

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.”

*(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 21, p. 178)*

### **Our Priceless Treasure**

“Most Christians only put to death the negative aspects of their natural life. They treasure the good aspects and seek to preserve them. Those of every nationality treasure their own national characteristics and philosophy. The Chinese may pride themselves on their philosophical ethics, whereas Americans may boast of their frankness and openness. Hardly any Christians are willing to drop their national characteristics in order to live out the divine life. Although we may be willing to put so many other things to death, we hold these national characteristics as a priceless treasure. If we do not treasure these characteristics consciously, we do so subconsciously. As a result, a basic element of our natural life is not put to death. This element then becomes a huge rock hindering the release of the power of Christ's resurrection from within us.”

*(ibid., Msg. 22, p. 191)*

### **Prayer Burdens**

1. Pray for the grade 6 children who will begin their weekly Saturday evening meeting on Feb. 24th. May the Lord lead them into the pathway of salvation with a personal experience of Christ.
2. Pray for the Chinese-speaking gospel meeting in District 4 (York U.) on Feb. 18th (10:00 AM) at the Driftwood Community Center.

### **Announcements:**

#### **General**

1. **Annual Business Meeting Announcement**  
Please refer to the website [www.thechurchintoronto.ca](http://www.thechurchintoronto.ca) for information regarding the upcoming Annual Business Meeting.
2. **Donation Receipt Request Forms Available**  
The Donation Receipt Request Forms can be picked up at your respective Service Office or from your district leader. Refer to News and Fellowship on this site to see how to process the form (if you have questions).

#### **Book Room**

1. **Pre-order 3rd set Collected Works Witness Lee**  
The 3rd set (4 volumes) of the Collected Works of Witness Lee (1965) is now available for pre-order at the prepaid price of \$70.00 per set.

## **The church in Toronto**

Philippians Week 15

Feb 19 - Mar 3, 2007

### **Pursuing Christ to Gain Him (2) — Counting All Things Loss on Account of Christ, Part 2**

*Weekly Bible Reading:*

**Philippians 3:7-11**

*Hymns:*

**1059; 460; 655; 462; 141; 463**

### **Monday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

#### **Philippians 3:8b-9a, 10**

- 8** ...I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- 9** And be found in Him...
- 10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

#### **Matthew 20:22-23a**

- 22** ...Jesus answered and said to them...Are you able to drink the cup which I am about to drink? They said to Him, We are able.
- 23** He said to them, My cup you shall indeed drink...

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

#### **Experiencing Christ in the Power of Resurrection**

“In verse 10 Paul says, ‘To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.’ According to this verse, Paul aspired not only to know Christ, but also to know the power of Christ's resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. The power of Christ's resurrection is His resurrection life which raised Him from among the dead (Eph. 1:19-20). The reality of the power of Christ's resurrection is the Spirit (Rom. 1:4). To know, to experience, this power requires identification with Christ's death and conformity to it. Death is the base of resurrection. To experience the power of Christ's resurrection, we need to live a crucified life according to the pattern of His life. Our conformity to His death affords a base for the power of His resurrection to rise up that His divine life may be expressed in us.

“The participation in Christ's suffering —‘the fellowship of His sufferings’— (Matt. 20:22-23; Col. 1:24) is a necessary condition for the experience of the power of His resurrection (2 Tim. 2:11) by being conformed to His death. Paul was pursuing to know and experience not only the excellency of Christ Himself, but also the life power of His resurrection and the participation in His sufferings. With Christ, the sufferings and death came first, followed by the resurrection. With us, the power of His resurrection comes first, then the fellowship of His sufferings and conformity to His death. We first receive the power of His resurrection. Then by this power we are enabled to participate

in His sufferings and live a crucified life in conformity to His death. Such sufferings are mainly for producing and building up the Body of Christ.

“Being conformed to Christ’s death is the very base of the experience of Christ. If we are not conformed to the death of Christ, we do not have the base for the experience of Christ. In order to experience Christ, we must be conformed to His death. But to be conformed to the death of Christ, we must have the fellowship of His sufferings. By participating in Christ’s sufferings, we are ushered into a position to experience the power of His resurrection. Then, when we experience the power of Christ’s resurrection, we know Him.

