

Note: **Bold type** and/or underlining have been added for emphasis in the above verses and quotations.

Suggested Supplementary Reading

If you do not have access to The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, alternately, see Twelve Baskets Full, Vol. 1, "God Silences Man," pp. 14-38

Our Experience in the Church Life

Hearing Jesus Only

"A brother once asked me to pray for him so that I would know God's will concerning him and tell him. He thought that I was not just a teacher, but a prophet as well. 'Mr. Nee, please pray for me. If God tells you anything concerning me, please come and tell me.' You have to realize that this fundamentally overturns the New Testament. In the New Testament, not only must the law go, but the prophets have to go as well. Not only should there be no ordinances, but there should be no persons as well. No one should tell you what is right and what is wrong. No one should tell you that he has a message from God for you, and that God's will is for you to go to Nanking or Soochow. This is impossible. This oversteps the Lord Jesus' work. These directions should come as a result of the Lord's work within us. Today the Lord is within us; He is showing us what is right and what is wrong. The Lord is telling us if we should go to Nanking or Soochow"

(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 21, Issue No. 13, pp. 129-130)

Prayer Burdens

1. Thank the Lord for steadily adding more to our number week by week. He has blessed us greatly. Pray for Him to continue to add thru every means:(a) Through the Chinese-speaking gospel meeting this Saturday Sept 29 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm at Hall 1. May the Lord bless the inviting, bring the invitees, and save those He has prepared. (b) Through the English-speaking outreach underway to the Victoria Village neighborhood around Hall 3.
2. Thank the Lord for the fruitful work continuing among our young people. They have now transitioned from a full summer of blessed experiences and activities to their regular school year. Pray that the Lord will encourage them to keep up their pursuit of Him and their support for each other. Pray also for the Lord to renew the strength of the serving ones and raise up more to serve.
3. Pray for the up-coming Canadian Thanksgiving Conference for both the English and Chinese-speaking saints.

Announcements:

General

1. Oct 5th - 7th Schedule

The schedule for the meetings over the Thanksgiving Weekend is:

Friday

6:00pm: Young People's supper

7:00pm: Wildfire meeting

Saturday

10:00am-12:00 Gospel Fellowship

12:00am-2:00pm Pizza Lunch

2:00pm-4:00pm Gospel Activities

5:00pm-7:00pm Barbeque

7:00pm-8:30pm Singing and Gospel Meeting

Sunday

10:00am-12:00 Regular Schedule

The church in Toronto

Twelve Baskets Full Week 2

October 1st - October 13, 2007

God Interrupting Man's Speaking, Part 1 — The Content of Our Christian Faith

Weekly Bible Reading:

Luke 9:27-36; Romans 9:30-33; 10:1-21; 7:1-6

Hymns:

538; 541; 547; 64 (alt. tune)

Monday

Verses for Morning Revival

Hebrews 1:1-2a

- 1** God, having spoken of old in many portions and in many ways to the fathers in the prophets,
2a Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son...

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

God is Very Capable at Speaking, Listening, and Interrupting

"God is a speaking God. Many portions in the Bible are God's direct speaking. Although other portions are not God's direct speaking, they are nevertheless spoken by God. Consequently, the Bible says that these other portions are also the word of God. In this world, only human beings can speak. But man's speaking cannot be compared with God's speaking. God is best at speaking. Nearly the whole Bible is filled with God's speaking. He is constantly speaking.

"One interesting thing that the Bible shows us is that God is not only the best at speaking; He is also the best at listening. Many times, while men speak, God listens. In the Old Testament, a few men spoke, and their speakings were very unpleasant and rather meaningless. Even I am annoyed by their speakings. Yet God listened; He listened to their speakings.

"...There is one book in the Bible which records more of man's speaking than the rest. It is the book of Job. Of the forty-two chapters in Job, thirty-five chapters are on man's speaking... The book of Job shows us that God is very capable of listening; He is never hasty. Even though these men were speaking nonsense and making wild guesses, God was still listening. If it were us, we would have stopped them after one or two wrong words; we would have interrupted their speaking with our words. We cannot listen. Yet we see in the book of Job that God is a listening God; He listens all the time.

