

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 21 April 26, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The local children's meeting video for the week is now available on the website 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. A short new video will be posted daily from Monday through Friday for one more week. The purpose of these videos is to foster a daily family time in each household.
- Website to help facilitate the Global Prayer for 30 days, beginning April 1: <https://unceasinglypray.org/>.

PRAYER BURDENS

- The endurance of hope--That as the weeks under the stay-at-home order continue all the saints would experience the endurance of hope and not lose heart under the wearing down tactics of the enemy (1 Thes. 1:3; Luke 18:1; Dan. 7:25)
- That in the midst of the worldwide pandemic the Lord would protect His interests on the earth, including all the saints and all the churches
- That all the saints would continue to meet and minister Christ for the building up of the Body
- That the gospel of the kingdom will be preached and the hearts of men will be open to receive it (Matt. 24:14)
- For the Lord's return, that the Lord Jesus would come back quickly (Rev. 22:20)
- The Northeast young people's conference concluded its four weekend series with a gospel meeting on Saturday April 25th
- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities (e.g. physical and emotional, health-related, job-related, family-related, etc.)

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: *Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy*
Week 10: *Avoiding Division, Which Is versus the Oneness That We Keep, and Rejecting Apostasy, Which Is versus the Faith That We Contend For*

Week 10 day 3:

The reason for this oneness is that God Himself is one. Oneness is His nature. In all God's acts we see one origin, one element, and one essence. In God's creation we see one God and one corporate man. In His selection we also have the one God and one man. Moreover, in the church we have the one Spirit and one new man. Eventually, in the New Jerusalem we have the unique Triune God in the one city characterized by the one throne, the one street, the one river, and the one tree. Therefore, the oneness about which we are speaking is not a partial oneness; it is a great, complete, comprehensive oneness, a oneness in entirety... If we see the vision of the oneness of entirety, all the germs of division will be killed, and we will be delivered from every kind of division.

The oneness [in John 17:21-23] is not merely that of individual units coming together in harmony and agreement. Here the Lord said that He has given us the very glory the Father has given Him in order that we may be one in the Father and the Son. This points to a oneness that exists in the divine nature and the Divine Being. The three of the Triune God are one in Their nature and being. The oneness of the believers in Christ should be essentially the same.

[In Ephesians 4:4-6] Paul speaks of the Body and of the one Spirit, the one Lord, and the one God and Father. The fact that the Body and the Triune God are mentioned together indicates that oneness is actually the mingling of the Triune God with the believers.

When we come back to the oneness, all the godly, heavenly, spiritual things return...[and] are ours on the ground of oneness. (CWWL, 1979, vol. 2, "The Genuine Ground of Oneness," pp. 243, 292-293, 330)

Corporate Reading:

"The Christian Life" Chapters 13 & 14

A Ministry Portion from "The Overcoming Life"

SURRENDERING—

"I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST"

In order to experience the Lord as our overcoming life, we have to move out. We have to move out, which means that we have to let go. If we move out, we will experience the overcoming life.

As co-tenants, we are very unclean; we have committed all kinds of sins. As soon as we move out, everything will be all right. Hence, the first condition is that we move out; we have to relocate.

Not Being Able to Make It

Brothers and sisters, we have to realize that it is one thing for the Lord Jesus to accomplish salvation, and it is another thing for us to receive this salvation. Preparing a meal is one thing, but eating the meal is another. It is one thing for the Lord Jesus to accomplish something for us. It is another thing for us to receive what the Lord has accomplished. Paul showed us how we should receive the Lord's death. Romans 6 shows us that every one of us is dead. Hallelujah! Every one of us is dead! Romans 7 shows us that even though every Christian should be dead, in reality we are still alive...

A criminal that has been sentenced to death no longer thinks of improvement. He has no further need of progress. All he is waiting for is death. God says that we deserve only to die and that there is no way to improve or correct us. We cannot make any further headway. God's final ruling is that we should die; we deserve only to die.

What is the cross? The cross signifies God's despair of man! The cross tells us that God has given up hope in man! What is the cross? The cross tells us that God is proclaiming, "I cannot improve man; I cannot correct him. I cannot make any headway with him. I can only crucify him on the cross." The strange thing is that we already know this fact. We already know that God considers us hopeless and that we deserve only to be crucified. But at the same time, we still think that we are not that bad. Therefore, we make resolutions every day.

...This was the way Paul lived: "For to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not" (Rom. 7:18). He was always making resolutions, failing, making resolutions, and failing over and over again. This was not only Paul's life but the frequent experience of many of us today...

The question is how do we evaluate ourselves. If we also give up hope in ourselves and say that we are useless, we will experience deliverance immediately. God allows us to lose our temper, to be proud, jealous, and dishonest. He allows sin to turn us upside down. This is His way of telling us that we cannot make it. But how do we respond? We think that our first resolution was not strong enough and that we have to make a stronger resolution. We think that it may work the second time. But it still does not work. This is the experience of Romans 7. Romans 6 is merely the teaching, whereas Romans 7 leads us into the reality of Romans 6.

Those who try to be good will never be saved. Similarly, Christians who resolve to be good Christians will never overcome. Brothers and sisters, God's cross has not misjudged you. Day after day, I love to do one thing: I love to declare that I was useless yesterday, that I am useless today, and that I will be useless tomorrow. I will be useless forever.

Not Trying to Make It

In experiencing the overcoming life, there are two very important conditions in regard to surrendering. First, we have to acknowledge God's appraisal that we are not able in ourselves. Second, we should not try to become able. Rather, we should lose hope in ourselves completely.

What does it mean to be crucified with Christ? The first meaning of being crucified with Christ is to let go. The second meaning is to not try to take control. You should tell God, "From now on, I offer myself to You. From now on, victory is Your business, and patience is Your business."

Hence, the most important thing is to let go. We have to say, "God, I cannot overcome, and I do not intend to overcome. Neither will I try to overcome." This is being crucified with Christ. How wonderful this is! "I am crucified with Christ"!

- Excerpts from *"The Overcoming Life"*, Chapter 5 (part 1)