“In Philippians 3 the sequence is knowing Christ, knowing the power of Christ’s resurrection, knowing the fellowship of His sufferings, and being conformed to His death. But in our spiritual experience, the sequence is reversed. Daily we are conformed to Christ’s death; then we participate in His sufferings, know the power of His resurrection, and, by knowing the power of resurrection, we know Christ Himself. According to Paul’s sequence, first we receive the excellency of the knowledge of Christ by seeing the vision of Christ; second, we count all things to be refuse; third, we gain Christ and are found in Him; and fourth, we know Christ, experience Him.”

*(Witness Lee, Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 21, pp. 174-176)*

## Tuesday

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### Philippians 3:9a, 10

**9** And be found in Him...

**10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

### Colossians 1:24

**24** I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### The Power of Christ’s Resurrection

“In 3:10 Paul speaks of the power of Christ’s resurrection. The power of Christ’s resurrection is His resurrection life that raised Him from among the dead (Eph. 1:19-20). Christ’s divine life includes the element of resurrection. Even before He was resurrected, He could say to Martha, ‘I am the resurrection and the life’ (John 11:25). The reality of Christ’s resurrection life is the Spirit. Resurrection is abstract and mysterious; no one can define it. But we can know the Spirit as the reality of resurrection. The Spirit of Christ is the reality of the resurrection of Christ. Thus, where the Spirit of Christ is, there is resurrection. Because this Spirit is now within us, the power of Christ’s resurrection is within us also.”

### The Fellowship of Christ’s Suffering and Being Conformed to His Death

“In 3:10 Paul goes on to speak of the fellowship of Christ’s suffering and of being conformed to His death. The fellowship of Christ’s sufferings is our participation in His sufferings. During His entire life, Christ underwent a process of breaking so that the life power could be released from within Him. In particular, He was broken when He died on the cross. The divine life seed has been planted into our being. Now we also need to be broken that the life power within the seed can be released. If our outer man is broken, the seed within us will be able to release its life power.

us. We need to be desperate to attain the out-resurrection.

### 2. By Being Filled With Christ

“A student becomes valedictorian by doing outstanding work in his studies and by being filled with all he has learned. In order to be valedictorian, you must be the graduate most filled with learning. Likewise, in order for Paul to attain to the out-resurrection from among the dead, he had to be filled with Christ. Today, many young people are good at shouting and releasing the spirit. However, when the Lord Jesus comes back, what will count is how much we have been filled with Christ. It is possible to shout and release the spirit and yet be short of Christ. There is nothing wrong with shouting and releasing the spirit. But inwardly we need to be filled with Christ. When the Lord Jesus comes back, He will be concerned with the degree to which we have been filled with Him, not with how much shouting we have done. How much Christ have you obtained? How much Christ has filled your being? If you are filled with Christ, then you will be qualified for the out-resurrection.

“We should not only shout in the meetings, but be filled with Christ and express Christ in our daily living. God does not want shouting or release. He wants His Son, Jesus Christ, to be wrought into our being to become our life and our living. Christ must be our everything. The more we receive of Christ, the more qualified we shall be to attain to the out-resurrection from among the dead.

“Paul’s concept in Philippians 3 is that of gaining and obtaining Christ. As I have pointed out, the word obtain implies both experience and enjoyment. Thus, Paul wanted to experience Christ and enjoy Christ. This means he desired to participate in Christ, to partake of Christ, and to have Christ wrought into the fibers of his being.”

*(Lee, The Experience of Christ, Chpt. 9, pp. 77-78)*

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 4, Days 5-6

Crystallization-Study of the Epistle to the Philippians: Week 9 Days 1-6

The Life-study of Philippians, Messages 21-22, 52

*Our Experience in the Church Life*

### Our Momentary Shortage

“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 Himself. Because this is our situation, all of us

glassy sea may be at still a different time. Certainly, they will not be resurrected with the man-child, for they will be martyred during the great tribulation. And it is doubtful that they will be resurrected along with the majority of the dead saints. Therefore, there will be three or four different resurrections of the believers: the resurrection of the manchild, the resurrection of the two witnesses, the resurrection of the late overcomers, and the resurrection of the majority of the dead believers. We should not be content merely to be in the general resurrection of the believers; rather, we should aspire to be in the best resurrection.”

