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 Four

Being Renewed Day by Day to Put On and Bring Forth the One New Man

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:10, 15; 4:22-24

I. God's intention in His creation of man was to have a corporate man to express Him and to represent Him—Gen. 1:26; Eph. 2:15:

- A. God created man in His own image for His expression and gave man His dominion so that man would represent Him to deal with His enemy—Gen. 1:26.
- B. The church as the new man in the new creation bears God's image for God's expression and fights against God's enemy for God's kingdom—Col. 3:10-11; Eph. 2:15; 4:24; 6:10.
- C. What was divided and scattered in the old man is recovered in the new man—Gen. 11:5-9; Acts 2:5-13; Col. 3:10-11.

II. The new man as the poem, the masterpiece, of God was created through Christ's death and in His resurrection—Eph. 2:10, 15-16; John 16:20-22:

- A. We need to pay careful attention to two phrases in Ephesians 2:15: *in His flesh* and *in Himself*:
 - 1. "In His flesh" Christ terminated all the negative things in the universe: Satan, the devil, the enemy of God (Heb. 2:14); sin (Rom. 8:3; John 1:29); the flesh of fallen man (Gal. 5:24); the world, the cosmos, the evil system of Satan (John 12:31); the old creation, represented by the old man (Rom. 6:6); and the separating ordinances of the law (Eph. 2:15).
 - 2. "In Himself" as the sphere, element, and essence, Christ created the Jews and the Gentiles into one new man.
 - 3. Christ is not only the Creator of the one new man, the church, but also the sphere in which and the element and essence with which the new man was created.
 - 4. Christ is the very element and essence of the one new man, making God's divine nature one entity with humanity—cf. Col. 3:10-11.
 - 5. In the creating of the new man, first our natural man was crucified by Christ, and then through the crossing out of the old man, Christ imparted the divine element into us, causing us to become the masterpiece of God's work, God's poem, an absolutely new item in the universe, a new invention of God—Rom. 6:6; 2 Cor. 5:17.
- B. The Greek word for *masterpiece* is *poiema*, meaning "something that has been written or composed as a poem"; not only a poetic writing may be considered a poem, but also any work of art that expresses the maker's wisdom and design.
- C. We, the church as the masterpiece of God's work, are a poem expressing God's infinite wisdom and divine design; the church is God's wise exhibition of all that Christ is—Eph. 3:10-11.

- D. When we exercise our spirit to put off the old man and put on the new man, we are filled with God as our "exceeding joy" (Psa. 43:4a); there are four levels of joy in the Bible:
 - 1. There is the joy of salvation—51:12; 16:11; Isa. 12:2-6; Luke 15:7, 10, 23-24; Rom. 5:10, 17; 10:12-13.
 - 2. There is the joy of the church—Psa. 42:4; 43:4; 48:1-3; 95:1-2; 100:1-2; 146:1-2; 150:1-6.
 - 3. There is the joy of the Body—2 Cor. 1:24; 7:13; 8:2; Phil. 2:2; 1 Thes. 2:19-20; Jude 24.
 - 4. There is the joy of the one new man—Eph. 2:14-16; 4:20-24; Col. 3:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 5:8-10.

III. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to bring forth the one new man; this one new man has only one person, and this person is the Lord Jesus—Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; Col. 3:10-11:

- A. What the Lord has been doing and is now doing in His recovery is bringing forth the one new man with Himself as the person for God's expression (Eph. 2:17-19; Col. 3:4, 10-11); the one new man will usher in the kingdom of God and will bring Christ, the King, back to this earth (Rev. 11:15).
- B. In the one new man, Christ is all the members and is in all the members; because Christ is all the members of the new man, there is no possibility, no room, for any natural person (for any race, nationality, culture, or social status)—Col. 3:10-11:
 - 1. No matter what kind of person we may be, as far as the one new man is concerned, we all are nobodies; in the one new man there is only one person—the all-inclusive Christ—2:17; 3:4, 11; Gal. 6:3.
 - 2. Christ is in all of us as one person; therefore, we all have only one person; for the practical existence of the one new man, the total person of the old man must be put away, and we must live by our new person—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:22, 24; 3:17a.
- C. We need to consider *one new man* in Ephesians 2:15 together with *one mouth* in Romans 15:6 and *speak the same thing* in 1 Corinthians 1:10:
 - 1. In the past there were too many mouths because there were too many persons; *with one accord* and *with one mouth* (Rom. 15:6) mean that even though we are many and all are speaking, we all "speak the same thing" (1 Cor. 1:10).
 - 2. Although we are many and come from many places, we all have one mouth and we all speak the same thing; this is because we all are the one new man having only one person—Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24; 3:17a; Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:10.
 - 3. In the one new man it is impossible to have different teachings other than the unique teaching of God's eternal economy because we have one mouth in order to speak the same thing—1 Tim. 1:3-4; Rom. 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:10.