"...In the New Testament, one person was very talkative. The minute there was an opportunity, he would speak...I believe we all know that he is our brother Peter, the apostle. He loved to speak. The minute he showed up, he was speaking. The minute an opportunity arose, he spoke. Three passages—in Luke 9, Matthew 17, and Acts 10—show us that Peter was full of speaking. In these three instances, there is one thing in common: God never allowed Peter to finish his speaking. Peter spoke three times, and in every instance God did not allow Peter to finish his speaking. Peter would speak only a few words, and before finishing one sentence, or a long discourse, God would come in and interrupt his speaking. Hence, our subject...is 'God Interrupting Man's Speaking.'"

(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 21, Issue No. 13, pp. 115-117)

Tuesday

Verses for Morning Revival

1 Corinthians 2:1, 4-5

- 1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, came not according to excellence of speech or of wisdom, announcing to you the mystery of God.
- 4 And my speech and my proclamation were not in persuasive words of wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
- 5 In order that your faith would not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

God Interrupts Man's Speaking to Preserve the Base of our Christian Faith

"It is strange that during the three times Peter spoke, he was interrupted. The first time God the Father interrupted his words from heaven. The second time God the Son interrupted his word on earth. The third time God the Spirit interrupted his word in Caesarea. God the Father interrupted his words from heaven. God the Son interrupted his words from the house. And God the Spirit interrupted his words in the midst of the Gentiles. God did not allow him to go on; He interrupted Peter. In one case, He interrupted after Peter spoke a few words. In another case, He interrupted before anything was said. The third time, He interrupted Peter after he had spoken a long discourse. There was an interruption after a few words, an interruption after no word, and an interruption after a long discourse. Of the three times that Peter spoke, God interrupted each time. If you compare these three cases with the story of Job in the Old Testament, you will find one very interesting thing. In the Old Testament, God would listen to man's speaking. Man was always speaking, and God did not object. God allowed man to speak; He was willing to let man speak so much. If this was the case, why did God interrupt Peter's speaking when he spoke these three times in the New Testament? If you read the book of Job, you can see that God is capable of listening to man's speaking; He can patiently listen. Why then did He not allow Peter to speak? Why did He not allow him to continue? Why did He not allow Peter to finish what he wanted to say? You must realize that God is a God who can listen. He can listen patiently to man's speaking. His interruptions of Peter's speaking show that his word needed to be interrupted. If God did not allow him to continue with his words, it means that the words should not have continued. His words should not be heard anymore; they were not worthy words and had to be interrupted. If the listening God interrupts man's word, it must mean that his words should be interrupted and should not be allowed to continue.

"If we spend some time to consider these three passages, we will find out that Peter's words in each case had to be interrupted, because they were too crucial to Christianity. If those three speakings had continued, there would be no Christianity left. If the three speakings had continued, Christianity would have been overthrown. God interrupted all three speakings. This shows us that Christianity is something very special. We have to have God's viewpoint, and cannot have man's viewpoint. If we take the human view, God will come in to interrupt our speaking. Let us consider these three instances, and why God interrupted Peter's speakings."

(ibid., pp. 119-120)

Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Luke 9:35-36a

- 35 ...a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Chosen One. **Hear Him!**
- 36 And when the voice had spoken, **Jesus** was found **alone**...

Romans 10:17

- 17 ...faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

I. The Content of Christianity —

Christ Himself

as our Personal Revelation and Guidance

(why God interrupted Peter

on the Mount of Transfiguration)

D. What Then are the Prophets?

1. A prophet fills up the lack of the law. The law is dead, while a prophet is living.

"...The law can decide only certain things for us; it cannot decide everything. The law can tell us what is right and wrong about many things; but it cannot tell us what is right and wrong about everything...This is why there are prophets in the Old Testament. The Old Testament not only has the law but the prophets as well. There is not only Moses, but Elijah as well. What is a prophet? A prophet fills up the lack of the law. The law is dead, while a prophet is living. The law is written down, while a prophet speaks, guides, and tells men which way they should take. This is the main difference between the law and the prophets...In other words, the law is the abstract guidance, while the prophet is the specific guidance...This is absolutely something specific and personal. This is the prophet. We can go to the Bible to find out if God has commissioned us to preach the gospel; it is easy to find the basis and principles for matters like these. This is the aspect of the law. But there is also the aspect of the prophet, which is personal and specific. Does God want me to go to Yungnan or Annan? Does God want me to go to Tibet or Siam? How should we go, and when should we go? These are specific; they are not abstract principles. This is why there is not only the law but also the prophets in the Old Testament. When the two things were present, God's children were guided on the proper path. The prophets are a special class of people who help others to know God's will. Do not think that the prophets only foretell. In the Old Testament the prophets find out God's will on behalf of others."

