

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

July 14, 2013

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ❖ The Iberian Peninsula
- ❖ College Trainings
- ❖ Summer School of Truth

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

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	1816-1817	856
Tuesday	1818-1819	857
Wednesday	1820-1821	858
Thursday	1822-1823	859
Friday	1824-1825	860
Saturday	1826-1827	861

Morning Revival

The Recovery of Christ as Everything in the Church, Week 5

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: The Lord's Recovery on the Iberian Peninsula

- ❖ Pray for the word of the Lord to run throughout Spain, Portugal and the entire Iberian Peninsula through the radio, Rhema literature, and Bibles for Europe.
- ❖ Pray for the shepherding of those who are being contacted and that the saints in this part of the earth will be nourished with the riches of the ministry to grow in life and be constituted with the truth that the Lord could raise up His testimony in many cities throughout this peninsula.

National: College Trainings

- ❖ Pray for the college trainings this week being held on the East Coast and in the Midwest.
- ❖ Pray for the Lord's appearing and His calling among these college students that they would be fully gained to live unto the

Lord and be those not loving the present age but loving the Lord's appearing.

Local: Summer School of Truth

- ❖ Pray for the Summer School of Truth in Irvine and those being conducted throughout the churches this summer that these times would be under the Lord's blessing that this generation of young people would become those separated unto the Lord for His purpose.
- ❖ Pray that each young person would be drawn to the Lord and enter more into a personal and affectionate relationship with the Lord and pursue Him with other companions in the church life.
- ❖ Pray that the serving ones will be richly supplied to serve in newness of spirit and with the burden to impart Christ into the young people.

MINISTRY PORTION FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF GENESIS

Transformation for Building in the Flow of Life

In this message I want to consider, as a parenthesis, the precious materials revealed in various portions of the Bible. Genesis 2:10-12 mentions three categories of these materials—gold, pearl, and onyx stone. Revelation 21 speaks of gold, pearl, and several varieties of precious stones (vv. 11-14, 18-21). If we read Exodus 28:6-21, we learn that onyx stones mounted in plaited settings of gold were placed upon the shoulders of the ephod and that twelve precious stones were set in gold on the breastplate worn by the high priest. Precious materials are also mentioned in 1 Corinthians 3:12. Paul says that we must take heed how we build the church, that we should build with gold, silver, and precious stones. Although Paul replaces pearl with silver, the other two substances remain the same. The Lord Jesus spoke of stones when He told Peter that he was a stone for the building of the church (Matt. 16:18). Then Peter, in his first Epistle, said that we all are living stones for the building of a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5).

We also need to pay attention to a very crucial word in the New Testament—transformation. This word is correctly translated from the Greek language in Romans 12:2, which says that we should be transformed by the renewing of our mind. However, the same

Greek word is found in 2 Corinthians 3:18 where it is rendered by the King James Version "changed." According to the proper translation, it should read, "transformed into the same image." Thus, the Greek word for transformation is found at least twice in the New Testament. An English equivalent to the Greek is the term metabolic change. Transformation is not a mere outward change; it is an organic change, a metabolic change. Transformation means to change a substance from one form and element into another form and element. Precious stones are produced by such a process of transformation. This is the meaning of transformation.

Many Christians do not know that the Bible covers the matter of transformation. Therefore, this entire message will be devoted to it. In the previous messages we have seen the eternal purpose of God, which is to express Himself and to exercise His dominion through man. For the fulfillment of this purpose, God created man in a specific way as a vessel to contain God Himself as life. Thus, God created man with a human spirit that he might contact God, receive God, retain God, and assimilate God into his whole being. After creating man in this way, God placed him in a garden with the tree of life as the center. Near the tree of life was a river flowing with living water, and at the flow of this river were gold, pearl, and

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Upcoming Events

- ☉ Monday, July 15 - Saturday, July 27, Summer School of Truth, Irvine, CA
- ☉ Monday, July 29 - Saturday, Aug. 3, Summer Bible Camp, Irvine, 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

14 TH Lord's Day	☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts
16 TH Tuesday	☉ 7:30–8:30pm Church-wide corporate prayer meeting at Hall 1
18 TH Thursday	☉ 10:00–11:00am Sisters' prayer meeting at Hall 2
19 TH Friday	☉ Evening Small groups in the homes
20 TH Saturday	☉ 8:00–9:00am Corporate prayer time at Hall 3
21 ST Lord's Day	☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts

MINISTRY PORTION FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF GENESIS (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

onyx stones. Genesis 2 presents such a vivid picture.

