

## Please pray:

- ✳ **Memorial day conference (May 28-30):** (1) May this time will be sanctified to the Lord. (2) Pray that we would have circumcised ears to hear the up-to-date speaking from the Lord. (3) May the Lord release what is on His heart for this conference.
- ✳ **Chinese gospel meeting (June 4):** May the people who have been released in the heavenlies be released to attend this gospel meeting; may the people attending come with an open heart and open ears; may all the preparations be headed up in Christ; may the saints speaking and serving be filled with the Spirit inwardly and outwardly so that they may speak and serve in oneness with the Lord; may the Lord gain remaining fruit through this gospel meeting.
- ✳ **Vital groups:** Pray for the raising up of vital groups through much prayers in the church in Montréal in all the languages; that all the saints would rise up to live vitally with vital companions for gospel preaching, shepherding, pursuing the truth, and prophesying to build the church.
- ✳ **Situation between Russia and Ukraine and the situation in Europe:** (1) Pray for overflowing grace for the saints who are caring for the Ukrainian saints and refugees and that many Ukrainian saints would be supplied to rise up to preach the gospel of the kingdom to their fellow Ukrainians. (2) Pray for the saints affected by the war – may they see what the Lord is doing on earth today and function in the matter of binding and loosing, the corporate God-man living and the shepherding that will end this age.
- ✳ **Vietnam:** Pray for the distribution of seven Rhema e-books, that the gospel of the kingdom can be spread to all Vietnamese-speaking people and the word of the ministry can be supplied to the seeking Christians.
- ✳ **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** saints, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

## Weekly Readings

- ✳ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Eph 4:11-5:33.
- ✳ HWMR: Knowing the Truth, Being Absolute for the Truth, and Proclaiming the Truth in the Present Evil Age, Week 6.

## Announcements

- ✳ There will be a Chinese gospel meeting on Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 4:30pm to 6pm.

- ✳ Memorial day conference (May 28-31): Blending between Eastern Canada churches via Zoom. Each language group will have a different schedule. The language groups are English, French, Chinese, Spanish and Korean and each has a different schedule. Please contact your district brothers for the schedule.
- ✳ The July 2022 Semi-Annual Training will be held from July 4 to 9 in Anaheim, California.
- ✳ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and provide us with your prayer burdens before Saturday of every week. Please email your prayer burdens to Allan Y. at [allan.yeow81@gmail.com](mailto:allan.yeow81@gmail.com). Please note that due to limited space on the newsletter, we may not be able to publish all the prayer burdens that are sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

## Upcoming Events

- ✳ May 27-30: **International Memorial Day Blending Conference.**
- ✳ July 4-9, Anaheim: **Summer Semi-Annual Training.**
- ✳ October 6-8, Anaheim: **International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

*Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.*

## This Week's Activities

<b>Sunday May 22 LORD'S DAY</b>	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and Prophesying meetings.
<b>Monday May 23</b>	✳
<b>Tuesday May 24</b>	✳ 7:30-9:00pm: Various prayer meetings by districts (English, French and Chinese) by conference calls.
<b>Wednesday May 25</b>	✳
<b>Thursday May 26</b>	✳
<b>Friday May 27</b>	✳ 6:30-9:00pm: Various home meetings by districts (English, French and Chinese) on Zoom.
<b>Saturday May 28</b>	✳
<b>Sunday May 29 LORD'S DAY</b>	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and Prophesying meetings.

## FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

Scripture Reading: Matt. 18:21-35, 15-20; Luke 17:3-5.

### II. RESTORING THE BROTHER (cont'd)

#### E. Finally Telling the Church

Verse 17 says, "If he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church." If we cannot deal with the problem by ourselves, we should bring one or two with us to deal with it. If the other person still refuses to hear them, we have to tell it to the church. Telling the church does not mean that we publicize the matter when the whole church is gathered together. It means telling the responsible elders in the church. If the conscience of the church also feels that this brother is wrong, he must be wrong. If the offending brother is one who walks before God, he should lay aside his own view and accept the witness of two or three. If he does not accept the witness of two or three, he should at least accept the verdict of the church. The unanimous view and judgment of the church reflect the heart of the Lord. The brother should realize that it is wrong to ignore the church. He should be meek and not trust in his own feelings or his own judgment. Rather, he should accept the feeling of the church.

What if he still refuses to hear? Verse 17 continues, "If he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector." This is a serious word. In other words, if he refuses to hear the church, all the brothers and sisters in the church should no longer communicate with him. Since he does not want to face his problem, the church should consider him as a Gentile and a tax collector and should have no fellowship with him. Though he is not excommunicated, all the brothers should consider him as a Gentile and tax collector, and no one should pay any attention to him. If he speaks, no one should listen. If he comes to break bread, everyone should ignore him. If he prays, no one should say "amen." If he wants to come, he can come. If he wants to go, he can go. But everyone should consider him as an outsider. If God's children will hold such an attitude in one accord, it will be easy to restore a brother. The purpose for dealing with him in this way is still to restore him.

Verse 18, which says, "Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven," is related to the previous verses. The Lord in heaven acknowledges what the church does on earth. If the church considers a person who refuses to hear the church as being wrong, the church will look upon him as a Gentile and a tax collector, and our Lord in heaven will acknowledge the same thing.

Verses 19 and 20 are also based on the preceding portion. "Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens. For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst." Why does the previous verse says "that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established"? Here we see that the principle of two or three is the principle of the church. If two or three act upon a matter in one accord, and if these two or three deliberate something before God in one accord, God will acknowledge the decision. Matthew 18:18-20 is spoken in the context of our dealing with the brothers. When a matter is brought up to two or three people and then to the whole church, the Father in heaven will acknowledge such a decision.

Here we want to mention something in passing. How does the church make important decisions? Acts 15 shows us that when brothers come together, everyone can speak and debate. Even those who are for the law can stand up and speak their mind, even though their opinion is altogether wrong. In other words, all the brothers have equal opportunity to speak. But not all the brothers can arbitrate matters. All the brothers can express how they feel before the Lord. After the elders have listened to all of them, they should speak their feelings before God and make a final judgment on the matter. The responsible brothers may have the same feeling before the Lord. This feeling is the feeling of the church; it is also the conscience of the church. After they have spoken, everyone should submit and go along with them in one accord. This is the way of the church. The church does not muzzle people's mouths or forbid anyone to speak. But no one should speak carelessly. When the time comes for a decision, the elders should speak under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and all the brothers and sisters should listen to the elders. If the Holy Spirit's authority is present in the church, such matters can be resolved easily. If the Holy Spirit has no authority in the church and there are many opinions of the flesh, the church will not be able to arbitrate anything at all. We must learn to submit to the authority of the Holy Spirit and to listen to the church.

May God be gracious to us. May we be like our Master who is so full of grace. If a brother offends us, we should forgive him from the heart. Moreover, we should bear the responsibility of restoring him according to the Lord's Word. May the Lord lead us to live such a life in the church.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #14, *Forgiveness and Restoration*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.