

New Testament Recovery Version

Study Guide

Book VIII

THE EPISTLES OF PAUL

TO THE

GALATIANS-COLOSSIANS

BRINGING SAINTS INTO THE TRUTH

THERE IS THE DESPERATE NEED OF THE LIVING TRUTH

Suppose that on this earth among the human race there had never been such a book as the Bible. If we had not had a Bible in our hands during the past 2,000 years since the Lord Jesus resurrected and ascended to the heavens, everything would be in the air and nothing could be solid. Even the things concerning the Spirit could not be solid. The Spirit depends upon the Word. This is why the Lord said that the words that He spoke to us are spirit (John 6:63)... Without the Word the Spirit might be just “a phantom.” ... whenever people contact the holy Word, many times they get the Spirit ... A principle has been set up through history that there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church exist, and to build up the church.

THE MOST PROFITABLE WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE THE LIFE-STUDY MESSAGES WITH THE NOTES OF THE RECOVERY VERSION

Through the past ten years up to the present time it has been fully proven among us that the most profitable writings and publications are the Life-study messages with the notes of the Recovery Version. I wrote these things, not for scholarly study for people to get a degree, but for life ministering, for truth releasing, and for opening up the books of the Bible.

THIS IS NOT TO REPLACE THE BIBLE, BUT TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE BIBLE

The holy Word itself says in Psalm 119:130: “The opening of Your words gives light,”... Nearly everywhere you go today you find a Bible, but who has entered into the Bible? There has nearly been no entrance. Many have a copy of the Bible, but the Bible has been closed and nearly never opened. Now the Lord has given us a key, an opener. I consider our writings as the opener to open the holy Word. I believe that those of you who have read the Life-study

messages can testify honestly that these messages with the notes of the Recovery Version have opened up a certain chapter or a certain book of the Bible to you. This is not to replace the Bible, but to bring people into the Bible.

SPENDING AT LEAST THIRTY MINUTES IN THE WORD EVERY DAY

We should help the saints to build up a practice or a habit that every day they would spend at least thirty minutes in the Word.... Some saints may decide to study the book of Romans or the book of Hebrews. They should study every day either three times of ten minutes each or one time of thirty minutes. We should charge them to pray-read two or three verses of this book every day. Then they have to study the accompanying message.... The saints do not need to pray-read the Life-study messages, but they have to pray-read the biblical verses in order to get the help to enter into the truth conveyed in these few verses. They also need the help of the notes and the Life-study messages to enter into the truth.

AFTER ONE YEAR OF STUDYING THE BIBLE IN THIS WAY, THERE WILL BE A SOLID CHANGE

After one year of studying the Bible in this way, there will be a solid change in the saints’ home life, private life, and church life.

Therefore, as leading brothers try your best in your locality to stir up an atmosphere and to create a hunger and thirst in the saints after the Lord’s truth. Tell them that the truth is in the unique holy Word and that the best help to usher them into the Word is the Recovery Version with the notes and all the Life-studies. Of course, we should not practice anything legal. We should not make these things a legal matter that the saints are required to do. However, if the saints do love the Lord’s recovery, they must get themselves fed all the time with the healthy food that they may be strong. As a result of eating a proper, regular diet, the saints will be strong and the Lord will have a strong testimony. (*Elders’ Training, Book 03: The Way to Carry Out the Vision, pp. 102-104, 108-111*)

Week 1 Day 1 Gal. 1:1-14

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins that He might rescue us out of the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians form a cluster of Epistles that make up the _____ of the divine revelation in the New Testament. The essential subject of these four books is _____ and the _____. Galatians reveals that Christ is versus _____ with its law; Ephesians reveals the church as the _____ of Christ; Philippians concerns the _____, the living out, of Christ; and Colossians unveils the all-inclusive and all-extensive Christ as the _____ of the Body.

Here the apostle emphasized that the purpose of Christ's giving Himself for our _____ was to rescue us, to pluck us, out of the _____ religion, the present evil _____. (See Gal. 1:1 note 1, 4 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians Msg.1-3.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 2 Gal. 1:15-2:13

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 1:16a To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles...

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

God's heart's desire is to reveal _____ in us that we may _____ Him, receive Him as our _____ (John 17:3; 3:16), and become the sons of God (John 1:12; Gal. 4:5-6). As the _____ of the living God (Matt. 16:16), He is far superior to Judaism and its traditions (vv. 13-14).

