

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/>

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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 12 Experiencing and Enjoying the Contents of the New Covenant According to Our Spiritual Experience for the Accomplishment of God's Economy

Rom. 8:29—Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

THE SHAPING FUNCTION OF THE LAW OF LIFE

In understanding the Bible, we have been influenced too much by our natural concepts. In the past, I said that the function of the law of life was to regulate us. According to this concept, if we are about to argue with our wife, the law of life will regulate us. This teaching, which is according to our natural concept, is not accurate. Consider an apple tree. Its apple-tree life has the apple-tree nature, and issuing from this apple-tree nature is the law of the apple life. Does the law of life in the apple tree regulate it from being wrong? Absolutely not. The law of the apple life does not function this way. How then does it function? As the life of an apple tree grows, its law shapes the form of its life. Thus, when an apple tree bears fruit, it bears fruit with the proper form, the form of apples. The same is true of a peach tree. Hence, **the law of life does not regulate us from doing wrong; it regulates the shape of life.**

If a certain life does not grow, the law of that life cannot function. The law only operates as the life grows. **The law of life does not primarily function in the negative sense of telling us what not to do.** No, rather, **while life grows the law of life functions in the positive sense of shaping us, that is, conforming us to the image of Christ. This is the function of the law of life.**

Do not think that the law of life will always correct you. For example, when you are about to exchange words with your wife, the law of life will not merely restrict you from arguing with her. The working of the law of life is not as low as we have thought. Due to our human, natural, religious concept, we have greatly depreciated the function of the law of life. We all have been sin-centered and sin-conscious, but we should be neither sin-centered nor sin-conscious. Though we are occupied with overcoming sin, the world, our ugly flesh, and our bad habits, God would say, "Forget about these things! Don't you realize that on the day you were regenerated you were transferred out of one realm into another? Will you please forget about the old realm?" **Praise God that we have been born of Him! This divine birth has transferred us into a new realm, a realm in which there is no sin, world, or flesh. In this realm there is the function of the law of life. Remember that the law of life is not mainly regulating us; it is mainly shaping us, conforming us to the image of Christ.**

The law of life in Romans 8:2 does not regulate us from being wrong. This concept is according to our human, natural, ethical, religious understanding. We need a vision of Romans 8:29. We are now in another realm and do not need any regulations. In this realm there is no sin, world, flesh, or self. Consider two trees, an apple tree and a peach tree. They have no sin, world, flesh, or self. But both trees have a law of life which shapes them. This shaping by the law of life is the meaning of the word "conformed" in Romans 8:29. **The law of the Spirit of life conforms us to the image of the Firstborn Son of God. As the life grows, the law conforms us to the image of Christ.** How can Christ be formed in us? Only by the positive working of the law of life which shapes us to His form. What a difference between this reality and our natural concept!

Satan is subtle. Although the Bible tells us clearly of the function of the law of life, **we have been blinded by our natural concept.** Many saints who were seeking after the Lord but who were blinded by their natural concept have written books on how to overcome sin. If you do not try to overcome sin, it may lie dormant in you. But if you try to overcome it, it will say, "What! Are you trying to defeat me?" Many of us have some weak points. If we pay no attention to them, they will remain idle and dormant. But if we are aware of them and, for the sake of our holiness, try to overcome them, they will rise up and defeat us. It is best for us not to touch them. Praise **the Lord that we have had a new birth, a divine birth. In this new birth there are no weak points. There is only the divine life with the divine nature and the divine law which shapes us and conforms us to the image of Christ.** However, this shaping requires the growth in life, for the law of life only functions as life grows. The law of life does not regulate us from sin, because it is not in the realm of sin; it is in the realm of the divine life where there is no sin, world, flesh, or self. As life grows, its law works, not mainly to regulate or correct us, but to shape us, to conform us to the image of the Firstborn Son of God. Eventually, through the function of the law of life, we all shall become the mature sons of God, and God will have His universal, corporate expression (LS of Hebrews, Msg 69).

PRAYER BURDENS:

- 1) Thank You Lord for the covenant which You have bequeathed to us. Although we are fallen and unrighteous, by coming to You, we are forgiven. Our sins are forgotten. We are now qualified to become Your people in the law of life and possess a deeper knowledge of You.
- 2) Lord, You are our propitiation. Wash us and cleanse us again and again with Your blood. Through Your forgiveness, our sins are erased, sent away, and forgotten. We can now participate and enjoy in the blessings of the new covenant.
- 3) Give us a deeper appreciation of Your precious blood—the blood that washes us from our sins and brings us into God as our portion. Because we have a new heart and a new spirit, we can know You and enjoy You.
- 4) Continue to regulate us within by and according to the life that we received. Spread to our inward parts and transform us metabolically. Cause the highest law of life to operate in us spontaneously.
- 5) Lord, make more home in our hearts. We cooperate with the law of life to regulate us from within, to spread to our mind, emotion and will, to transform us metabolically and to conform us to Your image.
- 6) You are our God and we are Your people. Continue to rule and govern us, not by letters but according to the inward life. May this life operate in us to know You, to live You, and even be constituted with You.

EUROPE:

- 1) 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**MESSAGE 56 - The Birth and Growth of Isaac**

Isaac's birth was not by Abraham's natural strength nor according to Abraham's time. It was by God's work of grace and it was according to God's time, the time of life appointed by God. **Our natural strength always causes God to wait.** God's way and His timing are always a hard test to our natural life. According to His timing, **He will come in as the strength of grace to bring forth through us what He desires to have.** In the church life we need to have both the bringing forth and the growth of Christ. **Only by His way and at His time can we bring forth Christ for the fulfilling of His purpose.** (LS of Genesis Ch. 56).

