

CHURCH IN REGINA

ISSUE # 4 | JANUARY 25, 2026 | VOLUME XIV

Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
~ Matt.28:19

Colossians 2:8-15 presents a full description and definition of Christ as the soil, in which we do not lack anything; **as we take time to absorb Him** as the all-inclusive land, **the facts in these verses become our experience...** In verse 8 Paul says, "Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ." As Paul is admonishing the believers in Colossae to walk in Christ and be rooted in Him to absorb the riches of Christ, he also warns them to **beware of philosophy, the tradition of men, and the elements of the world**, which could shake them and carry them away from Christ as the good land. At that time in Colossae there was the problem of culture. Culture is the top human invention, and it invaded the church. We cannot say that culture is sinful, but it is full of the elements of the world expressed in traditions. These are the basic principles of culture, which can distract us from Christ. We need to be converted from many outward things, including many good things and even spiritual things that are apart from Christ. In Life Messages, Volume 2, Brother Lee says, 'Yes, **occasionally Christ within directs you, but most hours of the day you are governed by something else...** You live according to science, philosophy, local church custom, and the ethics of your culture...If you consider quietly, however, you will realize that you are not living Christ. You are living something else, whether you call it the church life or local church custom. Unconsciously, you are living your culture" (The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1979, vol. 1, p. 331).

We may do things in a way that is **customary in the church** but without exercising our spirit to contact the Lord. If this is our case, **we are unknowingly being carried away**. We need to beware of letting any of these things carry us away, and **we need to be deeply rooted in Christ** to absorb all the elements of the rich soil.

We need to forget our situation, our condition, our failures, and our weaknesses and simply take time to absorb the Lord; as we take time to absorb Him, we grow with the growth of God in us for the building up of the Body of Christ. Colossians 2:19 says that we can grow with the growth of God. **The growth of God takes place through our roots absorbing the elements in the soil.** God is increasing in us by our absorbing these elements for the building up of the Body. Plants need new, fresh, and fine roots, which are called root hairs. These fine root hairs enable the roots to have much more surface area in order to absorb as much moisture and nutrients as possible. Old roots provide stability, but they do not function as well in absorbing the moisture and nutrients in the soil.

Practically speaking, **absorbing the elements in Christ as the soil requires a few things.** First, we need to **acknowledge that we are rooted in Christ.** This is a fact. We should not doubt or question that we have been rooted in Christ. Second, we need to **spend time to deepen our roots.** The best time is in the morning. It is not sufficient to quickly read a few verses and a short portion of the ministry. We must spend time—at least ten minutes but thirty is best—to deepen our roots. Third, we need to **empty ourselves.** We must not allow any blockage to remain. As the Lord's parable in Matthew 13 indicates, in order for a plant to grow in a healthy way, there must be the removal of any rocks, which signify the hindrances of hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity. These things crowd the roots. Thus, we need to empty ourselves before the Lord. Fourth, we need to **extend fresh roots in simplicity and genuineness.** Near the end of his life Brother Lee offered many simple prayers...Some are only one sentence, such as, "I thank You for a good night's sleep and good food". We do not need to offer routine, stale prayers, but we should **offer the Lord simple, genuine prayers.** These are fresh, new roots that can absorb moisture and nutrients. Fifth, to practically take time to extend our root system to absorb the moisture and nutrients from Christ as the soil, we should **never be showy.** We should not pray-read or call on the Lord as a show. Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-18 indicate that we need to pray and fast privately and in secret. I hope that the saints in the Lord's recovery will spend much time with the Lord, taking time to behold Him and absorb His rich nutrients and elements until these riches are stored up in them and constituted into them so that many riches will flow out of the saints to the hungry and needy ones in every place. (Excerpt from The Ministry of the Word, vol. 29, No. 07, pp.65-85).

Church Announcements:

1. Combined Prayer Mtg at RPL Library Sunrise Branch
2. Brothers' Meeting – Jan. 25
3. Prairie College Conference – Feb. 21 to 22. Registration deadline (for hospitality purposes) is on Feb. 8.

Conferences & Trainings

1. Chinese-Speaking Conference – Feb. 13-15 Anaheim CA USA
2. Spring ITERO – Mar. 20-22 Anaheim CA USA
3. Memorial Day Conference – May 22-25, Dallas TX USA
4. Summer Training – Jun. 29-Jul.4 Anaheim CA USA
5. Fall ITERO – Sept. 24-26 Amsterdam Netherlands
6. Thanksgiving Conference – Nov. 26-29 Denver CO USA
7. Winter Training – Dec. 21-26 Anaheim CA USA

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PRAYER BURDENS:

1. Lord, You are the land, the realm in which we are rooted and may walk. Thank You for our allotted portion and for delivering us out of the authority of darkness and transferring us into Your kingdom.
2. Bring us in the light that we may enjoy You as the all-inclusive good land in Your redeeming and generating aspects. You are light and the source of light. Enlighten us and make us luminaries shining forth the light within us.
3. How sweet are Your words to our taste, sweeter than honey to our mouths! We come to the word as milk for us to drink and honey for us to eat. May we all store within us sweet and refreshing words that we can minister to one another.
4. Lord, we have everything we need in You – for the fullness of the Godhead dwells in You and we have been made full in You. Cause us to stay rooted in You, not allowing anyone to carry us away.
5. Lord, we absorb and assimilate the riches from the soil that we may grow and be built up. We remain in this soil that has the killing power to put the flesh to death, that causes us to be buried, raised up and vivified, wiping out the handwriting in ordinances.
6. Lord, we want our consecration to be fresh, to have our roots tender that we may absorb Your riches. We want to enjoy and experience You daily and hourly, taking time to absorb and assimilate Your rich elements.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Pray for the upcoming Prairie College Conference on Feb. 21-22, 2026. May the college students joining the Bible study every Friday be released to join the weekend conference.
2. Pray for the first Lord's Table Meeting in Lille, France on January 25. Please pray that the Lord will continue to build up His testimony in Lille and in other cities in France. (This is the third new local church raised up in France since the Gospel trips related to the summer Olympics in Paris 2024.)
3. Pray for the raising up of a lampstand in Gdansk, Poland. Please pray that the Lord will reach more seeking ones in Gdansk through the gospel trip at the end of January and that two more families will move there and live near the university.

Local Burdens:

1. Pray for the purchase of the meeting hall.
2. Pray for the new college students to continue joining the Bible study this semester and become remaining fruits.
3. Pray for positive and immediate approval of the permanent resident immigration papers of Alforte and Gonzales families.

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—Mondays 7:15-8:15PM
- ✓ College Meetings—Fridays 6:30-8:30PM
- ✓ YP Meetings—Sundays 4:00-5:30 PM
- ✓ Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- ✓ Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-8:30PM