

Please pray:

- ✳ May what we have seen during the Victoria day conference concerning the one new man become a vision that will control our daily living and become the goal of our lives. May we be willing to cooperate with the Lord to accomplish His purpose by being renewed in the spirit of our mind, taking Him as our person, and living by Him in all big and small situations so that the one new man could be perfected.
- ✳ Memorial Day conference in Kansas City, Missouri (May 25th-28th): May the Lord release His up to date speaking to the churches through this conference; may the Lord cover all the details of this conference and gain what He is after.
- ✳ Young people Bible reading schedule: May the Lord strengthen the young people to keep their Bible reading schedule; may they come to appreciate, enjoy and love the Word of God.
- ✳ Poland Bible distributions: Through recent Bible distributions, we distributed 701 Bibles in Krakow and 5,107 Bibles in Warsaw. Please pray that the Lord will use all of these Bibles to cause the Polish people to turn their hearts to the living God and realize God's economy for His kingdom to increase and the enemy's kingdom of darkness to suffer loss. May the Lord open the way for many of the personal contacts to become the increase of the churches.
- ✳ A group of saints in Eugene, Oregon have sponsored a billboard ad that offers free copies of the New Testament Recovery Version. The billboard is located near the University of Oregon, and will be up for the next 12 months. Please pray that many students and members of the community will see the ad and respond by ordering a Bible from the BfA website.
- ✳ Laval: May we continue to pray for this land; that the Lord may continue to shepherd the contacts in their situations; may the Lord gain a proper testimony in the city of Laval according to His timing.
- ✳ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✳ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Psa 119:121 - 140:13 (see website for daily schedule)
- ✳ HWMR: The Recovery of the Church, week 7

Announcements

- ✳ The last Day for regular registration of live summer training and video training is passed. Any registration received now will be subject to a late fee. Late registration will be \$300 for the live and \$150 for the video training.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

May 20	✳ Serving: Chinese Central
	✳ Cleaning: English Central, Chinese Central 3 and College (Dennis, Joe, Qiang, Wenxiong responsible)
27	✳ Serving: Chinese South B
	✳ Cleaning: English West, Chinese West and Young People (John Y., Boy, Aaron Cha. responsible)
June 3	✳ Serving: Chinese East
	✳ Cleaning: Chinese North and Chinese Central 1 (Jun, Gerry Chan responsible)
10	✳ Serving: Chinese South A
	✳ Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✳ May 25-28, Kansas City, Missouri: **Memorial Day conference**
- ✳ July 2-7, 2018, Anaheim: **Summer Training**
- ✳ July 3-10, 2018, Montreal: **Summer Video Training (English/French)**
- ✳ Aug 1-8, 2018: **Maritime Blending Trip**

The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

20 MAY LORD'S DAY	✳ 9:30am- 10am: Lord's Table meeting
	✳ 10am-12:15pm: Victoria Day Conference, Message 3
	✳ 12:15pm - 1:30pm: Lunch
	✳ 1:30pm - 3pm: Victoria Day Conference, Message 4
21 Monday	✳
22 Tuesday	✳ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
23 Wednesday	✳
24 Thursday	✳
25 Friday	✳ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)

26
Saturday



27
MAY
LORD'S DAY



10am- 12:15pm: Lord's Table and
Prophesying meetings
12:15pm - 1:30pm: Lunch

GOVERNMENTAL FORGIVENESS

There are at least four different kinds of forgiveness in the Bible. We will give a different name to each of them: First, there is eternal forgiveness. Second, there is instrumental forgiveness. Third, there is forgiveness in fellowship. Fourth, there is governmental forgiveness. If a believer desires to run a straight course in his spiritual pursuit, he must learn the meaning of God's governmental forgiveness. We will first distinguish the differences between these kinds of forgiveness, and then we will speak about governmental forgiveness.

I. ETERNAL FORGIVENESS

Let us call the forgiveness that comes with our salvation God's eternal forgiveness. This is the forgiveness spoken of by the Lord Jesus in Luke 24:47: "That repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." This is eternal forgiveness. The forgiveness spoken of in Romans 4:7 is eternal forgiveness as well.

This forgiveness is called eternal forgiveness because once God forgives our sins, He forgives them eternally. God casts our sins into the depths of the sea and the abyss. He no longer sees or remembers our sins. This is the forgiveness we obtained at the time we were saved. The moment we believe in the Lord Jesus, we are forgiven of all our sins; the Lord removes all of our sins, and we are left with no trace of sin before God. This is called eternal forgiveness.

II. INSTRUMENTAL FORGIVENESS

God often tells man directly, "I forgive you." But often He declares His forgiveness through the church: "God has forgiven your sins." Therefore, the Bible shows us another kind of forgiveness which we call instrumental forgiveness. John 20:22-23 says, "And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. Whosoever sins you forgive, they are forgiven them; and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained." In sending the Holy Spirit to His church, the Lord charged the church to be His representative on earth. The church has become His vessel. Forgiveness is now granted through the church. This is called instrumental forgiveness. However, we must be careful not to fall into the kind of forgiveness taught by the Catholics. We must realize

that the basis of instrumental forgiveness is the Lord's breathing into the church and saying to the church, "Receive the Holy Spirit." After the church receives the Holy Spirit, it has the power to retain and forgive sins. The church can declare that the sins of certain ones are retained, while the sins of others are forgiven. The church has such authority because it is under the authority of the Holy Spirit. The Lord breathed into the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" After this He said, "Whosoever sins you forgive, they are forgiven them; and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained." This is a kind of indirect forgiveness. In this forgiveness God forgives men through the church; the church acts as His channel.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #18, Governmental Forgiveness by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.