What does this picture signify? We know that the Bible is very economical: not one paragraph, sentence, or word is wasted. Every word is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16). Therefore, we must learn why God used nearly a whole chapter to portray a garden, a tree, a man, a river, and three precious materials. What does it all mean?

The Bible as a whole is God's revelation, and most of the seeds of this revelation were sown in Genesis 1 and 2. For example, God, man, and life are some seeds sown in Genesis 1 and developed throughout the whole Bible. The seeds sown in Genesis grow in the following books of the Bible, especially in the New Testament, producing a crop in the Epistles and a harvest in Revelation. Nearly everything sown in Genesis 1 and 2 is reaped as a great harvest in the book of Revelation.

Based upon this principle, let us attend to some of the items found in both Genesis and Revelation. In Genesis 2 we have the tree of life in the midst of the garden. Then we have a river which flows by the side of the tree and brings forth gold, pearl, and onyx stone. The setting for all of this is a garden, and a garden signifies the natural things created by God. In a garden we can see the growth of created things.

When we come to Revelation 21 and 22, we do not find a garden, but a city. A city is not created; it is built. In Genesis 2 we have creation; in Revelation 21 and 22 we have the building. In the city we also have the tree of life. Thus, the Bible begins and ends with life. Moreover, in the city we find a river of living water proceeding out of the throne of God. This corresponds to the river in the garden. Furthermore, in Revelation we find the three categories of precious materials, not in a natural state, but built into a city made with gold, pearl, and precious stones. Therefore, what was sown in Genesis as a seed is reaped in Revelation as the harvest. The growth of the seed and the development of the crop are found between Genesis and Revelation. This is not our human concept; it is the revelation of the divine Word found in the first and last chapters of the Bible.

In the beginning of the Bible we can see a garden. At the end of the Bible we see a city. Between the garden and the city a long process

must transpire, and a great deal of work must be accomplished. Nevertheless, the seed sown in the garden becomes the harvest in the city. This seed includes the tree of life, a river of water, and the three precious materials. At the time of harvest in Revelation, the materials are no longer in a natural state, but become a building fitly joined together. The New Jerusalem is a building of gold, pearl, and precious stones.

If we read Revelation 21 and 22 carefully, we will see the entire city of New Jerusalem is a mountain of gold. It is not an edifice of clay. This golden mountain is also a golden city. Thus, the gold is the site, the ground for the building of the city. The precious stones are built into the wall of the New Jerusalem, and every gate in this wall is a large pearl. The site of the New Jerusalem is gold, the wall is composed of precious stones, and each of the twelve gates is a pearl. Therefore, this city is a composition of the precious materials found in a natural state in the garden. In Genesis the precious substances are lying in the garden; in Revelation they are built into a city.

This is not my interpretation. Between Genesis and Revelation we have 1 Corinthians. In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul says that as a master-builder he laid the unique foundation, Jesus Christ, and that we all must take heed how we build upon it. What materials are we using in building up the church? Paul tells us to build with gold, silver, and precious stones. (Later we will see why he substituted silver for pearl.) By this we can see that not only the New Jerusalem is built with gold, pearl, and precious stones, but even the church in this age must be built with gold, silver, and precious stones, not with wood, grass, and straw. As we shall see, gold contrasts with wood, silver opposes grass, and precious stones are versus straw.

When I saw this as a young Christian, I was excited. I saw a garden in Genesis 2 with precious materials. I saw a city in Revelation built with these same materials. Between Genesis and Revelation I saw a church built with gold, silver, and precious stones. I saw that the church is a composition of all the redeemed people, and that this composition is a building. Who are the gold, silver, and stones? You and I. We, God's redeemed people, are the materials for His spiritual building.

—*Life-Study of Genesis*, message 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☉ Summer Bible Camp (SBC) 7/29-8/3/13

This year's SBC will be held from 7/29-8/3 on the topic of "The Pattern of Jesus and the Disciples." We encourage all parents and burdened saints to join the next coordination meeting on Lord's day, July 21, at 3:30pm at Hall 1. We need much prayer and participation to carry out this special week.