

# CHURCH IN REGINA

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

Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers."

The Church of the Saints in Regina

<http://thechurchinregina.org/>

## CONTACT NUMBERS:

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## CHURCH MEETINGS:

### Lord's Table Meeting

Lord's Day

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays

7:00 - 8:00 PM

### Young People's Meeting

Saturdays

7:00 - 8:30 PM

### Small Group Meetings

Fridays & Saturdays

7:00 - 8:30 PM

## EVENTS, CONFERENCES & TRAININGS:

### Winter Semiannual Training

Anaheim, CA

December 21-26, 2020

## HWMR Week 11 Shepherds according to God's Heart

Psalms 22—24 are a group of psalms revealing Christ from His crucifixion to His kingship in the coming age. In Psalm 22 we see Christ's death, His resurrection, and His many brothers produced in His resurrection to form His church. **Psalm 23 is concerning Christ as the Shepherd.** This Shepherd today is in His resurrection. Psalm 24 is concerning Christ as the coming King in God's kingdom. Thus, in these three psalms, we have Christ crucified, Christ resurrected, Christ producing the church, Christ being the Shepherd and shepherding His flock, the church, and Christ coming back to be the King.

### CHRIST AS THE SHEPHERD IN HIS RESURRECTION

Psalm 23:1 says, "Jehovah is my Shepherd." Christ is our Shepherd and we are His flock. The church in the Bible is called a flock. In John 10 the Lord said that He was the good Shepherd who would collect the sheep from Israel and from the Gentiles to form them into one flock (vv. 14-16), which is the church (1 Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28). Jehovah, of course, is the divine God, and we are mere humans. How can God, the divine One, approach us human beings to be our Shepherd? If God would come to us in a direct way, that might frighten us to the uttermost...How can the divine Triune God be so close to us, just as a shepherd is to his flock? Furthermore, how can we sinners, the fallen people, be the flock of the divine Shepherd? According to our fallen nature we are snakes, vipers (Matt. 23:33), and "scorpions."

Psalm 23 implies that **this Shepherd is the One who became a man, who died for us to redeem us and wash away our sins, and who entered into resurrection to become a life-giving Spirit** (1 Cor. 15:45b) **to regenerate us.** As such a One, He can change our nature. Since He has taken these three steps—1) incarnation; 2) crucifixion for redemption; and 3) resurrection for regenerating—He is altogether qualified, equipped, and suitable to be our Shepherd. He is not only God but also a man. He is not only divine but also human. He died for our sins, He was resurrected, and in His resurrection He became a life-giving Spirit. The Lord Jesus today is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17). **As the life-giving Spirit, He is our Shepherd inwardly.** He is not only with us but also within us. We were snakes and scorpions, but we have been redeemed, we have been washed in His blood, and we have been resurrected (Eph. 2:6) and regenerated. As those who have been redeemed, washed, resurrected, and regenerated, we are the sheep of God's flock, the church. By Jehovah, the Triune God, being incarnated, crucified, and resurrected to become the life-giving Spirit, He is qualified to be our Shepherd. By His redeeming, washing, resurrecting, and regenerating us, we are qualified to be His flock. He is qualified to be our Shepherd, and we are also qualified to be His flock. Psalm 23 is altogether a psalm on Christ as the Shepherd in His resurrection.

We can also see Jehovah as the Triune God in this psalm. Verse 2 says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures." The color **green** signifies the **riches of life.** When we see the green trees and pastures, we see the riches of life...**The green pastures signify the Lord Jesus.** The Lord Jesus spoke concerning this in John 10. He said that His sheep would hear His voice and follow Him out of the fold to enjoy the green pastures as the flock (vv. 9, 16). In John 10, Christ is the door (v. 9), the Shepherd (v. 11), and the pasture (v. 9). Christ Himself is our pasture, our nourishment. He is the feeding place for all the sheep. In John 6 Christ said that He is the bread of life (v. 35) to nourish us (v. 57). The "bread" for the sheep is the green pasture, so the green pasture is Christ. **Christ can be our green pasture through His incarnation, death, and resurrection. After His incarnation, death, and resurrection, He is growing here as the green pasture for our nourishment.**

