



The Church in 皮斯卡特维 *Piscataway* 召会周讯 Weekly News

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Excerpt from Ministry Reading (The LS of Deuteronomy chapter 23): A Concluding Word of This Section to the Rehearsal of The Law

In 26:16-19 we have a concluding word of this section to the children of Israel. Moses used thirteen chapters, from chapter fourteen through chapter twenty-six, to cover the rehearsal of the law with certain developments. That day—the day Moses had finished the rehearsal of the law—Jehovah their God was commanding the children of Israel to do these statutes and judgments, and they were to keep them and do them with all their heart and with all their soul (v. 16). On that day they had declared Jehovah to be their God and had also declared that they would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments and listen to His voice (v. 17). That declaration was actually a vow. Furthermore, on that day Jehovah had declared them to be a people for His personal treasure, even as He promised them, and had declared that they would keep all His commandments (v. 18). Here we see that the condition for being God's personal treasure is that the people keep all His commandments. God also declared that He would set the children of Israel high above all the nations, for praise, for a name, and for honor, and that they would be a holy people to Jehovah their God as He had spoken (v. 19).

In this section on the rehearsal of the law, five governing principles of our behavior are implied: (1) toward God, to be sanctified and fearing; (2) toward oneself, to be righteous and pure; (3) toward others, to be kind and generous; (4) toward animals, to be sparing and sympathetic; and (5) toward the devil, to be rejecting and separated.

These five principles govern our behavior in five directions—toward God, toward ourselves, toward others, toward animals, and toward the devil. Toward God we should always be sanctified and fearing. We should fear God and want to be separated, sanctified, unto Him as a holy people. Toward ourselves we should be righteous and pure. This means that we should be just and strict, not having any looseness. Whereas we should be strict with ourselves, toward others we should be kind and generous, always willing to give. Toward animals we should be sparing and sympathetic. If we can sympathize with animals, we can, and will, sympathize with people. We may have the assurance that those who are kind to animals will also be kind to us. However, some people hate animals and mistreat them. When such people meet a dog or a cat, they may treat it in a very mean way. I will always stay away from this kind of person, for I realize that one who can mistreat animals can also mistreat people. Finally, toward the devil we should be rejecting and separated. We must reject the enemy, Satan, and separate ourselves from him. I believe that if we practice these principles by the divine life, we will become a different kind of person.

If we compare Deuteronomy with Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, we will see that the law, statutes, and ordinances which Moses rehearsed in Deuteronomy are the same, but in his rehearsal there are some extensions, additions, and developments. All the rehearsed statutes and judgments, with the new developments, speak forth in detail how fine, how tender, how considerate, and how sympathetic is the great God of Israel. This indicates that the book of Deuteronomy is very particular in its revelation of what God is. The God manifested in this book is not only loving, merciful, and gracious; He is also very fine, tender, considerate, and sympathetic. This is our God.

Announcement:

1. District prayer meeting on the coming Tuesday 3/24 is scheduled at district prayer meeting on-line locations starting from 8 PM. We encourage the saints to separate time to attend.
2. Corporate pursuing of Life-study of Deuteronomy schedule: This week we will cover messages 23 and 24.
3. Saints: Let us continue to pray for the containment of COVID-19 in the US and around the world. May the Lord continue to protect our saints from fears and anxiety. May we all enjoy the Lord individually, in 2s and 3s and corporately.

Meeting Attendance:

Small Groups (2/14~15): 156

Lord's Table (2/16): 159

Prayer Meeting (2/18): 43

Prayer Burdens:

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) -

For the US and for the whole earth

- a. Pray for the United States' confession and repentance.
- b. Pray for the healing of disease in the United States.
- c. Pray for medical workers who are on the front lines fighting against the disease.
- d. Pray that the US government at all levels can effectively lead the people to fight COVID-19.
- e. Pray for the development of a vaccine for the disease.
- f. Pray for people's conscientiously cooperation in quarantine
- g. Pray that the US will be filled with the gospel and the Americans will be saved.
- h. Praise God's divine nature and His care in prayer. Prase to be God.
- i. Pray for the cessation of the plague on the whole earth.
- j. Continue to pray for China.

For the church life

- a. Pray for all the saints not abandoning our own assembling together.
- b. Pray that saints can connect with each other even more intimately and mutually in smaller numbers by employing various online platforms.
- c. Pray that rather than retreating, isolating, or distancing ourselves, the saints will be more aggressive to pray and fellowship by two's and three's during the week.
- d. Pray that we would turn the limitations in an adverse environment into opportunities to shepherd and build up one another and the church.
- e. Pray that more will pick up the burden to contact the weak and dormant members and reconnect them to the Body.
- f. Pray that the saints would rise up these days to spend much more time before the incense altar.

Testimony: 3/7 Piscataway Chinese-speaking Gospel Meeting

2020 is a year that caught us in surprise. Bush fire in Australia, locust swarm in east Africa, iceberg melting in the South Pole, earthquakes great and small, and on top of everything the virus spreading. In Luke 21:11, the Lord said: "And there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; ". In just a few years earlier when I was looking at this verse, I couldn't help but laugh, how is a famine possible in the 21st century, and how is pestilence possible in a medical and hygiene advanced era. Yet this year, I can laugh no more. Witnessing one event after another indicating the Lord's coming back, I dare not even to think about the future. Maybe the Lord will come back before my 70. There was a time when days can not be numbered, like the barley grains in the field. Now, days are rare like precious metals, being counted one at a time. Yet all these might just be the beginning of birth pangs.

As fear grows stronger in people's minds, a lot of familiar faces are suddenly missing from the church. Fewer people show up in every meeting and the threat of community virus spreading makes preaching the gospel ever harder. How and if the white horse will sprint is uncertain to me. When I heard about the gospel meeting on 3/07, I was worried if any gospel friends will show up at all. Now looking back, however, the more restriction we face, the stronger and more overcoming is our prayer, and the more it inspires me to stretch forward. I can testify that every one of the more than ten gospel friends who came was supported by prayers.

Although we are a little weak before the meeting, yet as soon as we break through the soulish restriction of environment and worrying and offer ourselves for the Lord's interest in God's house, each one of us was then enlivened! In every serving aspect that evening, I saw "There is no fear in love", "knit together by means of the joints and sinews", "pursue toward the goal". As we, in oneness, presented with our full strength our lovely Lord and His complete salvation, we came to the moment that nervous me the most: Will anyone be baptized tonight?

ShangWen Liu is a junior year college student at Rutgers. She regularly comes to our P5 small group meeting since her freshman year no matter how busy her academic schedule was. I was considering what is it that motivates her to come to the meeting every time? It must be God himself attracting her. I was with her the entire evening that day, although a little annoyed by her not paying attention when brother mentioned about salvation, I still prayed the Lord would grant her a seeking heart. When the brother finally called for baptism, no one stood up. Disappointed as I was, I still believe the seed of the Word is sowed into every gospel friend. Later on a couple of elder sisters grouped together to fellowship with ShangWen, I also joined them. She, at last, told us her obstacle was her shyness. Eventually, encouraged by many sisters, she overcame her shyness and got baptized. Afterwards, when I was fellowshipping with sister Wang, I realized it was the loving-kindness of Jesus that attracted ShangWen. From the first time when the word touched us to our repenting towards the Lord, He led our hand in each of our steps. If it's not His forbearance and merciful heart towards us, we today are still imprisoned in the world, Satan and the flesh. Praise to the Lord! May we take every opportunity to function as a partner of Jesus to let the white horse sprint, seeing everything as refuse only to gain Christ!

