

Church in Regina

NEW LANGUAGE

CHRIST IS THE ARK (GEN. 6:14,16; 1 PET. 3:20-21).

An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery Before His Appearing—Wk 4

The word blending has been used quite often among us in recent years. We seem to call almost everything "blending." If we have tea or go on to a picnic together, we call it blending. Every time we do something together, we call it blending. However, I am very concerned that we have not entered into the **intrinsic significance of blending** according to what is revealed in the Word and according to Brother Lee's definition of this term. I am sorry to have to say that our common usage of the term blending is not much different from the secular concept of socializing. In the world people promote studying abroad to be exposed to different cultures, to have a certain blending of cultures. However, this is far off from what is revealed in the Word concerning blending, especially as seen in **the type of the meal offering in Leviticus 2**.

In His ministry Brother Lee often used the word blending. Even in the early years of his ministry he touched on the matter of blending in a general way. However, in the early 1990s, when he came to the matter of **the God-ordained way and the practice of the vital groups**, he saw the matter of blending in **a more specific way**. To carry out the vital groups for the accomplishment of God's eternal economy, we need blending. Blending **vitalizes** us. Naturally we are all scattered about in our own realm and sphere. As a result, we struggle when we try to do various things. Observing this, Brother Lee realized that as long as we are scattered, isolated and separate, we will never be vitalized and never be that useful to the Lord. Hence, in fellowshiping regarding the vital groups, he stressed the matter of blending very much.

Blending is related to **how we care for one another in the Body**, and the **result of blending** is that there is **no division in the Body**. In the blending there is **balance, love, adjustment, and harmony**. There is also the **equal care** that saves us from any kind of despising or uplifting. The blending saves us from division. Hence, **blending is not simply to get together and have a good time**. **Blending is in the light of the Body**. Although we have so many different members with different capacities and positions, there is no ground for division. We need blending.

To be blended means that we are touched by others and that we are touching others by going through the cross, doing things by the Spirit, and doing everything to dispense Christ for His Body's sake. To be touched by others...means that we have genuine and transparent fellowship. For example, if you and I are truly fellowshiping and you see that I have some shortages in what I have spoken, you will be able to touch me in the Lord's love and say, "Brother, what you just said was too much." In saying this, you are not trying to rebuke me or outwardly adjust me in your natural self; rather, by being in the Spirit, in the Lord's love, you are able to touch me, speaking to me in an honest, genuine and open way. In the genuine blending, there is such openness and willingness to be touched by others and also the willingness to touch others. Otherwise, our so-called blending is something that is merely political, and our so-called fellowship become mere pleasant words that avoid others' sensitivities while pretending that everything is okay. This is not genuine, transparent fellowship.

The blending allows us to touch others in a way that takes care of **four crucial matters**. First, genuine blending is **through the cross**; second, genuine blending is **by the Spirit**; third, genuine blending **dispenses Christ**; and fourth, genuine blending is **for the sake of the Body of Christ**. We may say that these form the "litmus test" of genuine blending. In every genuine blending there must be the genuine passing through of the cross. In our getting together for tea or going together on an excursion to the beach or the mountains, is there any sense of being crossed out, of passing through the cross? Is there the exercise of the Spirit, the ministry of life, or the building up of the Body? All these items are taken from Leviticus 2, where **the meal offering is made from fine flour with oil, frankincense and salt added**. The cross is signified by the salt, the Spirit by the oil and Christ by the frankincense. He is the resurrected Christ, and His Body is a loaf of fine flour mingled with oil. Therefore, in the type of the meal offering, we see what genuine blending is. There must be these four elements: the cross, the Spirit, Christ, and the building up of the Body. (The Ministry of the Word, Vol. 27, No. 07, "Blending and the Reality of the Body of Christ, pp. 93-114)

Announcements:

- ◆ NEW Prayer Meeting Arrangement
- ◆ Winter Training—
December 25 to 30 (Live)
December 26 to January 1 (Video)
**Schedule sent to registrants.*

