

Himself. Because this is our situation, all of us need the Lord to have mercy on us.

“Both we and the Lord have come to a point of crisis. A critical situation definitely exists among many of us today. Yes, we have seen the vision that Christ is our life, that He is the life-giving Spirit, and that we are one spirit with Him, and we talk a great deal about Christ. However, in our practical life day by day, we do not live Christ every moment. We are not found by others in Christ continually. We may be very familiar with [Philippians] 3:7-10. But how much have we gained Christ, how much are we found in Christ, and how much do we experientially know Christ? Because of our urgent need to experience Christ, it is not my burden in these messages to present Bible teachings. It is to minister Christ to the saints that they may grow in the divine life, which is Christ Himself, and may advance in the experience of Christ and enjoyment of Christ.”

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 21, p. 174)

Prayer Burdens

1. Pray for the elders as they seek the Lord's leading for how to respond to the "warning" letter released at the conference in British Columbia earlier this month.
2. Pray for the ministry meeting for English-speaking saints in the various halls this Lord's day to cover some of the foundational matters concerning the Scriptures, the Body, the church and the New Testament ministry.
3. Pray for the increase through the Chinese-speaking gospel meeting at Hall 2 this Lord's Day, Oct. 22nd

Announcements:

General

1. **LastAdam site**
The saints are advised that the LastAdam web site no longer carries the morning revival material. This site belongs to an individual saint and is not sanctioned by the church in Toronto.
2. **Oct 23 - 28 Morning Revival**
The English speaking saints will cover Philippians Week 6.

Book Room

1. **Simplified Chinese Recovery Version Edition**
The simplified Chinese Recovery Version of the Old Testament with footnotes (leather bound) is now available for pre-order at the pre-payment price of \$45.00 each.

The church in Toronto

Philippians Week 6

Oct 23 - 28, 2006

Living Christ to Magnify Him (4)

Weekly Bible Reading:

Philippians 1:19-26

Hymns:

403; 398; 399; 459

Monday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:21a

21 For to me, to live is Christ...

Galatians 2:20

20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me...

John 15:4a

4a Abide in Me, and I in you.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Living Christ

“In verse 21 Paul goes on to say, ‘For to me to live is Christ.’ The little word ‘for’ at the beginning of this verse is important. It indicates that what is to follow is an explanation of the preceding verse. Christ could be magnified in Paul's body because Paul lived Christ. In order to magnify Christ, we must live Him. Although the matter of living Christ is of such tremendous importance, not many Christians have paid adequate attention to it. The word ‘for’ in verse 21 helps us to see that Paul could magnify Christ because to him to live was Christ. In Paul's chained body Christ was exalted, extolled, praised, and appreciated because Paul lived Christ. “If we would live Christ, we must take Him as our person and be one person with Him. He and we must be one in a practical way. In Galatians 2:20 Paul declared, ‘Christ lives in me.’ For Paul, this was not a mere doctrine; it was a fact. It should also be real to us that Christ lives in us. It is sad that some Christians do not believe that Christ actually lives in them. Neither do they believe that we can abide in Christ and have Him abide in us. But the Bible tells us definitely that Christ is in us and lives in us. Furthermore, we should abide in Him and allow Him to abide in us.

“Paul could say not only that Christ lived in him, but also that to him to live was Christ. On the one hand, Christ lived in Paul; on the other hand, Paul lived Christ. Inwardly Christ was Paul's life, and outwardly Christ was Paul's

living. Paul and Christ thus had one life and one living. Christ's life was Paul's life, and Paul's living was Christ's living. The two, Christ and Paul, lived as one. First Corinthians 6:17 refers to such a living. In this verse Paul says that we are one spirit with the Lord. The organic union that has taken place between us and Christ causes us to be so close and intimate with Him that we are even one spirit with Him.

