

Please Pray

- ☛ **Robert and Babylyn's Situation:** Brother Robert and sister Babylyn are on a visit trip to the Philippines. During their stay, brother Robert had to be admitted to the hospital due to dehydration and kidney failure. Our brother was admitted in the ICU on March 17. He has now been transferred to a recovery room for observation and his situation has improved. However, because of his health condition, he still cannot get on the plane to come back home. Please pray that the Lord will recover our brother as soon as possible and take care of the whole situation. They do not have travel insurance and therefore are covering all medical expenses on their own. If the Lord leads you, you may make an offering to the church to cover their expenses and the church will transfer the offerings to their account. May the Lord cover this situation and meet the needs of Robert and Babylyn. May they be supplied by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
- ☛ **2024 Parents and Serving Ones Conference, Toronto, April 26-28:** May many parents and serving ones in Eastern Canada be released to attend this conference. May the parents and serving ones receive a fresh speaking concerning how to raise the next generation.
- ☛ **2024 Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference, Montréal, May 18-19:** 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 saints be released to attend this time. May the saints be prepared to be ready to receive a fresh speaking and dispensation from the Lord. May the Lord speak to the churches what He has on His heart during this conference.
- ☛ **Spring 2024 European Brothers' Training, London, UK, April 17-19:** The Spring 2024 European Brothers' Training will take place at the Woodland Camp in London, UK on April 17-19. The brothers will review the messages given in the Spring 2024 ITERO in Anaheim on April 12-14. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen His testimony in Europe through this training.
- ☛ **2024 Summer Olympics Games, Paris, France:** We encourage all the saints to open to the Lord regarding this next milestone in the Lord's move in Europe, and are inviting the saints in the Lord's recovery to join us in this labour by praying and giving. Please pray: **1)** That the Lord will release the number of saints needed for the remainder of the gospel trips in August and September, and the brothers required to lead these trips. **2)** For the formation of all the gospel trips teams. **3)** For the clear and timely communication between us and the civil authorities, and for favourable views from them. **4)** That the Lord will encourage the saints in France, will add to them, and will raise up more lampstands through this special move in His recovery. **5)** For all the travel and accommodation arrangements for the saints who signed up. **6)** For all the financial needs, locally and universally, of this gospel trip.
- ☛ **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: Matt. 25:31 – 27:26.
- ☛ HWMR: An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery before His Appearing, Volume 2, Week 12.
- ☛ Life-Study of Romans, Messages 6 and 7.

Announcements

- ☛ The registration is now open for the July 2024 Semi-Annual Training, which will be held July 1-6 in Anaheim. Please inform your districts responsible brothers if you would like to attend in person. The registration deadline is May 1 for both in person and video training. The cost per person is CAD\$280 for the live training and CAD\$180 for the video training.
- ☛ The 2024 Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference will be held in Montréal on May 18-19. Registration is now open and there is a need of hospitality for the saints coming from out of town. Please sign up if you are available to accommodate some of the visiting saints.
- ☛ The 2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Bellevue, WA on May 24-27, 2024. The live meetings will be streamed at lsmwebcast.com for those whose time zone allows them to watch the live meetings by webcast. Please contact the responsible brothers to get information about the registration and about joining the webcast meetings.
- ☛ 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. Preparations are now being made for the gospel trips and all saints who signed up are preparing to go. Locally, there is a need of financial support to send some saints for this time. Please seek the Lord concerning this matter. 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

- ☛ April 12-14, Anaheim, California: **Spring International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones ("ITERO")**.
- ☛ April 17-19, London, UK: **Spring 2024 European Brothers' Training**.
- ☛ April 26-28, Toronto: **2024 Parents and Serving Ones Conference**.
- ☛ May 10-12, Kitchener, ON: **Grade 6 Conference**.
- ☛ May 18-19, Montréal: **Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference**.
- ☛ May 24-27, Bellevue, WA: **2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference**.
- ☛ July 1-6, Anaheim, CA: **July 2024 Semi-Annual Training**.

This Week's Activities

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| Sun-Apr-07 LORD'S DAY | • 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. |
| Mon-Apr-08 | • |
| Tues-Apr-09 | • 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls. |
| Wed-Apr-10 | • |
| Thur-Apr-11 | • |
| Fri-Apr-12 | • 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. |
| Sat-Apr-13 | • |
| Sun-Apr-14 LORD'S DAY | • 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. |

TERMINATING THE PAST

I. The teaching of the Bible being concerned with what one does after salvation (cont'd)

“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.

II. New Testament examples of dealing with the past

What then should we do with the things of our past? In reading the New Testament, I have spent much time to find out how one should terminate his past after believing in the Lord. I found only a few passages where the subject is mentioned briefly. However, they are not teachings but examples.

A. Matters related to idols needing to be dealt with thoroughly

First Thessalonians 1:9 says, “You turned to God from the idols.” When a person believes in the Lord, he must deal with all idols. Please remember that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. What agreement does the temple of God have with idols? Even the apostle John, in addressing the believers, said, “Little children, guard yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21). Hence, this is not as simple a matter as many may think.

One thing we must take note of is that God forbids man to make an image of anything. We cannot consider a man-made object to be living. The moment we have such a thought, the object becomes an idol to us. Of course, idols are nothing, but if we consider them to be living, we fall into error. This is why God forbids the worship of such things. Even an inclination in the heart towards them is forbidden. One of the Ten Commandments forbids the making of idols (Deut. 5:8).

Deuteronomy 12:30 says, "Be careful...lest you seek after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods?" This shows us that we should not even inquire how the Gentiles worship their gods. Some who are curious like to study how the nations worship and serve their gods. But God forbids us to inquire about such matters. If we inquire about them, the next thing we will do is worship their gods. Hence, we are forbidden from being curious.

Second Corinthians 6:16 says, "What agreement does the temple of God have with idols?" The meaning here is quite obvious. Christians should not visit temples. There are exceptions of course, such as when a person is stranded on a deserted mountain and cannot find a place for shelter at night and there is only a temple for lodging. But generally speaking, believers should not visit any temple. This is because 2 Corinthians 6:16 says clearly that we are the temple of the living God. It also says that there is no agreement between idols and the temple of the living God. Unless one is pressed by special occasion or circumstance, it is inadvisable to go near or purposely tour any temple. John says, "Little children, guard yourselves from idols." Guarding ourselves from idols means staying away from them.

Psalms 16:4 says, "Nor will I take up their names upon My lips." Even at the pulpit, we should carefully avoid the names of other gods except in the case of a necessary illustration. We should not hold on to any superstition, fear of misfortune, or taboo for certain associations or words. Many believers still pay attention to fortunes, the reading of facial features, and destinies. Everything related to fortune-telling or horoscopes is prohibited. Everything in the realm of idolatry should be dealt with thoroughly before God. We should sever our relationship with it completely.

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