

Please Pray

- ✳ **Summer video training (different schedule for different languages)**
– **Subject: The Believers:** Pray that the Lord would continually anoint our ears for the rest of the training so that we may hear His speaking and open our eyes that we may see His burden and be one spirit with Him. May we bind the enemy so that he cannot distract the saints.
- ✳ **2026 College Training (Northeast: July 10-14) – Kingston, NY:** May the college students (or those of college age) receive a heavenly vision, be equipped with the truth, grow in the experience of life, be perfected in the preaching of the gospel, and develop their character to become useful vessels for the building up of the Body of Christ. May the Lord strengthen all the serving ones for their services during the college training. May the Lord prepare the college students (or those of college age) to make them ready for this time.
- ✳ **North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast – July 22-26, West Coast: July 29 to August 2 – Subject: Building the House of God:** Registration deadline: June 28 for in-person and July 8 for online. Pray that the saints be encouraged to register before the deadline and enter into this burden of the subject.
- ✳ **Bible distribution at the start of the school year:** We will go out to preach the gospel and distribute Bibles at McGill, Concordia and University of Montréal on August 25, 26, 27, and on September 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9. The sign-up form will be sent out soon. May we cooperate with the Lord and sanctify some days to go out. May the Lord go before us and prepare the hearts of men. May the ones prepared by the Lord be brought to the saints. May we be channels of life to dispense life to all those in need. May we gain some useful materials for the Lord's building.
- ✳ **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: Prov. 18:1 – 29:27.
- ✳ HWMR: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (3), Vol. 06, Week 35.
- ✳ Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 28 and 29.

Announcements

- ✳ The Summer School of Truth this year will be held at the Meeting Hall of the Church in Kitchener, ON, from the Lord's Day afternoon, August 2, until Friday afternoon, August 7. The cost per person will be \$220. The registration deadline is the Lord's Day, July 12. Please contact the Young People serving ones to register and to get more information.

Announcements (cont'd)

- ✳ 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. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳ July 10-14, Kingston, NY: **College Training.**
- ✳ July 22-26, Penuel Camp, NY: **North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast.**
- ✳ July 29–August 2, Fremont, CA: **North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: West Coast.**
- ✳ August 2-7, Kitchener, ON: **Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada.**
- ✳ September 24-26, Amsterdam, NL: **September International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Jul-05 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jul-06	♦
Tues-Jul-07	♦ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Jul-08	♦
Thur-Jul-09	♦
Fri-Jul-10	♦ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. ♦ College Training, Kingston, NY.
Sat-Jul-11	♦ College Training, Kingston, NY.
Sun-Jul-12 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ College Training, Kingston, NY.

26. OUR LIFE

Scripture reading: Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20

Our Life

I. Christ our life

Many Christians have a wrong concept about the Lord Jesus. They think that the Lord set up a good pattern for us while He was on earth and that we should imitate this pattern. It is true that the Bible charges us to imitate the Lord (Rom. 15:5; 1 Cor. 11:1, etc.). But the Bible does not tell us to do this by ourselves. There is something we must see before we can imitate Him. Many people want to imitate the Lord, but they repeatedly fail. They regard the Lord like they regard good Chinese calligraphy, something to be copied stroke by stroke. They do not realize how frail man is and that no fleshly energy could give man enough strength to imitate Him.

Some Christians think that they can ask the Lord to empower them simply because the Bible says, "I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me" (Phil. 4:13). They feel that there are many things that need to be done, many biblical precepts that need to be obeyed, and many examples of the Lord that need to be imitated. They also feel that none of this can be done unless they have more power. Therefore, they ask the Lord for power. They think that if the Lord would only give them the power, they would be able to do all things. Many people just wait and hope daily for the Lord to give them the power to conduct their activities.

It is true that we need to look to the Lord for power. But in addition to asking for power, we need to see something further. Without seeing this one thing, we will not always have the power, even though we may be looking to the Lord. We can pray to the Lord every day for power. But sometimes the Lord answers such prayer, and sometimes He does not. To some people this means that they can do all things when He empowers them and that they can do nothing when He does not empower them. This is precisely the reason so many Christians fail again and again. We have to ask the Lord to empower us. But if we take this as an isolated commandment or as the only way, we will fail.

The fundamental relationship between Christ and us is conveyed in the words Christ our life. We can imitate the Lord only because He has become our life. We can ask Him for strength only because He has become our life. There is no way to imitate Him or be empowered by Him unless we understand the meaning of Christ our life. Hence we must first understand, see, and grasp the secret of Christ our life before we can imitate Him or ask Him for strength.

Colossians 3:4 says, "Christ our life." Philippians 1:21 says, "For to me, to live is Christ." This shows us that the way to victory is for Christ to be our life. Victory is, "For to me, to live is Christ." If a Christian does not know what is meant by Christ our life, and what is meant by for to me, to live is Christ, he will not experience the Lord's life on earth; he will not be able to follow the Lord, to experience victory in Him, or to proceed on the course before him.

II. For to me, to live is Christ

There are many Christians who have greatly misunderstood Philippians 1:21. When Paul said, "For to me, to live is Christ," he was stating a fact. They think for to me, to live is Christ is a goal or a hope. But Paul did not say that his goal was to live Christ. Paul was saying, "I live because I have Christ; I cannot live without Him." This was a fact in him, not a goal he was seeking. It was the secret to his living, not the hope he was cherishing. His living was Christ. For him to live was for Christ to live.

Galatians 2:20 is a very familiar verse to many Christians. But many misunderstand it more than they misunderstand Philippians 1:21. They have made Galatians 2:20 their goal, praying with aspiration and hoping they will reach the state when "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." Each time this verse is read, they are full of aspiration. Many people pray, fast, and hope that one day they will be crucified with Christ and reach the state when "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." Galatians 2:20 has become their goal and their hope.

According to our experience, no one with such a hope ever reaches his goal. If you make it your goal and hope to attain such a state, if you aspire to be crucified, that is, to no longer be the one who lives but instead to have Christ living in you, you will wait forever before seeing your aspiration fulfilled, because you are hoping for something that is impossible to achieve.

God has given us a wonderful gift of grace. There is a way. Those who fail can overcome; those who are unclean can be clean; those who are worldly can be holy; those who are earthly can be heavenly; and those who are carnal can be spiritual. This is not a goal, but a way. This way lies in the life of substitution. Just as we found a vicarious death in the Lord's grace, we also can find a vicarious living in Him. On the cross the Lord bore our sins. Through His death we were spared death. Our sins were forgiven, and we were spared judgment. Similarly, Paul tells us that we are spared of our living through the Lord living in us. The implication is simple: Since He lives in us, we no longer need to live. Just as He died once for us on the cross, today He is living for us and in us. Paul did not say, "I hope that I will not live. I hope that I will allow Him to live." Instead, he was saying, "I no longer live anymore. He is the One who is living." "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." This is the secret to victory. This is the way to be victorious.

The day we heard that we did not need to die, we embraced that word as the gospel. Similarly, it should also be a day of the gospel to us when we hear that we do not need to live. I hope that the new believers will pray much for God's enlightenment and will see that Christ lives in us and that we no longer need to live by ourselves.



Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 26, OUR LIFE, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.