

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 was admitted to the hospital's ICU on March 17 due to dehydration and kidney failure. He is now out of the hospital, but his health condition prevents him to take the plane to come back to Montréal. He still needs to go to the hospital twice a week for dialysis treatments. 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, including the dialysis treatments. 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.
- ✳️ **Earthquake in Hualien, Taiwan:** A major earthquake occurred in Hualien, Taiwan, on April 3. The meeting hall and some of the saints' homes were damaged. About 10 saints were injured and were discharged after being admitted to hospital. About 40 saints were placed in temporary residences. Please pray for the comfort, care, and safety of the saints in Hualien. If the Lord leads you, you may make an offering to cover the needs of the saints and for the rebuilding of the meeting hall.
- ✳️ **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, add to them, and 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. 27:27 – Mark 1:13.
- ✳️ HWMR: Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church, Week 2.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Romans, Messages 10 and 11.

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 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-21 LORD'S DAY	✳️ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Apr-22	✳️
Tues-Apr-23	✳️ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Apr-24	✳️
Thur-Apr-25	✳️
Fri-Apr-26	✳️ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Apr-27	✳️
Sun-Apr-28 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)

C. Repaying Debts

“And Zaccheus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much” (Luke 19:8). Zaccheus did not do this as a result of doctrinal teaching; he did this as a result of the working of the Holy Spirit. If it had been the result of doctrinal teaching, only the exact amount would have been repaid, no more and no less. But since it was the working of the Holy Spirit, the amount could vary; it could be a little more or a little less. Zaccheus said, “If I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much.” Actually, a double compensation would have been more than adequate. The principle in the book of Leviticus is to add one-fifth to the original amount. For one thousand dollars, you would have to repay one thousand two hundred dollars. But if one is touched, he can pay as much as the Lord’s Spirit directs him to pay. He can be moved to repay four times or ten times as much. What is spoken of here is only a principle. In reading the Bible, we must be clear that what is covered is not a mere teaching. It is the result of the leading of the Holy Spirit when He operates in man.

Suppose that before you became a believer, you had extorted or defrauded others, stolen from them, or obtained things by improper means. Now that the Lord is working within, you have to deal with these things in a proper manner. This has nothing to do with the forgiveness you received from the Lord, but it is very much related to your testimony.

Suppose I stole a thousand dollars from someone before I was saved. If I have not dealt with the matter clearly, how can I preach the gospel to that person after I am saved? While I am preaching to him, his heart may still be on the thousand dollars. No doubt, I have received forgiveness from God, but I do not have a proper testimony before man. I cannot say, “Since God has forgiven me, it does not matter whether or not I repay him.” No, this matter is related to my testimony.

Please remember that Zaccheus restored four times as much for the sake of his testimony. At that time everyone was saying, “How could the Lord lodge in this sinner’s home? He has extorted and defrauded many people!” They were all indignant. While they were saying this, Zaccheus stood up and said, “If I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much.” This fourfold restoration was neither a requirement for becoming a son of Abraham nor a requirement for God’s salvation coming to Zaccheus’s house. This fourfold restoration was the result of God’s salvation coming to Zaccheus’s house and of his becoming a son of Abraham. Due to this act of restoration, Zaccheus had a testimony before man. This was the basis of his testimony.

I knew a brother who was not very upright in financial matters before he believed in the Lord. Many of his classmates were upper middle-class people. After he believed in the Lord, he became rather zealous in leading his classmates to the Lord. But he did not see much fruit. Although he earnestly preached the gospel to them, they said in their heart, “What is this? What about all the money?” His past had not been eradicated from them. This brother did not follow the example of Zaccheus. His sins were forgiven before God. All his problems were solved. But the matter concerning his money before his classmates was not resolved. He had to confess and make recompense for all his past wrongdoings before he could testify to others. The restoration of his testimony depended on the termination of his past.

As I have mentioned, Zaccheus did not become a son of Abraham by restoring four times as much. Neither did he gain salvation by restoring four times as much. Rather, he restored four times as much because he was a child of Abraham. He restored four times as much because he was saved. By restoring four times as much, he shut the mouths of others. They could no longer say anything. His fourfold restoration went far beyond what he owed, thus shutting the mouths of others and restoring his testimony.

Brothers and sisters, did you wrong anyone in any way before you became a believer? Do you owe anyone anything? Have you taken things home which belong to others? Have you taken anything by improper means? If so, you have to deal with all these things properly. The repentance of a Christian has to do with confessing his past wrongdoings, whereas the repentance of ordinary men only involves a change in his present conduct. For example, as a human being, if I have a bad temper, I need only to refrain from my temper. But as a Christian, in addition to refraining from my temper, I have to apologize for my former temper. Apart from not losing my temper before God, I must also apologize for my former temper before men. Only then can this matter be terminated.

Suppose you stole from others in the past. Your problem before God is settled as long as you no longer steal. Likewise, if you have ever taken things that belonged to others, your problem is settled once you stop doing it. However, this is not enough for you to have a testimony before men. Even if you have not stolen anything in three years, others may still consider you as a thief. After believing in the Lord, you must testify before men; you must deal with all your mistakes in the past. Only then will your position be clear.

But here is a difficult problem. Suppose you stole ten thousand dollars from someone. What should you do if you do not even have one thousand dollars now? In principle you have to confess to the person from whom you have stolen. You should tell him frankly that you cannot repay him at the present time. Whether or not you can repay him immediately is another matter; you should still confess and testify to him. If you do not testify now, you will not be able to testify for the rest of your life.

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