God's revealing of His _____ to us is in us; it is not outward but inward, not by an outward _____ but by an inward _____. It is not an objective revelation but a subjective one. (See Gal. 1:16 note 2, note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians Msg.3-7.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 3 Gal. 2:14-21

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 2:20a I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me;

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In Gal. 2:20 'No longer I' does not indicate an _____ life, a life in which Christ comes in and we go out. As regenerated people, we have both the old "I," which has been _____ (Rom. 6:6), and a new "I," concerning which Paul said, "___ live." The old "I" was resurrected and _____ was added to it. On the one hand, Paul had been _____, but on the other hand, a resurrected Paul, one who was regenerated with God as his _____, still lived. Furthermore, although Paul said, "No longer I," he also said, "It is Christ who lives in me," for it was _____ who lived, but it was in _____ that He lived. The two, Christ and Paul, had one _____ and one _____. (See Gal. 2:20 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians* Msg.8-12.

Note:

Week 1 Day 4 Gal. 3:1-14

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How do the believers receive the Spirit?
2. What does it mean by the believers receive the Spirit not out of the works of law but out of the hearing of faith?
3. What is the blessing that God has promised to Abraham for all the nations?

Answer:

1. See Gal. 3:2 note 1, note 2.
2. See Gal. 3:2 note 3.
3. See Gal. 3:14 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians* Msg.12-17, 19-20, 32-33.

Note:

Week 1 Day 5 Gal. 3:15-4:7

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Rom. 8:15 says that we who have received a spirit of _____ cry in this spirit, “_____, Father!” whereas Gal. 4:6 says that the Spirit of God’s Son is crying in our hearts, “Abba, Father!” This indicates that our _____ spirit and the Spirit of God are mingled as one, and that our spirit is in our _____. This indicates also that the _____ of God is realized by us through our subjective experience in the depth of our being. In verse 6, Paul appealed to such an _____ of the Galatian believers for the supporting of his revelation. This appeal was quite convincing and subduing because it contained not only objective doctrines but also subjective, experiential _____. (See Gal. 4:6 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians Msg.17-22.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 6 Gal. 4:8-31

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Christ has been revealed in us (Gal.1:16), He is now _____ in us (2:20), and He will be _____ in us (4:19). To Him the law has conducted us (3:24), and in Him we are all _____ of God (3:26). It is in Him that we inherit God’s promised _____ and enjoy the all-inclusive _____ (3:14). Furthermore, it is in Him that we are all _____ (3:28). We should not be deprived of all profit from Him and thus be severed from Him (5:4). We need Him to supply us with His _____ in our spirit (6:18) that we may _____ Him. (See Gal. 4:19 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians Msg.23-24.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The Spirit in Gal. 5:16 must be the Holy Spirit, who dwells in and _____ with our regenerated spirit. To walk by the Spirit is to have our walk regulated by the _____ from within our spirit. This is in contrast to having our walk regulated by the _____ in the realm of our _____.

Paul wrote this book not only to _____ the distracted Galatian believers from the law, on the negative side, but also, on the positive side, to bring them into the _____ that the believers have the all-inclusive _____ Spirit in their spirit that they may live, walk, and have their being in this Spirit. (See Gal. 5:16 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians* Msg.25-27, 44-45.

Note:

In [Galatians 2:20] Paul says, on the one hand, “no longer I” and, on the other hand, “I live.” How can we reconcile this? Once again I wish to point out that this is not an exchange of life. The way to interpret the Bible properly is by the Bible itself. This means that other verses are needed if we are to understand this verse. Romans 6:6 tells us that our old man has been crucified with Christ. This verse helps us to see that the very I who has been crucified with Christ is the old “I,” the old man. As regenerated people, we have both an old “I” and a new “I.” The old “I” has been terminated, but the new “I” lives. In Galatians 2:20 we have both the old “I” and the new “I.” The old “I” has been crucified with Christ, terminated. Therefore, Paul can say, “no longer I.” However, the new “I” still lives. For this reason, Paul can say, “I live.”

Once again the illustration of grafting helps our understanding. After a branch has been grafted into a productive tree, the branch continues to live. However, it lives not by itself, but by the tree into which it has been grafted. Furthermore, the tree lives in the branch which has been grafted into it. The branch now lives a grafted life. This means that it lives, not by itself, but by the life of the tree into which it has been grafted. Furthermore, this other life, the life of the productive tree, does not live by itself, but through the branch grafted into it. The life of the tree lives in the branch. Eventually, the branch and the tree have one life with one living. In the same principle, we and Christ also have one life and one living.