## **2. Blessed to Take Part in the First Resurrection — Having No Part in the ‘Second Death’**

“Concerning those who participate in the first resurrection, [Rev. 20] verse 6 says, ‘Over these the second death has no authority.’ This is difficult to understand. The lake of fire is called the second death (20:14). Some may say, ‘The believers will be resurrected before the millennium and will never be put into the lake of fire, the second death.’ The Bible is not that simple. We have seen that Satan is useful in the hand of God. Likewise, death is also somewhat useful to Him. All negative situations are related to death. Take the example of weakness. All weakness—physical, mental, and spiritual—belongs to death. Weakness is a visiting card of death. When death is about to visit a person, it does not come directly. Instead, it firstly comes in the form of weakness. Weakness is followed by sickness, and sickness is followed by death. Thus, both weakness and sickness belong to death. Moreover, all the troubles and hardships we face in life also belong to death. When the overcomers enter into the upper section of the millennium to be the co-kings of Christ, they will have no weakness, no sickness, no trouble, and no hardship. In other words, they will no longer be bothered by death.”

*(Lee, Life-study of Revelation, Msg. 56, pp. 652-654)*

### **Friday & Saturday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

#### **1 Corinthians 9:24-26**

- 24** Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold.
- 25** And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible.
- 26** I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air;

#### **Revelation 2:11**

- 11** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **Paul Was Desperate To Attain**

#### **1. “By Any Means”**

“In Philippians 3:11 Paul says, ‘If by any means I might attain unto the out-resurrection from among the dead’ (Gk.). The words ‘by any means’ reveal that Paul was desperate. He was like a runner in a race who is desperate to be first. Paul’s concept was that of a race in the Olympic games. By any means, he wanted to arrive at the goal of the out-resurrection. We all need to have this sense of desperation infused into

“Eventually, this process of the breaking of the outer man will result in full conformity to the death of Christ. In this way the death of Christ becomes a model, or pattern, for our breaking. Then in our daily life we shall be able to apply Christ to our every need. If we need power, He will become power to us. If we need patience, He Himself will be our patience. This is to know Christ, to experience Him, and to enjoy Him.

“In 3:10 Paul uses the expression ‘being conformed to His death.’ This expression indicates that Paul desired to take Christ’s death as the mold of his life. Christ’s death is a mold to which we are conformed in much the same way that dough is put in a cake mold and conformed to it. Paul continually lived a crucified life, a life under the cross, just as Christ did in His human living. Through such a life, the resurrection power is experienced and expressed. The mold of Christ’s death refers to the continual putting to death of His human life that He might live by the life of God (John 6:57). Our life should be conformed to such a mold – dying to our human life in order to live the divine life. Being conformed to the death of Christ is the condition for knowing and experiencing Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings. “In our daily living we should be ‘dough’ conformed to the mold of Christ’s death. If we allow our circumstances to press us into this mold, our daily life will be molded into the pattern of Christ’s death. This was Paul’s concept when he spoke of being conformed to the death of Christ.”

*(ibid., Msg. 22, pp. 182-185)*

### **Wednesday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

#### **Philippians 3:10**

- 10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

#### **Romans 6:3, 5**

- 3** ...all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death...
- 5** ...if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

#### **John 15:1, 4a, 5a**

- 1** I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
- 4** Abide in Me and I in you...
- 5** I am the vine; you are the branches....apart from Me you can do nothing.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **The Lord Jesus Lived the Divine Life by the Human Life**

“When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He lived a crucified life. Christ had two lives – the divine life and the human life. It was God’s desire that the man Jesus live the divine life by means of His human life. God did not want Him simply to live out the human life. Rather, it was God’s intention that the Lord Jesus live the divine life through the channel of the human life.

“This kind of living can be illustrated by what happens when a branch from one tree is grafted into another tree. The branch that has been grafted into the tree does not live out its own life; instead, it lives the life of the tree into which it has been grafted. This means that the life of the tree flows out through the branch which has been grafted into it.

“When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He always put His human life to death so that the divine life within Him could be lived out. This is the pattern of Christ’s death. In the eyes of man, the Lord Jesus was crucified at the end of His ministry. But in the eyes of God, He was crucified throughout His life on earth. This is proved by the fact that He was baptized when He came forth to minister, as an indication that He had put Himself into death. The Lord’s baptism by John indicated that He was living His human life under the killing power of the cross. His was a life in which the human life was crucified, so that the divine life could be lived out. What a wonderful living the Lord Jesus had!”

### **Being Conformed to the Pattern, the Mold of the Life of Christ and the Death of Christ**

“This wonderful living implies the pattern of Christ’s death. According to this pattern, Christ continually put to death His human life so that His divine life could flow out. This is the mold of the life of Christ and the death of Christ.