"To live Christ is not merely to have a holy life or to live holiness. To live Christ is to live a person. We admit that the expression 'live Christ' is new. We use this term deliberately. In the past we have spoken of living out Christ. Although this expression is not incorrect, to add the word 'out' may detract from the proper meaning. We should simply live Christ. We should live a life which is Christ Himself."

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philipians, Msg. 6, pp. 50-51)

Tuesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 2:2

2 ...you **think the same thing**, having the same love, joined in soul, **thinking the one thing**,

1 Thessalonians 5:17

17 Unceasingly pray,

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Practicing to Live Christ Every Day

"From my experience I can testify that the most difficult thing in our Christian life is to practice to live Christ. We may be 'holy,' 'spiritual,' and 'victorious' without living Christ. Even though we may be 'holy,' 'spiritual,' and 'victorious,' we are still the ones living our natural life. We are not living Christ."

"In order to live Christ we must take Him as our person and as our life.

Although I have made progress in this matter, I admit that still my practice is not very successful. Almost every morning I pray, 'Lord, I thank You for another day to practice living You. Lord, in myself, I cannot do this. I ask You to remind me to live You and grant me the grace I need for this.' I have found, however, that soon after praying to the Lord in this way, I may go back to living myself instead of living Christ. Everything about my living may be good, and yet I may not live Christ. I do not yet have the assurance to testify with Paul, 'To me to live is Christ.'

"In the Christian life it is easy to follow certain practices. For example, we may realize that we are talkative and may adopt the practice of limiting our speech. However, we may succeed in restricting our talkativeness and yet fail to live Christ. It is one thing to follow a certain practice; it is another thing to live Christ. God does not care for how holy, spiritual, or victorious we are

everything in our life is Christ Himself. Our purpose is to magnify Christ, express Christ, glorify Christ, exalt Christ, and honor Christ.

"Although it is an easy thing to quote this verse, do we really live for Christ? Is everything of ours on the altar for Christ? We should remember who it is that wrote this word. The apostle Paul put everything on the altar, and he left nothing for himself. Everything of his was an offering, either put on the altar or poured out at the base of the altar. While he was in prison, everything had been taken away for Christ; all that was left to him was his breath. Such a person was qualified to say, "For to me, to live is Christ." We may not be qualified to say this, because we may not be one hundred percent for Christ. We must be wholly for Christ. While we do business, our business is for Christ. Our job, our studying, our teaching, and everything in our life is for Christ. Whatever happens to us, whatever we have, and whatever we do must all be for Christ. Then we will be in a position to say that for us, to live is Christ. We should check ourselves in this light. Verses 20 and 21 are the key verses in the first section of this book, showing how the apostle Paul took Christ as his life and as his expression."

(Witness Lee, A General Sketch of the New Testament in the Light of Christ and the Church, - Part 2: Romans through Philemon, Chpt. 18, pp. 210-211)

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

Suggested Supplementary Reading

The Holy Word for Morning Revival—

Philippians: Week 2, Days 1-2

Crystallization-Study of the Epistle to the Philippians: Week 1, Days 3-6

The Life-study of Philipians, Messages 34-35

Our Experience in the Church Life

How to Live Christ — Practicing to be One Spirit with the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17)

"During the years we have been in the Lord's recovery, we have come to know that the Lord is the all-inclusive Spirit and that we are one spirit with Him. The Lord is now the Spirit dwelling in our spirit. Although we know this as a doctrine, in our daily life much of the time we do not live one spirit with the Lord. Instead, we often live in our culture. We may pray, 'Lord, we thank You that You are the life-giving Spirit and that we are one spirit with You.' Nevertheless, day by day we do not live Christ moment by moment. We do not practice being one spirit with Him all the time.