It is the same in our relationship with Christ today. We and Christ do not have two lives. Rather, we have one life and one living. We live by Him, and He lives in us. If we do not live, He does not live; and if He does not live, we cannot live. On the one hand, we are terminated; on the other hand, we continue to exist, but we do not live without Him. Christ lives within us, and we live with Him. Therefore, we and He have one life and one living. (*Life-Study of Galatians*, pp. 86, 88-89)

Week 2 Day 1 Gal. 5:24-6:10

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the difference between the “walk by the Spirit” in Galatians 5:25 and that in verse 16?
2. What is the difference between “to sow unto one’s flesh” and “to sow unto the Spirit”?
3. What is “the household of the faith”?

Answer:

1. See Gal. 5:25 note 2.
2. See Gal. 6:8 note 1, note 3.
3. See Gal. 6:10 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians Msg. 28-29, 34-35, 38-43.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 2 Gal. 6:11-18

I. Key Verse:

Gal. 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Our _____ spirit indwelt by the Spirit, who is the focus of God’s _____ blessing stressed so much throughout this book. It is in this spirit of ours that we experience and enjoy the Spirit as the central blessing of the _____.

Christ, the Spirit, the new creation, and our spirit are the four basic items revealed in this book as the _____ thought of God’s economy. Christ is the _____ of God’s economy, and the Spirit is the _____ of Christ. When Christ is realized through the Spirit in our spirit, we become the new _____. Hence, our _____ is vital for us to live the life of the new creation for the fulfilling of God’s _____. (*See Gal. 6:18 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Galatians Msg.30-31, 36-37, 46.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 3 Eph. 1:1-6

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This book speaks particularly of the church and unveils the church in its seven aspects as (1) the Body of Christ, the _____, the expression, of the One who fills all in all; (2) the new man, a _____ man; (3) the kingdom of God, with the _____ as citizens; (4) the _____ of God, a family full of life and enjoyment; (5) the dwelling place of God, in which He may live—universally, a holy _____ in the Lord, and locally, the dwelling _____ of God in our spirit; (6) the bride, the _____, of Christ for Christ’s rest and satisfaction; and (7) the warrior, a _____ fighter, who deals with and defeats God’s enemy to accomplish God’s eternal purpose. (See Eph. 1:1 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg.1-5, 74.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 4 Eph. 1:7-14

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

God made Christ the _____ over all things. Through all the _____ of God in all the ages, all things will be headed up in _____ in the new heaven and new earth. The _____ participate in this heading up by being willing to be headed up in the church life, by _____ in life, and by living under Christ’s light. When everything is headed up in Christ, there will be absolute _____ and _____, a full _____ out of the collapse. This will begin from the time of the _____ of all things. (See Eph. 1:10 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg. 6-13, 75.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 5 Eph. 1:15-23

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

To the church implies a kind of _____. Whatever Christ, the Head, has attained and obtained is transmitted to the church, His _____. In this _____ the church shares with Christ in all His attainments: the _____ from the dead, His being seated in His transcendence, the subjection of all things under His feet, and the _____ over all things.

Toward us who believe (v. 19) and *to the church* indicate that the divine power, which includes all that the Triune God has passed through, has been installed into us once for all and is being _____ into us continually, causing us to _____ Christ richly and to have the proper _____ life. (See Eph. 1:22 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg. 14-19, 81-82.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 6 Eph. 2:1-10

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 2:10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How were we dead in our offenses and sins?
2. How did God make us alive together with Christ?
3. How are we God's masterpiece?

Answer:

1. See Eph. 2:1 note 2, note 3.
2. See Eph. 2:5 note 1, note 2.
3. See Eph. 2:10 note 1, note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg. 20-21.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 7 Eph. 2:11-19

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, *so* making peace.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is “the middle wall of partition”?
2. Please explain how the church is the one new man.
3. How were the Jewish and the Gentile believers reconciled to God?

Answer:

1. See Eph. 2:14 note 4, note 5.
2. See Eph. 2:15 note 5, note 7, note 8.
3. See Eph. 2:16 note 1, note 2, note 4; 18 note 1, note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians* Msg. 22-26, 70, 85-87.

