

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 184 June 11, 2023

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

- That all the saints would "be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength" and "put on the whole armor of God that (they) may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil" in order to fight the spiritual warfare for the building up of the church (Eph. 6:10-11)
- The follow-up of all the children in grades 5 and 6 who attended the gospel meeting which took place this past Saturday in Hall 3
- The going on of the churches in Puerto Rico (24 responsible brothers from the churches in Puerto Rico visited NYC this past week for blending and fellowship)
- The citywide church gathering on Lord's Day, June 25
- The strengthening of the church in Dublin, Ireland and their need for a proper meeting hall—A property has been found across the street from a major university which could potentially be used as a hall with meeting capacity of 250-300; let us pray for the Lord's leading in this matter
- 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 11: The Intrinsic Significance of Ezra's Ministry and Nehemiah's Leadership—to Build Up the Church as the House of God and the Kingdom of God by Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem

Portions from Week 11 Days 1, 4 and 6:

With the wall of the New Jerusalem there are seven implications. The wall implies transformation, building, the image of God, the expression of God, the testimony of Jesus, separation, and protection. A wall always separates a particular piece of space from all the other spaces. A wall also protects what is in it from all sorts of negative and evil things.

The wall is not built with natural materials merely created by God, but the wall is built with transformed items. We all are God's old creation, but God put us into Christ to make us His new creation. We all were natural beings, but we have been transformed from the old creation into the new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). In the New Jerusalem there will be no Chinese, American, Spanish, Mexican, Japanese, Korean, French, Italian, German, or any other culture or race. All of us will be fully transformed. I believe that even our color will be transformed. In that day we will all be "green." We will all be jasper! We will be one people in one color—"green"! All the different colors and all the different cultures will be swallowed up by the rich divine life of the Triune God. This is transformation. (CWWL, 1984, vol. 3, "God's New Testament Economy," pp. 441-443)

We should do only one work, which is to make God's chosen people regenerated ones, sanctified ones, renewed ones (the new man), transformed ones, conformed ones (those conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God), and glorified ones.

All those who will be in the New Jerusalem are this kind of people.

Specifically, God proceeds step by step to make a chosen one of God a person who is regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God, and even glorified by God. In this way we go up level by level until we reach the highest point, where we become the same. There is no more flesh and no more natural being. All are in the spirit. All are in the kingdom of the heavens, and all are beings of the New Jerusalem...As we go step by step, ascending level by level, eventually we reach the highest point, where there is no more flesh and no more natural being, and all are in the spirit. That is the New Jerusalem...[We] should only do the work of the New Jerusalem. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, p. 529)

The church is the Body of Christ. This Body renders supply [and]...also renders protection to every member. This is especially important when it comes to the matter of spiritual warfare. Ephesians is a book that deals specifically with the Body of Christ. In chapter 6 we see that spiritual warfare is something that is related to the church, not to individuals...Satan is not afraid of individuals. He is afraid of the church...(Matt. 16:18). We must meet the devil on the ground of the Body. Even in our private prayers we should stand by faith on the ground of the Body. Many Christians fall before the foe because they stand alone. In fact, if we stand alone, we invite Satan's attack. (CWWN, vol. 44, p. 803)

The Body of Christ puts on the whole armor of God. In the Body every member has its specialty, and all these specialties combined together form the whole armor of God. If a brother has faith, he has the shield of faith. If another brother has the word of God, he has the sword of the Spirit. The whole armor of God is the totality of all the specialties of the members. Hence, the whole armor is for the whole church, not for individuals...One function of the Body of Christ is to protect all the members. We need the covering of the Body; otherwise, we will be constantly exposed to the enemy. An isolated individual is also prone to be deceived, so we need the covering of the Body for this as well. We should consult constantly with our fellow believers. We must not only acknowledge the need for the Body in a general way, but we should also go to our brothers and sisters in a specific way and ask for help.

In Ephesians 6:11 we are told to put on "the whole armor of God" that we may wage warfare against the hosts of darkness. However, the equipment for the fight is not given to one believer; it is given to the church. "The whole armor" can only be put on by the Body, not just by one member. Spiritual warfare is in this principle—one will chase a thousand and two will put ten thousand to flight (Deut. 32:30).

Corporate Reading: *"The Life-study of Romans", messages 22-23*

MINISTRY READINGS

The Lord Jesus Being Food to Man Through His Word

The entire Bible, from the first word to the last, is God's word. It is God's expression and His breathing out. God's word is God Himself. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This Word is our Lord Jesus. This is wonderful. The Lord Jesus is God's Word because He is God's expression and explanation. He manifests God; hence, He is the embodiment of God. When man receives Him, man receives God Himself. With the Word is life, nourishment, and supply. God is contained in the Word; hence, when a man receives the Word, he receives everything that God is.

When the Word came to the earth, He was received in the way of food. He said that He is the bread that came down out of heaven to be eaten by men.

Because the Lord was concerned that the people would still not understand, He continued, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. This shows that the Lord is food to us in two ways — first as the Spirit and second as the Word. In other words, the Lord today is first the Holy Spirit, and second the Holy Bible. He is the Spirit and the Word. Today we can breathe in the Spirit by prayer, and we can touch the Word by reading..... He is the Spirit for us to breathe Him in; this is to pray. He is also the Word for us to read; this is to study the Bible. 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 4)