



Church in Regina Newsletter

Meeting Place: 3860 Buckingham Drive E, Regina, SK, Canada S4V

THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF HUMAN LIFE

We need to ask what the function and purpose of man is and why human beings exist in the universe. We know that people are on the earth not merely to exist and be satisfied by wearing nice clothes and eating good food. We have an inward realization and an inexplicable feeling that the human life should have a **higher meaning** than this.

Man Being a Vessel to Contain God

We can find the answer to the meaning of human life when we come to the Bible. The Bible tells us that human beings were created for God. The purpose and meaning of our human life is **to be a vessel to contain God and to express God**. Thus, human beings are on the earth **to glorify God so that He may be satisfied**. In the past some of us had a sense of emptiness within because we did not know the purpose of our human life. **God created us to be vessels filled with Him so that we may glorify Him**. If we do not see this purpose, we are like an object that has lost its intended function and usefulness.

When we do not have God as our center, our human life is meaningless, without aim or direction. As a result, we have no satisfaction within or destination without. We have only the sense that we are persons who are wandering aimlessly without meaning or purpose. Consequently, when we calm ourselves down, especially in the dead of night, and consider our life and our future, we have the sense that everything is meaningless. Then we begin to ask ourselves, *“Why do I exist and what is the purpose of my being where I am? Where will I be tomorrow? What will my end be?”* We fall into this situation because we do not have God, and we have no answer to these questions because He is not our center. No one can answer these questions for us. However, once we receive God into us, we will receive a clear answer to all these questions.

Man has a need for physical and psychological enjoyment and for spiritual satisfaction as well. It is true that there are many kinds of material supply on earth to meet man’s need for his existence, and it is true that without these supplies the human life cannot be sustained. However, we need to recognize that in our deepest part there is another need that far surpasses our material needs.

If man **takes care of only his material needs** and the **improvement of his outward environment** without **maintaining an inward stability** and without having a center deep in his heart, he will often make the mistake of taking the improvement of his outward environment and the meeting of his material needs **as ends in themselves**. Therefore, man needs an inner center, a stabilizing power within him, so that he can **properly use the material things and properly enjoy the psychological things**. This shows that there is a need deep within man and that this need is greater than the outward material needs.

This Week’s Pursuit: THE INCREASE OF CHRIST FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH (Message One)

The Increase of Christ in the Continuation of the Book of Acts

Scripture Reading: Acts 28:31; John 5:17; Acts 1:13-14; 6:7; 11:23-24; 19:20; 26:18

I. The Acts of the Apostles is a book without an ending because this book is still being continued for the increase of Christ—28:31:

The Lord said, *“My Father is working until now, and I also am working”* (John 5:17); this shows that since the rebellion of Satan and the fall of man, God has been working until now, and the Lord also is working. The book of Acts is a record of the work of God; after Acts 28 many vessels are still carrying on with His work; His work is continuing and has not stopped. His work will go on until the kingdom and even until the new heaven and new earth; God is always advancing; He never stops; if we know this and believe in this, we will praise the Lord; even as the New Jerusalem, His slaves will serve Him as priests.

The work of the Holy Spirit in preaching Christ for His propagation, multiplication, and spread through the believers of Christ was not yet completed and needed to be continued for a long period of time. Such an evangelistic work for Christ’s increase, propagation, multiplication, and spread is according to God’s New Testament economy for the producing of many sons for God that they might be the members of Christ to constitute His Body for the carrying out of God’s eternal plan and the fulfillment of His eternal will; this is revealed in detail in the twenty-one Epistles and the book of Revelation, which follow the book of Acts.

