

# Church in Regina

NEW LANGUAGE

CHRIST IS THE RESURRECTED CHRIST SEATED  
AT THE RIGHT HAND OF JEHOVAH (PSA.110:1; ACTS 2:33; HEB.1:3)

Knowing, Experiencing, and Living the All-inclusive Christ for the Genuine Church Life —Week 5

## Conformed to the Image of the Firstborn

**God's firstborn Son is the prototype, and we are the mass production.** Christ is the model, mold, and pattern. God has put us all into Him that we may be molded into the image of His firstborn Son. Eventually we all shall be conformed to the mold. Sometimes when the sisters make cakes they put dough into a mold. By being put into the mold the dough assumes the pattern and image of the mold. Furthermore, the dough must also be baked that the cake may bear the pattern of the mold without any change. If the dough could speak, it probably would cry out, "Sister, have mercy on me. Don't apply so much pressure. I can't bear it. Please keep your hands off." However, the sister would reply, "If I keep my hands off, how will you fit into the pattern of the mold? Dear dough, after my molding you must be put into the oven. You may think that pressure is enough suffering for you, but you also need burning. After you have experienced pressure and intense heat you will bear the pattern of the mold permanently." Likewise, Christ, the firstborn Son of God, is the prototype, pattern, and mold, and we are pieces of dough. We all have been put into the mold, and are now being kneaded by the hand of God.

...**God's purpose is to produce many brothers of His firstborn Son.** When Christ was the only begotten Son, He was unique, but God desired to have many sons who will be the many brothers of His Son. In this way the only begotten Son of God becomes the firstborn among many brothers. He is the firstborn Son, and we are the many sons. What is the purpose of this? **The purpose is that we express God in a corporate way.** God's kingdom is built up with His many sons, and the Body of Christ is built up with His many brothers. **Without the many sons God could never have a kingdom, and without the many brothers Christ could never have a Body.** Thus, the many sons of God are for the kingdom of God, and the many brothers of Christ are for the Body of Christ. The kingdom of God is simply **the Body life**, and this Body life in the church is God's kingdom where He is expressed and where His dominion is exercised on the earth. This is God's purpose.

**Why does God arrange our environment, surroundings, and situations in such a way that we experience suffering?** We should not explain this according to our natural concept saying, "The whole earth is filled with sufferings and everyone undergoes hardship. Why should we be an exception?" This is a natural concept, and we should not accept it. We must realize that **God's purpose is to make us full-grown sons, not little children.** We should not be content to remain children enjoying His cherishing and loving. God intends to make us full sons, completely grown up to be legal heirs that we may inherit all that He is in this universe and that we may express Him and exercise His dominion over the earth. Since God's intention is to bring us into full sonship, we need to grow. There is no doubt that growth comes from **inward nourishment**, but this inner nourishment needs the **coordination** of the **outward environment**. According to our feeling, most of the outward environment is unpleasant. Thus, the outward environment becomes a suffering as far as we are concerned. I do not say that the outward environment is not good; it is always good, but it may not appear good to your feeling.

Sometimes parents do things to their children which, according to the feeling of the children, are not positive. The children may cry and weep, imagining themselves to be suffering. However, **good parents are not deceived by their children's tears.** Some young mothers have been cheated by the weeping of their children, changing their policy when they see the tears of their little ones. It is not a gain for children to deceive their parents with their tears. A mother must tell her child, "I don't care about your crying. I know that I am putting you into a very good environment, the one that is best for you. You may say that it is a suffering. But I know how good it is for you."

God deals with us in exactly the same way. **He knows in which situation and in which environment we can grow well. He is our Father, and everything is under His arrangement. He can do nothing wrong.** Everything He does for us is excellent and wonderful, although to our feeling it may not be good. However, **we should not care for our feelings; we should take care of God's arrangement.**...God selected us, predestinated us, and caused us to be born at the right time and in the right place. He knows what is best for us, and everything is under His control. I say once again that, according to our feelings, **our environment may be a suffering, but actually it is a blessing; it is God's sovereign provision.** Everything we need for our growth in life has been sovereignly provided by God. Everything is all right. Therefore, when we are experiencing pain and suffering, we must deny them and say, "Satan, you are a liar. This is not a pain or a suffering to me; it is God's arrangement. This is a blessing that I may grow into full sonship." We all need **a proper environment** to provide the elements which are required for our growth in life. Nevertheless, when unpleasant things happen to us we may not understand that they come from the hand of our Father for our growth.

(Excerpts from the Life-study of Romans, ch. 20)

## Announcements:

- ◆ Brothers' Meeting—September 24
- ◆ Church Pursuit—October 9

## Church Meetings:

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

## Contact Us:

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## Prayer Burdens:

1. Lord, we aspire to know You, the power of Your resurrection and the fellowship of Your sufferings. May we all be strengthened to exercise our will to decide to put ourselves aside and declare, "Tis not hard to die with Christ." Make us those who enjoy death through the power of resurrection and be those singing joyfully all the way to Calvary.
2. Lord, as the unique Lamb of God, You were able to accomplish redemption. Now, as the grain of wheat, you produced us as the many grains and we want to take part in Your sufferings to produce and build the church, Your Body.
3. Lord, grant us more experiences that we may also share in Your sufferings for the Body. Teach us more the lesson of losing our natural life.
4. Lord, like Paul, create in us the desire to take Your death as the mold of our life. Conform us more and more to Your death, the death that is precious and lovable. Make us willing to pay the price and lose our good qualities and strengths, that we may all see that Your resurrection power is our inward supply in every situation.
5. Lord, may the power of the resurrection life which is in us lead us, carry us, bear us and place us into the mold of Your death. May we live a crucified life always living to God and dying to the old creation.
6. Lord, we take Your death as the mold of our life. Cause us to die to our human life, kill our natural man, crucify the old man and nullify the self, in order that we may live the divine life.

## North America/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the release of the up-to-date speaking to the leading brothers who will be attending the ITERO on October 5 to 7 in Manila, Philippines. May Your burden be released for the advancement of Your recovery in this age.

## Church in Regina:

1. Pray for our Chinese-speaking saints. Sustain the synchronized Bible reading every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Encourage all to go on and have a habit of reading the Word.
2. Pray for the University of Regina. Pray for the students who came to the welcome dinner. May they have the real hunger for knowing the Lord and may there be regular contact with them throughout the semester. Release all the students to know You and attend the weekly campus meetings.

### Misaiming Concerning the Nature of Our Destiny

**Misaiming:** "It is very important that you understand heaven, our eternal destiny, is an actual place... Literal real estate which He is preparing for His own. Jesus says so in the next statement. 'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also' (v.3)" (Charles R. Swindoll, Eternity: Knowing Your Place in God's Forever Plan, 1986, p. 86).

**Truth:** Our eternal destiny, the "place" Christ has prepared for His believers, is not physical "real estate," but rather, a person, God Himself. The Lord Jesus promised that after His death and resurrection He would receive us to Himself (John 14:3). By this receiving, the Lord has incorporated His believers into Himself, as indicated in verse 20 by the words you in Me. In the same chapter, Christ also tells us where He is: "I am in the Father" (w. 10-11). Further, in verse 6 He declares, "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (emphasis added), indicating that our destination is God the Father. Even more emphatic is John 17:21 where the Lord Jesus prays to the Father "that they also may be in Us." Since Christ is in the Father, His disciples will likewise be in the Father by virtue of their position in Christ. This organic oneness of Christ and His redeemed, rather than a notion of literal "real estate," is the fulfillment of the Lord's promise to us: "That where I am you also may be" (14:3).

### 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