should allow the word of Christ to dwell in us, to inhabit us, richly. Then we shall have the word of life with which to shine. In order to hold forth the word of life, we must first have the divine life within us. Because we are supplied with this life and energized by it, we can shine as luminaries by holding forth the word of life. The more we are nourished by feeding on the word of life, digesting and assimilating this word, the greater will be the accumulation of the word within us. Then spontaneously we shall shine with the very word of life we have taken into us. This shining will then be our holding forth, our presenting, the wonderful word of life to others. Those who have contact with us over a period of time will thus receive help from us. If we daily digest Christ as the word of life, accumulating the riches of the Word in a subjective, organic way, we shall have something living and organic to share with others. This is the proper gospel preaching and proclamation of the truth. As we have pointed out, this is the way to magnify Christ and live Him.

"May we all pray-read the Word and sing the Word by exercising our spirit. May we be liberated from every kind of bondage in our dealing with the Word and the Spirit. If we exercise our spirit to pray-read, sing, and psalm 2:14-16, we shall praise the Lord that we are children of God and luminaries shining by holding forth the word of life. If we practice pray-reading these verses word by word and also exercise to sing the Word of God, we shall be permeated and saturated with the rich supply from the living Word. Then our inner being will be filled with the riches of Christ. Spontaneously, unconsciously, and even unintentionally, we shall live a life that expresses Christ and holds forth the word of life. What the Lord needs in His recovery today is not a group of people who are religious, but a group of people who live Christ and who shine as luminaries by holding forth the word of life."

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 46, pp. 407-409)

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 3, Days 3-4

Crystallization-Study of the Epistle to the Philippians: Week 4 Days 1-6

The Life-study of Philippians, Messages 12-13, 46

Prayer Burdens

1. Year end Ignite for GLA young people
2. Chinese speaking gospel at Hall#1 on December 16

Announcements:

Book Room

1. **2007 Calendars ready for pickup**
   The Chinese Gospel Calendars for 2007 have arrived and can be picked up at the Bookroom by those who pre-ordered them.

The church in Toronto

Philippians Week 10

Dec 11 - 23, 2006

Taking Christ as the Pattern and Holding Him Forth (3) — Working Out Our Salvation to Hold Forth Christ

Weekly Bible Reading:

Philippians 2:12-16

Hymns:

501; 395; 426; 922

Monday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 2:12-13

12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Working Out Our Own Salvation

"To work out our own salvation is to carry it out, to bring it to the ultimate conclusion. We have received God's salvation, which has as its climax to be exalted by God in glory as the Lord Jesus was (v. 9). We need to carry out this salvation, to bring it to its ultimate conclusion, by our constant and absolute obedience with fear and trembling. We have received this salvation by faith. Now we must carry it out by obedience. This includes the genuine oneness in our soul (v. 2). To receive salvation by faith is once for all; to carry it out is lifelong.

"In verse 12 Paul charges us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Fear is the inward motive; trembling is the outward attitude.

"In verse 13 Paul goes on to say, 'For it is God Who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.' The word 'for' at the beginning of this verse gives the reason we need to obey always. It is because God operates in us. In God's economy we have the Lord Jesus as our pattern (vv. 6-11), as the standard of our salvation (v. 12), and we also have God operating in us both the willing and the working to carry out our salvation, to bring it to its ultimate conclusion. It is not that we by ourselves carry it out, but that God operates in us to do it. The only thing we need to do is to obey the inner operating of God. The willing Paul speaks of here is inward, whereas the working is outward."

(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 12, p. 100)

1.^By Obedience in Fear and Trembling

"In Philippians 2:12 Paul tells us explicitly to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. To receive salvation is one thing, and to work it out is another thing. To work out salvation is not to accomplish salvation. Rather, it is to carry out

through continual obedience the salvation we have received.

