

Church in Regina

Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church—Week 1

Grace Given to Less than the Least

In Ephesians 3:8 Paul says, "To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel." Probably we all hold the concept that the apostle Paul was a specially selected one. But here he says that he was less than the least of all saints. If one who is less than the least can have such a vision, then certainly **all of us** can have the same thing. Do not say, "I am not an apostle, especially not the apostle Paul. Thus, I could never see as much as he did." Paul said that he was less than all of us. Paul said this because he had opposed God's economy. In Paul's understanding, the one who opposed the most was the smallest and the least. Since he was the most opposing, he became even less than the least. Peter, John, Andrew, and Matthew were with the Lord Jesus, but Paul was far away. No one else opposed Christ and the church as much as Paul did. Therefore, this one who was the farthest away and the most opposing became the least and smallest one. In Ephesians 3 Paul seemed to be saying, "Dear brothers in Ephesus, don't you realize that I was once far, far away? None of you was as far away from Christ as I was. Because I was the farthest away, I am less than the least of all the saints."

Anyone who is closer to Christ than Paul was is greater than he. Since we are all close to Christ, we are more than qualified to receive the vision and get the revelation. If the one farthest away from Christ could receive the revelation of Jesus Christ, then why could we not receive it also? We should be encouraged by this. **Do not be disappointed.** I am familiar with the subtlety of the enemy. When I was young, I excused myself, saying that the verses in Ephesians 3 were wonderful, but they were only for the apostle Paul, not for me. Since I did not care for these verses, I missed the grace. But one day I woke up and saw Ephesians 3:8, and I believed it. I jumped up, shouting, "Hallelujah! I am bigger than Paul. To one less than I, grace was given. If he could receive this grace, then why can't I? I'm more qualified than he was." I can testify that since that day the vision has always been with me. If we saw this, we would all be like the apostle Paul. I am not saying that you should presume to claim your apostleship. No, what I mean is that as far as qualification goes, we all are greater than Paul. Thus, we must pray, **"Lord, whether I understand it or not, Ephesians 3:8 says that Paul was less than I am. If grace was given to him, then, Lord, You must also give this grace to me. Standing on Ephesians 3:8, I claim the grace."**

We need this grace in order to see and enjoy all the riches of Christ. We must go to the Lord, the source of the heavenly vision, and see something. **There is no other way except to pray.** If you pray, you will be different, and the Lord will have a way. Many eyes will be opened, and many young people will turn from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God and will enjoy forgiveness, sanctification, and the common portion among all the saints in the proper church life. Ephesians 3 indicates that the riches of Christ are for the producing of the church. Therefore, in this portion of the Word we have Christ with all His riches and the church as God's instrument to shame His enemies, the principalities and powers, and through which God will make known the manifold wisdom of His economy. Pray-read all the verses mentioned in this chapter in a **serious, weighty way.** Say, **"Lord, I mean business with You. You have given grace to one who is less than I, and now You must give grace to me. Lord, I mean it. Lord, cause us all to experience the riches of the unlimited Christ and to have the church life that comes out of this enjoyment."** If you pray like this, something will happen. The Lord is real, living, present, practical, and available. If you mean business with Him, He will mean business with you... **Are you young people burning today?** If you are, then I challenge you to pray with all these verses. If you pray, something will come out, and you will **see the vision of the full gospel** and **become a witness of what you see of the Lord to today's young generation.** You all must fellowship about this chapter and pray about it both individually and corporately until you are transfused by the Lord with such a heavenly vision and are burdened for the Lord's move among today's young generation to bring a number of them into the Lord's testimony (Excerpts from CWWL, 1975-1976, vol. 3, Young People's Training, p.316).

Local Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg—Mar. 5
(Combined—Zhang's Home)
2. Bible Distribution at UofR—
Mar. 8
3. Love Feast—Mar. 10
4. Sisters' Meeting—Mar. 10
5. YP Conference—Mar. 29-31
(Registration deadline—17th)

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

Prayer Burdens

1. Lord, You were man-ized so we can be God-ized. Continue to work Yourself in us by adding more of Your life and nature into us to make us God-man. Make us those who are not just good men, spiritual men, or even holy men, but God-man.
2. Thank You for choosing us before the foundation of the world. Sanctify us unto sonship. Day by day cause us to live by the Spirit and have our being by the Spirit, with the Spirit, and according to the Spirit.
3. Lord, we give ourselves to be reeled in by the holding line of Your economy. Make us holy as You are holy and sonize us divinely. We pray that we all would grow to reach maturity, that our soul be fully sonized and eventually that our body will be glorified in full.
4. Lord, we need Your presence and Your speaking. Speak such fresh and living word to us day by day. As we come to Your word, wash us with the water in the word. Wash us from defilement and cleanse us that we may have genuine transformation.
5. Lord, open our eyes to see more of You, Your Body, and Your economy. Turn us from darkness to light to be persons full of life. Grant us a clear sky to see Your throne and be under Your authority. May we always have a conscience free of offense that we may enjoy Your presence.
6. Lord, open our eyes to see the vision of God's plan. May this vision cause us to act, to work for You, and to serve You. May we have a deeper realization that Christ is everything.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the German-speaking Young People's Conference at Gut Elim on March 8-10. Pray for the Lord's cherishing and nourishing of the young people through the meetings and the shepherding by the serving ones.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the application and processing of the Church in Regina as a charitable institution.
2. Pray for increase through the strengthening of our small group meetings and shepherding of the new ones, especially the college students.
3. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers of the newcomers and their settling down, that their personal lives will be blessed and that their church life will be enriched:
 - > Sorronda Family (Dana and Yeska)
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

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

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