

Please Pray

- ✿ **The Montréal Responsible Brothers' Retreat Meeting (Feb. 24):** The Montréal responsible brothers will have a day together to pray, fellowship and consider the situation of the church and the saints. May the responsible brothers learn how to take the Lord as their head in this time; may the Lord give the brothers His feelings and His direction on how to bring the church in Montréal on; may the brothers be diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit and be attuned to be in harmony so that the Lord could pour out His blessing.
- ✿ **The 2024 Eastern Canada College-Age Winter Conference, Toronto (March 1-3):** May the students be released to participate in this conference; may the students be prepared inwardly to receive a fresh speaking and dispensing from the Lord; may all the services and preparations be covered by the Lord; may the Lord anoint the speaking brothers to be one with Him and one with His burden; may the Lord release what is on His heart to the students in this conference.
- ✿ **Prayer for Israel:** (1) Pray for God's kingdom, that His will be done, as in Heaven, so also on Earth. (2) Pray for the tripartite being of the saints in Israel to be protected and preserved for the Lord's interests, and for the Lord's building work among the saints to be intensified for the shaming of His enemy. (3) Pray for the spiritual forces that seek to destroy the Lord's interests to be shattered, and for God's move in His economy to advance in this region. (4) Pray for the six young brothers and one sister who have been called to serve in the area. (5) Pray for the 8-10 young saints meeting in Haifa who have begun to break bread, for the Lord to continually strengthen and lead them into the reality of the church life.
- ✿ **Beginning of Full-Time Training in London (FTTL) Spring Term (February 12):** Please pray that the Lord will operate in the spring semester of the FTTL in London to raise up and perfect a group of young saints for His move and testimony in Europe.
- ✿ **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** The saints, their contacts, and for the persons in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✿ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Gen 48:1 – Exo 3:22.
- ✿ HWMR: An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery before His Appearing, Volume 1, Week 5.
- ✿ Life-Study of John, Messages 43 and 44.

Announcements

- ✿ The 2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Bellevue, WA from May 24-27, 2024. The in-person meetings of the 2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be streamed live at lsmwebcast.com for those whose time zone permits them to watch the live meetings by webcast. Please check with responsible brothers for more information regarding the registration.

Announcements (cont'd)

- ✿ The 2024 Summer Olympics Games in Paris, France: We believe that this is a wonderful opportunity prepared by the Lord as the Lord of the harvest. We encourage all the saints to open to the Lord regarding this next milestone in the Lord's move in Europe, and we would like to invite the saints in the Lord's recovery to join us in this labour next year. Please contact brother [Allan Yeow](mailto:Allan.Yeow) for more information and to be provided with the link to the form to express your interest. May we join the Lord in this move by praying, giving, and going.
- ✿ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com, by Wednesday evening of every week. Please also note that due to the limited space in the newsletter, we may not be able to publish all prayer burdens sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✿ February 24, Montréal: **The Montréal Responsible Brothers' Retreat Meeting.**
- ✿ March 1-3, Toronto: **The 2024 Eastern Canada College-Age Winter Conference.**
- ✿ April 12-14, Anaheim, California: **Spring International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones ("ITERO").**
- ✿ May 24-27, Bellevue, WA: **The 2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference.**

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

This Week's Activities

Sun-Feb-18 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Feb-19	✿
Tues-Feb-20	✿ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Feb-21	✿
Thur-Feb-22	✿
Fri-Feb-23	✿ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Feb-24	✿ The Montréal Responsible Brothers' Retreat Meeting.
Sun-Feb-25 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

BAPTISM

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12

Baptism is a great subject in the Bible. We need to be clear about two aspects concerning baptism. First, before we are baptized, we need to be clear as to what baptism can do for us. Second, after we are baptized, we need to look backward and ask, "What is the significance of baptism?" In the first case, the baptism pool and the water are before us. As we are going to be baptized, we should ask ourselves, "What can baptism do for me?" After our baptism, we need to ask, "What is the meaning of my baptism?" One is a question posed in foresight, and the other is a question posed in hindsight. The former touches one's knowledge prior to baptism, and the latter, one's understanding after baptism.

I. WHAT BAPTISM DOES FOR A PERSON

"He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16). This verse shows what baptism does for a person.

A. Baptism saving man from the world

"He who believes and is baptized shall be saved." I suppose that all Protestants are a little afraid of this verse. Therefore, they dare not read it. Whenever they read this verse, they change it to, "He who believes and is saved shall be baptized." But the Lord's Word does not say this. In order to avoid the error of Catholicism, the Protestants deliberately go around God's Word. However, as they evade the error of Catholicism, they fall into another error. The Lord's Word is clear: "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved." Man has no authority to change it to, "He who believes and is saved shall be baptized."

1. *Salvation being a deliverance from the world*

Let us now pay attention to the meaning of the word salvation in the Bible. What is a person being saved from? According to the Bible, a man is saved from the world, not hell. The opposite of eternal life is perdition, but the Bible does not regard salvation as the opposite of perdition. The Bible shows us that salvation is one's deliverance from the world. As long as a person is in the world, he is already in perdition.

Let us consider man's condition before God. Today man does not have to do anything to perish. I will not perish because I have killed someone, and I will not be saved from perdition because I have not

killed someone. The fact is that the whole world is perishing. From among the perishing ones, God has pulled us out and saved us. The whole world is perishing corporately, but God is saving men one by one, individually. God does not catch all the fish from the sea and then separate the good from the bad, assigning some to salvation while destining others to perdition. All the fish in the sea are perishing. Those which are caught by God are saved; the rest remain in the sea.

Hence, the matter of salvation and perdition has nothing to do with whether or not you have believed or how good your conduct is; it has to do with your location. If you are in the boat, you are saved. If you are still in the sea, you are perishing. You may not have done anything, but as long as you are in the world, that is enough for you to perish. It does not matter whether you are good or bad, a gentleman or a villain. It does not matter whether or not you live by your conscience. As long as you are in the world, you are finished. If you have not left that place, you are condemned by God.

2. *Salvation being a matter of position*

Because Adam sinned and became a sinner, all men became sinners. Man need not sin to be qualified as a sinner. All have become sinners through one man's sin. Today God has saved you from among many men. If you are on the world's side, no matter what kind of person you are, you are opposed to God, and you are God's enemy. Your position is wrong; it is a perishing position, one that leads to perdition. If you are a person in the world, you are perishing.

The word salvation has been used freely among us and with much confusion. There is a distinction between salvation and obtaining eternal life. Obtaining eternal life is a personal matter, but salvation is a matter not only of receiving the eternal life personally but also of coming out from a wrong corporate body. Brothers and sisters, are you clear about this distinction? Receiving eternal life is a personal matter. Salvation, however, is not just a personal matter; it has to do with the corporate body to which you formerly belonged.

Salvation means coming out of one corporate body into another. The receiving of eternal life speaks of what one has entered into; it does not speak of what one has come out of. Salvation includes both a coming out of and an entering in. Therefore, the scope of salvation is wider than that of receiving eternal life. It includes being delivered from the world, that is, coming out of the world.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 48, Messages for Building Up New Believers (1), Chapter 2, *BAPTISM*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.