

Please Pray

- ✿ **The Church in Toronto's Search for a Downtown Property:** Let us be before the Lord concerning His will for downtown Toronto: We seek the Lord's leading regarding the purchase of a downtown property suitable for our use. We will be contacting the selling agent soon to start this process. Let us pray for the brothers to have the same spirit of faith (2 Cor. 4:13) to believe that He is with His people, and that we are well able to overcome. May the Lord's will be done according to His timing in this matter.
- ✿ **July Semi-Annual Training:** May the Lord use this time to release what is on His heart to the churches with His up-to-date speaking; may the saints have an ear to hear what the Spirit will be speaking to the churches; may we advance with the Lord in His move on this earth; may the speaking becomes our reality and person.
- ✿ **Blending Conference in Dieppe, New Brunswick, June 15-16:** There will be a blending conference in the Maritimes from June 15 to June 16. (1) May the Lord use this time to encourage, build up and refresh the saints in the Maritimes. (2) May the Lord release what He has on His heart for this time to the saints.
- ✿ **The 2024 Summer Olympics Games, Paris, France:** Over the past three trips in Marseille, Montpellier, and Toulouse, we distributed 1955 Bibles, received 295 contacts, led 20 to pray, had 26 appointments, and had Bible seminars with 41 contacts. The local saints have been amazed at the unprecedented openness and hunger among the French people. We thank the Lord for such a strong beginning to these gospel trips, and may He continue to have His way in France for His testimony! (1) Pray that the Lord would release the long-term care of the contacts from these three cities through the coordination of the saints, both local and overseas. (2) Pray that the Lord would continue to bless the next trip in Bordeaux. Pray for a nice weather. (3) Pray that the Lord would thrust out the workers to labour with Him in France, not only during these gospel trips, but especially afterwards. (4) Pray for the health of the saints participating in the gospel trips.
- ✿ **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: Lev. 6:1 – 12:8.
- ✿ HWMR: Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church, Week 9.
- ✿ Life-Study of Romans, Messages 24 and 25.

Announcements

- ✿ 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

- ✿ June 15-16, Dieppe, NB: **Blending Conference.**
- ✿ July 1-6, Anaheim, CA: **July Semi-Annual Training.**
- ✿ Oct. 4-6, Warsaw, Poland: **October International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (ITERO).**
- ✿ Nov. 28–Dec. 1, Atlanta, GA: **International Thanksgiving Blending Conference.**
- ✿ Dec. 23-28, Anaheim, CA: **December Semi-Annual Training.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Jun-09 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jun-10	✿
Tues-Jun-11	✿ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Jun-12	✿
Thur-Jun-13	✿
Fri-Jun-14	✿ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Jun-15	✿
Sun-Jun-16 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

CONFESSION WITH THE MOUTH

Scripture Reading: Rom. 10:10; Prov. 29:25; Matt. 10:32-33

I. The importance of confessing with the mouth (cont'd)

D. Not confessing the Lord leading to accusations in the conscience

There is another serious problem for a person who does not confess the Lord with his mouth. Many of the Lord's believers experienced this when the Lord was on the earth.

The Lord Jesus was rejected by the Jews. They vehemently opposed and rejected Him. In John 9 the Jews made a decision: Whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be put out of the synagogue (v. 22). In chapter twelve the Bible says that many Jewish rulers believed in the Lord Jesus secretly, but they dared not confess Him because they were afraid of being put out of the synagogue (v. 42). Do you think that these people had peace in their hearts? Perhaps they felt uneasy about confessing the Lord, but they felt even more uneasy about not confessing the Lord. What kind of place was the synagogue? It was a place where people opposed the Lord Jesus. They plotted, conspired, and discussed plans to trap the Lord there. Such were the dark things that went on in the synagogue. What should a genuine believer do among such people? How much strength would he need to keep his mouth shut? Under such circumstances it would be difficult for anyone to confess the Lord with his mouth, but it would be even harder for him to not confess the Lord with his mouth.

The Jewish synagogue is a picture of the world's opposition to the Lord. The world always criticizes the Lord Jesus. It always considers Jesus of Nazareth a problem. It has all kinds of things to say against our Lord. In a place like this, can you listen to the people and pretend to be like one of them? To pretend is painful; to pretend is also difficult. You have to muster enough strength to control and repress yourself before you can pretend. Under such circumstances, is it not true that something within you will want to cry out, "This man is the Son of God; I believe in Him"? Is there not something within you that wants to proclaim, "This man is my Savior, and I have already believed in Him," or, "This man can deliver me from my sins. You may not believe in Him, but I do"? Is there not something within you that wants to make such a declaration?

Are you going to force yourself to be quiet just because you want man's respect and position? It seems to me it would have been easier for the Jewish rulers in John 12 to simply be put out of the synagogue. They would have felt much better if they had confessed the Lord. If you are a false believer, it probably will make no difference whether or not you confess. But as a genuine believer, you will surely offend your conscience if you pretend and sympathize with the Lord's opposers. When others oppose the Lord, you have no peace in your heart, yet you must force yourself to say, "What you are saying is interesting." Is this not the most painful thing to do as a human being?

There is nothing more painful than not confessing the Lord. The greatest suffering is to refuse to confess the Lord before men. I would not want to trade places with those rulers. Their suffering was too great! If you are not a believer, there is nothing to say. But if you have believed, the easier and more joyful and happy thing to do is come out of the synagogue. You may feel that there are many obstacles, but past experience indicates that the obstacles will be greater and your heart will suffer more if you do not go this way.

Suppose you hear someone maliciously slander your parents, saying this and that about them. Suppose that you try to sit still and listen to them or, worse still, pretend to sympathize with them. If you do this, I would wonder what kind of a person you were. Our Lord has given His life to save us. If we do not say something for the very Lord whom we worship and serve, how much more timid are we? We must be bold to stand up and proclaim for the Lord, "I belong to Him!"

II. Common mistakes

A. Replacing confession with good behavior

Some new believers are influenced by traditional teachings. They think that having good behavior is the most important thing for a Christian and that confession with the mouth is not that crucial. They think that a change in what one says is not important, but that a change in what one does is important. We must correct this wrong concept. We are not saying that it is not necessary to change our conduct. If one's conduct is not changed, it is useless to confess with the mouth. But changing what one does without confessing with one's mouth is equally futile. A change in conduct can never take the place of confession with the mouth. After one's conduct is changed, his mouth still has to confess.

Every new believer must seize the earliest opportunity to tell others about his faith in the Lord Jesus. If you do not confess with your mouth, others will make many conjectures about you. They will try to explain your behavior with speculation. They will say all kinds of things about you, but they will not touch the Lord Jesus. Therefore, you must tell them the reason for the change in your conduct. No good conduct can take the place of verbal confession. It is necessary to have good conduct, but it is equally necessary to confess with the mouth. You must tell others, "Jesus is my Lord; I want to serve Him." No matter how good your conduct is, these words must come out of your mouth.

We have heard people say that if they have good outward conduct, there is no need for them to say anything with their mouth. Please remember that no one will bother to criticize those who say this if they fail slightly in their personal conduct. But if a man stands up to proclaim that he is a Christian, others will immediately criticize and rebuke him when there is any slip in his conduct. Hence, those who say that good conduct is enough and that there is no need to confess with the mouth are in reality giving themselves an excuse to fail in their conduct. They are leaving a back door for themselves to escape from the judgment of others. Never believe that just a change in conduct is sufficient. Confession with the mouth is needed; in fact, it is absolutely indispensable.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 48, Messages for Building Up New Believers (1), Chapter 4, *CONFESSION WITH THE MOUTH*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.