

“To sum up, we should yield obedience to the authority of the Lord, enjoy the life of the Body, and at the same time supply life to other members. These are the three main principles of our living in the Body of Christ.”

Note: Text in quotations is taken from the book, Twelve Baskets Full, Vol. 3, Chapter One by Watchman

Neer. **Bold type** and/or underlining have been added for emphasis.

*Our Experience in the Church Life*

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### *Prayer Burdens*

1. Let us pray for the Grade 6 Gospel conference on 6/13 - 6/15
2. Let us pray for the Chinese Speaking 4 week perfecting training being carried out in Cleveland

### *Announcements:*

#### **General**

1. **Videos of Lord's Day messages available**  
The web site [www.churchintoronto.org](http://www.churchintoronto.org) now has the videos of the Lord's day sharing. It is being updated on a regular basis.

## **The church in Toronto**

Twelve Baskets Full Week 19

May 26 - June 7, 2008

### **Three Main Principles of Our Living in the Body of Christ**

*Weekly Bible Reading:*

**Romans 3:21-31; 4:1-25; 5:1-11; 6:1-23; 7:1-25; 8:1-39; 12:1-14**

*Hymns:*

**296, 475, 463, 907, 463**

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### **Monday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

#### **Romans 16:25-26**

- 25** Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages
- 26** But has now been manifested, and through the prophetic writings, according to the command of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles for the obedience of faith;

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

#### **Introduction**

“Before actually coming to the twelfth chapter of Romans, let us remind ourselves of the first eight chapters of that letter. I think we all know that chapters nine to eleven are illustrative or parenthetical; they could be put into brackets, making the twelfth chapter immediately follow upon the eighth. If we remember that these chapters are only a kind of parenthesis, and go on from chapter eight straight to twelve, we find a direct connection.

“The first eight chapters of Romans deal with two phases of the Christian life. We have the first four chapters and say ten or eleven verses of the fifth chapter as one section and say from the twelfth verse of the fifth chapter to the end of the eighth as another. In these two sections the Apostle is trying to lead Christians to see how they were brought unto God. This is followed by the exhortation to the consecration and presenting of the body to do the will of God, as we find it at the beginning of chapter twelve; and then the Body of Christ is taken up. What does it mean?

“This is something in the very heart and counsel of God, and the Christ of God was anointed to bring it about. It is called a ‘mystery,’ a secret of God, which was hid from ages and only made known in this age (Rom. 16:25-26). So we have to look to find the difference between our conception of salvation and the divine conception of salvation; our thought about the cross and God’s thought about the cross; our thought about the Holy Spirit and God’s thought about the Holy Spirit; our thought about spiritual experiences and God’s thought about spiritual experiences.”

## Tuesday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### Romans 6:3b-5

- 3 ...all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
- 4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection

### 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- 14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
- 15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **The Whole Thought of God Is Centered In the Christ, and We Are In Him**

"We believe that the cross is the central and most important work of God. Praise the Lord, that is true! But we must remember that the cross is a means to an end; the cross is not an end in itself. The divine means is the cross, but the divine end is the Body. If you know the cross in the way which God means it to be known, you will inevitably find yourself in the Body. When the cross has done something quite specific in your life, you will simply find yourself in the Body. It cannot be otherwise. If you are not there, it is quite sure that the cross has not done its work, or at least has not completed its work. What does it mean?

"Now personal holiness, as stressed and sought by many believers, is really precious. Victory in living is really precious. Salvation is really precious. Praise the Lord for salvation! Praise the Lord for forgiveness of sins, for justification before Him, for deliverance from the power of sin. But remember that God did not set Himself to save us, and to give us spiritual experience like deliverance and victory in life, personal holiness, and so on, just so that we could be hundreds and thousands and myriads of individual Christians, all separate units dotted over this earth for God. That is not what God is after. It may be that the children of Abraham are as the sand of the seashore, but they are not Christians! The Lord never meant that Christians should be single units. "I do not know whether you have seen it or not. It is very easy to talk. I could talk once. I am almost ashamed to confess that for years I thought I knew the doctrine of the Body and even tried to apply the doctrine, without seeing the thing, the reality. Reading a guide about London could never take the place of a visit to London. Knowing a book on cookery could never take the place of being in a kitchen. Knowing the doctrine of the Body of Christ can never take the place of seeing it.

"The whole trouble today is this. We think of Christians in terms of so many persons, individuals. We think of salvation as an individual thing; we think of

### 1 Corinthians 14:26

- 26 ...Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **Three Main Principles of Our Living In the Body of Christ, cont'd.**

#### **3. My Position as a Member in the Body — Service**

"If we see that the life of the Body is communicative and mutually supplying, we will not like to be one who consumes this life energy, but one who supplies it. If in the Body of Christ more members need the supply of life and few can afford to give such supply, the strength of the Body will fail. That is why we must pray for the others. God wills that you, through such prayer, supply life to other members. Thus, when they need the power of life, such supply will be forthcoming.

"First Corinthians 12:26 says, 'And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.' It does not say that when one member suffers, all the members 'ought to' suffer with it, or if one member be honored, all the members 'ought to' rejoice with it. God's Word says that when one member suffers, it is an actual fact that all the members suffer with it. When one member is honored, it is an actual fact that all the members rejoice with it. This explains why there are times when for no apparent reason you feel very good. At other times, you feel heavy within. There is no reason for this but the communicative feeling of the members of the one Body.

"At the time of the great spiritual revival in Wales, there was a sister living in another place. One day while she was with two or three others praying, there was a great spiritual power overflowing in her, an experience she had never had before. It continued for four or five months. She could effortlessly get in touch with God, as if heaven was near at hand. Then one day she read in the newspapers and realized that it was the Welsh spiritual revival which had supplied her with this life power. When one member rejoices, other members rejoice also. The Body of Christ is a living body with organic life. Paul says, 'I fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church' (Col. 1:24). Because we are in one Body, we can fill up the need of other members.

"It is not only a question of suffering or rejoicing; it is a matter of life. Some members can supply the Body with life power, while others must receive life from the Body. We should have both aspects. We truly need the supply of life from the Body, and we should also supply life to the Body. Through fellowship we receive life from the Body, and we also supply life to other members. When we talk of the church as the Body, it is not a mere doctrine or teaching, but an absolute fact. The children of God joined together as members of the Body is also an absolute fact. So we must gladly receive help from others, and we should also endeavor to help other brothers and sisters.

**Three Main Principles of Our Living In the Body of Christ, cont'd.**

**2. The Relationship Between the Body (The Church) and Myself — Fellowship**

“Our relationship with the Head is that of obedience, while our relationship with the Body is that of fellowship. Among the children of God, fellowship is a matter of reality and necessity. The life of the Body of Christ needs fellowship, without which there is but stagnation. Fellowship implies the receiving of assistance from other members of the Body. For instance, I am the mouth; I can speak. But I need the fellowship of the eyes to see. I also need the fellowship of the feet to walk. Therefore, fellowship means that I receive the special features of others. I benefit from what others can do for me.

“Some Christians do not understand the principle of fellowship. They want to grow spiritually as individuals, to pray by themselves, to do everything by themselves, to be the mouth, the ear, the hand, and the foot at the same time. But those who know the Lord are not so; they need fellowship. Fellowship implies the fact that I am limited and am willing to accept what comes from others.

“Fellowship is not a mere doctrine, but a reality. In the 365 days of a year, we cannot pray well each day; we cannot study the Bible well each day. Experience tells us that occasionally on account of poor health or for other reasons we cannot pray and read the Bible well. Then need I fail? No. Within a week, I have fellowship with God on Monday and do reasonably well Tuesday through Friday. Then on Saturday, I feel tired and cannot read the Bible or pray well. Yet I am not doomed to fail on Saturday. There is an inexplicable strength supporting me. What is the reason? It is the supply from the life of the Body.

“Many children of God have a similar experience, not once or twice, but many times. Though we are weak ourselves, God carries us through. How? It is because the members of the Body can mutually supply the needs of each other. Someone is praying, ‘May God be gracious to all His children.’ As life from another member of the Body flows into you, you are sustained. The life from the Body flows into you and carries you through. So we must perceive that we live not merely by our own life, but through the life that comes from the Body.”

**Saturday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

**Romans 12:1-2**

- 1** I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
- 2** And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

holiness in terms of individuals; we think of victory and deliverance in terms of individuals. We are quite happy as Christian workers if our flocks are going on with the Lord, reading their Bibles, knowing how to pray, living upright and righteous lives, and knowing something of deliverance from the power of sin. But that is not the Body. One day something else comes along, and that day is for you a most blessed day — a terrific day. The Lord opens your eyes to see that salvation is in terms of The Body, having the power of the Spirit is in terms of the Body, having an experience of the cross is in terms of the Body. You see that the divine thought is one man — not a host of small men. It is one man: the Lord Jesus Himself and His people making up one man before God. The whole thought of God is centered in the Christ, and we are in Him. It is not only a question of the Head, but of the Body. Praise the Lord, individual sinners are saved. You begin as an individual, but you must end as a member of the Body. This is the divine thought. God is working toward that, and He will take nothing less than that. The cross is for that — for that corporate Body, that corporate Christ; for that new man comprising all who are in the Lord. That is what God is after. We become part of Christ; we become partakers of Christ.”