“There can be no doubt that the human life of the Lord Jesus was excellent. But even such an excellent human life was put to death for the sake of the release of the divine life. Please pay attention to the fact that the Lord’s human life was not put to death because it was wrong in some way; it was put to death so that the divine life could be lived out. This was the reason the Lord’s human life had to be rejected, broken, and put to death. The principle should be the same with us today. As those who believe in Christ and who have been regenerated by the Spirit, we have both the human life and the divine life. No matter how good our human life may be, it must be put to death if the divine life is to be lived out.

“However, most Christians think that only the negative elements of the human life need to be put to death. According to their understanding, a person would not need to put his human life to death if every aspect of it were good. This understanding is wrong. Every aspect of the human life, the good as well as the bad, must be put to death so that the divine life can be released. This means that even such elements of the human life as Chinese ethics and British diplomacy must be put to death. As long as something belongs to the human life, it must be put to death in order for the divine life to be lived out. Daily we need to live such a crucified life, a life in which the human life is always put to death so that there may be an opportunity for the divine life within us to be lived out. This is what it means to be conformed to Christ’s death.

“Do not think that a believer is conformed to the death of Christ only at the time of martyrdom. No, being conformed to Christ’s death should be our experience day by day. As we speak with our husband or wife, with our parents, with our children, or with those around us at work or school, we must put our natural life to death and not live according to it. If we put to death our natural life, we shall have the consciousness that we have another life, the divine life, within us. Once our outward natural life is put to death, the inner divine life will be released. Then in our experience we shall be conformed to Christ’s death.”

*(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 22, pp. 185-187)*

## **Thursday**

*Verses for Morning Revival*

### **Philippians 3:10b-11**

**10b** ...being conformed to His death,

**11** If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

### **Revelation 20:6**

**6** Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

*Readings for Inspiration and Truth*

### **Attaining to the Outstanding Resurrection**

“In verse 11 Paul goes on to say, ‘If by any means I may attain to the out-resurrection from among the dead.’ To attain means to arrive at. This requires us to run triumphantly the race for the prize (1 Cor. 9:24-26; 2 Tim. 4:7-8).

“The out-resurrection from among the dead denotes the outstanding resurrection, the extra-resurrection, which will be a prize to the overcoming saints. All believers who are dead in Christ will participate in the resurrection from among the dead at the Lord’s coming back (1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:52). But the overcoming saints will enjoy an extra, outstanding portion of that resurrection. This is the ‘better resurrection’ mentioned in Hebrews 11:35. The better resurrection is not only ‘the first resurrection’ (Rev. 20:4-6), ‘the resurrection of life’ (John 5:28-29), but also the out-resurrection, the resurrection in which the Lord’s overcomers will receive the reward of the kingdom, which the Apostle Paul sought after.

“To arrive at the out-resurrection means that our entire being has been gradually and continually resurrected. God first resurrected our deadened spirit (Eph. 2:5-6). Then from our spirit He proceeds to resurrect our soul (Rom. 8:6) and our mortal body (Rom. 8:11), until our entire being – spirit, soul, and body – is fully resurrected out of our old being by His life and with His life. This is a process in life through which we must pass and a race for us to run until we arrive at the out-resurrection as the prize. Hence, the out-resurrection should be the goal and destination of our Christian life. We can only reach this goal by being conformed to the death of Christ, by living a crucified life. In the death of Christ we are processed in resurrection from the old creation to the new.”

*(ibid., pp. 188-189)*

### **Participating in the First Resurrection**

#### **1. There Will Be Different Times of Resurrection**

“The first resurrection will also be the resurrection of reward. Luke 14:14 says, ‘And you will be blessed, because they do not have anything with which to repay you; for it will be repaid to you in the resurrection of the righteous.’ This resurrection is a resurrection with a reward.

“Not all the dead saints will be resurrected at the same time. At least, the two witnesses in chapter eleven will be resurrected apart from the others. Three and a half days after their death, they will be resurrected (Rev. 11:11). Moreover, the man-child, who will be raptured before the fifth trumpet, will be resurrected earlier than the majority of the believers, who will be resurrected at the seventh trumpet. We may use 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4 to speak of resurrection in a general way, telling people that the dead believers will be resurrected when the Lord comes back. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to know the details regarding the resurrection of the believers. For instance, the man-child will be resurrected before the great tribulation, and the majority of the dead saints will be resurrected toward the end of the great tribulation. Furthermore, the resurrection of the late overcomers who will stand on the