Note:

THE SEVEN ASPECTS OF THE CHURCH

If we put together all these seven aspects of the church, we see a wonderful picture of the church as the Body to express Christ, as the new man taking Christ as the person, as the kingdom with rights and responsibilities, as the family with life and enjoyment, as God’s dwelling place for God to live in, as the bride for Christ’s satisfaction, and as the warrior for fighting the battle and defeating the enemy so that God can accomplish His eternal purpose. This is the church.

The subject of the book of Ephesians is the church. Ephesians covers seven aspects of the church, the first of which is the church as the Body of Christ, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. In order for a living person to be complete, he must have a body as his expression. The Body of Christ is the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The riches of Christ may be likened to all the rich foodstuffs produced in America. These riches are not for exhibition; they are for eating. As we eat of the rich American foodstuffs, these riches seem to disappear into us. When these riches are digested and assimilated by us, they become part of us. As a result, they are no longer the riches, but the fullness. Thus, the husky young American men, who assimilate so much of the rich American foodstuffs, are the fullness of America. By means of this illustration we can differentiate between the riches and the fullness. The riches are the food which has not yet been taken into us. But when the food is eaten, digested, and assimilated, it becomes the fullness. The riches of Christ are all the items of what Christ is. When we digest and assimilate into our being the riches of Christ, these riches become part of us, and we become the fullness of Christ.

What the church does is not as important as what the church is. The church is the Body, the new man, the kingdom, the family, the dwelling place, the wife, and the warrior. What we do does not mean very much, but what we are means a great deal. In such a church as described in Ephesians Christ is expressed. Through such a church Christ, the Person, is lived out. In such a church there is the kingdom of God with rights and responsibilities and the family of God with life and enjoyment. This church is also God’s dwelling place, Christ’s satisfaction, and God’s warrior fighting the battle for His eternal purpose. What a church this is! (*Life-Study of Ephesians* pp. 1-2, 5-6)

Week 3 Day 1 Eph. 2:20-3:8

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why did the apostle Paul consider himself a prisoner of Christ?
2. What is the mystery of Christ?
3. Please explain the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Answer:

1. See Eph. 3:1 note 2.
2. See Eph. 3:4 note 1.
3. See Eph. 3:8 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg. 27-30, 83, 88.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 2 Eph. 3:9-19

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain God's economy concerning the church.
2. Please explain apostle's prayer for the church regarding experience.
3. How do we allow Christ to make His home in our hearts?

Answer:

1. See Eph.3:9 note 2, 1:10 note 1, 1Tim.1:4 note 3.
2. See Eph. 3:16 note 1, note 3.
3. See Eph. 3:17 note 1, note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg.31-34, 76-78, 96.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 3 Eph. 3:20-4:3

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the way in which God is glorified in the church?
2. Please explain the two main sections of the book of Ephesians.
3. What is “to keep the oneness of the Spirit”?

Answer:

1. See Eph. 3:21 note 1.
2. See Eph. 4:1 note 3.
3. See Eph. 4:3 note 1.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg.35-36.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 4 Eph. 4:4-16

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain the seven “ones” in Ephesians 4:4-6.
2. What is the relationship between Christ’s ascension to the height and the building up of the Body of Christ?
3. How does the Body build up itself?

Answer:

1. See Eph. 4:4 note 1.
2. See Eph. 4:8 note 1, note 2, and note 3.
3. See Eph. 4:16 and note 1, note 7, note 8, note 9.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg.37-45, 80, 89-92.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 5 Eph. 4:17-32

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How do we learn Christ?
2. What is “the new man”?
3. Please explain how we were sealed in the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption.

Answer:

1. See Eph. 4:20 note 1, 21 note 1.
2. See Eph. 4:24 note 2.
3. See Eph. 1:13 note 1, 4:30 note 3, and note 5.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg.46-49, 84, 93.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 6 Eph. 5:1 -21

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

Eph. 5:19 Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord,

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

To understand the will of the Lord is the best way to redeem our _____ (Eph. 5:16). Most of our time is wasted because we do not know the _____ of the Lord.