"Paul's word about obedience in verse 12 answers to what he has previously said about Christ becoming obedient (v. 8). A very striking aspect of Christ as our pattern is His obedience unto death, even the death of the cross. As God, Christ first took the major step of emptying Himself, of laying aside the expression of His deity. Then, having emptied Himself and having taken the form of a man, He humbled Himself. This self-humbling is particularly related to obedience. The Bible underscores the importance of obedience. For example, in 1 Samuel 15:22 we are told that to obey is better than sacrifice. We who have received Christ as the pattern of our salvation must learn to always obey with fear and trembling. Within we should have fear as the motive, and without we should have trembling as our attitude, an indication that we have no confidence in ourselves.

2.^By God's Operating In Us

"According to verse 13, God is operating in us. Our salvation is not merely an action; it is a living Person, the Triune God Himself, operating in us. The God Paul speaks of in verse 13 is the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. According to chapter fourteen of John, the Father is one with the Son, and the Son is one with the Spirit. The God in Philippians 2:13 is not only the Father, but the Triune God. He is the Son and the Spirit as well as the Father."

"In verse 13 Paul says that God operates in us 'both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.' Where within us does this willing take place? It must be in our will. This indicates that God's operation begins from our spirit and spreads into our mind, emotion, and will. We have pointed out that the grace of Christ is with our spirit. However, God's operating to will in us involves not only our spirit but also our will. Therefore, God's operation must spread from our spirit into our will.

"As God operates the willing within us, He carries out His working. This corresponds to Romans 8, where we see that God works not only in our spirit, but also in our mind and eventually in our physical body (vv. 6, 11). We will in our will, and we work in our body. The Triune God operates in us from our spirit, through our will, and then into our physical body.

"God's operating is for His good pleasure. His good pleasure is the heart's desire of His will (Eph. 1:5) that we may reach the climax of His supreme salvation.

"Every living being has a good pleasure. This is especially true of God. For this reason, Paul speaks of God's good pleasure. The good pleasure of a mother can be observed in the way she loves her child. Using this as an illustration of God's good pleasure, we may say that God's good pleasure is to love us in a way that makes Him happy. God's working in us is to enable us to reach the climax of His supreme salvation. Praise Him that we are now in God's good pleasure! As He operates in us, we cooperate with Him by obeying Him."

(ibid., pp. 103-105)

Tuesday & Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 2:14-16

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Holding Forth the Word of Life, cont'd.

3.^As Children of God — Being Filled with the Word of Life to Manifest Christ

"If we are filled with the riches of the living Word day by day, spontaneously we shall hold forth the word of life. We shall present the word of life to others and offer it to them. This is to magnify Christ and to live Christ. Christ Himself is the living Word, the word of life. For this reason, when we are filled with the word of life, we manifest Christ and magnify Him. This is the way to live Christ.

"…The expression 'children of God' implies the life and nature of God. As God's children, we have His life and nature. Just as a child has the life and nature of his father because he was born of him, not adopted by him, so we have the life and nature of God the Father because we were born of Him and not merely adopted by Him. Praise the Lord that we are sons of the Triune God with the divine life and nature!

"Would you not have a special feeling of pride if you were the son of the President of the United States? Would you not feel honored and want to boast of this fact? We, however, have a much higher kind of sonship. We are sons of God possessing the divine life and nature! Once we were sinners, but now we are sons of God. How glorious that we are God's divine sons!

"Because we have the divine life and the divine nature, we can truly say that we are divine. However, this certainly does not mean that we are evolving into the Godhead or that we shall ever become God as an object of worship. Furthermore, this is not to teach pantheism or the deification of man. Nevertheless, we may be bold to declare that as sons of God with the divine life and nature we are divine. Hallelujah, we are children of God with the divine life and divine nature!

"We should not only pray-read the words 'children of God'; we should also sing them, either using a familiar tune or making up our own melody. If we sing the Word in this way, we shall be infused, inspired, and inwardly strengthened. We shall also receive a divine inoculation."

4.^As Children of God — Shining

"In 2:15 Paul goes on to say that as children of God we 'shine as lights in the world.' The Greek word rendered lights means luminaries which reflect the light of the sun. The matter of shining as luminaries indicates our ability to function. Praise the Lord that we are able to shine! We are not only children of God, but are also luminaries with the heavenly function of reflecting Christ as the real sun.