Psalm 23:2b says that Christ as our Shepherd leads us to waters of rest. **The waters of rest are the Spirit.** The Spirit is the water, and Christ is the pasture. Verse 5 says, "You anoint my head with oil." Hebrews 1:9 refers to the oil of exultant joy. This oil signifies the Spirit. John 7:39 says that before Christ's resurrection, the Spirit was not yet. This means that the Spirit was not yet consummated. The Spirit of God has been consummated through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. In Christ's resurrection, the Spirit of God became the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b). Now He is available to us because He has been consummated. **In Psalm 23, the Spirit as typified by the waters and the oil signifies the consummated Spirit after Christ's resurrection.**

This psalm also tells us that Christ's shepherding of us is in **five stages.** The first stage is of the *pastures and the waters of rest* (v. 2). Pasture and waters are for our **nourishment**, including cherishing and enjoyment. The second stage is the stage of the *paths of righteousness* (v. 3). The paths of righteousness indicate our **walk.** After we enjoy Christ, are filled up with Christ, and are nourished by Christ, we walk on the paths of righteousness. The third stage is the *valley of the shadow of death* (v. 4). The valley, the shadow, and death are not pleasant. Christ's shepherding leads us through the valley of the shadow of death. The fourth stage is the *battlefield* (v. 5), where we are **fighting against the adversaries.** At the battlefield a table, a feast, is spread for us. Finally, the last stage is to dwell in the *house of God* all the days of our life (v. 6) (LS of Psalms, Msg 11).

**PRAYER BURDENS:**

- 1) Lord, You are our real Shepherd. Through Your shepherding, we are enjoying Your pasture and are being regulated. Search us out day by day and make our living different from the nations.
- 2) Thank You Lord for Your shepherding care. We simply trust in You and drink of You as the living water. You are our Shepherd and our King. We give ourselves to be under Your care and Your authority.
- 3) Lord, You are our good Shepherd. As our good Shepherd, You laid down Your soul life so we can have Your zoe life. We praise You for accomplishing redemption that we may be under one Shepherd to be one flock.
- 4) Lord, continue to shepherd our soul. Our wondering mind, our troublesome emotion, and our rebellious will need an Overseer. Lead us to the right place then guide us to the exact spot.
- 5) Teach us how to shepherd one another according to Your heavenly ministry. Lord, we love You. Because we love You, we care for Your flock and we feed others through our shepherding for the building up of Your body.
- 6) Give us a proper spirit towards others, a spirit of loving those who are in the world. We are here to lead many to You. Change our concept give us the Father's heart.

**EUROPE:**

- 1) First Lord's Table Meeting in Amsterdam (December 6, 2020). May they have a strong beginning and be such a shining lampstand in that important European city.
- 2) Radio broadcasts in the UK and Spain, continuing distribution of the Recovery Version and ministry publications in the European languages.

**NORTH AMERICA:**

- 1) Winter Training—December 21 to 26, 2020.

**CHURCH IN REGINA:**

- 1) Practice of the God-ordained way and increase of meeting ones to 50. Strengthen the three district meetings. Sanctify each family, each household.
- 2) New revival for year 2021.
- 3) Preserve our college students and young people from the degradation and the deceitfulness of the age.
- 4) Purchase of meeting hall lot and building
- 5) Permanent residence applications of:
  - > Bro. Radam Alforte and his wife
  - > Bro. Alejo Dela Cruz and his wife
  - > Bro. Zheng Qu and Sis. Aitong Liu
  - > Bro. Antonio Miranda and his wife

**Life Study of Genesis Summary/Review Messages 44-49**

In Genesis 15:6, Abraham says that "he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." Abraham's believing was counted to him by the Lord as righteousness, and at that time Abraham was justified. This is justification by faith. Abraham's having a seed was absolutely not an outward matter but altogether an inward one. We need to have the faith that believes that God is working Himself into us, the faith that believes that a heavenly seed will be brought forth by something that has been wrought into us. God's calling is for man to exist, and for man to fulfill God's purpose. To fulfill God's purpose, there is the need of the seed and the land. Both the seed and the land are Christ. The seed is Christ in us and the land is the Christ in whom we live. Christ lives in us as the seed, and we live in Him as the land. He is both the seed and the land for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose.

The covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis 15 was confirmed in Genesis 17 with circumcision. The spiritual meaning of circumcision is to put off the flesh, to put off the self and the old man. Circumcision is for the fulfillment of God's purpose. When the flesh, the self, and the old man have been terminated, the door is open for God to come in and bring forth Isaac.

**Life Study of Genesis Summary/Review Messages 44-49**

Abraham had an intimate fellowship with God. Abraham did not see the form of God but the form of man. God likes to appear to us in this way. He does not come in the form of God but in the form of man, without making any declaration that He is Jehovah God. We all need to experience God in this way. This is the experience of the Lord coming to visit us on our human level so that we can commune with Him as with an intimate friend. When we have fellowship with God by serving Him a meal and talking with Him, speaking with Him face to face, we do not have the sense that we are talking to the almighty, majestic God, but to another human being. This is the meaning of intercession being according to the revelation of God.

Alongside the record of Abraham, the bible gives us the negative history of Lot. Lot was saved, righteous, and godly, yet he was a defeated righteous man. Lot himself was barely saved through the overcomer's intercession, and although Lot's wife was saved from destruction, she became a pillar of salt. That Lot's wife became a pillar of salt signifies that she had lost her function and had become a sign of shame. We must follow the Lord in an absolute way, not be those who live in the world as the worldly people and seek to save our soul, abide in the Lord as the anointing teaches, watch for the Lord's coming back and live a proper life, and live and walk according to God's economy. Then at the Lord's appearing we shall be in His parousia and not be cast out to the third place, the place of shame.

In chapter twenty, Abraham should have been a circumcised person, not a natural person, for he had truly been dealt with by God. After he had left the standing of fellowship with God, he could lie at the sacrifice of his wife. This shows us the importance of remaining in the presence of God. Our protection is not our self; it is His presence. Abraham's intercession for Abimelech was a shameful one. By this we see that although we may not be bold in our spirit, as long as we intercede for others according to God's designation, our intercession will be answered. Your intercession may be shameful and there may be no glory in it, but God will still answer it. Along with His answer to your shameful intercession, He will also answer your previously unanswered prayers for your own needs. How wonderful this is!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:**

1. Accounting Meeting—December 20, 2020 at 2pm via Zoom
2. Winter Training—Deadline of registration is December 7, 2020 (Cost \$125 USD).

## THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE LORD

- I. The Lord's table meeting not only includes the remembrance of the Lord in the first part but also includes the worship of the Father in the latter part.
  - A. According to the procedure in God's salvation, we first receive the Lord and then draw near to the Father.
  - B. In Matthew 26:26-30, after the Lord Jesus broke the bread and sang a hymn with the disciples, He led them to the Mount of Olives.
    1. He led them to the Mount of Olives to meet with the Father.
    2. A principle is implied and established, that is, after we have broken the bread to remember the Lord, we should be led by Him to worship the Father together.
- II. In God's economy the Spirit testifies concerning the Son and leads the believers to the Son—John 15:26; 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 12:3.
  - A. John 15:26 says, "But when the Comforter comes,...the Spirit of reality...He will testify concerning Me."
  - B. John 16:13-15 says, "But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality [the Son]...He shall glorify Me, for He shall receive of Mine and shall disclose it to you."
  - C. First Corinthians 12:3 says, "No one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus is accursed; and no one can say, Lord Jesus, except in the Holy Spirit."
  - D. In the Lord's table meeting, the Spirit brings us to the Son that the Son may receive the adequate remembrance from all of the members of the Body of Christ, the sons of God and brothers of the firstborn Son.
- III. In God's economy the Son is the believers' Advocate or Intercessor with the Father and leads them to the Father—1 John 2:1; 2:23; Heb. 2:12.
  - A. First John 2:1 says, "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous."
  - B. First John 2:23 says, "Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who confesses the Son has the Father also."
  - C. Hebrews 2:12 says, "I [Jesus] will declare Your name [the Father's name] to My brothers; in the midst of the church I will sing hymns of praise unto You [the Father]."
  - D. After we remember the Lord, the Son brings us to the Father that we with Him, as the many sons of the Father and brothers of the firstborn Son, might worship the Father.

*(The Lord's Table Meeting Outlines, Outline 3)*