To be drunk with wine is to be filled in the _____, whereas to be filled in the spirit (our _____ spirit, not God’s Spirit) is to be filled with Christ unto the _____ of God. To be drunk with wine in our physical body causes us to become dissolute, but to be filled in our spirit with Christ, with the fullness of God, causes us to _____ with Christ in speaking, singing, psalming, and giving thanks to God and also causes us to _____ ourselves to one another. (*See Eph. 5:17 note 1, 18 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg.50-51, 71.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In the past, Christ as the _____ gave Himself up for the church (Eph. 5:25) for redemption and the impartation of life (John 19:34); in the present, He as the _____ Spirit is _____ the church through separation, saturation, transformation, growth, and building up; and in the future, He as the _____ will present the church to Himself as His _____ for His satisfaction. Therefore, Christ's _____ the church is to separate and sanctify her, and His separating and sanctifying the _____ are to present her to Himself. (See Eph. 5:27 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians* Msg.52-61, 79, 95.

Note:

Ephesians 2:22 speaks of the building up of the church, but it gives only the principles; it does not give the details. However, the details are found in 4:16. "Out from Whom all the Body, fitted and knit together through every joint of the supply, according to the operation in measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love." By growing up into the Head, the members of the Body have something to share with one another. Furthermore, there will be the operation in the measure of each part, and the result will be the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love. In order to have the reality of this verse, we must be perfected by the gifts given to the Body by the Head. The saints are not perfected merely by learning doctrine. On the contrary, they are perfected through being fed. This feeding causes them to grow. For example, an infant does not need anything to be added on to his body to perfect him. As he grows, the members of his body develop and begin to function normally. A mother does not perfect her baby by teaching him to use the various parts of his body; she perfects him by feeding him. The more a child grows through receiving proper nourishment, the more the members of his body will come into their function. In the same principle, the members of the Body are perfected not by teaching, but through the feeding that causes them to grow.

Through the growth of life, we shall also arrive at a full-grown man and at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. The fullness of Christ is the Body of Christ, Christ's expression. With this Body there is a stature with a measure. When the Lord's work in His recovery began in this country a number of years ago, we could see very little of the measure of this stature. Praise the Lord that over the years the measure of the stature has increased! This increase is the result of the perfecting of the saints through the ministry of Christ. However, as we all admit, we are still in the process of growth. The more we grow, the more we shall be able to function and to have the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love. This is our need today. (*Life-Study of Ephesians*, pp. 753-754, 758)

Week 4 Day 1 Eph. 6:1-13

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

To fight the spiritual warfare, we need not only the power of the Lord but also the _____ of God. Our weapons do not avail, but God's armor, even the whole armor of God, does avail.

The whole armor of God is for the _____ Body of Christ, not for any _____ member of the Body. The church is a corporate warrior, and the believers are parts of this unique warrior. Only the _____ warrior, not any individual believer, can wear the _____ armor of God. We must fight the spiritual warfare in the _____, not as _____. (See Eph. 6:11 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg. 62-63.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 2 Eph. 6:14-24

I. Key Verse:

Eph. 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which *Spirit* is the word of God,
Eph. 6: 18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why do we need to receive the word of God by means of all prayer?
2. Please explain how love with faith is the means by which we partake of and experience Christ.
3. How do we love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility?

Answer:

1. See Eph. 6:17 note 3, 18 note 1.
2. See Eph. 6:23 note 2, paragraph 2.
3. See Eph. 6:24 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Ephesians Msg.64-67, 97..*

Note:

Week 4 Day 3 Phil. 1:1-19

I. Key Verse:

Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The Spirit of Jesus Christ is “the Spirit” mentioned in John 7:39. This is not merely the Spirit of _____ before the Lord’s incarnation but the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit with _____, after the Lord’s _____, _____ with the Lord’s incarnation (_____), human living under the cross, crucifixion, and resurrection. The holy _____ ointment in Exo. 30:23-25, a compound of olive oil and four kinds of spices, is a full type of this _____ Spirit of God, who is now the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Eventually, this _____ Spirit of Jesus Christ becomes the _____ Spirits of God, who are the seven _____ of fire before God’s throne to carry out His administration on earth. (See *Phil. 1:19 note 4*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philippians Msg. 1-5.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 4 Phil. 1:20-2:4

I. Key Verse:

Phil. 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ...

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Paul’s life was to _____ Christ. To him to live was _____. Christ was not only his life but also his _____. He lived Christ because Christ **l**ived in him (Gal. 2:20). He was one with Christ in both life and living. He and Christ had one _____ and one living. They lived together as one person. Christ lived within Paul as Paul’s _____, and Paul lived Christ without as Christ’s _____. The normal experience of Christ is to live _____, and to live Him is to _____ Him always, regardless of the circumstances. (See *Phil. 1:21 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philippians Msg.6-9, 32-38.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 5 Phil. 2:5-16

I. Key Verse:

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How can we have the kind of mind which is also in Christ?
2. How does God operate in us?
3. How do we as luminaries, hold forth the word of life?

