

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 246 August 18, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2024 Northeast Churches Spanish-Speaking Conference (Sept. 6-8)**

The Spanish-Speaking Conference of the churches in the Northeast that will take place at Camp Penuel from **September 6 to 8, 2024. The deadline for registration is the Lord's Day, Aug. 25.**

- **Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference (Sept. 20-22)**

The registration has opened for the upcoming Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference for the churches in the Northeast. The conference will be held at Camp Penuel on **September 20-22, 2024. The registration deadline is September 2, 2024.**

We strongly encourage the saints who will stay overnight to register as soon as possible to secure accommodation at the camp due to limited onsite housing. Please see the registration link and more information on the conference: tinyurl.com/24fallyws.

If you have any questions, please email northeastyws@gmail.com.

- **Upcoming Church Events: details to follow**

1. **Sept 27 to 29:** HS Junior/Senior Retreat

- **Service Office Hours**

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

PRAYER BURDENS

- Thanksgiving to the Lord for His blessing on the Summer School of Truth and prayer for the going

on of all the young people in the coming school year

- The Family Bible Camp which was held from this past Thursday through Saturday at Camp Penuel (66 families with a total of 210 attended from NYC and Rosendale)
- The burden for the gospel—That all the saints would have the burden for the gospel and seize every opportunity for the speaking of the gospel “in season and out of season” (2 Tim. 4:2)
- The church meetings, the small group meetings and all the practical services in all nine halls this week
- The fall term of the Full-Time Training in Anaheim (FTTA) and the training extension in Boston (FTTA-XB) which began on past Monday—There are currently 5 trainees from NYC in Anaheim: Esther Chai (1st term), Lily Fang (1st term), Michelle Quin (2nd term), Miguel Carbajal (3rd term), Michelle Wang (3rd term), and 1 trainee in Boston: Benjamin Cooley; we give thanks to the Lord for the consecration of these young saints; let us pray that the Lord would gain each one fully and produce each one as a living, functioning member of His Body
- 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: 2024 INTERNATIONAL CHINESE-SPEAKING CONFERENCE: Fighting the Good Fight, Finishing the Course, Keeping the Faith, and Loving the Lord's Appearing in Order to Receive the Reward of Christ as the Crown of Righteousness

WEEK 5: Receiving the Kingdom Reward of Christ as the Crown of Righteousness

Portions from Days 1, 2 and 4:

Whether there would be a day of glory in the church's victory or grievous days of the church's decline depends altogether on what we set our heart upon, what it is we love. History tells us that the root

of the church's decline was the loss of her first love toward the Lord (Rev. 2:4). To maintain the victorious standard of the church, we must be lovers of God and lovers of the good that pertains to God's economy. (Life-study of 2 Timothy, 2nd ed., pp. 41-42)

Second Timothy 4:8 says, "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing." The crown, a symbol of glory, is given as a prize, in addition to the Lord's salvation, to the triumphant runner of the race (1 Cor. 9:25). In contrast to salvation, which is of grace and by faith (Eph. 2:5, 8-9), this prize is not of grace nor by faith, but is of righteousness through works (Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). The believers will be recompensed with such a reward, not according to the Lord's grace but according to His righteousness. Hence, it is the crown of righteousness. The Recompenser is the Lord as the righteous Judge, not as the merciful God or the gracious Redeemer. Paul was assured that such a prize was reserved, laid up, for him and that he would be recompensed with it at the day of the Lord's second appearing.

Most Christians care only for the first garment. Some even say, "As long as we are justified, redeemed, and saved, everything is all right." Do not listen to this. You may be all right as far as salvation is concerned, but what about the reward? You not only need justification—you also need approval. When you appear before the judgment seat of Christ, will He approve of you? Matthew 22:14 says very clearly that some will be chosen and not others. Only those who have the second garment produced by the embroidering work of the Holy Spirit will be chosen and qualified to attend the wedding feast of the Lamb. (Life-study of Revelation, 2nd ed., pp. 608-609)

Corporate Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews, msg. 47*

MINISTRY READINGS

The Second Category—Building Up Morality

A second category of things in the Bible is related to morality. When God enters into man to be His life, He cannot allow man to remain an evil person. As a vessel, man must be upright and proper in order to match God so that God can become his life. For this reason the Bible speaks much concerning morality. If

I want to drink from a cup, I must first clean it thoroughly and properly. Although my ultimate goal is to have a liquid inside the cup, I must first clean the cup. In the same way, when God wants to make us His vessel, to enter into us as life, He must first cleanse our vessel from sin and evil. However, this is only a peripheral preparation work.

The Third Category— Guidance for Human Living

A third category of peripheral matters in the Bible is secrets on human living. How should we live as human beings on earth? How should we handle human relationships? How should we behave as parents and as children? How should we relate to our spouse? How do we make friends? What attitude should we have toward money? How should the rich live? How should the poor live? Things like these can be found in many places in the Bible. The book of Proverbs is full of such advice. These are the things that many people consider to be precious when they come to the Bible. However, these are peripheral matters, like skin and feathers.

The Fourth Category—Religious Zeal

The fourth category of peripheral matters in the Bible is related to zeal for religion. Every Christian has a zeal to serve God, to be dedicated to Him, to love Him, and to be faithful to Him. These are not bad things. They are all good, but they are religious concepts. They are peripheral matters that have nothing to do with the central point of the Bible.

Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 18: Identifying the Central and Peripheral Matters in the Bible (part 3)