IV. We must experience the putting off of the old man and the putting on of the new man by being renewed in the spirit of our mind—Eph. 4:22-24; Rom. 6:6, 4:

- A. We should not live according to the vanity of the mind but according to the spirit of the mind; this is the key to the daily living of the corporate one new man, the secret to having a church life filled with the character of God, the aroma of Christ, and the oneness of the Spirit—Eph. 4:3-4, 17-18, 23-24.
- B. To put off the old man, we must deny and renounce our old self; to put on the new man is to live and magnify Christ through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—vv. 22, 24; Matt. 16:24; Phil. 1:19-21a.
- C. By our loving the Lord and by the exercise of our spirit in prayer and in reading the Word day by day, our mind is filled with the mingled spirit; this changes and renews our mind; for us to be renewed in our mind is to get rid of all the old concepts concerning the things

of the human life and be made new again by the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the enlightening of the Holy Spirit—Psa. 119:105, 130; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Deut. 17:18-20.

- D. The new man is in our spirit; the way to put on the new man is for our spirit (which is mingled with the Spirit), in which are found God, God's dwelling place, and the new man, to become the spirit of our mind—Eph. 2:22; 4:23.
- E. For the spirit to become the spirit of our mind means that the spirit directs, controls, dominates, overrules, and possesses our mind (cf. 1 Cor. 2:15-16; 2 Cor. 2:13; 10:4-5); when the spirit directs our mind, our whole being is under the control of our spirit, and there is no ground for culture, for opinions, or for ordinances.
- F. When we believed in the Lord Jesus, the life-giving Spirit came into our spirit, bringing with Him the new man as a finished product; now the new man must saturate and spread into every part of our being; this spreading is both the putting on of the new man and the renewing.
- G. The only possibility of God's purpose being fulfilled in this age, to have the one new man in reality, is if we would all be willing to be renewed in the spirit of our mind; our spirit mingled with the Spirit of God must become the spirit of our mind; then all our living will be by the spirit, and whatever we do will be according to the spirit (Rom. 8:4); as we are renewed by this spirit, we put on the new man.
- H. We need to walk according to the mingled spirit that is spreading into our mind and filling it; in this way the daily walk of the new man will be in the spirit of the mind; this is the secret of the church life—Eph. 4:23.

V. The believers should be renewed to be as new as the New Jerusalem since they all are becoming the New Jerusalem by walking in newness of life (Rom. 6:4) and building the New Jerusalem by serving in newness of spirit (7:6):

- A. Our being renewed in the spirit of our mind is for our daily transformation into the image of Christ through the consuming of our outer man by the suffering in our environment for the renewing of our inner man—2 Cor. 4:16:
 - 1. While we are in the midst of suffering, we need to receive the renewing; otherwise, the suffering we pass through means nothing to us; within us there is a refuge—our spirit—Psa. 91:1; 27:5; 31:20; Isa. 32:2; 2 Tim. 4:22; Gal. 6:17-18.
 - 2. God arranges our environment so that little by little and day by day our outer man will be consumed and our inner man will be renewed by the fresh supply of the pneumatic Christ as the resurrection life—2 Cor. 4:16.
- B. In order to be renewed day by day, we need to be revived every morning—Matt. 13:43; Luke 1:78-79; Prov. 4:18; Judg. 5:31.
- C. We are renewed day by day through four items: the cross (2 Cor. 4:10-12, 16-18); the Holy Spirit, by whom we are reconditioned, remade, and remodeled with the divine life (Titus 3:5); our mingled spirit (Eph. 4:23); and the holy word of God (5:26).
- D. We need to come to the Lord's table in newness (Matt. 26:29); the Lord never takes an old table; we need to be renewed by learning to say, "I'm sorry; forgive me."
- E. Newness is God; therefore, to become new is to become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead; God is forever new, and He infuses His ever-new essence into our being to renew our entire being with the fresh supply of the resurrection life to replace our culture so that we may become the one new man in reality by becoming as new as the New Jerusalem—Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:10.