Answer:

1. See Phil. 2:5 note 1.
2. See Phil. 2:13 note 2, note 4.
3. See Phil. 2:15 note 5, 16 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philippians Msg.10-13, 39-41, 43-49.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 6 Phil. 2:17-3:6

I. Key Verse:

Phil. 2:20 For I have no one like-souled who will genuinely care for what concerns you;

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The book of Philippians deals very much with the believers' _____. We must strive together with one soul along with the personified faith of the gospel (1:27); we must be joined in soul, _____ the one thing (v. 2); and we must be _____, genuinely caring for the things of Christ Jesus (vv. 20-21). In the _____ work, in the fellowship among the believers, and in the pursuing of the Lord's interests, our soul is always a _____. Hence, it must be transformed, especially in its leading part, the _____ (Rom. 12:2), that we may be of one soul, _____ in soul, and like-souled in the Body life. (*See Phil. 2:20 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philippians Msg.14-17, 50.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 7 Phil. 3:7-16

PURSUING CHRIST

I. Key Verse:

Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How do we have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ?
2. How did Paul know Christ and the power of His resurrection?
3. How can we participate in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, being conformed to His death?

Answer:

1. See Phil. 3:8 note 3, note 6.
2. See Phil. 3:10 note 1, note 2.
3. See Phil. 3:10 note 3, note 4.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philippians Msg.18-24, 51-55.*

Note:

After we receive the excellency of the knowledge of Christ, we shall be willing to suffer the loss of all things and count them refuse in order to gain Christ and be found in Him. As a result, we shall know Christ experientially. Therefore, verse 9 comes out of verse 8, and verse 10 comes out of verse 9. If we do not have the excellency of the knowledge of Christ (v. 8), we shall not be found in Christ, for it is having the excellency of the knowledge of Christ which makes us willing to suffer the loss of all things and count them as refuse in order to gain Christ and be found in Him. Then, once we have gained Christ and are found in Him, we shall know Him; that is, we shall enjoy Him and experience Him.

To gain Christ is one thing, and to experience Him is another. We may illustrate this difference by the difference between buying groceries and eating food which has been purchased and prepared. Gaining Christ may be compared to buying groceries, and the experience of Christ may be compared to the eating of the food we have first purchased and cooked. However, before we buy any groceries, we must first have the excellency of the knowledge of groceries. Before we purchase anything, we are first attracted by the excellency of the knowledge of that thing. Thus, first we have the excellency of the knowledge of the groceries, then we gain them by buying them, and finally we enjoy the food by eating it. In like manner, Paul first received the excellency of the knowledge of Christ, then he paid the price to gain Christ and be found in Him, and finally he experienced Christ and enjoyed Him. Paul realized that to gain Christ and be found in Him always results in knowing Him, in enjoying and experiencing Him.

You may know that Christ is joy, peace, and rest. Before you were saved, you did not have the peace. But now that you have received the Lord, you have peace and joy. By no means do I belittle these aspects of the knowledge of Christ. I certainly enjoy the Lord Jesus as my peace, rest, and joy. Nevertheless, we should not be content with such a limited knowledge of Christ, but should advance in our knowledge of Him. Oh, how we need the excellency of knowing Christ! (*Life-Study of Philippians, pp. 172-173*)

Week 5 Day 1 Phil. 3:17-4:9

I. Key Verse:

Phil. 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every *man's* understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How will the body of our humiliation be transfigured?
2. What is to have a life of forbearance and in nothing be anxious?
3. Please explain the significance and the result of "let your requests be made known to God".

Answer:

1. See Phil. 3:21 note 4.
2. See Phil. 4:5 note 2, 6 note 1.
3. See Phil. 4:6 note 4, 7 note 1.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philippians Msg.25-28, 56-62.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 2 Phil. 4:10-23

I. Key Verse:

Phil. 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This book, which is concerned with the experience of Christ, points out to us at the beginning, in ch. 1, that it is the _____ supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ that enables us to live Christ, even to _____ Christ under any circumstances, that we may enjoy Him as the uttermost _____. Here, at the end of the book, we are told that our experience and enjoyment of Christ must take place in our _____, which has been regenerated to be the dwelling place and vessel of the Triune God. Therefore, this is altogether a matter of the union and mingling of the processed Triune God, who has become the all-inclusive, _____ Spirit, and the spirit of us, the tripartite men, who are being _____ by such a Spirit. (*See Phil. 4:23 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Philippians Msg.29-31, 42.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 3 Col. 1:1-14

I. Key Verse:

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

God the Father has qualified us by the _____ of God the Son and through the _____ of God the Spirit for a share of the all-inclusive _____, the very embodiment of the processed Triune God, as the allotted _____ of the saints.

