were dead in offenses and sins, we walked not only according to the age of the world but also according to Satan, the ruler of the aerial authority, the evil spiritual power.
- E. Three evil things—the age of this world outside of us, the ruler of the aerial authority above us and within us, and the lusts of our flesh in our fallen nature—dominated our life—vv. 2-3.

**II. “When we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ”—v. 5a:**

- A. As dead persons, we needed to be made alive—v. 5a:
  - 1. Being made alive causes us to express Christ.
  - 2. God made us alive by imparting His eternal life, which is Christ Himself (Col. 3:4), into our dead spirit through His Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2).
  - 3. God enlivened us together with Christ when He enlivened the crucified Christ; therefore, He made us alive together with Christ.
- B. By grace we have been saved—Eph. 2:5b, 8-9:
  - 1. We thank the Lord that we have grace through Jesus Christ and that this grace is free—2 Cor. 12:9a.

2. In Ephesians 2:5b *grace* denotes not only God freely dispensed into us for our enjoyment but also God's action in freely saving us.
  3. By such grace we have been saved out of our wretched position of death into the marvelous realm of life—1 Cor. 15:10.
- C. We were saved not only as sinners but also as dead persons, and not only by Christ's redemption but also by His resurrection with its resurrection life, and even by His ascension with its transcendency—John 11:25; 20:17:
1. This is the transcending salvation given to the dead sinners by the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ, the very embodiment of the processed Triune God—11:25; Eph. 4:8-10.
  2. Such a salvation produces the church as the issue of the processed Divine Trinity for His expression—2 Cor. 13:14.
- D. "And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus"—Eph. 2:6:
1. To make us alive is the initial step of God's salvation in life; after this, God raised us up from the position of death.
  2. The third step of God's salvation in life is to seat us together in the heavenlies—v. 6.
  3. God not only raised us up from the position of death, but He also seated us in the highest place in the universe—1:19-21; 2:6.
  4. The heavenlies are the highest position, into which we have been saved in Christ—v. 6:
    - a. In the book of Ephesians, Christ as our life has saved us into a position in which we are above all God's enemies—v. 6.
    - b. Here in the heavenly atmosphere, with a heavenly nature and a heavenly characteristic, we are a heavenly people—1:3, 20; 3:10; 6:12.
  5. It was in Christ that God seated us all altogether, once for all, in the heavenlies—2:6:
    - a. This was accomplished when Christ ascended to the heavens, and it has been applied to us by the Spirit of Christ ever since we believed in Him—John 20:17; Eph. 4:8-10.
    - b. Today we realize and experience this reality in our spirit through faith in the accomplished fact.
  6. "That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus"—2:7:
    - a. To display is to exhibit to the whole universe publicly.
    - b. The ages are the ages of the millennium and eternity future.
    - c. Kindness is a benevolent goodness that issues out of mercy and love.
    - d. God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, was full of kindness toward us—v. 4.
  7. "For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus"—v. 10a:
    - a. We must believe the fact that in Christ Jesus we are the masterpiece of God.
    - b. God has made many things, but none of them is as dear, precious, valuable, and desirable as the church—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22; 3:10.
    - c. Only one item of God's work in the universe is His masterpiece, and this masterpiece is the church.
    - d. As God's masterpiece, the church as the Body of Christ, is the fullness of the One who fills all in all—1:23.