

CHURCH IN REGINA

Meeting Place: 3860 Buckingham Drive E, Regina, SK, Canada S4V 3A1

[Timothy 2:4, "Who [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth."

This Week's Pursuit:

HWMR - Crystallization Study
of The Gospel of Mark

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CHURCH MEETINGS:

Lord's Day

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays - Saints' Home
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Young People Meeting

Fridays
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Small Groupings

Fridays & Saturdays
Saints' Home

Seven ANNUAL FEAST

- International Chinese-speaking Conference**
Anaheim, California
February 15-17, 2019
- ITERO (Spring)**
Anaheim CA
April 5 - 7, 2019
- Memorial Day Conference**
Seattle, WA
May 24-27, 2019
- Summer Semiannual Training**
Anaheim, CA
July 1-6, 2019
- ITERO (Fall)**
Bangalore, India
October 3-5, 2019
- Thanksgiving Conference**
Houston, TX
Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 2019
- Winter Semiannual Training**
Anaheim, CA
December 23-28, 2019

Message Six

A Life Fully according to and for God's New Testament Economy (2)

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:1-20, 26-29; 12:30

"...The word which has been sown into them (in his heart);" ~ Mark 4:15

The Lord as the Sower sowing Himself as the seed

What is the central thought of the Lord's message in Mark 4? The central thought is that the Lord is the **Sower sowing Himself** into us as a **seed**.

In Mark 1 we are told that the Lord Jesus came to Galilee preaching the gospel of God. But how did He preach the gospel, and what is the gospel the Lord preached? We should not understand either the gospel itself or the preaching of the gospel in a natural way. Concerning this, many Christians are covered by a thick veil of tradition. They take for granted that they know what it means, according to the New Testament, to preach the gospel. As we have seen, chapter four of Mark reveals that **to preach the gospel is to sow the seed**. As we have pointed out in previous messages, the seed sown in Mark 4 is the seed of the kingdom.

If we want to have a proper understanding of the gospel and of the preaching of the gospel, we need to consider what is revealed in the Gospel of Mark. First, in 1:14 we see that the Lord **preached** the gospel of God. In verse 15 He spoke of **the kingdom of God and the gospel**. In Mark there is no further mention of the kingdom until chapter four. We have seen that 4:26 says, "*So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed on the earth.*" Therefore, in chapter four of Mark we see what the kingdom of God is, and we also see what it means to preach the gospel. According to this chapter, **to preach is to sow**. (*Life-Study of Mark, Chapter 64, Section 2*)

Sown into the Heart

The Lord Jesus **sowed the seed into the human heart**. In Mark 4 and Matthew 13 the human heart is likened to soil. **Our heart is the field**, the soil, into which **the Lord Jesus has sown Himself as the seed of life**, which is the seed of the gospel. In the parable of the sower, the Lord Jesus is both the Sower and the seed sown. As the Sower, the Lord sows Himself as the seed of life through His word.

[Some Seeds Falling beside the Way

"*And as He sowed, some seeds indeed fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured them.*" **Beside the way** is the place close to the way. Because it is hardened by the traffic of the way, it is **difficult for the seeds to penetrate it**. This kind of wayside signifies the heart that is **hardened by the worldly traffic** and does not open to understand, to comprehend, the word of the kingdom. The **birds** signify the evil one, Satan, who came and snatched away the word of the kingdom sown in the hardened heart.

Some Falling on Rocky Places

"*And others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much earth, and immediately they sprang up because they did not have depth of earth; but when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they were dried up.*" The **rocky places** that do not have much earth signify the heart that is shallow in receiving the word of the kingdom, because deep within are rocks—**hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity**—which **frustrate the seed from gaining root in the depth of the heart**. The **sun** with its scorching heat signifies affliction or persecution (v. 21), which dries up the seed that is not rooted. The heat of the sun is for the growth and ripening of the crop once the seed is deeply rooted. But due to the seed's lack of root, the sun's growing and ripening heat becomes a death blow to the seed.

Some Falling on the Thorns

"*And others fell on the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them.*" The **thorns** here signify the **anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches**, which choke the word from growing in the heart and cause it to become unfruitful. ...The Lord tells us not to be anxious about our living, about what we shall eat, drink, or wear. The third type of soil is not as bad as the second, but it is still difficult for the seed to grow in it because of anxiety and the deceitfulness of riches. All these thorns must be uprooted. If the anxiety of this age and the deceitfulness of riches are rooted out of our heart, the seed will grow.

Others Falling on Good Earth

"*And others fell on the good earth and gave fruit, some indeed a hundredfold, and some sixty, and some thirty.*" The **good earth** signifies the good heart that is **not** hardened by worldly traffic, that is **without** hidden sins, and that is **without** the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches. **Such a heart gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold**. The **good heart** is a heart which has no worldly traffic, no rocks, and no thorns. It has no hidden sins, selfishness, lust, or flesh and no anxiety of the age or deceitfulness of money. This kind of heart is truly pure to match the spirit. Such a heart is the good soil that grows Christ. Christ as the seed of life can grow only in this kind of heart, this kind of soil. This is the soil that can grow the kingdom.] (*Life-Study of Matthew, Chapter 36, Section 2*)

Prayer Burden

1. Thank You Lord for **sowing** Yourself as the **life-giving Spirit into us** as a **seed of a life** that lives fully according to and for God's New Testament economy. **Grow in us** fully as the **indwelling Christ**.

