

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

March 9, 2014

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ⊗ Present situation in Ukraine
- ⊗ Saudi students at Univ. of Illinois
- ⊗ Irvine

For additional details regarding the above prayer items, please refer to Detailed Prayer Burdens.

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 49 & 50

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	325-326	1048
Tuesday	327-328	1049
Wednesday	329-330	1050
Thursday	331-332	1051
Friday	333-334	1052
Saturday	335-336	1053

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Genesis, Vol. 3, Week 18

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Present situation in Ukraine

- ⊗ Pray that the political and economic situation in the country will turn out to the advancement of the gospel and the Lord's move in Ukraine.
- ⊗ Pray that the construction of the new meeting hall in Kiev will not be hindered or delayed.
- ⊗ Pray that the saints and their property will be covered by the Lord and kept from damage.

National: Contact with Saudi students at the University of Illinois

Continue to pray for the contact this week with Saudi students at the University of Illinois by saints from Champaign and Columbus.

For the saints:

- ⊗ That all of us from Champaign and Columbus would have one mind and one opinion in our time together with the Saudis.

- ⊗ That the self would be bound, and whatever has been loosed in the heavens would be loosed on the earth.

- ⊗ That we would be sensitive to the Lord's leading and speaking.

For the Saudis:

- ⊗ For the Lord's sweeping between now and our meeting, that they would be open, soft, responsive, and unveiled.

- ⊗ That any resisting high thing from Islam or the Saudi culture would be overthrown.

- ⊗ That the right ones would be there.

Local: Irvine

- ⊗ Pray the saints would enter more fully into the heavenly ministry of Christ in echoing His heavenly intercession for the saints and being one with Him to minister Him to others for the building up of the Body.

MINISTRY PORTION

FULL GROWN IN CHRIST

The book of Colossians reveals that the all-inclusive, extensive Christ should replace every factor, element, and aspect of our natural human life. To a great degree, our human living is composed of culture. Humanly speaking, culture is very good. Every society is preserved and maintained by culture. If people did not have culture, there would be much more work for the police department and the law courts. At present, the work of the police and the courts is a supplement to the culture of a society. When a person does not conduct himself properly according to culture, the police may intervene. Every nation, society, and community is preserved by culture, the law, and the police.

THE PROPER USE OF CULTURE

If, after reading these messages on Christ versus culture, Christian parents tell their children that they no longer need culture, this will be a serious mistake. Without culture, children would act like animals. Children must be raised according to the standards of culture. Before they are of a proper age to receive Christ, the children must be built up in culture. The more the children are trained according to culture, the better it will be for them. The children must be trained to honor their parents, to love their brothers and sisters, to behave properly toward their neighbors, to

be good students in school, to obey all laws, and to respect their teachers and other adults. Because children are too young to behave according to Christ, they must be taught to behave according to culture. If we did not have culture, we would be barbarians.

The use of culture can be compared to the function of the law in the Scriptures. The law was decreed by God. Romans 7:12 says that "the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good." Used rightly, the law kept God's chosen people in custody until the coming of Christ. Rich families in ancient times had custodians who exercised custody over the children. In like manner, culture keeps children in custody today. However, as the book of Galatians indicates, the law was misused by the Judaizers. Now that Christ has come, the law should deliver God's chosen people to Christ. But the Judaizers misused the law, even over-using it. Instead of allowing the law to release God's chosen people and to give them over to Christ, the Judaizers used the law to keep people from Christ. The concept of the Judaizers even crept into the church to distract some of the genuine Jewish believers in Christ back to the law. Although culture is right and necessary, it is also subject to misuse and can actually keep people from Christ. Culture should be used to keep the children until they are able to receive Christ and live according to

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Upcoming Events

☉ Friday, Apr. 4 - Lord's Day, Apr. 6,
International Training for Elders and
Responsible Ones, Anaheim, CA

Church-related Websites

General: churchinirvine.org

Blog: members.churchinirvine.org

Calendar: calendar.churchinirvine.org

Offerings: offerings.churchinirvine.org

YP: youngpeople.churchinirvine.org

This Week

9TH ☉ 9:30am–1:00pm Church-
Lord's Day wide blending meeting at
Hall 1 followed by love
feast

11TH ☉ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meet-
Tuesday ings by districts

13TH ☉ 10:00–11:00am Sisters
Thursday prayer meeting at Hall 3

14TH ☉ Evening Small groups in
Friday the homes

15TH ☉ 6:00pm Young people's
Saturday meeting

16TH ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

(continued from page 1)

Christ. Children need to be preserved by culture while they are growing up.

As Moses gave the commandments to God's chosen people, parents must give commandments to their children. But when the children are able to realize their need for Christ and repent, we should minister the rich Christ to them and help them to receive Him. We should tell our children that the culture we gave them was only good for a certain time and that now they need to receive Christ. Hence, culture is used by God through parents to keep their children in custody until the time comes for them to receive the Lord. It is important to see this proper use of culture.

FILLED WITH CHRIST

Now that we have received Christ, He, the all-inclusive, extensive One, must replace every aspect of our culture with Himself. We have seen that fallen man uses culture as a substitute for God. First, such a culture is a substitute for God. Then Christ comes in to replace this substitute with Himself. Since we are no longer children, we need Christ to replace every element of our culture. This does not mean that we should despise culture. Rather, it means that we should love Christ. If we are filled to the brim with Christ, there will not be any room in our being for anything else. Every part of us will be occupied by Christ and with Christ. Then in our experience we shall have the fullness of Christ. We shall be filled with Christ to the extent of our capacity. The Christ who fills our being will replace our culture with Himself. This is the revelation in the book of Colossians.

Because Christ is extensive and all-inclusive, with Him there is no scarcity. If we have such a Christ in our experience, we shall

not need anything else. There is no need that He cannot meet, and no capacity to receive Him that He cannot fill. Since we have the all-inclusive Christ, we do not need Judaism, Gnosticism, or asceticism. We have the all-inclusive and extensive Christ with His fullness. He could fill the whole universe, and still He would not be exhausted. We do not need anything, ancient or modern, in place of Christ. We do not even need our self-made and self-imposed culture. I am concerned that many among us still live according to their self-imposed culture. These saints are always imposing restrictions on themselves and living according to them. There is no need for us to remain in the custody of our self-made culture. Instead, we should stay in Christ and in the freedom we have in Christ. We need to be filled to the brim with Christ. This is the underlying concept of the book of Colossians. Christ, the extensive One, must replace every element of our natural human life. This requires that we not hold on to anything of our culture, for that would produce a mixture. Let us allow the pure Christ to fill our being and replace every aspect of our natural human life with Himself.

—*Life Study of Colossians, Message 49*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☉ High School Conferences—
REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS TODAY

Dear saints, we would like to remind you that the Spring 2014 High School Conferences are approaching and the **deadline to sign up is TODAY**. This will be a hard deadline and SCYP will not accept late registrants anymore. Please sign up ASAP at IrvineYP.com if you are planning to attend. As a reminder, here are the details:

High School Brothers Conference

Location: Engedi

Dates: March 21-23, 2014

Cost: \$95

High School Sisters Conference

Location: Alpine

Dates: March 21-23, 2014

Cost: \$95

Registration is due by the end of today.

☉ Meeting for Parents of YP—
Saturday, March 29, 6-7:15pm

We will have a parents meeting with the YP serving ones on Saturday, March 29 during the YP meeting dinner at Hall 1 from 6-7:15pm. Please come drop off your kids as usual but stay and eat with us. We will have some fellowship and prayer with you all for our precious young people and aim to be blended more into one in our care and shepherding of them. May the Lord bless this next generation.