

CHURCH IN REGINA

Local Announcements

1. Combined Prayer Meeting— RPL Connaught Branch—May 6
2. Love Feast—May 11
3. Sisters' Mtg—May 11
4. Edmonton Conference—May 16-18
5. Church Pursuit—May 19
6. Brothers' Mtg—May 25
7. Church in Saskatoon Camping Invitation—June 20-22

Conferences & Training

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.14-16, Anaheim, CA
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.4-6, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 23-26, Phoenix, AZ
4. Summer Training—June 30-July 5, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—TBD
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.27-30, Indianapolis, IN
7. Winter Training—Dec.22-27, Anaheim, CA

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Living A Christian Life and Church Life Under the Government of God for the Economy of God—Week 4

The Misconception of the Believers—Dying with Christ

The **passivity** of many believers is **due to a misunderstanding of the truth of "dying with Christ."** The apostle said, "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God" (Gal. 2:20). Based on this, **believers assume** that the highest spiritual life is "no longer I." They assume that they should lose their personality, that they should have no more will and self-power, and that their "I" should die completely. Thus, they become a machine to obey God. They think that they should not have any more feelings, that they should annihilate their personality, and that they should annul all the desires, interests, and preferences of life. They become like a corpse. Henceforth, there are no more "I's"; their "persons" are all gone. They think this kind of commandment requires them to efface themselves, destroy themselves, and "commit suicide" to the point that they do not have any feeling about themselves or their need, situation, sensation, desire, environment, state, comfort, affliction, etc., so that they only sense God's operation, working, and moving. They assume that dying to oneself means having no more self-consciousness. Therefore, they hand their "self-consciousness" over to death and try to die to the point that they do not feel anything but the presence of God. They realize that death must be fulfilled. Therefore, every time they have self-consciousness, they single-mindedly put themselves to death...

They assume that they have been crucified with Christ and that the "I" is gone. They also assume that Christ is living within them and that the "I" is living no longer. "I am crucified with Christ." Therefore, the "I" has died. **They try** to put this death into practice by no longer having any thoughts or feelings. They think that their personality should no longer exist because "it is Christ who lives in me." Since Christ is within them, they think that they should subject themselves to Him in a passive way and let Him think and feel on their behalf. **Yet they fail** to notice the next phrase of Paul: "The life which I now live in the flesh"! Paul has died, but Paul has not died! **The "I" was crucified on the cross, yet the "I" still lives.** After passing through the cross, Paul said, "I now live"!

The cross does not annihilate the "I." It will exist forever. Even after going to heaven, there will still be "I." What meaning is there to salvation if someone can substitute for "me" to go to heaven? **The meaning of accepting Christ's death is to die to sin and hand over our soul-life to death.** Even the best, the noblest, and the cleanest have to be handed over to death. We have spoken about this many times before. God wants us to reject the heart that lives by our natural life; He wants us to **live by Him and absorb His life moment by moment** so that our whole being is supplied its needs. He does not intend to annihilate the various functions of our being, nor does He want our entire being to fall into passivity. On the contrary, **the Christian life requires us to daily, single-mindedly, actively, and trustingly exercise our will to deny our natural life and draw on God's spiritual life.** Just as the death of man's body is not an annihilation, and death in the lake of fire is not an annihilation, crucifixion with Christ in the spiritual life is not an annihilation. **Man's person should exist, and the representative of man's person—his will—also should exist.** Only the natural life by which man lives should die. This is the teaching of the Bible...

Therefore, we must remember that what we commonly know as **"dying to self"** is the **dying to the life, power, opinion, and activity of the self outside of God.** It is not the death of one's person. We do not exterminate ourselves to render our person non-existent. This must be made very clear. **When we say that we do not have the self, it means that we do not have the activity of the self.** We are not saying that there will not be the existence of our person! If a believer thinks that he should annihilate the existence of his person, that he should not think, feel, or have an opinion, or that he should not have any movement of the body, but instead that he should live his life in a dream, both day and night, without any knowledge of where he is, he will be possessed. He may think that this is a true death to the self, that he is indeed a person void of the self, and that his spiritual experience is higher than that of anyone else. Yet his consecration is not a consecration to God, but a consecration to evil spirits (Excerpts from The Spiritual Man (3), CWWN, vol.14, ch 3).

PRAYER BURDENS

1. Lord, we take You as our pattern not in a way of imitation but as Your reproduction. Keep us under the process of reproduction until You are fully living in us, formed in us, and have Your home in us.
2. Lord, we take You not only as our life but also our person. May it be a reality to us that "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me". As You lived because of the Father, we also live because of You as our person.
3. Strengthen us into our inner man so You can make home in our hearts. Subdue our unwilling heart and spread to every part of our being. Keep constituting us with Yourself until You are formed in us unto maturity.
4. Lord, we need You as the Shepherd and Overseer of our soul. Thank You for saving us from our endless wondering and comforting us in our turbulent situations. Continue to guide us in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.
5. Lord, we take Your yoke and learn from You. In You we have rest, peace, and satisfaction. Teach us to be meek and lowly in heart. Direct our thoughts, shepherd our emotions, and lead and guide us in our will.
6. Lord, in our own effort, we cannot be one with others. We need Your transforming life to saturate us and occupy us that we would think the one thing. Deal and oversee every part of our soul.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the conference in Milan, Italy on May 10-11. Please pray for the blending of the saints in the Lord's Body and the speaking of the Lord for His further move and building up in Europe.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the propagation work in Saskatchewan. Strengthen the saints in Foam Lake, Yorkton and Stenen. Encourage them and supply them that there would be a lampstand in Yorkton for Your testimony. Remember Bro. Isaac, Bro. Charles, and Bro. William.
2. Pray for the purchase of the meeting hall and the favorable acceptance of the offer on May 9. Pray that there will be no other conditions imposed and no further increase in price.
3. Pray for the continuing of the Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading. Remember Bro. Nathan, Sis. Cassie and our new ones: Doris Di, Julie Cao, Wendy Wang, and Tina Huang.
4. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the permanent resident immigration papers:
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)
 - > Temonio Family (William and Melanie 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
- Home Meeting—Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—Mondays 7:15-8:15PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Sundays 4:00-5:30 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM