

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. After many weeks in the hospital, he is doing better and almost ready to leave the hospital, after which he will still need to go back for follow-ups and check-ups until the hospital gives him the approbation to take the plane back to Montréal. 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.
- ✳️ **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: Exo. 23:1 – 27:21.
- ✳️ HWMR: Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church, Week 1.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Romans, Messages 8 and 9.

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 ismwebcast.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 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

Sun-Apr-14 LORD'S DAY	✳️ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Apr-15	✳️
Tues-Apr-16	✳️ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Apr-17	✳️
Thur-Apr-18	✳️
Fri-Apr-19	✳️ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Apr-20	✳️
Sun-Apr-21 LORD'S DAY	✳️ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

TERMINATING THE PAST

II. New Testament examples of dealing with the past (cont'd)

A. Matters related to idols needing to be dealt with thoroughly (cont'd)

A new believer must give up his idols from the very first day of his salvation. He should not mention the names of idols, be involved with fortune-telling, or visit any temples. We cannot worship anything with an image. Even the thought of worshipping such things is forbidden. We cannot inquire about the worship of other religions. All these things belong to the past, and we should deal with them. Anything that falls into these categories should be destroyed; they should not even be sold. We should destroy, exterminate, and remove them. I hope that new believers will not take this matter lightly; they have to be very careful about these things, for God is extremely jealous of idols.

If you cannot take a strong stand against idols today, you will have a hard time escaping the greatest idol on earth in the future. Of course, we should not worship idols made of clay or wood. But even if there is an idol that is living, we must not worship it. There are actually living idols—the man of lawlessness (2 Thes. 2:3) being one. Please remember that you cannot worship any idols; you must reject all of them, even images of the Lord Jesus and Mary.

We must deal with this matter thoroughly. Otherwise, we will be distracted to follow another way. We are those who serve not in the flesh but in spirit. God is seeking those who serve Him in spirit, not in the flesh. God is Spirit, not an image. If all the brothers and sisters take care of this matter, they will not fall into the hands of Roman Catholicism in the future. One day Antichrist will come, and the power of Roman Catholicism will be greatly expanded.

In the Bible, the first thing one has to do in dealing with his past is to reject all former idols. We must turn away from idols and wait for the coming of the Son of God. We should not even keep any picture of the Lord Jesus. Such pictures are not the real image of the Lord Jesus; they are worthless. In the museums in Rome, there are over two thousand different images of the Lord Jesus. All of them represent the imagination of the artists. In some countries artists often look for people who resemble their idea of Jesus and then pay them to pose for portraits of Jesus. This is blasphemous. Our God is a jealous God, and He will not tolerate such things among us. There should not be any kind of superstition. Some people like to say, “It is not a good day today; there are bad omens.” Such remarks are directly from hell. God’s children should get rid of these ideas from the very first day and deal with them in a thorough way. They should not allow any flavor of idolatry to come in.

B. Improper objects needing to be terminated

“And a considerable number of those who practiced magic brought their books together and burned them before all; and they counted up the price of them and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver” (Acts 19:19). This is another matter which new believers should deal with and terminate.

This is not a command or a teaching; it is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit moved in such a strong way that the Ephesians brought out all the improper books in their possession. Here it says the price was “fifty thousand pieces of silver,” which is a considerable sum. They did not sell their books and give the money to the church. Instead, the books were burned. If Judas had been present, he certainly would not have allowed this. This was much more than thirty pieces of silver which could have been given to the poor. But the Lord was pleased to have them burned.

Apart from the kind of objects mentioned above, there are many other questionable objects that need to be dealt with. Some of them are clearly related to sins. Gambling instruments and improper books and pictures are some examples. These must be burned or destroyed. There may be many luxury items and objects of indulgence which cannot be burned. However, they still need to be removed. Burning, however, is the general principle in dealing with these things.

After a person believes in the Lord, he should go home and check through his personal belongings. In an unbeliever’s home, there is always something related to sin. He may have things which do not befit the saints. Things related to sin must be burned or destroyed; they cannot be sold. Luxury items should be converted and altered if possible. If they cannot be altered, we must sell them.

The garments of the lepers in Leviticus 13 and 14 are a good illustration. Garments which have become leprous and cannot be washed must be burned. However, those which can be washed should be washed for reuse. If the style of our clothes is unbecoming, we can alter them. Some garments may be too short, and we can lengthen them; others are odd-looking, and we can make them look more inconspicuous. Some objects cannot be salvaged; they have the element of sin in them, in which case we have to burn them. Those that can be sold should be sold, and the money should be given to the poor.

There should be a termination of improper things. If every new believer will go through all his belongings thoroughly, he will have a very good start. Superstitious objects have to be burned. Others can be altered or sold after being altered. Once we learn this lesson, we will not forget it for the rest of our lives. We must realize that being a Christian is a very practical matter; it is not just a matter of going to “church” and listening to some sermons.

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>.