

# The Church in New York City

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Northeast Young People's Spring Conference**

The online conference series continues for the next two Saturday nights with weekly live sessions, pre-recorded messages, group times, and special fellowships. For the live sessions, the conference service Zoom will be used. Pre-recorded messages, materials and updates will be posted weekly on the following website: <https://pursuewiththose.org/>.

The general subject of the conference is ***Redeeming the Time.***

Session Six - Saturday, April 18th – 7:30pm

Session Seven - Saturday, April 25th – 7:30pm

- The local children's meeting video for the week is now available on the website [churchinnyc.org/cm-videos/](http://churchinnyc.org/cm-videos/). The families can view it during the week again with their children.
- Family Time video on the website [thebibletellsmeso.com/familytime](http://thebibletellsmeso.com/familytime). A short new video will be posted daily from Monday through Friday for the next three weeks. The purpose of these videos is to foster a daily family time in each household.
- Website to help facilitate the Global Prayer for 21 days, beginning April 1: <https://unceasinglypray.org/>.

### PRAYER BURDENS

- Prayer--The strengthening of the prayer ministry of the church and that all the saints in all the local churches and all the Lord's children all over the earth would rise up to pray for His will to be done in the midst of the current global health crisis
- The gospel--That people would turn to God and His word for their hope in the midst of this crisis and that all believers would seize the opportunity to share the gospel

- The health of the saints--Pray for the health of all the saints and particularly those who are not feeling well
- That the heavens would rule (Dan. 4:26), that Satan would be bound, and that the pandemic would be stopped
- All the authorities on the federal, state and local levels--That the authorities would trust in God and seek Him for the wisdom to guide the nation through this crisis
- The gospel--That the gospel would be preached and that people would repent and be saved
- The going on of the church life--That all the saints would be strengthened and encouraged to continue to meet together on the Lord's Day and throughout the week in small groups or groups of 2s and 3s, for prayer, Bible-study, fellowship and mutual shepherding
- The young people--The online young people's conference series continuing this upcoming Saturday on the east coast and in Latin America
- Health care professionals—Pray for the health and safety of all the health care professionals; this includes a good number of saints among us in the church life in NYC, as well as in many other localities across the country

### MORNING WATCH

#### **HWMR: *Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy***

**Week 8: Christ— the One Cursed and Hanged on a Tree**

#### **Portion from Week 8 - Day 2:**

In His creation of man, God intended that man might enjoy God as his blessing. But through the fall of Adam, man lost God as his blessing and enjoyment. Not only so, since man did not know that he was totally fallen, incurable, and hopeless, he tried to please God by his own effort. This forced God to decree the law in order to expose man's fallen condition. Knowing that man could not keep the law, God gave man the law, not for him to keep it but for man to realize that he is utterly fallen and hopeless.

Here we need to see that before decreeing the law, God promised Abraham a blessing: Out of him would come a seed who would be a blessing not only to his own house, his race, but also to all the nations, all the Gentiles. With Adam we have sin and the curse, but with Abraham we have God's promise...

Yet the children of Israel did not realize that God's intention was not for them to try to keep the law but to bring them back to the promise given to their forefather, Abraham, through the law. Because the children of Israel did not see that the function of the law was to expose their fallen condition and to restore them to the promised blessing, they tried to keep the law, thereby coming under the curse of the law (Deut. 27:15-26).

Through His incarnation Christ came as the seed of Abraham, and through His crucifixion Christ died on the cross to be a curse on our behalf. In doing so, Christ removed the curse from all those who believe in Him. Through His work on the cross, Christ became a curse on our behalf and redeemed us out of the curse of the law so that the blessing God promised to Abraham would be bestowed on all those who believe in Christ.

If we try to keep the law, we will be in the flesh and automatically come under the curse, for those who are of the works of the law are under the curse [cf. Gal. 3:10]. Instead of trying to keep the law, we should thank the law for exposing us and then bid it farewell. We should leave the law and go to Christ and to the cross.

**Corporate Reading:**

*"The Christian Life" Chapter 12*

**A Ministry Portion from "The Overcoming Life"**

**THE PRINCIPLE OF STILL LACKING ONE THING**

There was a ruler who came to Jesus and asked for eternal life—God's life (Luke 18:18-27). This eternal life includes salvation as well as victory. In verse 27, however, the Lord Jesus said, "The things that are impossible with men are possible with God." The purpose of the Lord's word was to prove to him that salvation and victory are impossible with man... Yet the young man thought that it was possible.

In order for God to bring us into victory, He must first show us that we are not able. Victory is a gift from Christ; we cannot overcome in ourselves.

Consequently, God leaves behind one or two things which are impossible for us to overcome. He is trying to show us that we "still...lack one thing."

**THE FIRST THING TOWARD VICTORY BEING A REALIZATION THAT WE ARE NOT ABLE**

The way to overcome is to be lacking in one thing. You may think that you are right in this and that matter. You may think that you can do something or that you are capable of doing something, but God has to prove to you that you cannot do anything.

Once you see that you are unable, you will see that God is able. If you do not see your own weakness, you will not see the power of Christ.

**UNABLE AND NOT INTENDING TO BE ABLE**

The first condition to victory is to realize that we cannot make it, and the second is to give up trying to make it. If we will admit that we cannot make it and give up trying to make it, we will overcome.

God has crucified you on the cross and has given up hope in you. But you must also admit that you cannot make it. You must also acknowledge this.

Brothers and sisters, please remember that the condition of victory is acknowledging that we are unable, and the greatest barrier to victory is trying to be able. Victory is from Christ; it is Christ who is living on our behalf. The overcoming life requires that we take a stand and declare, "I cannot make it and I do not intend to make it. Please make it for me. I will not fabricate my own victory." ...Christ lives within us in order to live Himself out of us. The problem is that we try to preserve the wholeness of our own work. We must completely deny our own work before Christ can express His life through us. If we try to help Him a little and try to bring in man's work, God's grace will go away... Christ's power is not for the purpose of making up our lack. Christ's life is not for the purpose of patching the holes in our lives. He wants to live instead of us.

With the young man, we see that it is impossible with man. With Zaccheus, we see that it is possible with God. It is possible with God to do what? The Lord Jesus said that Zaccheus was also a son of Abraham and that salvation had come to his house. This means that God had saved him. The young man knew that it was impossible with him. But he did not ask for God's salvation.

- Excerpts from "The Overcoming Life", Chapter 4 (part 2)