

# Church in Regina

NEW LANGUAGE

CHRIST IS THE LORD'S ANOINTED TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR AND TO PROCLAIM THE LORD'S JUBILEE (ISA. 61:1).

## Loving the Lord and Loving One Another for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ—Week 4

### Three Winds of Teaching

According to the history of the church, we see that most of its difficulties arose from **winds of teaching**, which are the *different teachings*. The different teachings came from *different speakings*, and the different speakings came from *different opinions*. When the different opinions are added to the sleight of men and craftiness, we have the winds and the waves...

...The **first wind of teaching** says that *after the apostles appoint the elders, they can no longer be involved with the matters of a local church*. This kind of speaking is contrary to the teaching of the New Testament. The New Testament shows that after the apostles appointed the elders, they entrusted to the elders the responsibility of caring for and leading the church, yet they themselves never removed their hands. On the contrary, the apostles continued to perfect the saints and even to teach the elders. According to the record of Acts and the Epistles, after the apostles appointed the elders, they did their best to visit and strengthen the churches. Paul even stayed in Corinth for a year and a half and in Ephesus for three years. During his last preaching journey, on his way back to Jerusalem, he sent for the elders in Ephesus to come to him that he might remind them, charge them, admonish them, and teach them. In his first letter to the Corinthians he rebuked and instructed the Corinthians again and again. He even said that the remaining matters he would set in order when he came (v. 34b). This clearly shows that **in order to perfect the saints, the apostle cannot give up the church and take his hands off after he appoints the elders**. To say that the apostles cannot henceforth be involved with the church is a wrong teaching. Some are blowing this wind and are even practicing this openly. As a result, this has become a problem among us.

The **second wind** some are emphasizing is that *every local church should be absolutely autonomous*. The local church is established on the principle of one city, one church. In a certain sense, the administration is by locality. For example, whether a church should break the bread on the Lord's Day morning or the Lord's Day evening, or whether it should meet in one central hall or in a few dozen halls are matters related to the local administration of a local church. But on the other hand, the church is the Body of Christ. It is universal. All the millions of saved ones throughout the centuries are in this Body. The life within this Body is the life pulse of every member. It is like the blood circulation; you can never separate it into different parts. As far as the different parts of our body are concerned, you may say that this is the hand and that is the leg. But as far as the blood circulation is concerned, you cannot say that this is the blood of the hand and that is the blood of the leg. Hence, **the management** of a local church is, on the one hand, **local in its administration** yet, on the other hand, **not isolated in its communication**. Not only is there the mutual sharing of finances; even in other practical affairs we see the same thing. The churches in the various localities are managed separately, yet they are not separated absolutely. They are still the universal, corporate Body of Christ. For anyone to stress the autonomy or independence of a local church is too much. It destroys the oneness of the Body of Christ.

The **third wind of teaching** some are speaking is that *the church is built up by the Lord Jesus Himself and that there is no need for man to build it*. They base their words on Matthew 16:18. But according to the revelation of the New Testament, the Lord Jesus did not directly build up the church. Rather, He first perfected the gifts, and then He gave the gifts to the church. These gifted ones do not directly build up the church either. Rather, they perfect the saints, who are the many members of Christ. These saints directly build up the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16). In conclusion, this is how Christ builds the church. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:10 that he had received a ministry from God, and as a wise master builder he had laid the unique foundation, which is Christ, upon which others might build. This clearly shows that **the Lord builds the church through His many ministers, even through each of the many members in His Body...**

### Not Being Deceived by Growing into a Full-grown Man

When these **three winds** blow among us, they **produce three waves** that cause difficulties among us. Anyone who is swept into these proves that he is childish in Christ and immature in life. **If he is a full-grown man and is no longer a little child, he will not be deceived**. Ephesians 4:14 tells us that these teachings are "in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error." The **sleight of men** in Greek signifies the cheating of dice players. Those who say these things are all outwardly very good in their speaking. But within their speaking, there are different speakings. This is why it is a sleight of men. If I speak to a couple, agreeing with them outwardly but causing them to divorce each other eventually, I am doing things in the sleight of men. **Craftiness** also refers to the tricks of the gamblers. Those who say these things lead people into the wiles of Satan and are used by Satan to bring people into his **system of error**. Try to imagine how the saints can be perfected if the apostles are to have nothing to do with a local church after they have appointed the elders. When the local churches are deprived of the perfecting by the apostles, what will happen to them? This is like a university having no principal or professor. How can education be conducted? This reasoning is very clear. Hence, these kinds of sayings are a kind of craftiness, a system set up by Satan for the purpose of ensnaring in sin those who seek after the Lord and causing them to deviate from the building up of the Body of Christ. (*Excerpts from The Perfecting of the Saints and the Building Up of the Body of Christ, CWWL, 1988, vol. 4*).

