

Church in Regina

The Enjoyment of Christ and Our Growth in Life unto Maturity—Week 1

THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST SOLVING THE PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH THROUGH THE WORK OF THE CROSS

Many students of the Bible think that 1 Corinthians is a book that merely deals with all kinds of problems. This book does deal with many problems, but it tells us **how we can deal with them**. Within a short time after being saved by the Lord, we discovered in our experience that **it is not that simple to be a Christian**. To live the Christian life is not easy. We encounter many problems in our daily life and church life. **The only way to solve these problems is by enjoying Christ.**

As an illustration of this, let us consider our physical body. God created us with a wonderful, organic, living body. Our body serves us and meets our need, but many times it gives us a lot of trouble. The basic way we can solve our bodily problems is by eating. **Eating is an enjoyment.** If we **eat properly**, many of our bodily problems will be solved. In the same way, the enjoyment of Christ solves the problems in the Body of Christ.

We need 1 Corinthians to speak to us concerning the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ. Paul begins this Epistle by saying that it is not only to the church in Corinth but also to **"all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours"** (1:2b). Every place means all the geographical places on this earth. Therefore, this Epistle is addressed to all of us, the ones who call upon the name of the Lord. This very Christ upon whom we call is **"theirs and ours."** **He is yours and He is mine. This means that Christ is our portion.** Christ has been given to us by God the Father to be our portion. He is the portion of the saints (Col. 1:12)...

In our hymnal there is a hymn about the church life that says, "I'm so happy in this lovely place" (Hymns, #1237). It is hard to enjoy such a hymn by ourselves. If we were at home alone in our living room, it would be difficult to sing, "I'm so happy in the living room." But if you are in a small group meeting of ten to fifteen saints, you can declare, "I'm so happy!" because you are having fellowship, a party. This party is not like the parties in the world with sinful and worldly things. It is a party of the Son, Jesus Christ. We are enjoying Him. We are happy with Him and happy because of Him. We are so happy because **He is our joy. He is our enjoyment. Our fellowship, our enjoyment, our party, is to partake of, to participate in, the all-inclusive Christ. The faithful God has called us with a purpose. This purpose is that we may participate in His Son, Jesus Christ. This means that God has given us Christ and that He has called us into the enjoyment of Christ.**

When we read 1 Corinthians in the past, we may have seen only the troubles and problems in the church in Corinth. But we need to realize that 1 Corinthians is a book on the enjoyment of Christ as the solution to all the problems. **Christ is our portion, and we have been called into the fellowship of this portion.** This very Christ is God's power and God's wisdom transmitted into us to be our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (v. 30). For **our past** we need **Christ as our righteousness**, for **our present** we need Him **as our sanctification**, and for **our future** we need Him **as our redemption** for the redemption of our body (Rom. 8:23), the transfiguration of our body (Phil. 3:21).

In chapter 5 of 1 Corinthians, Christ is our Passover and our unleavened bread for us to keep the feast. A feast is altogether an enjoyment. In chapter 10 Christ is our spiritual food and our spiritual drink, and He gave Himself to us by being crucified so that we can enjoy the fellowship of His blood and body. In this Christ there is an absolute, wonderful, excellent, and killing death. In the crucified and resurrected Christ there is the killing element that kills all our negative "germs." The food that we eat every day, on the one hand, nourishes us, and on the other hand, kills the negative elements in our physical body. In like manner, **if we eat Christ every day to enjoy Him, we will be nourished, and the negative elements within us will be killed.**

The enjoyment of the all-inclusive **Christ solves the problems in the church through the work of the cross.** By "the cross" I mean the death of Christ, especially the subjective aspect of His death. **The Christ whom we enjoy today is the all-inclusive One, and included in His being is the killing death.** As long as we enjoy Him, we get killed, **not in a negative way but in a positive way.** When we enjoy Him every day, we get killed every day. One brother may be very offended by another brother... but when this brother enjoys Christ, his germs of hatred toward the other brother are unconsciously killed. In marriage life the husbands offend the wives and the wives offend the husbands, but when the husbands and wives love the Lord and enjoy the Lord **day after day**, their bad feeling toward each other disappears. It is cleared up by the killing element within the very Christ whom they experienced. Inside of them there is a great change from hatred to love because of their enjoyment of Christ... This enjoyment solves our problems by killing the germs within us.

(Excerpts from The Excelling Gift for the Building Up of the Church, CWWL, 1988, vol. 4)

Local Announcements:

1. Combined Prayer Mtg—May 7 at AECC
2. Combined LTM—May 19 in Foam Lake
3. Winnipeg Conference Registration Deadline—May 26

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, we take You as our unique center and portion. Thank You for calling us into the fellowship where You become ours and we become Yours.
2. Cause us to forget the things which are behind so we can focus on and think of the one thing—the fullest enjoyment of Christ for the church life. Keep us pursuing the goal for the prize which we were called upward.
3. Thank You, Lord for Your faithfulness. You are faithful in turning us from idols and bringing us back to You as our only Source, the fountain of living waters. Continue to lead us into Your economy—to drink, eat, enjoy, absorb, and assimilate You to be Your expression.
4. Thank You, Lord for Your compassion, that even though we fail again and again, You do not allow us to be consumed. Stir in us the urgency to be matured in this age. Have Your way to be everything to us.
5. Thank You, Lord for being faithful in bringing us to Your recovery, a recovery of loving You with our first love and of loving one another for the building up of Your Body. Make this indispensable requirement our focus every day, that we would never forsake You and our first love for You and the saints.
6. Continue to remind us that love is the most excellent way for us to be anything or do anything for the building up of the church. Make our love for one another more real to us by blending us together for the oneness, the building up, and the reality of the Body.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the upcoming Memorial Day Conference in Bellevue, Washington on May 24 to 27. Make this feast profitable for all the saints in the Lord's Recovery through Your fresh speaking.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the baptism of the new college students who will be joining the College Training.
2. Pray for the propagation work in Foam Lake and Moose Jaw. Strengthen the saints who are there to be a shining testimony. Remember their whole families and open them that there will be household salvation and lampstands in these places.
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)
 - > Miranda Family (Ann Margarette and her family)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Home Meeting—Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM
- 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

CONTACT US:

Arcola Community Centre
Multipurpose Room
3860 Buckingham Dr Regina SK
thechurchinregina.org

306.737.3315

306.216.0685

306.529.5386

churchofthesaintsinregina@gmail.com