

## Please Pray

- ✿ **International Memorial Day Blending Conference (May 22-25):** The 2026 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Dallas, TX. Please pray that the Lord will take more crucial steps in the advancement of His purpose during this gathering. May we all be prepared to have our ears open to hear the Lord's up to date speaking. May the Lord release His burden to the churches.
- ✿ **Pray for our leaders and those who are in high position (1 Tim. 2:1-2):** Let us pray that God guides our leaders regarding Bill C-9. Certain provisions could remove the historical protection given to religious texts in Canada. May the freedom to read, teach, and share the Scriptures continue to be protected. Let us ask the Lord to grant wisdom and discernment to those making decisions for our country.
- ✿ **The Direction of the Church in Montréal:** The brothers feel that the way to move forward in Montréal this year is through the strengthening and building up of the home meetings (group meetings). The strength and vitality of the home meetings will depend on the vital groups and the mutual care in the home meetings. The home meetings need to have many vital groups in order to be vital, living, and active. May the Lord burden us to form vital groups with our companions (in twos and threes). May all the vital groups be living and active so that we can bring vitality to our home meetings. May the home meetings be full of the divine love and mutual care.
- ✿ **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: Eph. 1:11 – 2:18.
- ✿ HWMR: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (3), Vol. 05, Week 28.
- ✿ Life-Study of Philipians, Messages 14 and 15.

## Announcements

- ✿ The 2026 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Dallas, TX, from May 22-25. Please contact the responsible brothers to get information about attending the conference. Details to join the conference online will be shared just before the conference starts.

## Announcements (cont'd)

- ✿ The June/July Semi-Annual Training will take place from Monday, June 29 (4pm), to Saturday July 4 (9:30pm), at the Ministry Conference Center, Living Stream Ministry Campus, 2431 W. La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92801. Registration is required and the deadline is Thursday, May 1, 2026. The registration fee is CAD\$290 for the live training (in person), and CAD\$185 for the online/video training. Please contact your respective district's serving brother to register and to get more information.
- ✿ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, [allan.yeow81@gmail.com](mailto:allan.yeow81@gmail.com), by Wednesday evening of every week. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

## Upcoming Events

- ✿ May 22-25, Dallas, TX: **International Memorial Day Blending Conference.**
- ✿ June 29—July 4, Anaheim, CA: **June Semi-Annual Training.**
- ✿ September 24-26, Amsterdam, NL: **September International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

## This Week's Activities

Sun-May-17 <b>LORD'S DAY</b>	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-May-18	♦
Tues-May-19	♦ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-May-20	♦
Thur-May-21	♦
Fri-May-22	♦ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. ♦ International Memorial Day Blending Conference, Dallas, TX.
Sat-May-23	♦ International Memorial Day Blending Conference, Dallas, TX.
Sun-May-24 <b>LORD'S DAY</b>	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ International Memorial Day Blending Conference, Dallas, TX.
Mon-May-25	♦ International Memorial Day Blending Conference, Dallas, TX.

**24. BELIEVERS' REACTIONS**

Scripture reading: Matt. 5:38-48

**Believers' reactions**

**V. A Christian being delivered from humiliation, possessions, and the will**

Let me briefly go over these three things again. Striking the cheek has to do with humiliation. The Chinese understand this; so did the Jews and the Romans at that time. There are many records which show that many of the Roman slaves would rather have been killed by their masters than struck on the cheek. Killing was bearable, but striking the cheek was unbearable. Hence, striking the cheek signifies extreme humiliation; it signifies the greatest shame at that time.

Tunics and cloaks are what man rightfully owns. Among man's possessions, there is hardly anything more rightfully his than his clothes. Even the poorest person wears a tunic and a cloak. No matter how insistent a man is in rejecting material enjoyment, he still has to wear a tunic and a cloak. This is a very legitimate demand. Here is a person who is not asking for your property or your farm but your tunic. Moreover, if he wants to take your tunic, you must take off your cloak first. Therefore, this matter touches one's possessions in the deepest way. If striking the cheek has to do with humiliation, taking away the tunic has to do with one's most essential possessions.

Compelling others to walk is particularly related to the will. I may not intend to take a certain way or go to a certain place, but others compel me to do so. This means I must deny myself to take their way. This is to bend the will.

