

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

February 23, 2014

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ⊗ YP Conference in France
- ⊗ Follow-up after New Testament distributions in Europe
- ⊗ Irvine

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 45 & 46

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	301-302	1036
Tuesday	303-304	1037
Wednesday	305-306	1038
Thursday	307-308	1039
Friday	309-310	1040
Saturday	311-312	1041

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Genesis, Vol. 3, Week 16

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: French-speaking young people's conference in Lyon, France (February 28—March 2)

- ⊗ Please pray for the gathering of the French-speaking young people and for the Lord's rich speaking to them and His shining in their hearts to gain them through the heavenly vision of His economy.

Follow-up after New Testament distributions in Europe

Over the past several months the New Testament Recovery Version has been distributed in a number of countries in Western and Central Europe.

- ⊗ Please pray for the continuing follow-up and care for all the Bible recipients and seeking ones by the full-timers, the full-time trainees, and the local saints in Europe. May the Lord add many of His chosen ones to His testimony in Europe.

Local: Irvine

- ⊗ Pray for the coordination and labor of the church with the FTTA trainees being sent to Irvine in the areas of the college campuses, young people and the community.
- ⊗ Pray that this coordination and labor will be harmonious and Spirit-filled so that the Lord would have the way to bless this labor.

MINISTRY PORTION

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST WITH THE PROCESSED GOD

We have pointed out that the book of Colossians first gives us an objective revelation of the extensive and all-inclusive Christ. Then it presents the subjective ministry, the stewardship, by which the all-inclusive Christ is dispensed into us. Finally, it tells us of the practical experience of the Christ who has been ministered into us. Therefore, in Colossians we have the objective revelation, the subjective ministry, and the practical experience.

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE ONE IN OUR SPIRIT

We who experience Christ have a close, deep, intimate, and subjective relationship with Him. But we need to ask three questions: Who is Christ? What is Christ? Where is Christ? Because Christ is so much, it is difficult to say adequately who He is and what He is. To begin with, Christ is the very God. According to Colossians, He is the Firstborn of all creation. The Bible indicates that Christ is the reality of many different kinds of trees: the fig tree, the olive tree, the vine tree, and the cedar tree. Christ is also the real ox, lamb, lion, eagle, and dove. Furthermore, Christ is our real food, water, milk, honey, air, sunshine, rain, dew, and snow. Eventually, Christ becomes our all-inclusive land, a land in which we have mountains, hills, valleys, fountains, brooks, streams, stones, iron, and brass. Because Christ is such an all-inclusive One, when He was on earth He

could use various objects in nature as illustrations of Himself.

Concerning where Christ is, we need to realize that, although He is omnipresent and, in particular, is at the right hand of God in the third heaven, He dwells in us (1:27). However, it is not easy to realize that Christ is actually in us. We are complicated people, with many chambers, many inward parts. Proverbs 20:27 speaks of man's inward parts, his inner chambers. These chambers include the mind, emotion, will, heart, soul, inner man, and hidden man. First Peter 3:4 speaks of the hidden man, and Ephesians 3:16, of the inner man. We may believe that Christ is in us, but in what chamber of our being is He to be found? Second Timothy 4:22 indicates that the Lord is in our spirit.

Now we must go on to ask what the spirit is and how it differs from the heart and the soul. The Chinese version uses the strange term "heart-spirit." However, there is no such thing within us as the "heart-spirit." How regrettable that the translators of the Chinese version used such a term in speaking of the human spirit! Although the translators were scholars, they were mistaken in this point. Others claim that the spirit and the soul are the same. On the one hand, the human spirit is not the heart; on the other hand, it is not the soul. The mind, emotion, will, soul, and heart are included among man's inward parts, but not one of them is the spirit. The human spirit

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Church-related Websites

General: churchinirvine.org
Blog: members.churchinirvine.org
Calendar: calendar.churchinirvine.org
Offerings: offerings.churchinirvine.org
YP: youngpeople.churchinirvine.org

This Week

23RD ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

25TH ☉ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meet-
Tuesday ings by districts

27TH ☉ 10:00–11:00am Sisters
Thursday prayer meeting at Hall 3

28TH ☉ Evening Small groups in
Friday the homes

1ST ☉ 6:00pm Young people's
Saturday meeting

2ND ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

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is in the center of man's inward parts. For Christ to be in our spirit means that He is in the center of our being, in its very depths.

The spirit, where Christ dwells in the believer, is different from the body and from the soul. The Bible reveals that man is tripartite, composed of spirit, soul, and body. Since the spirit is different from the soul, we must be very definite in speaking of where Christ is within us. We need to say, according to the Bible, that Christ is in our spirit. In the words of 1 Corinthians 6:17, we are one spirit with the Lord. The Lord is the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45), who is one with our spirit. Therefore, these two spirits are one. The Lord not only indwells our spirit, but He has even made Himself one with our spirit. In this way, the two spirits—the life-giving Spirit and our spirit—become one spirit. How close and intimate is our relationship with the Lord! He and we, we and He, are one spirit. What relationship could be closer and more intimate than this? Surely such a relationship is the ultimate in closeness and intimacy. If we would experience Christ adequately, we need to realize that we have such an intimate relationship with Him.

LIVING IN ONE SPIRIT WITH THE LORD

However, to realize this is one thing, and to practice it is another thing. We may know that we are one spirit with the Lord, but in our daily living we may not practice living in one spirit with Him. Instead, we may confine the Lord to our spirit and live according to our thought, feeling, and choice. We may insist on the freedom to choose whatever we like, to think our own thoughts, and to allow our affection to run its own course. We may not want to be bothered by the Lord in our spirit. For this reason, in our actual daily living, we may limit Him to our spirit. We may even go so far as to deny our spirit, living as if we had no spirit, but had only a body and a soul. For example, if we want to be angry or talkative, we may do so according to our preference. We simply do not practice living in one spirit with the Lord. When we pray-read, we may praise

the Lord that we are one spirit with Him. But in so many practical matters we may utterly neglect the Lord in our spirit.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

The first part of 2:7 says, "Having been rooted and being built up in Him." The antecedent of the pronoun Him is Christ in the preceding verse. According to 2:2, this Christ is the mystery of God. This brings us to another question: what is the mystery of God? Since Christ is the mystery of God, to be rooted in Christ is to be rooted in the mystery of God. All Christians are familiar with the name Christ, but not many understand the term the mystery of God. God is a mystery. Furthermore, God has a history, a story. What is the history of God, the story of God? God is infinite and eternal, without beginning or ending. According to His good pleasure, He created the heavens and the earth and all the billions of items in the universe. Therefore, God accomplished the work of creation. Christ is the story of God, the history of God. This means that Christ is not only God Himself, but is also God's history. God's history refers to the process through which He has passed so that He may come into man and that man may be brought into Him.

—*Life Study of Colossians*, Message 47

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☉ College Student Car Wash

The college students at UCI and IVC will be hosting a car wash **TODAY, Lord's Day, February 23rd from 2:30-4:30pm at Hall 1**. The purpose of the car wash is to help cover some of the costs in order to allow more students to participate in the upcoming blending trips during spring break. These blending trips have been a great opportunity for new and existing students to be built up together and also to see something of the one Body of Christ through visiting other localities all over the world. Please come and support the students.