**Wednesday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

**1 Corinthians 10:16b-17**

- 16** ...The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ?
- 17** Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

**Romans 12:5**

- 5** ...we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

**God Is Not Satisfied that We Should Simply Be Individual Christians**

“You know I come from China. I have to preach in villages, meeting simple saints, and I have the habit of using simple illustrations. I was once in a simple meeting of believers in a village. I tried to tell them something about the oneness of the Body, that what God is after is the one Body. I found it was very difficult for them to understand. If the whole thing as to new birth is beyond Nicodemus, the question of one Body is altogether beyond any Chinese person! They did not know what it was. ‘We are not one, we are individuals. How can we be one?’ I prayed much about it: ‘Lord, you must give me something to show these people how they are one.’

“One Lord’s Day morning we were breaking bread. I said, ‘Brothers, before we go on breaking bread, I want you to look carefully at this bread.’ They did not know what I meant, but they looked quite carefully. After the bread was broken, I turned to 1 Corinthians 10:17: ‘We, who are many, are one loaf.’ Then I said: ‘Are we one loaf? That loaf is one — at least it was one; but is it one now? It is still one, only that one is scattered in different ones. If you could pull it all

together, it would still be one, for it comes from that one loaf. You cannot say it is two loaves. You can break it into a thousand parts, but still it is one loaf. You cannot deny the fact of one loaf because it was one. It is impossible to make this bread in fact one, because it is material. But, please remember, as regards the part of the Lord Jesus that is in you, that part has in a sense never been parted; it has never been broken. That is the basis on which you are all one. It is because you are partakers of the one Lord. Everyone is partaking of the one Lord, and that Lord can never be broken. He is still the Spirit today (2 Cor. 3:17). You can break the bread, but you cannot break the Lord. Therefore you are one.' Praise the Lord, light dawned upon many of them.

"God is not satisfied that we should simply be individual Christians. When you believe the Lord and partake of Him, it means that something has happened. You have been made a member of the one Body, which God is trying to build up. He is not satisfied with anything individual.

"We come now to the practical side. God first has to give us the revelation, so that we see what He is after. But what am I after? Do I seek spiritual experiences — so-called — for myself? Do I seek to make converts for my society, for my denomination? Do I try to make converts for the sake of their being saved from hell, so that they can enjoy heaven? Or have I seen the vision of the heavenly thing, the heavenly man, and am I working toward that? Oh, it is a different thing. Everything changes — even the question of deliverance from sin, of sanctification, of victory. Everything takes on a different viewpoint. I become a part of the whole.

"It is not just a matter of the doctrine of the Body. Even in Rome, you will find the Vatican is teaching that. They believe in one church, because they say the Body is one; but they have their own head. That is the trouble. They have not seen it. You cannot just practice it as a principle — you cannot simply try to take in on. You have to see it. But when once it is seen, then it makes a mighty difference in everything."

## Thursday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### Hebrews 5:9

**9** And having been perfected, He [Christ] became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

### Romans 12:3-4

**3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

**4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **Three Main Principles of Our Living In the Body of Christ**

"There are many members in the Body of Christ and these members are united together, each with its several functions. God has not ordered all members to have the same function. 'For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office (function)' (Rom. 12:4). How then can these members with different functions be linked and fitted together harmoniously in one body? There are basic principles essential for the harmonious functioning of the Body of Christ. The first defines the relationship between the Head and myself, the second the relationship between the Body and myself, and the third my position as a member. All three are indispensable.

### **1. The Relationship Between the Head (Christ) and Myself — Obedience**

"The meaning of a Christian's absolute surrender is in the words, 'I will be obedient to the Lord; I will renounce my freedom and will not disobey authority.' The first principle of living in the Body of Christ is to obey the authority of the Head. Both the existence of the Body and the function and activity of this Body depend on authority. Any time authority has no place in us, the Body is paralyzed. Any part that is disobedient is paralyzed. A paralyzed body does not follow the directions of the head, for where there is life, there is authority. If we want to have life, it is impossible not to accept authority. Those who are full of life must obey authority. If my hand has life, it cannot resist the direction of the head. To be alive implies that we are being directed by the Head. Therefore, the first principle of living in the Body of Christ is to obey the Head. If you have not yet been dealt with in such a way as to be rendered obedient, what you know of the Body is only a matter of theory, not reality. God must deal with your life of flesh and blood that you may see how blessed it is to be obedient to the Head. We must aim at obedience. We long to make good progress, to become holy and to become righteous, yet we must still endeavor to be obedient."

## Friday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18, 24b-27**

**12** For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

**13** For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...

**14** For the body is not one member but many.

**18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.

**24** ...God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

**25** That there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.

**26** And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.

**27** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.