2. Lord, we give you our **full cooperation** for the inward operation of **Your growth** process to hasten Your coming. **Grow** in the soil of our entire heart, **making our heart Your home** and a duplication of Yours.

3. Lord, we want to **deal** with the **condition of our heart** to make our heart the **good earth**. **Strengthen** our inner man, **dwell in us** richly as the Word, and **deeply root us** in You.

4. Lord, may we all **take time** to have a **secret life** and **history** with You, **take time** in secret to **absorb** You and **set aside time** to have **direct and intimate relationship** with You every morning, in **pray-reading** Your word and **interceding** for Your interests.

5. Save us, Lord from the **anxieties** of this age, the **deceitfulness** of riches, and the **lusts** for other things. Make all of us **lovers** of God for the **economy of God** and not lovers of money.

6. Make our hearts the **good earth** that every inch of it will be for your **Word** to **grow**, to **bear fruit** and to produce even a hundredfold. Keep our hearts **open** to You always that we may **live a life** fully **according to and for Your heart's desire**.

7. Please pray for:

Israel

- We pray for the YP gathering in **Galilee**; the new ones in **Tel Aviv** to receive the shepherding care and a clear controlling vision of Christ and the church; the small group meeting in **Haifa**.

Europe

- The first Lord's Table Meeting in **Novi Sad**, Serbia on April 27-28, 2019
- **Brexit** - (*The exit of the UK from the EU has been delayed until October 31.*) Lord we pray that You will rule sovereignly over this crucial matter for the advancement of Your interests in Europe.
- **Germany** - Pray for the future meeting hall of the church in Berlin, that the preliminary evaluations will be completed in a timely way, that the property will be in good condition for purchase, and that the city will approve it for church use.

8. Please pray for the church in **Regina**

- Pray for the **increase** of meeting ones and to gain local saints. Pray for the contacts.
- Churching and conferences
- For the purchase of a lot **property** for the church
- The children, YP and College work
- Brother **Radam's** permanent residence application

LIFE-STUDY OF 1 TIMOTHY

"One Life-Study a Day Makes One Holy"

God's Dispensation Versus Differing Teachings

April 15, 2019, Monday

In verse 4 Paul tells us that God's dispensation is in faith. **The dispensing of God into us is altogether by faith**. The dispensation of God is a matter in faith, that is, in the sphere and element of faith, in God through Christ. Faith may be in contrast to questionings. **God's economy to dispense Himself into His chosen people is not in the natural realm, nor in the work of law, but in the spiritual sphere of the new creation through regeneration by faith in Christ**. **By faith** we are born of God to be His sons, partaking of His life and nature to express Him. **By faith** we are put into Christ to become the members of His Body, sharing all that He is for His expression. This is God's dispensation according to His New Testament economy, carried out in faith. (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 1 Timothy, chapter 1, section 6)

Faith and a Good Conscience Needed for the Keeping of the Faith

April 16, 2019, Tuesday

Along with **faith**, we also need a **good conscience**, a conscience without offense. **A good conscience is a safeguard of Christian faith and life**. Faith and a good conscience go together. Whenever there is an offense in our conscience, there will be a leakage, and our faith will leak away. **A good conscience accompanying faith is needed for warring the good warfare against the dissenting teachings in a troubled local church**. (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 1 Timothy, chapter 2, section 3)

Prayer to Carry Out God's Desire for Man's Salvation

April 17, 2019, Wednesday

If we would be a Timothy, we must take the lead not to argue, gossip, or criticize, but to **pray**. Whenever we hear some news, good or bad, concerning a particular church, we should **pray**. Do not discuss the situation, do not gossip about it, and do not criticize. **Just pray!** Likewise, if you hear something about a saint or about an elder, pray for that one. **The first requirement to have a proper church life is to pray**. Oh, we all need to practice this! **If we exercise ourselves to have a prayer life, the church will be living and uplifted**. If some would be today's Timothys to take the lead to pray, the others will follow. This can be illustrated by the way a flock of sheep follows the few who take the lead. If you, as a Timothy, **take the lead to pray**, the congregation in your locality will follow. (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 1 Timothy, chapter 3, section 1)

The Normal Life of the Brothers and Sisters in the Church

April 18, 2019, Thursday

All the sisters in the church life should have the **virtue of modesty**. The sisters should dress according to the principle of modesty. This principle does not allow the exposure of one's body. For a woman to expose her body is to go against the principle of modesty. **A sister needs to have a head covering, not only physically, but also psychologically, ethically, morally, and spiritually**. **This is the modesty spoken of in the Bible**. To be modest simply means that a female is fully covered in every way. (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 1 Timothy, chapter 4, section 3)

Overseers and Deacons for the Church's Administration

April 19, 2019, Friday

In verses 4 and 5 Paul goes on to say, "*One who manages well his own household, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (but if anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)*" **Managing well his own household is a proof that one is qualified to take the oversight of a local church**. An elder should exercise to **manage his household** well and maintain it in good order. It is clear that anyone who does not know how to manage his own household cannot take care of the church of God. (Excerpt from the Life-Study of 1 Timothy, chapter 5 section 3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

1. There will be no Lord's Table Meeting here in Regina on April 21, 2019, we will be going churching in the church in Saskatoon., and visit sister Gloria after the Bread Breaking Meeting
2. Prairie conference in Edmonton on May 3-5, 2019. The deadline for registration is April 21, 2019.
3. Every last Friday of the month, the Small Group Meeting will be held at Brother Radam's place
4. Churching in Lloydminster will be on April 28, 2019.