"Recently the Lord has pointed out to me my shortage in living Christ. Most of the confession I make to Him is related to this lack. Day by day, I spend too little time living one spirit with the Lord. Too much of the time I live in something other than Christ, in many good things that are not Christ

who abide in the Lord do not live a life of ethics and morality but instead live a life that is the Lord's. Our living must be the expression of the Lord Himself. It is not that we are humble because the Bible teaches us to be humble; instead, we are humble because when we abide in the Lord and enjoy His life, we live Him out and He Himself becomes our humility, ethics, and morality of a higher standard. This kind of ethics and morality is of life and is the flowing out of life. It is not of religion, and it is not produced from ethical regulations.

"Hymn #476 in our Chinese hymnal says, 'Live in the light of life, fellowship with the Lord; / Gaze at the Lord's dear face, follow the Spirit's move; / Pathway of glory take, praising Him day by day; / Live in the light of life.' I hope that we can all experience abiding in the Lord and enjoying His life in this way until our living is transformed and we are blessed by the Lord's grace."

(Witness Lee, Abiding in the Lord to Enjoy His Life, Chpt. 1, pp. 13-14, 16-17)

Friday & Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:20-21

20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Living by Christ as Our Life and for Christ as Our Purpose

"Verse 21 of chapter one says, "For to me, to live is Christ." This has the meaning both of living by Christ as our life and of living for Christ as our purpose. While we are on this earth, we live not by ourselves but by Christ as our life, and we live not for ourselves but for Christ as our purpose. If we live for ourselves, we cannot say that for us to live is Christ; we would have to say that for us to live is we ourselves. If it is true that for us to live is Christ, this means that we are living by Christ and for Christ. Christ is our life and Christ is our purpose.

"Verse 20 says, 'According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.' To say that Christ is magnified in us is abstract, but to say that Christ is magnified in our body is more concrete. Whether through life or through death, Christ will be magnified in us bodily. Magnified means expressed, exalted, and honored. Christ is expressed, exalted, and honored in us bodily. This means that we are living here to express Christ, exalt Christ, and honor Christ, and our life, living, and being are to follow Christ as our purpose. The purpose of our living, of our family, of our job, and of

in ourselves. Actually, to live in this way by self-effort is to strive to keep the law. What counts in the eyes of God is Christ and the living of Christ. Concerning the matter of living Christ, the situation of today's Christians is far from God's goal. This is the reason we are fighting and struggling to enter into the genuine living of Christ in a practical way. **God wants His people to live Christ.** We should not care for holiness, spirituality, or victory as things in themselves, and we should not care for our natural virtues or attributes. Instead, we should focus our whole attention on living Christ and care only to live Christ that He might be magnified in us.

"In the book of Philippians Paul encourages us to think the one thing (2:2). This one thing is to live Christ. We should care only to live Christ and magnify Him. Instead of pursuing holiness, spirituality, or victory, we should seek to live Christ and magnify Him always with all boldness, whether through life or through death. God's desire today is that we live Christ. Do not allow anything to distract you from the direct, personal experience of Christ. Yes, we need to understand the background of Philippians and realize what is the present religious situation. We also need to discern between the different preachings of Christ. But none of this should distract us from Christ Himself. Today we need to focus our attention on the one thing—to live Christ."

(ibid., pp. 52-53)

Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 3:9

9 And **be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

Galatians 2:16

16 And knowing that **a man is not justified** out of works of law, but **through faith in Jesus Christ**, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Living Christ Has Nothing to Do with the Law and Circumcision

"Paul's life was to live Christ. To him, to live was Christ, not the law or circumcision. He would not live the law but would live Christ, not be found in the law but be found in Christ (3:9). Christ was not only his life within, but also his living without. He lived Christ because Christ lived in him. He was one with Christ both in life and in living. He and Christ had one life and one living. They lived together as one person. Christ lived within him as his life, and he lived Christ without as His living. The normal experience of Christ is to live Him, and to live Him is to magnify Him always, regardless of the

circumstances.

“When Paul was in prison, he was living Christ. Therefore, he could be found not in the law, but in Christ. At any time, men, angels, and demons could find him in Christ. We also need to be found by others in Christ, not simply in our good behavior. Young people, your parents should find you in Christ. They should sense that there is something different about you. All of our relatives, friends, and colleagues should find us in Christ.