I would like my brothers and sisters to see that Christian reactions have to do with the left cheek, the cloak, and the second mile. When others strike my right cheek, I turn my left cheek to them as well. When others want my tunic, I give my cloak as well. When others compel me to walk one mile, I walk two miles. This means that the right cheek has not touched me, the tunic has not touched me, and the one-mile journey has not touched me. This is why I call this a transcendent reaction. If my right cheek is struck and I have some feeling about it, I will not turn my left cheek. If after walking for one mile I have reached my limit, I cannot walk the second mile. The issue is the kind of reaction we have under such circumstances.

Christians are those who have been delivered from any feeling of glory and humiliation. They are those who have been delivered from the bondage of material possessions and their own will. When we are delivered from humiliation, possessions, and the will, these things will never touch us again.

**VI. The primary lesson of the cross being to stop all reasonings**

We must learn never to reason before God. The first lesson of the cross is to not reason. No one among us should be so low or so fallen as to become a revenger. Hence, there is no need to talk about the option of taking an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth. However, I am afraid that many people reason and insist on their rights, saying, "You should not have struck me." Whenever a person reasons with others, it means that he is touched by the things that happen to him. The Lord shows us that the proper response to unreasonable evil is unreasonable good. Others can be unreasonably evil to us, but we return unreasonable good to them. The first mile is unreasonable enough, but the second mile is even more unreasonable. Actually, both are unreasonable. Striking the right cheek is unreasonable, but so is turning the left cheek. Taking away one's tunic is absolutely unreasonable, but so is giving away the cloak. Christians are those who do not reason. They return unreasonable goodness for unreasonable evil.

You should not be trapped in your own reasoning. You should not say whether something is reasonable or unreasonable. You may say that the first mile is unreasonable. But I say that the second mile is even more unreasonable. If the first mile is unreasonable, the second mile is even more unreasonable. If you cannot take the first mile, how can you take the second mile? But thank God! His children do not react by reasoning. None of God's children should lose their temper. They are not in the realm of arguing between right and wrong. Reasoning is something outside of a believer's realm. If you fall into reasoning, you have already lost your Christian standing; you are no longer standing on Christian ground.

**VII. Christians not being those who do right or good things, but those who are transcendent**

May we all see something here. If someone wants my tunic, it is perfectly all right if I do not give it to him. It is good if I give it to him. But it is Christian if I give him my cloak as well. I think this is clear. When someone wants my tunic, why should I give it to him? I am right even if I do not give it to him. If I give it to him, that is good. I am a good man; therefore, I give it to him. However, doing the right thing is not being Christian. Being a good man does not mean that one is therefore a Christian. A Christian gives away not merely the tunic but also the cloak. A Christian is a person who gives away the second garment.

What is the Christian reaction? The Christian reaction is not doing the right things or the good things, but doing the transcendent things. The more God's children are persecuted, cornered, and shut out, the higher they should climb. It is a pity that some stumble when they are cornered. It is unfortunate that they lose their temper and reason. It is especially unfortunate that they try to endure. A Christian is one who soars when persecution comes, when all escapes have been blocked and there is only a wall before him.

I remember a comment made about a brother who passed away many years ago: "Anyone who never made himself an enemy of this man does not know how great the love of this man was." This is a wonderful comment. The more you persecuted him, the stronger he became. The more you mistreated him, the higher he climbed. The more you were fierce towards him, the more generous he was towards you. When he died, many brothers commented, "In order to know the strength of his love, one needed to be his greatest enemy. We did not do him enough evil. The more evil you did to him, the greater was his love for you." This is the Christian reaction. The more you persecute a Christian and shut him up, the broader is the way before him.

Do not think that this is a very profound lesson. Matthew 5—7 contains the first sermon of the Lord Jesus. The teachings on the mountain were the first teachings the disciples heard. That is why this should be told to new believers. We should practice this from the very beginning. As long as we are Christians, we have to practice this. If we do not practice this, we will not have peace within. A Christian who reasons with people will not have peace. We may be upset and fretful when others take away our things, but we will have no peace. However, when others want our tunic and we give them our cloak also, we will shout "hallelujah" all the way home. We will feel happy. When others want to borrow some of our money, we may spare our money if we turn them down, but we will also spare our joy. If others ask us for money, we should give it to them. This is the way to live a happy Christian life.

Many Christians have sad faces all day long because they are not willing to walk the second mile. If you walk the second mile, you will be able to sing within your being.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 24, BELIEVERS' REACTIONS, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.