### Announcements:

- ◆ Prayer Meeting at Ballao Residence—Mar. 21 at 7pm
- ◆ Bible Distribution at University of Regina—Mar. 24
- ◆ Brothers' Meeting—April 2 at 6pm

### Church Meetings:

- ◆ Lord's Table, Lord's Day, 10:00-12:00PM
- ◆ Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00PM
- ◆ YP & College Meetings, Fridays, 6:45-8:30PM
- ◆ Children's Meeting, Saturdays, 10:00-11:00AM
- ◆ Small Group, Fridays & Saturdays, 7:00-9:00PM

### Contact Us:

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### Prayer Burdens:

1. Lord, unveil us to see the intrinsic building up of the organic Body of Christ. Constitute us more through Your dispensing. Thank You for capturing us and giving us no way to escape. Make us those who function as the gifts returned by the Father to the Body.
2. Lord, we give ourselves to be filled. Thank You for Your gracious visitations and Your continual traveling within us. Have Your way in our being to constitute us more and more to become gifts. Make us those willing to be conquered and subdued, thoroughly gained and taken over.
3. Lord, cause us to be perfected to do the work of the New Testament ministry to build up Your Body. Lord, perfect us until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, not remaining as little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching.
4. Lord, save us from not functioning in the Body. Keep us enjoying You as our rich supply and make us building members. Grow in us and cause us to grow in life and function according to our own measure.
5. Lord, cause us to hold the truth in love so that we may grow up into Christ in all things. Preserve us to hold the truth—God’s New Testament economy, the all-inclusive Christ, and the church as the Body of Christ in our being. Occupy all our inward parts as You gradually increase and grow within us.
6. Lord, grow in us day by day for the growth of the Body. Lord, remind us not to despise ourselves and each member. May we all endeavor to function organically in the church life.

### North America/Other Burdens

1. Pray for the propagation of the ministry of brother Watchman Nee and Witness Lee through various mediums to gain the seekers and to perfect the believers for their growth in life unto maturity; thus to produce the one new man and to produce the bride of Christ.
2. Pray for Brother Isaac and Marie Hiebert who plan to move to Foam Lake at the beginning of April. May this move be one with the Lord’s move for raising up a lampstand in that town.

### Church in Regina:

1. Lord, we pray for a regular station for a Bible distribution. Arrange a place for us where we can regularly set up a table, meet Your people, and preach the highest gospel.
2. Pray for the Bible Distribution at the University of Regina on March 24, 2023.

#### Misaimings Concerning Romans 8:28

**Misaiming:** "...all things you have prayed about will work together for good. You see, the Apostle Paul is the one who wrote this verse, and he didn't even believe that everything which happened worked together for good. We make a mistake when we try to make Romans 8:28 fit into every situation in life, when Paul used it only in reference to praying in the Spirit" (Charles Capps, *Kicking Over Sacred Cows*, 1987, pp. 184-185).

**Truth:** The quotation can only be described as deriving from an utter shortage of insight into God's economy, that is, His plan to accomplish His eternal purpose. His economy is especially evident in Romans 8, which concludes with the assurance that the believers are heirs of glory. All of the divine activity in our inward being, described in the first part of the chapter, will consummate in our transformation, conformation, and glorification as sons of God. The quotation, by viewing verse 28 out of context, limits the things that work for our good to only those things that we pray for in Spirit. Nevertheless, the context of all of chapter 8 of Romans implies that **the goal of our prayer**, the "groanings which cannot be uttered" (v. 26), the interceding of the Spirit, is that **we would be transformed and conformed to the image of Christ**—that is, become sons of God not only positionally but also dispositionally.

The key word for understanding how "all things work together for good" is because in verse 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." **All things specifically work together for good to conform us to the image of His Son.** Good does not refer to some temporal pleasure, happiness, or improvement in circumstance. If this were so, then verse 28 surely would not "fit into every situation in life." This verse is applicable only when we realize, from the perspective of God's economy, that this "good" is the result of the inward activity of the in-dwelling Christ who desires to spread in our being. This activity is aided by "all things," and it has the consummate goal of making us sons of God who are so constituted with Christ that we become His expression. When a believer sees the truth of God's economy, he is freed from slavery to environments, situations, and conditions. When we see that the consummate good is our conformation to Christ, then all things in our environment will serve us by helping us to rely and focus on the subjective Christ, the One who desires to "make His home in your hearts" (Eph. 3:17). (God's Economy & the Principle of Recovery Vol.V, No.1 January 2000, p.60)

#### Events, Conferences & Trainings:

**Chinese-Speaking Conference**  
February 17-19, 2023, Anaheim, CA USA

**March ITERO**  
March 24-26, 2023, Anaheim, CA USA

**Memorial Day Conference**  
May 26-29, 2023, Chicago, IL USA

**July Semiannual Training**  
July 3-8 2023, Anaheim, CA USA

**October ITERO**  
October 5-7, 2023, TBD

**Thanksgiving Conference**  
November 23-26, 2023, Dallas, TX USA

**Dec. Semiannual Training**  
December 25-30, 2023, Anaheim CA USA