“If we would be found in Christ, we must live Christ. Only when we live Christ shall we be found in Him by others and by the angels and demons. However, if we are law-keepers, we shall be found in the law instead of in Christ. We are not here to express the law or magnify the law; our goal is to express Christ and magnify Him. We all need to pray, ‘Lord, have mercy on me and rescue me both from sinful things and from good things, even spiritual things, that replace You in my daily life. Lord, rescue me from everything back to Yourself. Also, I ask You to grant me the grace each day that I may truly live You and be found in You.’ I can testify that this kind of prayer is effective. Let us all seek the one thing and pursue the one thing—to live Christ and magnify Him.

(ibid., pp. 53-54)

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

Luke 9:48

48 And He said to them,...whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me...

Luke 11:9-10

9 And I say to you, Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.

Romans 10:13

13 For “whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

A Contrast Between Religion and God’s Salvation

“The natural human concepts, especially those of the Chinese who have been steeped in and influenced by the ethical and moral teachings of Confucius and Mencius, are full of the idea of human ethics. The so-called human ethics are those principles that distinguish us from beasts, principles that are normal and natural according to human nature.

“In addition, people have been influenced by society and philosophy in general. Thus, there is not a trace of the concept of God’s economy in our minds. Even when we believe in the Lord, we may think that we have joined a religion. When I was in elementary school, I had a class on religion which

taught that ‘religion regulates man’s heart.’ A deeper saying is that ‘religion teaches according to its beliefs.’ This kind of concept is within us, even if we do not speak it.

“Many of us were not clear when we believed in the Lord, and we did not know what we were doing when we believed. But as to another matter we were clear: We knew we were miserable sinners without the Lord and without rest, and as soon as we believed and prayed, we immediately had joy and peace; our burden of sin was rolled away, and our misery disappeared. We thank the Lord for this. But after believing in the Lord, even though we may not have said it aloud, within us we had the concept that we were believing in a religion, and in our living we practiced a religion, which means that we practiced ‘regulating our heart.’ For example, before we believed in the Lord, even though we may not have committed great crimes, we still liked to take the easy way out or take advantage of others; then after believing in the Lord, we felt in our heart that we had believed in a religion, so we should not do anything bad. This is to practice ‘regulating our heart.’ When some children get baptized, their parents tell them, ‘You used to speak evilly to people, but now that you are baptized, you cannot do that anymore.’ This is to control the hearts of your children. Sometimes we rebuke the brothers and sisters, saying, ‘You have been going regularly to the meetings; how could you still do such a thing?’ This is religion which regulates the human heart; it is not God’s salvation.

“The Lord’s salvation is not a matter of practicing a religion for the regulating of our heart. In our natural man, it is very easy for us to have a religious concept. The Bible says that wives should submit to their husbands and that husbands should love their wives. It is very easy for us to make such words religious practices for controlling our heart. However, this is absolutely not God’s salvation. **God’s salvation is to dispense Himself into us as our life to become our salvation.** For example, wherever I go, a number of people say that my ties are too plain. I reply, ‘I wear these not because I am under a religious restriction but because I abide in the Lord and He regulates me by His life.’ Any practice that comes from human teaching or guidance belongs to religion, while any action that arises from the inner sense of life is an issue of God’s salvation.”

God’s Salvation Being for Us to Abide in the Lord and Enjoy His Life

“God’s goal in creating us was not for ethics or morality but for our containing Him. God desires to enter into us to be our life so that we can enjoy this life. How do we enjoy this life? It is by abiding in the Lord. Today the Lord as the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17) abides in our spirit. Therefore, we need to abide in the Lord. This is not an outward matter of having a religion to regulate the human heart but an inward law of life. Whenever we are wrong, the inward life gives us a sense to remind us we are wrong. In this way we