2. Today, in the New Testament age, there is no longer a class of prophets.

"Peter felt that Moses and Elijah were very important. He felt that a tent should be made for Elijah also. He thought that it was important to have the prophets, and that a place should be reserved for the prophets. God interrupted his speaking. In God's eyes, the prophets could not be allowed; there could no longer be any prophets. What is the new covenant? The new covenant is one in which the knowledge of the Lord fills the earth and the sea. In the new covenant no one needs to teach his neighbor or his brother to know the Lord. In other words, the class of neighbors and brothers is annulled. There is no need for such a class of people in the new covenant...Now we can understand why Paul went to Jerusalem against the advice of a few saints. He went to Jerusalem because they wanted to be his prophets. Whether or not something is from God, or whether or not something is right is not what is important. It was a matter of how Paul felt within. We cannot choose our pathway based on what others feel. Today there is no longer a class of prophets. It is over; it has forever passed away. **Today the Lord Jesus is exclusively in charge.** It is not a question of asking others what to do. We should not go to others to ask them what we should do concerning the affairs of our lives. A Bible teacher can teach others the principles. We can teach the principles, but we have to be careful when it comes to telling others what to do; we should be careful not to get involved in these matters. There is no such thing as a special class of men. Every person must be guided inwardly by God alone. We cannot allow dead laws or living persons to replace Christ. What then is Christianity? Christianity is Christ living within us, telling us what is right and what is wrong. Christ living within us is Christianity. Nothing else counts."

E. Now is the time to hear Christ, and only Christ.

"This was Peter's mistake. He thought that there should be Moses, Elijah, and Christ, but God said that there is only Christ; Moses and Elijah should go. What kind of Christianity do we have today? We cannot say that we do not need Christ, because only unbelievers would say this. We say that we need Christ, but we also say that we sometimes need Moses and Elijah as well. This was Peter. He surely put Christ in the first place, but he also wanted the law and the prophets. I am afraid we have not seen this clearly. But we must see this. I am afraid that some do not just want Christ; they also want the law and the prophets. They want three tents. These people need a voice from heaven to tell them, "This is My Son, the Beloved...Hear Him!" Now is not the time to hear Christ, the law, and the prophets. Now is the time to hear Him.

(ibid., pp. 129-130)

and listens to His voice, he will not know what to do and where to go. Many brothers have come to me to ask me what the Bible says about Christian conduct. Friends, if you do this, you do not know Christianity at all. The revelation of Christianity comes from this Book, but personal revelations do not come from this Book, but from within. If you want to know general revelations, you can find them in the Bible. But if you have only a general revelation, without personal revelation, you still do not understand Christianity, and you are still in the Old Testament. Christianity is not a matter of what the Bible says or what the law says. Christianity is what the One within you says...The Christianity that many speak about only has the Bible; it does not have Christ. Many people only have a Bible, without the living Christ. We have the living Christ dwelling within us to be our life and our right and wrong. He is our moral standard. Whatever He likes is right; whatever He does not like is wrong. If He says it is right, it is right. If He says it is wrong, it is wrong. Inner guidance is all that matters.”

4. Many think that the law needs to be added to Christ.

“But Peter, as well as many modern Peters, thought that the law needed to be added to Christ. He said that there should be three tents, one of which should be for Moses. This is why God had to come in to interrupt. God was saying that Christ is important, not the law. I am not saying that this Book is useless. In the future, when there is the opportunity, I will tell you how useful this Book is. But I am saying that Christianity is not just this Book. Christianity is absolutely Christ, the Christ who lives within us.”

