

Church in Regina

NEW LANGUAGE

CHRIST IS THE ONE EXALTED, LIFTED UP, AND MADE VERY HIGH
(ISA. 52:13; EPH 1:20-21)

Knowing, Experiencing, and Living the All-inclusive Christ for the Genuine Church Life —Week 3

To Think the One Thing

Philippians 2:12 says, "So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." What were the Philippians to obey? They were to obey Paul's word regarding thinking the one thing and being joined in soul. **The one thing that they were to think is the experience of Christ for the Body life.** We may also say that **it is the enjoyment of Christ for the Body life...**

One in Soul

When we all think this one thing, we will be one in soul. It is easy for us, the regenerated children of God, to be one in our spirit. As we sing, praise, and pray in the meetings, we are one in spirit. But when the meeting is over, the brothers turn to the mind and the sisters to the emotion. When this happens, we are no longer one. Perhaps in spirit we are still one, but we are not one in soul. The problem with the believers in Philippi was that they were not one in soul. Therefore, Paul charged them **to think the one thing and to be one, not in spirit but in soul.** Paul told them that whether he was present or absent, they needed to obey his word. He was asking them to **drop all other thoughts** and to take his word so that they might think the one thing and be one in soul.

Working Out Our Salvation

Philippians 2:12 says, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Since the Philippians were already saved, why did they still need to work out their salvation?.. When we were saved, we were saved in joy, not in fear and trembling. Thus, the salvation spoken of in this verse is different from eternal salvation. **We receive eternal salvation, and there is no need for us to work it out.** It has already been accomplished, completed, and presented to us as a gift. But there is **another kind of salvation that needs to be worked out.** When something is presented to us as a gift, we need only to receive it and enjoy it. Take the example of a dinner that is prepared for you. You do not sit at the dining table eating the food in fear and trembling. No, you enjoy the food. There is another kind of salvation, not for us to receive joyfully but **for us to work out fearfully.** Although we have been saved, we still need to **be rescued from certain things. As long as you need to be rescued, it proves that you are in a situation that is not positive.** You may not be in the big hell, but you may be in a little hell.

Murmurings and Reasonings

Two of these little hells are seen in verse 14. This verse says, "Do all things without murmurings and reasonings." One little hell is called **murmurings**, and the other is called **reasonings**. Murmuring is a hell for the sisters, and reasoning is a hell for the brothers. Murmurings come from the **emotion**, and reasonings come from the **mind**. Thus, both the brothers and sisters need to be rescued—the brothers out of their mental hell and the sisters out of their emotional hell. Although we are the saved children of God, we may still fall into the hell of murmuring or into the hell of reasoning. Both our murmurings and our reasonings are little demons. Thus, we need salvation.

The **way to be saved** from the hells of murmuring and reasoning is to **obey the word** of the apostle Paul to **think the one thing and to be one in soul. When we think the same thing, we do not murmur or reason.** Instead, we experience Christ as our enjoyment. Every part of our mind, emotion, and inner being is filled with the experience and enjoyment of Christ... Although we have been saved from the eternal hell, we still need to be saved from the small hells of *murmuring, complaining, reasoning, and arguing*. Every married couple has experienced the exchanging of words. This is a hell. Because the wives murmur and the husbands reason, there are arguments. During the course of such an argument, both the husband and the wife fall into a hell because they are not thinking the one thing. This illustrates how we need to **think of the experience and enjoyment of Christ for the church life.** If a husband and wife would think one thing, there would be no exchange of words; the wife would be rescued from the hell of the emotion, and the brother would be saved from the hell of the mind. This is a **daily, practical, and present salvation.** We need to **work out this salvation with fear and trembling** (Excerpts from *The Experience of Christ*, CWWL, 1978, vol. 1).

Announcements:

- ◆ Bible Distribution—September 15
- ◆ Welcome Dinner for College Students—September 22
- ◆ Brothers' Meeting—September 24

Church Meetings:

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

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Prayer Burdens:

1. Lord, grant us a Christ-experiencing and Christ-enjoying life. Cause us to live a corporate life, a life that is in the furtherance of the gospel. May our fellowship turn to more experiences and enjoyment of You.
2. Lord, we are still so short being in one spirit with one soul with one another. Transform us further in our soul, especially our mind so we can have such a subduing and convincing oneness.
3. Encourage us to think the one thing and to be one in soul – not merely learning the objective Christ but experiencing the subjective Christ for our enjoyment. Forgive our rebellious nature and may we be obedient to Your economy, thinking the one thing.
4. Lord, give us a feeling for the Body. Not only do we take Your mind, but also Your emotions, Your inward parts, as our own in caring for the church and for each member. Save us from doing useless service, but instead bring forth Onesimuses profitable for Your Body.
5. Be the willing and the working One in us so You can work out Your good pleasure. We are willing to submit completely to Your will. Guard us from the usurpation of the evil one.
6. Lord, day after day, hour after hour, we want You to be built up more in us. We are not satisfied with just our initial salvation. We want to have the present and practical Christ whom we can enter into.

North America/Other Burdens

1. Special Prayer for the Ministering/Blending Brothers:
 - > Bro. Ron Kangas to recover from his surgery. Strengthen him and pour grace upon grace to his tripartite being. Sustain him for Your recovery.
 - > Bro. Michael Stewart and his family. Bro. Michael has recently been diagnosed with malignant brain tumor. May their whole family be strengthened to go on and Your will be done.

Church in Regina:

1. Pray for our Chinese-speaking saints. Raise up shepherd-teachers to help them in the pursuit of the truth and to fully enter into the practice of the church life. Sustain the Wednesday evening Chinese-speaking pursuit. Encourage all to go on and learn and experience the subjective Christ.
2. Pray for the University of Regina. Pray for the Bible Distribution on September 15 and the welcome dinner on September 22. Bring many seekers to our table and bring them to experience and enjoy You and the church life.

Misaiming Concerning the Indwelling Christ

Misaiming: "Jesus is the first Paraclete, and upon His departure from this world, Jesus prays that the Father will supply another Paraclete in Jesus' absence. The Spirit is sent to be Christ's substitute; He is the supreme vicar of Christ on the earth" (R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*, p121).

Truth: The writer of this statement may not be a tritheist at heart, but his words, which posit a separation of the Spirit from the Son, are loaded with tritheistic implications and deny both the presence of Christ on earth and His dwelling in the believers. The three of the Divine Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—are inseparably one in their eternal co-existence and coinherence. **The Father, the Son, and the Spirit, although distinct persons in the Godhead, do not exist in separation from one another.** Where one is, there the others are also. Where Christ is, there the Spirit is, and where the Spirit is, there Christ is. It is therefore not accurate to speak of the Spirit coming "in Jesus' absence" or of the Spirit's being "sent to be Christ's substitute." This kind of language, which is contrary to the whole context of John 14—16, not only implies a separation of the Spirit from Christ but also implies a tritheistic concept of the Trinity. After speaking of another Comforter, the Spirit of reality, the Lord Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you" (John 14:18). This coming—the coming of Christ Himself—was fulfilled on the day of His resurrection (20:19-22). The Spirit does not replace Christ—the Spirit comes with Christ. The Spirit is not the vicar of Christ or the substitute of Christ—the Spirit is the reality of Christ (Knowing the Triune God, Vol. 1. No. 1. January 1996).

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, Manila, Philippines

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

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