

Please Pray

- ✿ **Shepherding According to God:** 1 Cor. 12:24-26 – “...God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked, that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another. And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.” May we all be under the organic shepherding of Christ and be one with Him to shepherd one another. May all the members have the same care for one another for the building up of the Body of Christ in love.
- ✿ **Spring 2024 Eastern Canada Young People’s Conference in Montréal (March 29-31):** In fellowship with the leading brothers in Eastern Canada, we felt that it would be a good opportunity for the young people in Eastern Canada to visit the Church in Montréal for the sake of the blending in the Body. May the Lord cover and head up all the preparations and services. May this be a wonderful time of blending in the Body. May the young people be released to attend this time. May they be prepared to be ready to receive a fresh and personal touch of the Lord. May the Lord gain the young people in a deeper way during this time. May the Lord’s heart’s desire concerning the young people be released in this conference.
- ✿ **Full-Time Training in Anaheim – New Term (FTTA: February 18; FTTA-MA: March 18):** May the Lord gain the trainees more in this new term. May the trainees cooperate with the Lord’s training and working in them in this term. May each one receive the training that the Lord has prepared for them.
- ✿ **Church in Montréal Meeting Hall Renovations:** We are currently in the process of renovating the inside of the meeting hall. This project will cost approximately \$100,000 in totality. We also have the loan from another locality of \$75,000 that needs to be paid back within two years. May each one of us continually consider our financial offerings before the Lord. May the Lord direct us in our giving to the needs of the church, the saints, and the needy ones. May we store up for ourselves “treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not dig through nor steal.”
- ✿ **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: Exo. 4:1 – 10:29.
- ✿ HWMR: An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord’s Recovery before His Appearing, Volume 2, Week 7.
- ✿ Life-Study of John, Messages 47 and 48.

Announcements

- ✿ The Spring 2024 Eastern Canada Young People’s Conference will be held in our meeting hall from March 29 to March 31. The cost is \$75 per person and the registration deadline is the Lord’s Day, March 17. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/3QFuJGfd2YAFRyYZ7>.

Announcements (cont’d)

- ✿ 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.
- ✿ 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:AllanYeow) 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

- ✿ Mar. 8-10, Gut Elim: **German-Speaking Young People’s Conference.**
- ✿ Mar. 9-10, London: **Chinese-Speaking Conference at Woodland Camp.**
- ✿ Mar. 29-31, Montréal: **Spring 2024 Eastern Canada Young People’s Conference.**
- ✿ April 12-14, Anaheim, California: **Spring International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (“ITERO”).**
- ✿ May 24-27, Bellevue, WA: **2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference.**

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

This Week’s Activities

Sun-Mar-03 LORD’S DAY	✿ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord’s Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Mar-04	✿
Tues-Mar-05	✿ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Mar-06	✿
Thur-Mar-07	✿
Fri-Mar-08	✿ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Mar-09	✿
Sun-Mar-10 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

I. WHAT BAPTISM DOES FOR A PERSON

A. Baptism saving man from the world (cont'd)

6. A very amazing thing in the world

A very amazing thing in the world today is the attitude of Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam toward baptism.

Any Jew who embraces the Christian faith in secret will not be persecuted. Many Jews believe in the historical record concerning the Lord Jesus. Their greatest hurdle is not in believing in Him but in baptism. Once they are baptized, they are cast out. Some sisters were poisoned by their fiancé after they were baptized. Such things happen even in civilized communities like London and New York. It is all right for a person to believe in his heart, but once he is baptized, others will persecute him.

In India, no one will do anything to a believer if he is not baptized. But once he is baptized, they will cast him out. It is all right for one to believe in the Lord, but he cannot be baptized.

The reaction of the Muslims is more violent. Someone once said that it is difficult for a Muslim believer to remain alive. As soon as he believes, he will die. Dr. Swema is the first person who succeeded in working among the Muslims. He said, "My work will never grow, because once a person believes in the Lord, he has to be sent away immediately. Otherwise, he will die within two or three days after his baptism." This condition is prevalent even among Muslims today.

Baptism is an open declaration that one has come out. "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved." We should never consider the salvation here to mean a personal salvation of the spirit. In the Bible, salvation signifies a deliverance from the world, not deliverance from hell.

B. Baptism being for the forgiveness of sins

On the day of Pentecost, the apostles told the Jews, "Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38). The Protestants have difficulty accepting this verse. But this verse is the plain word of the apostles. "Be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." It is strange that the emphasis of the apostle's word is not upon faith but upon baptism.

Was the focus of Peter's message in Acts 2 on persuading men to believe? No. Does this mean that Peter's preaching was inferior to ours? The Bible tells us that the most crucial thing concerning salvation is faith. How could Peter have left this out? Perhaps he could ignore other doctrines in his message, but how could he not speak about faith? Nevertheless, he did not speak about it. Instead, he spoke about baptism, and the Holy Spirit pricked the heart of those who listened. What about us? We say that faith alone is enough. We think this is orthodox Christianity. Yet Peter said, "Be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ."

Peter spoke only of baptism because those who listened to him were the ones who had killed the Lord Jesus. Fifty days prior to that, they were crying, "Take this man away." These were the same people who were shouting and crying in Jerusalem. Now they needed to be separated from the rest of the Jews. This is why it was not necessary to speak to them about believing. They only needed to be baptized. That would be sufficient for them to get out. As soon as they were baptized, their relationship with that corporate body would be terminated. As soon as they were baptized, they would leave that corporate body and their sins would be washed away. They would no longer be part of that corporate body; they would be out of it. This is why Peter said, "Be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." The act of baptism brought them out. As soon as they came out, all problems were solved.

You need to realize that you were originally in the world and that you were an enemy of God. Since you have come out, you are saved. You need to confess before God and before men that you have come out and have nothing to do with that corporate body. You are through with it. "Be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." This was the main teaching on the day of Pentecost. At this point your mind needs to be directed by God's Word, not by Protestant theology.

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