

## Please pray:

- ✿ New year 2020: May we learn how to count the Lord's blessings for the year 2019 and praise and thank Him for every situation that He has allowed us to experience last year; may we consecrate ourselves afresh for this new coming year; may we give Him the full ground and opening to accomplish what He has ordained for us in this new year; may this new year be a year of cooperating with the Lord to build the church in truth, in life and in evangelization.
- ✿ Interceding prayers and shepherding: that we would have an intimate concern for all the saints in the church, including the ones we don't know so well and even the ones whom we think are strong; that we all would be transferred from our own personal universe, concerned just for our needs and interests, into the universe of the one new man; that we may have a living to intercede for one another's needs and have a heart to visit the saints to shepherd them.
- ✿ College students retreat (Jan 17-19): Pray for all the fellowship and preparation; may the Lord cover every aspect of this retreat including the safety, the traveling, the atmosphere, the pursuit, the enjoyment of Him, the release of the Lord's burden, the receiving of the Lord's dispensing, etc. May the Lord richly bless this retreat and gain what He desire for this time.
- ✿ GTCA (Jan 27 - Feb 9): (1) Pray for the three Canadian cities: Airdrie (AB); London / Guelph. Pray that this event eventually leads to raising up of two new lampstands in Airdrie and in Guelph; (2) Specifically pray that the Lord would prepare many hungry people, both believers and unbelievers, to meet the GTCA serving ones, receive Bibles and literature, and open to the gospel; (3) Pray that we can find several outreach venues, such as college campuses, malls, markets and other public locations where people gather.
- ✿ 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: Matt 11:1 – 13:12
- ✿ HWMR: Living in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Keeping the Principles of the Body, week 5

## Announcements

- ✿ Winter college retreat at Ste Adele is from Jan 17 to 19, 2020. Please register by Jan 12. (space is limited).
- ✿ Prayer for the two week GTCA trip to London and Guelph Jan 25 to Feb 9, 2020. Fellowship if you would like to join.
- ✿ All Canada FTTA Short term training and blending trip is from May 1 to 9, 2020. Registration deadline is March 1.

- ✿ The 2020 HWMR subscription is now open. The cost will be \$70 for the annual subscription. Please sign up with your district serving ones and pay the \$70 subscription by December 29 so we can order the correct number of books.
- ✿ The monthly Ministry digest is now available for order and subscription. It is available in English, Chinese and Spanish and Korean. The purpose of this monthly digest is to help the saints get into the riches contained in the Collected Works of Witness Lee topic by topic. For more information go to [ism.org](http://ism.org). Please stop by the bookroom if you have questions or to place your standing order.

## Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

5 Jan	Serving: English (Rose...) Cleaning: English West, Chinese West and Young People (John Y., Boy, Aaron Chao responsible)
12*	*District Meeting Serving: Chinese South (陳世山, 劉學成...) Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)
19	Serving: Chinese Central (賈筱榮...) Cleaning: Chinese North and Chinese Central 1 (Jun, Gary Chen responsible)
26	Serving: French (Julie ...) Cleaning: Chinese East 1 and Chinese East 2 (Xie & John responsible)

## Upcoming Events

- ✿ January 12: Lord's day meeting in districts
- ✿ February 9: Lord's day meeting in districts
- ✿ Feb. 14-16, Anaheim, CA: **International Chinese-speaking Conference**
- ✿ Feb 21 – 23, Toronto, ON: **College and Working Saints Conferences**
- ✿ March 8: Lord's day meeting in districts  
*The church website lists more events*

## This Week's Activities

5 January	✿ 10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
LORD'S DAY	✿ 12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast ✿ 1:30pm: Video Training, message 12
6 Monday	✿
7 Tuesday	✿ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
8 Wednesday	✿

9	✿	
Thursday		
10	✿	6:30-9:00pm: Various Home Meetings
Friday		(English/French/Chinese)
11	✿	
Saturday		
12	✿	10am- 12pm Lord's Table &
January		Prophesying meetings
LORD'S DAY	✿	12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast

## TERMINATING THE PAST

### I. THE TEACHING OF THE BIBLE BEING CONCERNED WITH WHAT ONE DOES AFTER SALVATION (continued)

"And you, though dead in your offenses and sins, in which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience; among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest; but God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ" (Eph. 2:1-5). These verses do not tell us how we should terminate the things of the flesh. There is only one termination—our Lord's termination of everything for us based upon the great love with which God loved us and the rich mercy of God.

Ephesians 4:17-24 also speaks of our past condition. "This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness...that you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality."

"Therefore having put off the lie" (Eph. 4:25a). This refers to the things hereafter. It does not tell us how to deal with our past falsehood but that henceforth we should no longer remain in falsehood. Today we must "speak truth each one with his neighbor...Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation, neither give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:25b-27). These verses do not refer to the past but to the future. "He who steals should steal no more" (Eph. 4:28a). Paul did not say that he who steals needs to return what was stolen. His emphasis

is still on hereafter. What was stolen in the past is another matter. "But rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable...Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice" (Eph. 4:28b-31).

"But fornication and all uncleanness or greediness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints, and obscenity and foolish talking or sly, filthy jesting, which are not becoming, but rather the giving of thanks" (Eph. 5:3-4). These words are still in the same principle. They speak of things after one believes in the Lord. They are not about the termination of things done before one believes in the Lord.

After reading all the Epistles, we find a marvelous truth: God pays attention only to what a person should do after he has believed in the Lord. He does not pay attention to the things he has done in his past. He does not tell us what to do with them. This is a basic principle.

Many people are in bondage because they have accepted a wrong gospel. Such a gospel places too much stress on dealing with one's past. This does not mean that we do not need to deal with our past. Certain things of our past must be dealt with, but such a dealing is not the foundation of our going on. God always draws our attention to the fact that our past sins are under the blood. We are fully forgiven and saved because the Lord Jesus has died for us. Our salvation is not based on how we deal with the past. Man is not saved by repentance for his past bad deeds, just as he is not saved by trusting in his past good deeds. Man is saved through the salvation accomplished by the Lord on the cross. We should hold fast to this foundation.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #2, Terminating the Past by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.