(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 21, Issue No. 13, pp. 126-128)

Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival

Romans 7:4

4 So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God.

Galatians 5:18

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Hebrews 8:11

11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

I. The Content of Christianity — Christ Himself as our Personal Revelation and Guidance, cont'd.

A. Jesus Showed Men the Kind of Christ He was – a New Revelation was Opened to the Disciples

“...We know that on the Mount of Transfiguration the Lord manifested His own honor and glory, and He showed men the kind of Christ He was. He put on the flesh and came among men. We can say that the Jesus who began from Bethlehem was a disguised Christ. Because He put on the human body, men did not recognize the kind of Christ He was. On the Mount of Transfiguration, He removed His disguise for a short time and showed the three disciples the kind of Christ He was. He showed them what He was like originally. Many people claimed to be His disciples, but few knew about Christ Himself. Many people knew that He was Jesus of Nazareth, but few saw Him as the Son of God and the Christ. They did not know who He was, and their eyes were not yet open. Peter might have said, ‘You have talked much about Christ, and my ears have heard of Him. My hands have touched Him, and I have heard His words. I have seen a little of the kind of person He is. But there is something that I do not know. I have seen Him, and I have heard Him, but there is still something that I have not seen or heard.’ The Mount of Transfiguration was a removing of His disguise. A new revelation was opened to the disciples, and they saw who Christ was.”

B. In the New Testament and in the Church, the Lord Jesus Occupies Everything

“While this was going on, Moses and Elijah also appeared. We all know that Moses represents the law, while Elijah represents the prophets. Both the law and the prophets were on the mountain...Peter saw Moses and Elijah; he saw the main features of the Old Testament. He also saw Christ, the main feature of the New Testament. Therefore he exclaimed, ‘It is good for us to be here.’ While he was speaking, God came in to interrupt his speaking. God’s interruption of his speaking means that the law and the prophets cannot be mixed with Jesus Christ. God said, a few chapters previous, that ‘all the prophets and the law prophesied until John’ (Matt. 11:13). ‘Until John!’ From that time the kingdom of God began. We can see that the law, the prophets, and the kingdom of God are consecutive and not parallel to one another...The two parties cannot coexist. No one in the Old Testament occupied a higher position than Moses and Elijah. Yet they cannot stand side by side with Christ. Peter said that he would build three tents, one for Christ, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. He meant that even though the Lord Jesus should occupy the first place, a second and third place should be reserved for the law and the prophets. God in heaven pronounced that the law and the prophets should not step back to a second and third place, but should not occupy any place at all in Christianity and in the New Testament. In Christianity, in the New Testament, and in the church, the Lord Jesus occupies everything; the law and the prophets must step aside completely. Listen to the voice from heaven. While Peter was saying that one tent was for Christ, one was for Moses, and one for Elijah, the voice from heaven said, ‘This is My Son, the Chosen One. Hear Him!’ (Luke 9:35).

“There are two meanings here. The first is that now is not the time for us to speak; this is the time for us to listen. This is not the time for us to say what is in Christianity; this is the time for us to listen. Hear Him. This means: ‘Peter, shut up. There is no place for you to speak. You should listen instead.’

The second meaning of this word is that even though there are Christ, Moses, and Elijah, we should hear only Him. We should not hear the others. We should hear only Him! Peter spoke of three persons, but heaven spoke of only one. Peter spoke of three names, but God recognized only one. In other words, Peter nominated three names, but God accepted only one."

(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Vol. 21, Issue No. 13, pp. 120-122)

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

2 Peter 1:16

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we became eyewitnesses of that One's majesty.

2 Corinthians 3:15-16, 18a

15 Indeed unto this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart;

16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord...

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

.The Content of Christianity — Christ Himself

as our Personal Revelation and Guidance, cont'd.

C. What Then is the Law?

1. When one knows the law, he does not have to go to God anymore.

"...What is the law? It is a dead code of right and wrong that exists apart from God. It is dead moral standards that exist apart from God. This is the law. It is something that leads men away from God; it shows men what is right and what is wrong, apart from God. The law tells men what is right and what is wrong, without having anything to do with God...When one knows the law, he does not have to go to God anymore."

"This is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament...God laid down a few rules. In the Old Testament, men did not need to draw near to God. In the Old Testament, as long as men kept the laws, and as long as they knew what they ought to do and what they ought not to do, they could be a good disciple of Judaism. They could become righteous without coming to God. Zachariah was a very righteous man in the Old Testament, or at least we can say that he was a very good disciple of Judaism. In today's term, he would be considered a good 'Christian.' But a man as righteous as Zachariah did not receive any answer to his prayers. According to the law he was a righteous man. According to the ordinances, he was a perfect man. But he did not know God Himself; he did not know God's face. What then is the law?...Anything which exists apart from God is the law. Regulations which are apart from God are the law. Hence, in the Old Testament, men did not have to come before God or be related to God. Throughout their lifetime they just abided by the dead laws.