"Every kind of life has its particular function. The function of an apple tree is to bear apples, and our function as luminaries possessing the divine life and nature is to shine. As sons of God with the divine life, we have the function of shining. In our daily living we should not merely behave ourselves according to a certain standard—we should shine.

"As luminaries, we in ourselves do not possess any light. Our shining is simply the reflection of light which we receive from another source. Christ is the light, the real sun, and we reflect Him by holding forth the word of life. Thus, our shining is actually our reflection of Christ as the source of our light.

"We shine by holding forth the word of life. According to Colossians 3:16, we

from our heart. If we do not know a melody to use in singing a particular verse, we may make up one of our own. The important thing is that we learn to sing the Word of God. I believe that one day in a meeting we may spend most of the time singing a book like Ephesians.

"We have pointed out that the Lord Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. The Word, however, is not only food to us and our life supply; it is also a spiritual antibiotic. We should not only be fed by the Word, but should also be inoculated with it against many different kinds of troubles, problems, weaknesses, and 'diseases.' Murmurings and reasonings are spiritual diseases against which we need to be inoculated by the Word. Day by day we need to pray-read the Word and sing the Word in order to receive further inoculations. If we pray-read 2:14, we shall be inoculated against murmurings and reasonings.

We need to take the Bible as a book of life. The whole Bible is the word of life. As the word of life, the Bible is food to us. Would it not be foolish only to study food and not eat it? If we would study our food and refuse to eat it, we would eventually die. Likewise, if we do not eat the Word, we shall die spiritually. It is crucial that we eat the Word by pray-reading it and by singing it.

"In pray-reading 2:14 through 16, we should not simply pray-read these verses as a whole, but should concentrate on the important words and phrases. We need to pray-read the words murmurings, reasonings, blameless, guileless, without blemish, children of God, crooked, perverted, generation, shine, lights, world, holding forth, word, and life. We may strongly dislike murmurings, reasonings, and the crooked and perverted generation. Nevertheless, the words 'murmurings,' 'reasonings,' and 'crooked and perverted generation' in these verses can supply us with life if we pray-read and sing them. We should hate murmurings, but we should appreciate pray-reading the word 'murmurings.' Furthermore, we should not only eat these words, but also digest them and assimilate them so that they may become part of our constitution."

(ibid., pp. 404-405)

Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 2:15b

15 …shine as luminaries in the world,

Ephesians 5:8

8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light

Matthew 5:14, 16

14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.

16 …let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.

14 Do all things without murmurings and reasonings

15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Doing All Things without Murmurings and Reasonings — Becoming Blameless and Guileless

"…in verse 14 Paul issues a warning: 'Do all things without murmurings and reasonings.' Murmurings are out of our emotion, mostly on the part of the sisters; reasonings are out of our mind, mostly on the part of the brothers. Both frustrate us from carrying out our salvation to the fullest extent, from experiencing Christ to the uttermost.

"The context indicates that if we murmur or reason, we do not obey. Obedience to God slays all murmurings and reasonings. In order to work out our salvation, we must obey the very God who operates in us. He Himself is our salvation, and our obedience to Him is the working out of our salvation. The sisters need to realize that when they murmur, they disobey the God who works within them. Likewise, the brothers need to see that whenever they reason, they are rebellious against the One who operates in them. Only by obedience can murmurings and reasonings be put to death.

"Paul's word in 2:14 about murmurings and reasonings is a further indication that his purpose in writing the book of Philippians was not related to doctrine, but very much related to experience. Murmurings and reasonings are important factors that frustrate our Christian life. From experience Paul knew that if we would work out our salvation, we need to do all things without murmurings and reasonings. Often in important matters we may not murmur or reason. But in small matters we are prone to murmurings and reasonings. Any kind of murmuring or reasoning is disobedience to the inner working of the Triune God. How we need the Lord to save us from our murmurings and reasonings!

"In verse 15 Paul continues, 'That you may become blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.' The Greek word rendered 'that' means 'in order that.' We should do all things without murmurings and reasonings in order that we may become blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish. The Greek word translated guileless also means simple, artless, innocent; hence, harmless (Matt. 10:16). It comes from a root which means unmixed. The word blameless describes our outward behavior, and the word guileless, our inward character. To be artless means not to play politics. No one who is political can rightly be called guileless. If we are artless, we are also guileless and harmless.

