

CHURCH IN REGINA

Meeting Place: 3860 Buckingham Drive E, Regina, SK, Canada S4V 3A1

1 Timothy 2:4, "Who [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth."

This Week's Pursuit:

HWMR - Crystallization Study
of The Gospel of Mark

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CHURCH MEETINGS:

Lord's Day

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays - Saints' Home
7:30 Pm - 8:30 PM

Young People Meeting

Fridays
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Small Groupings

Fridays & Saturdays
Saints' Home

Seven ANNUAL FEAST

- 1. International Chinese-speaking Conference**
Anaheim, California
February 15-17, 2019
- 2. ITERO (Spring)**
Anaheim CA
April 5 - 7, 2019
- 3. Memorial Day Conference**
Seattle, WA
May 24-27, 2019
- 4. Summer Semiannual Training**
Anaheim, CA
July 1-6, 2019
- 5. ITERO (Fall)**
Bangalore, India
October 3-5, 2019
- 6. Thanksgiving Conference**
Houston, TX
Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 2019
- 7. Winter Semiannual Training**
Anaheim, CA

Message Four

The Ways of the Slave-Savior's Gospel Service

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:1—3:6

Introduction:

In 2:1—3:6 the Lord... **does** certain things, and the five incidents recorded in this portion of the Gospel of Mark show us how the Lord **carried out** the gospel service. If we would know how to carry out this service, we need to consider what the Lord does in **forgiving** the sins of the sick, in **feasting** with sinners, in causing His followers to **be merry** without fasting, in **caring for His followers' hunger** rather than for religion's regulation, and in **caring for the relief of the suffering** one rather than for the ritual of religion.

Forgiving the Sick – healing the paralytic

This **paralytic** signifies a sinner paralyzed by sin, one who is unable to walk and move before God... The Lord said to the paralytic, "*Your sins are forgiven!*" *Sins were the cause of his sickness.* The Slave-Savior's word here touched the cause so that there might be a different effect. **Once the sins were forgiven, the sickness was healed.** It is important and meaningful that the first incident in this section on the carrying out of the gospel service is a **case of forgiving** the sins of a sick person. This indicates that **in carrying out the gospel the first thing that must be done is to help people have their sins forgiven.**

Feasting with Sinners – Matthew's calling

Levi, also known as Matthew, was one of the tax collectors [who] were **condemned, despised, and abhorred** by the Jews (Luke 18:11). Most of these **tax collectors** abused their office by demanding more than they should by false accusation (Luke 3:12-13). To pay taxes to the Roman government was very bitter to the Jews. Those engaged in collecting these taxes were despised by the people and counted unworthy of any respect. Hence, they were **classed with sinners** (Mark 2:16)...

[Furthermore], the Slave-Savior as a **Physician** was feasting with sinners. Therefore, here we have the **enjoyment of feasting** with the Savior. Those who feasted with Him enjoyed the goodness of the Slave-Savior, who is the embodiment of God. Therefore, what they actually experienced was the enjoyment of God Himself.

Be merry and happy without fasting – The Lord's disciples don't fast

It was necessary for them (the disciples of John and the Pharisees) to fast because, as far as they were concerned, the Messiah and the kingdom had not yet come. Since they were still waiting for the coming of the Messiah and the kingdom, they were fasting.

Suppose you are the best man at a wedding. While the wedding is taking place, you, the bridegroom's best man, are fasting..... No bridegroom wants to see his best man fasting during his wedding. Instead, he wants to see him **joyful**, properly **dressed** in good clothing, and **enjoying** the food provided. This is an illustration of the Lord's word in 2:19. Here the Lord seems to be saying to the disciples of John and the Pharisees, "Why do you ask Me why My disciples are not fasting? I am the **Bridegroom**, and they are all the sons of the bridechamber, a corporate best man. Matthew the tax collector is one of the sons of the bridechamber. They cannot fast when I am with them."

Caring for followers' hunger than religious regulations – The Lord's disciples Picking up grains on the sabbath

The Lord could have said to the Pharisees, "Why do you trouble Me? I am the Lord who ordained the Sabbath, and I have the full position and right to change it. Whether I ordain the Sabbath or change it, I do it for the sake of man. The Sabbath came into being for man's sake; man did not come into being for the sake of the Sabbath. You Pharisees would even let people die by the way you keep the Sabbath. But on the Sabbath I care for feeding My followers. In Genesis 2 I ordained the Sabbath because I wanted man to have rest. Therefore, **the Sabbath came into being for the sake of man.** But now that I am here, I want to cancel the Sabbath in order to feed My followers. As **the Lord of the Sabbath**, I certainly have the right to do this." How wonderful was the Lord's handling of the situation in 2:23-28!

Caring for the relief of the suffering than for the ritual of religion – Restoring the withered hand on Sabbath

In this incident we see that on the Sabbath the Savior **restored** a man's **withered hand**. Here we see that He did not care for the ritual of religion; He cared for the **relief** of the suffering one. He wanted to **release** that one, to **liberate** him... [we were those with a withered hand, unable to work.]

