

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

December 1, 2013

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ⊗ Conference in Lisbon, Portugal
- ⊗ Int'l Thanksgiving Conference
- ⊗ Irvine

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 25 & 26

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	181-182	976
Tuesday	183-184	977
Wednesday	185-186	978
Thursday	187-188	979
Friday	189-190	980
Saturday	191-192	981

Morning Revival

"Nourishing Words—The Unsearchable Riches of Christ," Week 2

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, for the Iberian Peninsula (Dec. 6-8)

- ⊗ Pray that the Lord would release His up-to-date speaking for the strengthening of His move in the Iberian Peninsula.
- ⊗ Pray that the Lord would bring a good number of seeking ones for the raising up of His testimony in Lisbon.

International Thanksgiving Conference on the Mending Ministry of John

- ⊗ Pray that the word released during the recent Thanksgiving conference regarding the mending ministry of John would be effectual in all the churches to restore, perfect, complete, equip, and attune the saints that the genuine testimony of Jesus would be built up in all the churches.

- ⊗ Pray that the hunger of the saints in all the churches would be intensified to experience the living Person of the Triune God as the consummated Spirit that by the experience of Him as the divine life the house of God would be built up in all the churches.

Local: Irvine

- ⊗ Pray that the saints in Irvine would become genuine seekers and lovers of Christ to be brought into a deeper and more intimate relationship with the Lord and be those nourishing up ourselves to be good ministers of Christ for the building up of His Body.
- ⊗ Pray for an intensified love in the saints for the Word of God that a daily life and church life would be built up in the enjoyment of God's Word.

THANKSGIVING CONFERENCE BANNERS

The central requirement for the building up of the church today is the mending ministry of life—a ministry through which the broken spiritual net is restored, perfected, and made stronger and in which we experience Christ as our life and become the dwelling place of God.

Christ is the good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep so that, in the divine life, there will be one flock and one Shepherd, and now He is shepherding us in life for the Father's house—the divine and human incorporation of the processed and consummated Triune God with His redeemed, regenerated and transformed elect.

Christ as the Son of Man is the High Priest, clothed with a garment reaching to the feet and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle, to cherish the churches in His humanity and nourish them in His divinity.

While the Lord Jesus is arranging the world situation so that God's people may go on, He is also exercising His heavenly ministry to especially supply God's lovers and seekers with the heavenly riches, the divine element, so that they may be kept at an overcoming level and transformed into precious stones for the building of God's dwelling place.

MINISTRY PORTION

CHRIST VERSUS MYSTICISM

Although Colossians is a short book, different parts of it are written from different directions, from different points of view. In chapter one and in the first part of chapter two, Paul writes from a universal direction. But starting from the middle of chapter two, he begins to write from the direction of our practical daily life. In turning from the universal perspective to the practical perspective, he

enables us to see the economy of God's salvation.

In His salvation God has no intention to preserve the law; neither does He intend for angels to occupy a prominent position. In the economy of God's salvation, both the law and the angels must be taken out of the way. In the salvation of His people, God does not want to use any indirect means. Instead, He desires to have direct contact with His chosen ones. The

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

❖ Monday, Dec. 23 - Saturday, Dec. 28,
Winter Training, 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

1 ST Lord's Day	❖ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 5 by district arrangement
	❖ 4:00pm Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 6 at Halls 1 & 3
3 RD Tuesday	❖ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meetings by districts
4 TH Wednesday	❖ 7:30-9:00pm Ministry meeting at MCC Anaheim and simulcast at Hall 3
5 TH Thursday	❖ 10:00–11:00am Sisters prayer meeting at Hall 3
6 TH Friday	❖ Evening Small groups in the homes
7 TH Saturday	❖ 6:00pm Young people's dinner and meeting
8 TH Lord's Day	❖ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

fact that God has wiped out the law and stripped off the rulers and authorities means that the way is now clear for God to contact His people directly without interference of any kind of mediation.

All the positive things that remain after the law and the angels have been taken out of the way are shadows of Christ. The heavens, the sun, the moon, the stars, food, and drink are all shadows, figures, of Christ, who is the body, the substance, of the shadows. All that we need for our physical living daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly is a shadow. Only Christ is the reality, the body. It is a serious mistake for believers to go back to the observances of the law. Furthermore, the worship of angels is a great insult to God. In like manner, we insult Him if we respect physical or material things more than Christ, for all such things are shadows of Christ. To repeat, the law has been taken away, the angels have been stripped off, and the material things are shadows. Therefore, we have the ground to say that Christ is all in all. He is our law, ordinance, observance, angel, universe, sun, moon, star, heaven, earth, food, and drink. He is the reality of all positive matters in our daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly living.

Writing from a universal direction, Paul shows that Christ is the portion of the saints, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, the Head of the Body, the firstborn from among the dead, the One in whom the fullness of God dwells, the mystery of God's economy, the indwelling hope of glory, the mystery of God, and the One in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. As such a One, Christ is profound, preeminent, all-inclusive, and universal. Nevertheless, He dwells in us to be our hope of glory (1:27). Turning from the universal perspective to the perspective of our daily life, Paul shows us that Christ is the reality of all the positive things for our daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly life. Therefore, Christ is not only all-inclusive universally; He is also detailed practically.

The turn from the universal perspective to the practical perspective is made in 2:14-15. In these verses Paul makes it emphatically clear that in God's salvation God has no intention to have anything between Him and His chosen people. In order to clear the way to enliven His chosen ones, He nailed the law to the cross and stripped off the angels. Although God used the law temporarily and although He ordained

angels for His government, He will not allow either the law or the angels to stand in the way of His salvation. Now that the law and the angels have been taken out of the way, God has a clear atmosphere and an unhindered environment to contact the ones He has chosen and enliven them. He not only redeems His chosen ones, but also seeks to enliven them. Today the redeeming and life-giving God can have direct contact with His chosen people.

After making the turn in these verses from the universal direction to the practical direction, Paul goes on to speak of the physical things, of our daily eating and drinking and of matters pertaining to our weekly, monthly, and yearly life. In just two verses he deals with eating and drinking, Sabbaths, new moons, and festivals. He points out that these things are shadows, whereas Christ is the body, the reality, the substance. This means that if we do not have Christ, we do not have reality; we have only shadows. Christ is the reality, the body of all positive things. Hence, in God's economy there are no physical things or material things—there is only Christ. Moreover, Christ is not only the image of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from among the dead, the embodiment of the fullness of God, the mystery both of God's economy and of God Himself; He is even the law, the angels, the food, the drink, the new moon, the Sabbath, and the feasts. Based upon such a revelation, we have the boldness and the assurance to declare that Christ is all in all. This is not our teaching; it is simply a recognition of what Paul says in Colossians. What a mercy that we in the Lord's recovery can see Christ in all these aspects! With Colossians 1 and 2 as our basis, we have the confidence to say that, as the One who is all in all, our Christ is the reality of every positive thing in the universe.

—*Life-Study of Colossians*, Message 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ Hawaii Blending Conference

The saints in Hawaii have invited the churches to blend with them in a conference on Jan. 24-26. The churches in Hawaii endeavor to remain in the up-to-date ministry and in the blending life of the Body of Christ. They

look forward to being blended together with saints from many different localities under the speaking of the ministry of the age. For additional information, please contact:
office@churchinirvine.org