"In verse 15 Paul refers to 'children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation.' As children of God, we have God's life and nature (2 Pet. 1:4). Being children of God with the divine life and nature, we are luminaries which reflect the light of the sun (Christ). As such, we are without

blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation. 'Without blemish' is the total quality of being blameless and guileless. The Greek word translated perverted means warped or twisted. There can be no doubt that today's generation is twisted and warped. In this kind of generation we should shine as lights in the world.

"In verse 16 Paul goes on to say, 'Holding forth the word of life, for my boasting in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain nor labored in vain.' The Greek word for 'holding forth' also means applying, presenting, offering. As God's children, we need to present the word of life to others. If the Philippian believers did this, Paul would be able to boast in the day of Christ that he had not labored in vain. The day of Christ is the day of the Lord's second coming, also called 'the day of the Lord' (1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Thes. 2:2; 1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Cor. 1:14) and "that day" (2 Tim. 1:18; 4:8). In that day all believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward each deserves (2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:19-30)."

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 12, pp. 107-109)

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 2:15b-16a

15 …you shine as luminaries in the world,

16 Holding forth the word of life…

Jeremiah 15:16

16 Your words were found and I ate them, and Your word became to me the gladness and joy of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

Matthew 4:4

4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Holding Forth the Word of Life

1.^Pray-Reading the Word

"In [Philippians] 2:14 through 16 there are many important words and phrases: murmurings, reasonings, blameless and guileless, children of God, without blemish, crooked and perverted generation, shine as lights, holding forth the word of life. We need to pray-read these words again and again. For example, if we pray with the words murmurings and reasonings in 2:14, we shall breathe in the breath of God. Furthermore, we shall come to hate our murmurings and reasonings and aspire to be saved from them. By prayreading the Word, we respond to it. Then in our experience the Word is not a book in dead letters; instead, it is God's breath, even His breathing.

"Sometimes when we pray-read the Word, we may pray a whole verse at one time. However, often it is better to pray-read word by word or phrase by phrase. No one can eat a whole chicken at once. Instead, we eat a little at a time. In the same principle, we should pray-read the Word a little at a time, perhaps even word by word. If we pray with the words murmurings and reasonings in 2:14, we shall

receive a divine injection, a heavenly inoculation, which will save us from our murmurings and our reasonings.

"In our physical body, we sometimes develop a problem with our skin, perhaps an infection or a fungus. In some cases, neither cleansing nor application of medications to the skin will bring about healing. However, a physician may prescribe medication to be taken internally which will clear up the whole problem. The Bible is a divine medication, the most effective antidote to all negative things. The way to apply the Word as an antidote is not merely to think about it, consider it, or analyze it. We receive the antidote of the Word by exercising our spirit to pray-read it.

"Jeremiah 15:16 says, 'Thy words were found, and I did eat them.' Like the prophet Jeremiah, we also would eat the Word of God. Some Christians, however, oppose this concept, claiming that the Bible is good only for reading and studying. But the Bible is not only for reading and studying, but also for eating. The Lord Jesus said, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God' (Matt. 4:4). This indicates that every word of the Bible, even words such as murmurings and reasonings, can supply us with life. Hence, we may pray-read a verse like 2:14 word by word. In this way, we shall live by every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 46, pp. 403-404)

Friday

Verses for Morning Revival

Colossians 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

Ephesians 5:18b-21

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

19 Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord,

20 Giving thanks at all times for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father,

21 Being subject to one another in the fear of Christ:

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Holding Forth the Word of Life, cont'd.

2.^Singing the Word

"We may not realize how much we are influenced by traditional Christianity even in the way we read the Bible. Colossians 3:16 says, 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.' Here Paul does not speak of reading, analyzing, or meditating on the Word. Instead, he encourages us to sing the Word. We should receive the word of Christ not only by reading, but also by singing, psalming, and praising. Whether or not we sing well, the Lord is pleased to hear us singing the Word. He is happy when we sing from our spirit and