

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 193 August 13, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2023 Church in NYC's Family Bible Camp**

August 17-19, Thur. to Sat. - In-person camp in KPCC, 288 Hickory Bush Rd, Kingston, NY 12401.

This time will be open to rising Kindergartners to 6th graders (young people can be helpers). For registration and questions, please contact the children's meeting serving ones in your district.

- **Service Office Hours**

Due to the many activities this summer, Service Office Hours will be suspended until after Labor Day.

PRAYER BURDENS

- That all the saints would experience the Lord as their new beginning every day in their fellowship with Him and have a living of being renewed day by day
2 Corinthians 4:16-17 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory.
- The Summer School of Truth for the churches in the Northeast--The middle school section held this past week (August 6-10) at Camp Penuel; about 185 were in attendance
- Gospel meeting in Hall 2 in Manhattan (34th Street) this past Friday
- The continuation of the Family Bible Camp which will be held at Camp Penuel from August 17-19
- The Lord's move in Europe:
 - a. Thanksgiving to the Lord for His blessing on the European Young People's Conference held last week and prayer for the going on of

all the young people in the churches in Europe

- b. Prayer for the church in Paris--A very good property in a strategic location has been found which could serve as a meeting hall for the church; let us pray that the Lord would supply the means for the saints to acquire this property and for the strengthening of the Lord's testimony in Paris and in all of France
- c. The need for meeting halls in Munich and Stuttgart, Germany and in Malaga, Spain
- 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: Romans

Week 1: Romans 1 – Romans 4

Portions from Days 2 & 4:

Our experience of Christ rests upon the foundation of God's righteousness. We should never have confidence in ourselves, thinking that we cannot backslide or fail the Lord. Do not be like Peter who said that he would be faithful to the Lord, even though everyone else might deny Him. The foundation is not our fervency or victory; it is God's righteousness, the unshakable foundation of God's throne. God has shown forth His righteousness by passing over the sins of the Old Testament saints and by forgiving us of our sins in the New Testament age. By doing these things God has proved that He is righteous. Now this very righteousness is our foundation. The work of being designated sons of God is built upon this foundation. However, we must be clear that the foundation is not the process of designation; it is the righteousness of God.

Many Christians say incorrectly that they have the righteousness of Christ. We should not say this. Our righteousness is not the righteousness of Christ; it is Christ Himself. Christ Himself as a Person, not His

attribute of righteousness, has been made the righteousness of God to us (1 Cor. 1:30). Do not say that the righteousness of Christ has become your righteousness. Instead you should say, "Christ is my righteousness. My righteousness before God is the living Person of Christ, not an attribute. The righteous Christ is mine." God has made Christ, who is the very embodiment of God Himself, our righteousness.

Second Corinthians 5:21 says that the believers are made the righteousness of God in Christ. Paul does not say that the believers are made righteous; he says that they are made righteousness. We have been made the righteousness of God in Christ. This is a deep matter. How can we become the righteousness of God? By having Christ wrought into us. We have seen that Christ is the embodiment of God, and that God, as a living Person, is righteousness. Therefore, righteousness, God, and Christ are one. The righteousness of God is God Himself. Since this God is embodied in Christ, Christ is the righteousness of God. Christ has been wrought into us, and we have been put into Christ. We have been mingled together with Christ as one. Thus, we become the righteousness of God. Paul declares, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). As Christ has been wrought into us, we can say with Paul, "For to me to live is Christ." Suppose we have a glass of water. Once tea has been blended with it, it no longer is plain water; it is tea. Likewise, once Christ has been wrought into us, we become one with Him.

Corporate Reading: *"The Life-study of Romans", messages 33-34*

MINISTRY READINGS

Reading and Praying Needing to be Combined

God has ordained two ways for man to enjoy Him. The first is through prayer, and the second is through reading the Bible. Praying and reading the Bible are as necessary as man's two feet. ...Every person who enjoys and absorbs God knows from experience that prayer should accompany the reading of God's Word and that reading the Bible should accompany prayer. ...whenever we absorb God, we need to match our prayer with reading and our reading with prayer. ...Sometimes we pray first and then read God's Word. At other times we read the Word and then pray. This shows that reading the

Word and praying go together; they are parallel to each other.

The Lord Being Enjoyed by Us in the Spirit and in the Word

In a previous chapter we saw that the Lord is the Spirit, the Lord is the Word, and the Word is the Spirit. ...He has only one purpose for us—that we would receive Him as the Word and as the Spirit. The Word is for us to receive. The Spirit is also for us to receive. The Word is visible and outside of us, and the Spirit is touchable and inside of us. One is visible, and the other is invisible. One is outside of us, and the other is inside of us. If we have only the Spirit and not the Word, the light we receive will not be clear. If we have only the Word and not the Spirit, the light we receive may be clear, but it will not be deep. In order to be clear, deep, accurate, and inwardly shining, we need the Word and the Spirit. The Lord must be both the Spirit and the Word.

In the book of Exodus God's presence came through the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire. The pillar of cloud typifies the Spirit, and the pillar of fire typifies the Bible. In the daytime the pillar of cloud led God's children. At night when it was difficult to see the pillar of cloud, the pillar of fire gave them light. Actually, the pillar of fire at night was the pillar of cloud in the day. Without the pillar of fire, God's children would not have had light at night. In the same way, if we only have the Spirit without the Bible, our vision of God will be unclear at "night." ...When we are inwardly in the light, it seems as if the Spirit as the pillar of cloud is sufficient, but when we are inwardly in darkness, we also need the Word. However, the Bible in itself is only letters. If we do not use our spirit, the Bible will not give us life. Having the Spirit without the Word may lead to error, and having the Bible without the Spirit may lead to death. In order to be accurate and living, we need to use our spirit to contact the Spirit and the Word.

Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 14: HOW TO ENJOY GOD BY MATCHING READING WITH PRAYING (part 1)