

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 64 February 21, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2021 Spring East Coast College Retreat**
On **Saturday, February 27**, there will be a one-day online retreat for the college students (undergraduate & graduate) on the East Coast from Maine to Florida. High school seniors are especially invited to join as well.

The schedule is as follows:

Message One 10:30am - 12:00pm
Message Two 1:30pm - 3:00pm
Message Three 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Please register at

www.tinyurl.com/S21Retreat by **February 24**.
Questions can be directed to the college serving saints.

- **Service Office Hours**
Service Office hours are available for saints to call in to fellowship or to pray with some serving ones.

Day & Time: Monday through Saturday (except Wednesday), 11AM-12PM.

Join via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/3785123114?pwd=dEpzN2ZGZ21aaGV5dTFob3AwQlBodz09>

Dial-in by Phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 378 512 3114 (Password: 3131)

The burden for holding these office hours is that the hearts of the saints can be comforted and that their souls would be restored.

PRAYER BURDENS

- The young people – The winter retreat for the middle school and high school age young people in the church in NYC that was held online this past week
- The children – The activities that were held online for the children by the children's meeting

serving ones and parents during the past week of mid-winter recess

- Shepherding and homecoming – The shepherding of all the saints and the reaching out to any who have not been attending the meetings regularly
- The meetings – The strengthening of the church meetings and group meetings this week
- Gospel to All the Nations conference – The most recent meeting of the online conference was held on Saturday, February 20, with the focus of reaching the seekers in the African American community and among those of African descent

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones—October 2020

Subject: The Christian Life, The Church Life, The Consummation of the Age, and The Coming of the Lord

Week 7: Fighting the Good Fight, Finishing the Course, and Loving the Lord's Appearing

Portions from Days 1, 3, & 6:

In 2 Timothy 4:7 Paul mentions three items: fighting the good fight, finishing the course, and keeping the faith. A proper Christian life is threefold. It involves fighting the good fight against Satan and his kingdom of darkness for the interests of God's kingdom (1 Tim. 6:12), running the course for the carrying out of God's economy according to His eternal purpose (Heb. 12:1), and keeping the faith for participation in the divine riches in God's dispensation (Gal. 3:22).

To fight for the faith means to fight for God's New Testament economy. In particular, it is to fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ.

The eternal life in 1 Timothy 6:12 is the divine life, the uncreated life of God, which is eternal. Eternal denotes the nature more than the time element of the divine life. To fight the good fight of

the faith in the Christian life, especially in the Christian ministry, we need to lay hold on this divine life and not trust in our human life....To bring forth God's dispensation concerning the church in 1 Timothy, to confront the process of the church's decline in 2 Timothy, and to maintain good order in the church life in Titus, this life is a prerequisite.

The entire Christian life is a race. This race is not for obtaining eternal life. On the contrary, only those who already have eternal life are qualified to run the race. At the end of the race, some will receive a crown, while others will not receive a crown (1 Cor. 9:24-25).

God has put the kingdom before us, and He has given us a race to run. At the end of the race, we will see if we have failed or won. The winner will reign with the Lord, while the loser, though saved, will have nothing to do with the glory of the kingdom. The race is already set, and those who want to run have to "put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us" [Heb. 12:1]. There are two crucial things in running a race. First, we have to lay aside every weight, and second, we have to put away our sin.

When the apostles wrote the New Testament, to them the Lord was coming soon. Hence, the teaching of the New Testament shows us that their living was in preparation for the Lord's return. This is like the situation in which some long-separated relatives are soon to return. The entire family is prepared to welcome them. It is also like a girl waiting to be married, who knows of the wedding day and who is waiting wholeheartedly for that day to arrive.

Since we love the Lord's appearing, we should earnestly wait for His coming (Phil. 3:20; 1 Thes. 1:10). Hence, our future is with Him. Our living should indicate that we have no other hope on this earth. Our hope is in the coming Lord. He is our eternal destiny. In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul says, "...The time is shortened. Henceforth both those who have wives should be as though they had none, and those who weep as though they did not weep, and those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, and those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use the world as though they did not abuse it; for the fashion of this world is passing away" (vv. 29-31). Christ is our real hope.

Corporate Reading: "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 2: Christ's Redemption; Chapter 3: The Spirit's Application

A Ministry Portion from "The Prayer Ministry of the Church":

THE PRAYER OF AUTHORITY

Few of us know that there is a prayer of authority. A prayer of authority is a commanding prayer. This is the most crucial and most spiritual prayer in the Bible. This kind of prayer is a sign of authority and a declaration of authority.

We can consider the story in Exodus 14. When Moses brought the Israelites out of Egypt to the Red Sea, trouble arose. Before them was the Red Sea, and behind them were the armies of the Egyptians. They were caught between two perils. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians approaching, they were afraid. On the one hand, they implored the Lord. On the other hand, they murmured against Moses. What did Moses do? From God's answer, we know that Moses was pleading. God said to Moses, "Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: but lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea" (vv. 15-16). The rod which God gave Moses was a symbol of His authority. He was telling Moses that he could pray with authority; there was no need to cry out to Him. Once there was the commanding prayer, He would carry out the work. Moses was learning, and he eventually learned, to pray with authority, that is, to pray the commanding prayer.

At what point did this kind of commanding prayer begin for Christians?

This kind of prayer began from the time the Lord ascended to the heavenlies. ... Ephesians 1:20-22 says that when Christ ascended, God caused Him to sit at His right hand and made Him "far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come." Furthermore, God "subjected all things under His feet." When Christ ascended, He opened up a way through "the air" to the heavenlies. From that day on, His church has been able to go from the earth to the heavenlies. ... This is Christ's position today. In other words, God has put Satan and his subjects under Christ's feet; all things are under His feet.

- Excerpts from "The Prayer Ministry of the Church", Chapter 4: The Prayer of Authority (section 1)