

Prayer Items

- ☉ Ukraine
- ☉ Southeast Blending Conference Invitations

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 53 & 54

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	349-350	1060
Tuesday	351-352	1061
Wednesday	353-354	1062
Thursday	355-356	1063
Friday	357-358	1064
Saturday	359-360	1065

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Genesis, Vol. 4, Week 20

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 Lord's testimony in Ukraine will be strengthened and spread in the midst of the current situation.

National: Southeast Blending Conference Invitations

The annual Southeast Blending Conference will take place from March 28–30 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year, the saints in this region wish to invite recent BfA Bible and book recipients from the surrounding area to

attend the conference. Nearly 20,000 people from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama have ordered free materials from BfA within the last year and will receive an invitation e-mail.

- ☉ Please pray that the Lord would work in the hearts and circumstances of these recipients who have tasted the ministry.
- ☉ Pray that He would draw His seekers to the conference and lead them into further contact with the saints and further experience of the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

LETTER FROM MELODY WANG

This is really just a note to let you know that I am still alive and in the training. It's my 4th term and so far, it's been the sweetest term. Daily life in the training is still hard—I'm learning more than ever to overcome (moment-by-moment!) my disposition, my preferences and basically, my self. It has helped me a lot to declare the facts (also known as the Word of God). 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness." Many times throughout the day, I find myself crying out to the Lord and He always brings

me back to this verse and I can practice to declare: I am strong! I am loving! I am clear! Can you believe it? The Word of God is living, true and it is a Person! As we eat and digest this Word, it is becoming us and we are becoming It/Him!

Keep eating Him, saints!

Love, Melody

MINISTRY PORTION

IN CHRIST AND ACCORDING TO CHRIST

In [Colossians]2:8-15 Paul's emphasis is that the believers are in Christ and should be according to Christ. It is a fact that we are in Christ. In verse 10 Paul says, "And you in Him are made full." In Christ we also have been circumcised, raised up, and made alive (vv. 11-12). Paul's writing is structured around the basic concept that everything is in Christ. If the expression "in Him" were removed from 2:8-15, the very structure of Paul's composition would collapse.

In 2:8 Paul says, "Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ." Notice the expression "according to Christ." Paul's desire is that we would all live and have our being according to Christ. To be led astray from Christ is to have our being according to something other than Christ, in particular the tradition of men and the elements of the world. These two

matters cover everything that is not according to Christ. Today believers and unbelievers alike live, walk, behave, and have their being either according to the tradition of men or according to the elements of the world. It is very difficult to find a person who has his being according to Christ. Nevertheless, the Christian walk should be a walk according to Christ. We praise the Lord for all the riches we have in Christ. Now we must go on to live and have our being according to Christ.

FACTS AND EXPERIENCE

In 2:8-15 Paul lists a number of important spiritual facts. It is a fact that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily. Christ is the Head of all rule and authority. We have been circumcised in Christ, buried in Him, raised up with Him, and made alive in Him. All these are facts. It is a fact that the ordinances in writing have been wiped out and that the powers of darkness have been stripped off. All these facts are related to the matter of what is

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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

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

29TH ☉ 6:00pm Young people's
Saturday dinner and parents' meet-
ing

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

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

(continued from page 1)

in Christ. However, if these facts would become our experience, we must be not only in Christ, but also according to Christ. The expression “in Him” refers to the facts, whereas the expression “according to Christ” refers to experience. All those who are saved have the position of being in Christ. As saved ones, all the facts we have mentioned are ours. We have the right, the title deed, to all these facts. But whether or not our daily living is according to Christ is altogether another matter. We may have the assurance to declare that we are in Christ, but we probably do not have the boldness to say that our daily walk is according to Christ. Do you have the confidence to testify that your daily living is according to Christ? We are in Christ, but we do not have our being according to Christ. To a large degree, we live according to the tradition of men and the elements of the world. We have the facts, but we are short of experience.

CARRIED AWAY FROM CHRIST

In Colossians 2 Paul indicates that the Christ we have received is the mystery of God, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. Now we need to walk in Him, having been rooted in Him and being built up in Him. After giving such a word, Paul charges us to beware that no one carries us off as spoil. Having seen the wonderful fact that we have received Christ as the mystery of God and have been rooted in Him, we must now take heed lest we be carried off from such a Christ. If you cannot say that you walk according to Christ, this indicates that, in a practical way, you have been carried off from Him. You have received Christ and have been rooted in Him, but as far as your daily living is concerned, you have been carried away from Him.

To fail to have our daily walk according to Christ means that we are severed from Christ. As long as we are severed from Christ, it does not matter whether we are far removed from Him or only a little bit away from Him.

For the most part, our daily walk is according to the tradition of men and the elements of the world and not according to Christ. Tradition is the main component of culture. Without tradition, culture could not exist. We inherit culture from the traditional practices of our family, society, and country. Spontaneously and unconsciously, we live according to the cultural traditions we have inherited. Furthermore, we live according to the elements of the world, that is, the elementary principles of culture. Traditions are the practices of culture, whereas the elements are the basic principles of culture. Even we who love Christ and seek after Him are still dominated by these two things. I hate any aspect of my daily living that is according to the tradition of men or the elements of the world and not according to Christ. I do not want to have my being according to Chinese tradition or according to the ethical teaching of Confucius. Many times I have prayed, “Lord, forgive me for living according to the tradition of men instead of according to Christ.” God's desire is that we walk according to Christ. For example, a sister may be very submissive, following either the teaching of the Bible or an ethical standard that is according to her culture. Such submission, however, may not be according to Christ. God does not want any behavior that is not according to Christ.

—*Life Study of Colossians*, Message 54

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☉ **Family Getaway and Young Working Saints Retreat**

To all young families and working saints (grad students, serving ones, working saints, young married couples, young mothers/parents, etc.) from roughly the age of 23 (post-undergrad) to early 40s, please save the date for a getaway/retreat on the weekend of June 6-8, 2014. Location, schedule, and cost TBD. Full children service will be provided. Please be on the lookout for more information in the near future.

☉ **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 pray 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.

☉ **Junior High School Conference Deadlines**

Dear saints, we would like to remind you all that the Spring 2014 Junior High School Conferences are approaching and the deadline to register is **TODAY, March 23rd**. Please sign up ASAP if you are planning to attend @ IrvineYP.com.

As a reminder, here are the dates, locations and cost:

Junior High School Brothers Conference
Location: Engedi
Dates: April 11-13, 2014
Cost: \$95

Junior High School Sisters Conference
Location: Alpine
Dates: April 11-13, 2014
Cost: \$95