

# The Church in New York City

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 183 June 4, 2023

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Citywide Church Gathering**

We will have a citywide church gathering at Hall 1 (Jamaica Estates meeting hall) on Lord's Day, June 25. More details about the arrangement will be available in the coming weeks.

- **Service Office Hours**

Due to the many activities in the coming summer months, Service Office Hour will be suspended until September.

### PRAYER BURDENS

- Thanksgiving to the Lord for the release of His word during the Memorial Day Blending Conference held in Chicago, IL this past weekend—The general subject of the conference was Knowing, Experiencing, and Enjoying Christ as Revealed in Philippians; let us pray that the Lord's word would not return to Him vainly but rather accomplish what He sent it forth to accomplish

**Philippians 3:10-11** – *To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from among the dead.*

- The Teachers' Training at Camp Penuel this past Saturday for the preparation of the saints serving in this year's Northeast Summer School of Truth (July 30-August 10)
- The preaching of the gospel to the children in grade 5 in the next citywide gathering on Saturday, June 10, at Hall 3
- The going on of the churches in Puerto Rico and the visit of 24 responsible brothers from the churches in Puerto Rico this week (June 7-11) for blending and fellowship
- The strengthening of all the practical services in the church, that in every service there would be

the adequate prayer and fellowship and building up among the saints, so that every service would be a part of the holy and royal priesthood unto the building up of the church (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)

- 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: 2022 DECEMBER SEMIANNUAL TRAINING - CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES, EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND ESTHER**

***Week 10: The Central and Crucial Point of the Recovery Books of Ezra and Nehemiah – the Proper and Adequate Leadership in the Lord's Recovery***

#### **Supplement from The Vision of the Age: Closely Following The Completed Vision Of This Age**

In order for us to serve God today, our vision must extend all the way from the first vision of Adam in Genesis to the ultimate vision of the manifestation of the church, the New Jerusalem. This and this alone is the complete vision. It is not until today that this vision has been fully opened to us.

In the National Palace Museum in Taipei, there is a painting on a long scroll called "The River Scene at Ching-Ming Festival." It describes in detail the culture, life, and way of the Chinese people at the time of the painting. It is not enough to see only the first few portions of that long scroll. One has to go all the way from one end to the other end before he can have a clear picture, or "vision," of the entire spectrum of life in China. In the same way we have our own painting, our "River Scene at Ching-Ming," in our service to God. It begins from Adam's vision of the tree of life in the garden of Eden and extends all the way to the New Jerusalem with the tree of life. The New Jerusalem is the last scene of the vision. After that there is nothing more to be seen. ...We are serving God according to the last scene, which includes all the previous scenes.... Since we have the up-to-date and ultimate vision, we should closely

follow after it. We are absolutely not following a man; rather, we are following a vision. It is grossly wrong to say that we are following a certain person. We are following a vision that belongs to the present age. It is God's consummate vision.

### **Portions from HWMR Week 10 Days 5 and 6:**

The central and crucial point of the recovery books, which end with Nehemiah, is the matter of proper, adequate leadership...In Ezra and Nehemiah three leaders are mentioned: Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. They were all excellent leaders, but the best and the highest was Nehemiah. Nehemiah was the perfect leader, the best leader in human history.

Nehemiah was a head, a ruler, of a nation, but he was altogether not ambitious. This is indicated by the fact that he recognized his need of Ezra. In reconstituting the nation. Nehemiah realized that he did not know God's Word. But Ezra, who was famous for his knowledge of the Word of God, was still alive, and Nehemiah was willing to go to Ezra for help. Many of today's leaders would not seek help in such a way...Nehemiah knew that without Ezra he could not reconstitute the people of God. (Life-study of Nehemiah, p. 32)

This principle of matching applies today. ...To act individualistically in the Lord's service is not according to the divine principle. Today, in the New Testament economy, to be individualistic is to violate the principle of the Body. We should not behave individualistically; rather, we should move and act according to the principle of corporateness, always having at least one other member to match us...The Body cannot be represented by individuals. According to the divine principle, the proper representation of the Body is always by those members who are matched with others. ...It is by means of such matching that God's commission is carried out. (Life-study of Exodus, pp. 99-102)

**Corporate Reading:** *"The Life-study of Romans", messages 20-21*

## **MINISTRY READINGS**

### **The Bible Being God's Food for Us**

Since we desire to be persons who eat, drink, absorb, and breathe in God, we need a drastic change in our concept concerning the Bible. We need to see that the Bible is the food God has given us. We read the Bible with the purpose of eating, drinking,

absorbing, and breathing in God, because we know that the Bible is the Word of God. John 1 says that the Word of God is God Himself. God's Word is God's coming forth. When God is expressed and presented to us, we have the Word, the Bible. Since God wants to be our food, His expression and manifestation to man as the Word means that the Word is man's food.

Some people think that God's words are only precepts and commandments, but in John 12:50 the Lord Jesus said that God's commandment is eternal life. God's commandment is life because it is food. When we receive God's commandments, we receive them in the way of eating. When these commandments enter into us as food, we spontaneously receive life and nourishment from them. Those who have experienced this can testify that when we read the Bible with a heart to absorb God, it becomes food to us. Even a commandment such as husbands loving their wives can become food to us when we receive it in the way of absorbing God. When we do this, we are filled with God's supply and His presence as we love our wives. While we are loving our wives, God is life to us. The commandment—love your wife—becomes eternal life to us. The more we receive this commandment to love our wives, the more we sense God's presence, supply, and life.

In the same principle, if we read the portions of the Bible that command children to honor their parents, with a heart to absorb God, we will receive this commandment as our food. Then when we obey this commandment to obey our parents, we will sense the moving of the Holy Spirit; we will experience the Holy Spirit as life to us. The more we honor our parents, the more we will be filled and satisfied, and the more we will eat and drink God and be saturated with His life. This is what it means for God's commandment to be eternal life to us.

*Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 13: ENJOYING GOD AS FOOD BY READING THE WORD (part 3)*