MESSAGE 57 - The Offering of Isaac (1)

Our destiny is to be a burnt offering. The growing, living, and calling on the name of El Olam at Beer-sheba are all for the building up of a burnt offering that we might be burned on the altar on Mount Moriah. **The more we drink the water from the well of Beer-sheba, the more we shall grow, and the more we grow, the more we shall be prepared for the fire on Mount Moriah.** The proper church life does not produce bowmen; it produces burnt offerings. (LS of Genesis Ch. 57).

MESSAGE 58 - The Offering of Isaac (2)

When Abraham stretched forth his hand to kill Isaac, the angel of the Lord prevented him. Then Abraham saw a ram and killed it, offering it in Isaac's place. Afterward, it became a **blessing in multiplication.** This multiplication issues in Christ as the unique seed. Here we see the angel of the Lord stopping, the ram replacing, and the seed bringing the blessing. All three are Christ. The angel of the Lord, who was Christ, provided the ram, a type of Christ, which eventually issued in the seed, who is also Christ. **Christ is everything. We do not have a small, limited Christ.** We have a great and unlimited Christ who is everything. Praise the Lord! (LS of Genesis Ch. 58)

MESSAGE 59 - The Death and Burial of Sarah

Abraham did not put Sarah into a place of death, but into a place of life, a place full of resurrection. The cave of Machpelah is not the place of termination; it is a place full of the **expectation of resurrection.** It is on the way to resurrection. In this place, Sarah could restfully sleep as she waited for that day to come. If we have the light from the New Testament, we shall realize that this indicates the expectation of resurrection. In principle, **we also should not prepare a better home for the present but a gateway for the future. We are not here for today** but for tomorrow. If the Lord delays His coming back, we all shall enter into this gateway. (LS of Genesis Ch. 59).

MESSAGE 60 - The Marriage of Isaac - A Practical Living in Oneness with the Lord

According to the common understanding of most Christians, the main point of chapter 24 is that Isaac is a type of Christ as the Bridegroom and that Rebekah is a type of the church as the bride. However, this is not the main point. The primary point is **the practical living in oneness with the Lord for the fulfilling of God's purpose.** We should not understand the Bible according to our **common knowledge or tradition,** but come back to the pure Word. If we consider the Bible as a whole, you will see that Isaac's marriage was altogether for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose. The life of those in this chapter was not merely for their own human living; it was a life that issued in the **fulfillment of God's eternal purpose,** a life which brought forth Christ and produced the kingdom of God for God's economy. (LS of Genesis Ch. 60)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

1. Western Canada Brothers' Meeting—December 17, 2020 via Zoom
2. Accounting Meeting—December 20, 2020 at 2pm via Zoom
3. Winter Training—Local Schedule December 21, 2020 to January 1, 2021. Schedule will be sent by email to those who registered. Payment for registration will be through offering box—\$180 CAD. Please write on the envelope—YOUR NAME WINTER TRAINING FEE
4. Morning Revival—Please download electronically HWMR titled "The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord."

THE WORSHIP OF THE FATHER

IV. The revelation that can be seen in [Psalm 22:12-22](#) and [Hebrews 2:10-12](#):

- A. [Psalm 22:12-21](#) is a prophecy picturing Christ's death—"Many bulls have compassed me," "My bones are out of joint," "My tongue cleaveth to my jaws," "They look and stare upon me," "They part my garments among them," "[They] cast lots upon my vesture."
- B. However, **Psalm 22:22 is a prophecy which is fulfilled after Christ's resurrection.**
- Psalm 22:22a says, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren."
 - In John 20:17 Jesus called the disciples brothers for the first time.
 - Jesus never called the disciples brothers until after the resurrection; before His resurrection, the Lord only called His disciples friends.
 - In John 20:20-23 Jesus met with the disciples for the first time in resurrection; He declared the Father's name to His brothers.
 - At this time, on the day of Christ's resurrection, Psalm 22:22a was fulfilled.
 - Psalm 22:22b says, "In the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."
 - This is Christ's praising of the Father in the midst of the church.
 - There is no record in the Scriptures of the fulfillment of this prophecy.
- C. [Hebrews 2:10](#) says, "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."
- The Captain of our salvation is the Son.
 - The Son is leading many sons (the believers) into glory.
- D. [Hebrews 2:11](#) says, "For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers."
- The "one" refers to the Father.
 - The Sanctifier is the Son.
 - "Those who are being sanctified" are the sons.
 - Thus, the Son and "those who are being sanctified" are all of one Father.
 - Therefore, He, the Son, is not ashamed to call us brothers; in John 20:17, after His resurrection He told Mary, "Go to My brothers."
 - Through Christ's resurrection, all of His disciples received the Father's life—1 Pet. 1:3.
 - Now, because both Christ and we are of the same source (Eph. 1:3; 4:6; Matt. 6:9) and have the same life (1 John 5:11-12) with the same nature (2 Pet. 1:4), He is not ashamed to call us His brothers.
- E. [Hebrews 2:12](#) is a quotation of [Psalm 22:22](#) and says, "I will declare Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the church I will sing hymns of praise unto You."
- Here we see the Son declaring the Father's "name" to His brothers, that is, making the Father known as the source of life and as the begetting God.
 - This verse also tells us that the Son sings hymns of praise to the Father in the midst of the church.
 - By this verse we see that the brothers are the church; individually speaking, we are the brothers and collectively speaking, we are the church brought forth in Christ's resurrection.

(The Lord's Table Meeting Outlines, Outline 3, Section 2)