Since God is after a **corporate, shining vessel**, a vessel of testimony, His children must be brought to the awareness of the Body of Christ and learn to live the Body life; otherwise, they are useless in His hand and can never fulfill His goal. Even the testimony of the overcomers is maintained on behalf of the whole church; they do the work, and the whole church receives the benefit. **The overcomers are not for themselves; they stand on the ground of the church, and they are there to bring the whole church to perfection; even the victories of the overcomers are corporate victories.**

II. The word of God is still growing and being multiplied for the increase of Christ— Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20:

Grew in Acts 6:7 refers to the growth in life, indicating that the word of God is a matter of life that grows as a seed sown into man’s heart for the increase of Christ, the growth of God, within us. **Multiplied** in Acts 12:24 refers to the increase of Christ in numbers;

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Meeting Schedule:

Lord’s Table Meeting

Lord’s Day
10:00AM to 12:00PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Saints Homes
8:00PM to 9:00PM

YP Meeting

Fridays
7:00PM to 9:00PM
Brother Hedrick’s Place

Small/Home Meeting

Friday Evening
Saint’s Home

Seven Annual Feasts

1. International Chinese-speaking Conference, Anaheim, CA February 12-14, 2016
2. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Spring) Anaheim, CA - April 8-10, 2016
3. Memorial Day Conference Washington, DC May 27-30, 2016
4. Summer Training Anaheim, CA - July 4-9, 2016
5. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Fall) Gold Coast, Australia - October 6-8, 2016
6. Thanksgiving Conference San Jose, CA - November 24-27, 2016
7. Winter Training Anaheim, CA - December 26-31, 2016

Upcoming Activities:

- ▶ October 30, 2016 - Brother’s Meeting
- ▶ November 11, 2016 - Church Pursuit (Experience of Life - msg 7)
- ▶ November 13, 2016 - Love Feast

PRAYER BURDEN

1. Lord, You are working until now, and Your **work** has been going on and will go on even until the kingdom and even until the new heaven and new earth. The work is Yours we only ask for Your mercy and grace that You allow us to **get involved in the service** for the fulfillment of Your eternal plan.
2. Lord, separate us to be Your **corporate vessel**, Your shining golden lampstand to stand and maintain our stand to live the Body life, learning **obedience** and **fellowship**, that we will have the chance of becoming Your **vessel of testimony**.
3. Lord, impress us to realize that what we really need is Your **divine Word**, make us one with Your Word, saturated with Your Word and be constituted with Your Word that we may **minister** the Word by the Spirit.
4. Lord, keep us in Your **ascendancy** and enable us to **live a life** far beyond the realm of anxiety, fully dignified with the highest standard of human virtues **expressing** Your most excellent attributes.
5. Lord, appear to us and show us the heavenly things that we may **help others** to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, to be sanctified by faith and to enjoy the common portion of the saints to have the **church life**.
6. Lord, have mercy and make us willing to **offer ourselves** in a very real and practical way. We are willing to “**give up**” much more for us to be found in the “**upper room**” for Your recovery and testimony.
7. Please pray for the brothers and sisters in **Lloydminster** for their desire to have Lord’s Table Meeting.
8. Please pray for the church in **Regina**:
 - Young people’s meeting and campus work
 - Small group meetings
 - The recipients of the Bible
 - Sister Celina, brother Ricky and Eden.

“I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.”

actually, **the multiplication of the disciples depends on the growth of the word**. New disciples are “**added to the Lord**” to become the parts of Christ, the members of Christ. We need to encourage the new believers “**to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart**”; this is to be persistently faithful to the Lord, cleave to Him, and live in close fellowship with Him.

III. The continuation of the book of Acts is the continuation of Christ with the corporate living of the perfected God-men as the reality of the Body of Christ; the apostle Paul, as a pattern to all the believers, the members of the Body of Christ, lived Christ for His magnification as His continuation—Phil. 1:19-21a; Acts 9:4-5, 15; 26:19; 1 Tim. 1:16:

- Paul was a disciple of Christ—seeing Christ, hearing Christ, and learning Christ as the reality is in Jesus.
- Paul was a chosen vessel of Christ to contain Him, be filled with Him, and overflow with Him for His fullness.
- Paul was a man of prayer.
- Paul depended on the Body, doing everything in the Body, through the Body, and for the Body.
- Paul practiced calling on the name of the Lord.
- Paul lived by the all-inclusive Spirit of Jesus (the Spirit of a man with abundant strength for suffering) for his preaching ministry, a ministry of suffering carried out among human beings and for human beings in the human life for the building up of the Body of Christ.
- Paul lived in his mingled spirit (the divine Spirit mingled with his human spirit as one spirit).
- Paul was filled with the Spirit of joy, essentially for his existence, and with the Spirit of power, economically for his function.
- Paul exercised himself to always have a good and pure conscience.
- Paul lived a life of always rejoicing in the Lord and thanking Him.
- Paul was allied with God and assisted by God to speak the gospel boldly in the name of Jesus to spread the testimony of Jesus unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- Paul cherished the saints in the humanity of Jesus and nourished them in the divinity of Christ with all the truths of God’s eternal economy, displaying in his living the word of the Lord Jesus that it is better to give than to receive.
- Paul’s fourth ministry journey shows in a particular way his life of living Christ, magnifying Christ, doing all things in Christ, and pursuing Christ in order to be found in Christ.

All during the apostle’s long and unfortunate imprisonment-voyage, the Lord kept the apostle in His ascendancy and enabled him to **live a life far beyond the realm of anxiety**; this life was fully dignified, with the highest standard of human virtues expressing the most excellent divine attributes. This was Jesus living again on the earth in His divinely enriched humanity! This was the wonderful, excellent, and mysterious God-man, who lived in the Gospels, continuing to live in the Acts through one of His many members! This was a living witness of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and God-exalted Christ!

In Paul’s living and ministry he expressed the very true God, who in Jesus Christ had gone through the processes of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection, and who, as the all-inclusive Spirit, was then living in him and through him. On the sea in the storm, the Lord had made the apostle not only the owner of his fellow voyagers but also their life-guarantor and comforter; now, on the land in peace, the Lord made him furthermore not only a magical attraction in the eyes of the superstitious people but also a healer and a joy to them. The warm welcome that Paul received from the brothers in Rome and the loving care of those in Puteoli show the beautiful Body life that existed in the early days among the churches and apostles:

Apparently, the apostle, as a prisoner in bonds, had entered the region of the dark capital of the Satan-usurped empire; actually, as the ambassador of Christ with His authority, he had come into another part of the participation in the Body life of Christ’s church in the kingdom of God on earth. While he was suffering the persecution of religion in the empire of Satan (the satanic chaos in the old creation), he was enjoying the church life in the kingdom of God (the divine economy for the new creation); this was a comfort and an encouragement to him.

The ultimate issue of the church will be the New Jerusalem in eternity future as God’s full and eternal expression; this should be the reality and goal of all our gospel preaching today as we follow the pattern of the apostle Paul—“*proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, unhindered*”.

IV. Acts 26:18 reveals the work that we must do today for the increase and building up of the Body of Christ; this verse unveils the all-inclusive contents of our divine commission—“to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me”:

This is to carry out the fulfillment of God’s jubilee, the acceptable year of the Lord, proclaimed by the Lord Jesus in Luke 4:18-21 according to God’s New Testament economy. We need to pray over the contents of our divine commission in Acts 26:18, asking the Lord to make them our experience and reality so that we can bring others into this experience and reality.

V. If we would be in the continuation of the book of Acts, we need to continue to live in the divine history in the unique stream of the work of the Lord by having an upper-room consecration—1:13-14; Hymns, #907:

We are not here for a movement but for the Lord’s recovery, and the recovery can be carried out only by the specific and extraordinary consecration in the upper room. The Lord’s move was with those in the upper room, with those whose eyes had been opened and whose hearts had been touched. It is a small number who will turn the world and change the age; if we would be in the upper room, we need to pray in a specific way and say, “*Lord, I am willing to be in the upper room for the recovery of Your testimony.*”

WEEK	LORD’S TABLE MEETING	PRAYER MEETING	YP MEETING	HOME MEETING	OFFERING
Oct. 09 - Oct. 15, 2016	23	11	10	3	\$500.00
Oct. 16 - Oct. 22, 2016	19	10	10	8	\$280.00