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, 7:30-8:30PM
- ◆ 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 Jesus, unveil us to see the intrinsic significant of blending. Uplift our view to see that to be blended means to be adjusted, harmonized, tempered and mingled. Cause us to fellowship with one another and go through the cross, do things by the Spirit, and do everything to dispense You for the Body's sake.
2. Lord, reveal to us the necessity and significance of blending. Thank You for being the grain of wheat, the divine seed, that fell into the ground and died so that You may bring forth many grains in resurrection.
3. Lord, usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ. May we endeavor to reach the highest peak of the Lord's recovery, so that we can really, practically, and actually carry out Your economy, to produce an organic Body. May we all be useful to fulfill Your urgent need so that we may hasten Your coming back.
4. Lord, cause us to live a life not by ourselves but by another life—the life of the processed and consummated Triune God within us. Bring us on forward to be perfected God-men, matured ones who continually exercise to reject the self and live by another life—Your resurrection life.
5. Remind us, Lord, of our actual state—that we have been crucified and that we are finished. May we all live the new man by the bountiful supply of the Spirit, and always putting ourselves into the death-mold to be conformed to Your death. Strengthen us to live the life of a God-man.
6. Lord, make us vital ones in the church. Transform us not only to be the same as God in life and in nature but even in God's appearance. May we be those who finally close the age by living the corporate living of the perfected God-men as the reality of the Body of Christ.

North America/Other Burdens

1. The UK Building Project—new training center in London at Bower House. Construction will begin in December 2023.
2. Meeting halls in Malaga and Barcelona, Spain; Paris, France; and Stuttgart, Germany. Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide for the remodeling of these properties.

Church in Regina:

1. Pray for our campus work and the new students who are attending regularly: Chiara, Hope, Lysa, Matthew, Daine. Preserve these new ones and pray for their baptism.
2. Pray for the Church in Regina's direction for 2024. Revive us, Lord, to be shepherds feeding people. Increase our capacity to learn to feed, to shepherd, and to flock together. Pray for each small group meeting and for every one's revival.

Misaiming Concerning the Importance of Christmas

Misaiming: "Sometimes it's hard to be a Christian at Christmas. Okay, it's not that hard. After all, we do it every year. Still, it seems harder than it ought to be. Why does a holiday that is supposed to put the focus on faith often seem tinged with doubt? Why does a celebration of peace on earth seem to bring with it so much anxiety and fear? How can we somehow simultaneously worry both that Christmas has become overblown and that it is being canceled? Where are you, Christmas? Why can't I find you?" (Timothy Larsen, "No One Took Christ out of Christmas" Christianity Today, vol. 65, no. 9, Dec. 2021, p. 58).

Truth: The author's central argument—concerning whether Christians should be ashamed of celebrating a holiday that has become so commercialized and culturalized that it omits any true recognition of Christ and the "Virgin Birth"—is misplaced since the source of the holiday is Christless to begin with. The incarnation of Christ, ...certainly should be recognized for what it brought forth and its implications that resulted in, ultimately, the salvation of mankind through the person and work of Christ. However, **nowhere in the divine record does it command us as Christians to celebrate the birth of Christ.** In fact, **the Lord Himself only commanded us to remember His death** until He returns. Thus, Larsen is intuitively correct in addressing the apparent shame that Christians may face in celebrating the birth of Jesus, but he misses the intrinsic reason why...**The real question today** is not "Christmas, where can I find you?" but "**Christ, where can I find You?**" Because of His incarnation and subsequent death and resurrection, this Christ is near and available to all humanity—not just on Christmas but, actually, whenever a believer speaks the gospel to an unbeliever and that one receives the glad tidings; in that moment Christ is, yet again, born in a human being. This is the answer, then, that the author seeks—Christ is, indeed, not found and never was found in a pagan holiday; rather, He is found in the seeds of faith that we Christians have within us, that which we can, in our daily lives, sow into the hearts of those in our personal universe (Misaimings Vol XXVII No. 1 Spring 2022).

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