"...What is the New Testament? The New Testament takes away the law and allows Christ to be the Master; the law is no longer the master. Today we do not go to the Bible to find out what is right and what is wrong. Today it is a matter of the Son of God being glorified. God's Son is glorified not only on the heavenly throne, but in our hearts as well. On the Mount of Transfiguration, He received honor and glory. Peter said that he beheld the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus with his eyes (2 Pet. 1:16-17). God has bestowed honor and glory on the Lord Jesus. Today should there be one tent, two tents, or three tents? Tents are man-made. In other words the tents are our hearts. On the throne in heaven, there is only Christ. But are there three places in our hearts, one for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Christ? Or is there only a place for Christ? God's requirement is that we receive Christ. But within us, not only do we have Christ, we also have outward things such as the law and the prophets...The guidance we receive today should come from the indwelling Christ, and not from any outward dead regulations or lifeless laws. I do not despise the Bible. Some of you have been meeting with us for many years; you know that we pay much attention to this Book. But I say that we can even make this Book a book of regulations and laws. Today I dare not say and I will not say that the Bible does not contain regulations and laws. I am saying that it does not contain just regulations and laws. The question today is not what the Bible says, but what Christ within us says. The question today is

not what the law written by Christ says, but what the Christ within us says. This is the difference between living in the New Testament age and the Old Testament age. In the Old Testament age, one looked up the Scripture and tried to find out what the laws said. The New Testament age is different. Besides the Bible, what is the Lord Jesus saying within us? If we care only for outward things, God will interrupt our speaking. The question today is whether or not we have something within us."

(ibid., pp. 122-125)

Friday

Verses for Morning Revival

Matthew 11:13

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John;

Romans 10:4

4 For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to everyone who believes.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

C. What Then is the Law?, cont'd.

2. When one knows the law, he does not need to be clear inwardly.

"Brothers often come to me and ask, 'Mr. Nee, in your opinion, should we do this?' I ask why they have asked, and they say, 'When I read the Bible, I found that one person expounded this passage one way, and another person expounded it another way. I am confused.' Do you see my point? The principle of their living is the law. When others present them an interpretation of the law, they become confused. Is our emphasis merely the outward laws? If our emphasis is merely the outward laws, we will not be clear about the inward guidance. We are not clear, because we are already assured of the outward laws. I often hold my brother's hand and point to his heart, saying, 'Forget about what your head thinks and what your ears hear. Listen to what your heart has to say.' Many times theologians who have a very good knowledge of the Bible and who are very educated make judgments that are worse than those of illiterate, simple people who cannot read the Bible and who have no knowledge of the Bible. A simple person can tell you that he does not have the peace or that his conscience bothers him. The judgments of simple people and those without Bible knowledge are often better than those of famous, knowledgeable, and educated theologians. The issue today has nothing to do with outward matters. It is not what men say. Please be clear that it is not only a question of what the Bible says, but absolutely a question of what the Christ within us says. If Christianity were not built upon this, we would have to say, 'Blessed are the clever,' 'Blessed are the literate,' or, 'Blessed are those who have Bible knowledge.' Thank the Lord that Christianity is not built upon knowledge or literacy. Christianity is built upon the fact that Christ lives within us. A clever person will receive God's guidance if he obeys the inner voice. A simple person will also receive God's guidance if he obeys the inner voice. Recently, I met a seventy-year-old lady who could not read anything, and who had not read the Bible before. Yet I have never met another person who had received as much guidance as she had. She had been a believer for only four months; she could not read and did not have any Bible knowledge. If you had talked to her about the law, she would not have been able to tell you anything about it. She could not memorize any commandment. But her inner being was very clear. Her inner being directed her in everything. Our rights and wrongs should come from within us and not from anything outside of us."

3. When one knows the law, he does not need a personal relationship with Christ, and one can get by easily.

"However, man prefers the law, because he does not need a personal relationship with Christ. To follow the law, there is no need to face a teacher. There is no price to pay, and one can get by easily. One does not have to be related to Christ in any way. As long as there are the outward qualifications and the knowledge, everything is all right. But in the New Testament, unless a person waits at the door of Wisdom