Prayer Burden

1. Praise You, Lord as **God with divine authority**. Thank You for the **forgiveness** of our sins causing us to **fear You and to love You**. Now, we are able to **“rise and walk,” “go in peace”** and to **“go, and from now on sin no more”**.
2. Praise You, Lord as our **Physician**. Cause us to **feast with You** and bring us into the **enjoyment** of God and the **joy of salvation**. Heal us from **self-righteousness and blindness** to our own illnesses. Thank You for Your mercy.
3. Praise You, Lord as our **Bridegroom**. Your righteousness is now our outward **clothing to beautify us**, and Your life is the inner **wine to fill and cheer us**. May our living be a life of the **real fasting - not having a taste for anything** other than You.
4. Thank You, Lord for bringing us into the **enjoyment and satisfaction** of You as **our real Sabbath rest**. May we learn to **stop** our work, **cease** from our doing, and **enjoy** what You have done for us and **not rely on our own strength**.
5. Thank You, Lord for being our **Emancipator**. We **treasure** Your New Testament economy, **imparting life** to us and fully **liberating us** from religious ritual and from the slavery of sin. Continue to **free us** even more in certain parts of our life until our **“withered hand”** is fully **healed**.
6. Thank You, for our **full salvation**. Bring us all to **touch You** that we may experience **forgiveness, enjoyment, joy, satisfaction and freedom**. May we all **cultivate** such a **direct touch** with You and **fellowship** with You until You become **our daily salvation and moment-by-moment supply**.
7. Please pray for:
 - Canada**
 - **Sister Gloria** of the church in Saskatoon, was diagnosed with cancer; may the Lord's will be done
 - Israel**
 - We pray that the seed of the gospel to be sown bountifully all over Israel. We believe that there are still hundreds in this land who were **appointed to eternal life** (Acts 13:48) for the testimony of Jesus in the cities of Israel.
 - Lord remember the upcoming **elections** in Israel on April 9th. We stand with You in Your selection which is crucial for Your own purpose, for Your move in Israel.
 - Europe - Bibles for Europe**
 - **Offerings** for future printings and distribution of NTRV Bibles for Europe
8. Please pray for the church in **Regina**
 - Pray for the **increase** of meeting ones and to gain local saints.
 - For the purchase of a lot **property** for the church
 - The children, YP and College work
 - YP Conference on April 14, 2019
 - Brother Dindo and family to get settled permanently here in Canada.

LIFE-STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS

“One Life-Study a Day Makes One Holy”

Message 56 - Paul's Vindication of His Apostolic Authority (7)

April 01, 2019, 2018, Monday

I believe that this message can be helpful to all those, especially the young, who have a heart for the Lord's recovery. Eventually, the young ones will be in the hand of the Lord. It certainly will be necessary for them to have a proper understanding concerning money. **We all must learn not to be greedy, but instead, to spend what we have for others, even to spend ourselves, our very being. We should be willing to pour out our whole being—spirit, soul, and body—for the Body of Christ.** Then what we do and what we are will be a benefit to the Body. Whenever we touch the work of the Lord for His Body, we must have a pure motive and a proper attitude. Instead of seeking what others have, we should seek only them and desire to gain them **for the Lord's Body** and to spend utterly what we are and have for the Body. Then the Body will be healed, and we shall be preserved. (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 2 Corinthians, chapter 56, section 4)

Message 57 - Paul's Vindication of His Apostolic Authority (8)

April 02, 2019, Tuesday

We have seen that the Apostle Paul is a **pattern for all believers**. In chapter twelve he tells us how he **enjoys Christ to the uttermost as his sufficient grace, as his power, and as his overshadowing tabernacle**. When Paul wrote this Epistle to the Corinthians, most of them had not come into such an **enjoyment of Christ**. Thus, in the last part of chapter twelve and the first part of chapter thirteen, Paul is trying to bring the believers into such an enjoyment of Christ as their sufficient grace, their daily strength, and their overshadowing dwelling place. Paul has no intention of assuming his apostleship, exercising his apostolic authority, or vindicating his apostolic standing. (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 2 Corinthians, chapter 57, section 4)

Message 58 - Final Exhortations, Greeting, and Blessing (1)

April 03, 2019, Wednesday

To be **perfected** is to be **restored, mended, repaired, and adjusted**. **It is to be brought back to the right position and restored to the right track so that we may be built up together with others in the Body**. The books of 1 and 2 Corinthians are books of perfecting. The unique goal of these two Epistles is to perfect the damaged, distracted, and divided saints at Corinth. The believers there had been damaged, and the situation among them was unhealthy. Therefore, these two books were written to perform the necessary task of perfecting the believers, of bringing them back to a healthy condition full of life, of edifying them, and of equipping them for the building up of the Body. All this is included in Paul's charge, **“Be perfected.”** (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 2 Corinthians, chapter 58, section 3)

Message 59 - Final Exhortations, Greeting, and Blessing (2)

April 04, 2019, Thursday

To speak of the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is actually to say that the **love is God**, that the **grace is Christ**, and that the **fellowship is the Holy Spirit**. Thus, **we have God the Father as love, we have God the Son as grace, and we have God the Spirit as fellowship**. This means that we have the Triune God in a direct way as our enjoyment. What we have is not merely a blessing from Him or by Him.

In the New Testament **the real blessing is the Triune God Himself**. As we have pointed out, this blessing is threefold, a blessing of grace, love, and fellowship. With love as the source, grace as the course, and fellowship as the transmission, **the Triune God reaches us to be our life, our life supply, and our enjoyment. Now in a practical way we can enjoy the Triune God all day long**. This is our unique New Testament blessing. (Excerpt from Life-Study of 2 Corinthians, chapter 59)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

1. The **SST** will be on August 5-10, 2019. The deadline for registration is on May 26, 2019. The cost is \$400.
2. **Sister's meeting** this afternoon, April 7, 2019, is at Sister Malou's place at 2:00 PM.
3. The local **YP conference** is next week April 14, 2019.
4. The **church pursuit** on April 19, 2019, is at brother Joseph's place at 6:00 PM.
5. **Prairie conference** in Edmonton on May 3-5, 2019. The deadline for registration is April 21, 2019.
6. **Churching** in Saskatoon -- April 21, 2019; in Lloydminster will be on April 28, 2019.
7. Every last Friday of the month, the **Small Group Meeting** will be at Brother Radam's place. Starting April 26, 2019.
8. Our next **Life-Study readings** will be on 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy and Titus.