This refers to the lot of the inheritance, as illustrated by the allotment of the good land of _____ given to the children of Israel for their inheritance (Josh. 14:1). The New Testament believers' inheritance, their allotted portion, is not a physical _____; it is the all-inclusive _____. He is the allotted _____ of the saints as their divine inheritance for their _____. (See Col. 1:12 note 1, note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Colossians Msg. 1-4, 6-7.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 4 Col. 1:15-29

I. Key Verse:

Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why is Christ "the Firstborn of all creation"?
2. How did Paul complete the word of God?
3. How is Christ in us our hope of glory?

Answer:

1. See Col. 1:15 note 2.
2. See Col. 1:25 note 4.
3. See Col. 1:27 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Colossians Msg. 5, 8-16, 34, 37, 49.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 5 Col. 2:1-17

I. Key Verse:

Col. 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

Col. 2:7 Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How do we be rooted and built up in Christ, and walk in Him?
2. Why have we been made full in Christ?
3. Please explain why Christ is the body of all the shadows.

Answer:

1. See Col. 2: 6 note 2, 7 note 1.
2. See Col. 2:9 note 3, 10 note 1.
3. See Col. 2:16 note 4, 17 note 1, note 2, and note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Colossians Msg.17-24, 36, 42-44, 46-48, 51-54.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 6 Col. 2:18-3:11

I. Key Verse:

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How does all the Body grow with the growth of God?
2. What does “Christ is our life” indicate?
3. Why is it that in the new man there is room only for Christ?

Answer:

1. See Col. 2:19 note 6, note 7.
2. See Col. 3:4 note 1.
3. See Col. 3:11 note 9.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Colossians Msg. 25-28, 32-33, 35, 38-41, 50, 55-56.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is to “let the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts”?
2. What is to “let the word of Christ dwell in us richly”?
3. How do we persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving?

Answer:

1. See Col. 3:15 note 1, note 2.
2. See Col. 3:16 note 1, note 2.
3. See Col. 4:2 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Colossians Msg. 29-31, 45, 63-65.*

Note:

In Colossians 3:12—4:6 Paul turns to the matter of the living of the saints in union with Christ. In 3:12-15 he speaks of the necessity of being ruled by the peace of Christ, and in verses 16 and 17, of the word of Christ dwelling in us richly. To live in union with Christ means that in our living we are not apart from Christ.

It is very easy in the church life to offend one another or to make one another unhappy. In the matter of arranging chairs in the meeting hall, a brother may be unhappy if the arrangement is not according to his opinion. But if we open to the Lord when we are offended and tell Him that we love Him, something heavenly will be transmitted into us. Then spontaneously we shall be happy with the one who offended us. This is an example of the peace of Christ arbitrating in our heart. This arbitrating peace preserves the oneness in the church life.

I can testify that often, when I have been unhappy with someone in the church life, I have contacted the Lord and called on His name. Many times I say, “Lord Jesus, I thank You for Your presence, for Your anointing, and for everything You have been to me.” When I give thanks to the Lord in this way, the divine transmission begins to work. After a few minutes, I may be so full that I am beside myself with joy. Then spontaneously I begin to count the one who made me unhappy better than myself. When I see him the next time, I have no problem with him. Because I experience the Lord’s transmission and arbitration, I do not have problems with any of the saints in the Lord’s recovery.

When a local church is first established, the saints may experience a church-life honeymoon. But just as there is no permanent honeymoon in married life, there is no permanent honeymoon in the church life. Friction develops eventually between the saints. This friction causes the wrinkles Paul speaks of in Ephesians 5. If we do not have the peace of Christ arbitrating in us, wrinkles will continue to develop. But if the heavenly transmission supplies us with the divine element, the wrinkles will be removed metabolically. Then instead of friction there will be the arbitrating peace of Christ. (*Life-Study of Colossians*, pp. 239, 564)