



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 25): DEUTERONOMY CH. 28: WARNING (IMPLYING GRACE)

If the children of Israel did not listen to the voice of Jehovah their God and were not certain to do all His commandments and His statutes, all the curses would come upon them and overtake them. Verses 16 through 19 indicate that curses would come to every place, on everything, and in every way. They would be cursed in the city and in the field, and cursed in their coming in and in their going out. The curse would come on their basket and kneading bowl, on the fruit of their womb and of their ground, and on the offspring of their cattle and the young of their flock. Verses 20 through 22 speak of curses in discomfiture in all undertakings, in a plague, in consuming diseases, in burning heat and drought, and in blight and mildew. The diseases here would not come and go but would cling to the people until they were consumed from off the land.

All the curses that have befallen the children of Israel have carried out God's governmental dealings with them, so that eventually God would be able to accomplish His economy with them to prove that He is the very God who would not change in His will forever. We should not think that God's severe chastisement of the children of Israel means that He has given them up. On the contrary, God's chastisement indicates that He will not give them up. The principle is the same with us today. God's chastisement of the believers indicates not that He has forsaken them but that He will not let them go.

Concerning our own situation as believers today, we need to be reverent before the Lord. Not only is Israel under God's chastisement, but we also are under His dealing. We need to ask ourselves if we are ready for the rapture of the overcomers, an extraordinary rapture that will take place before the great tribulation. The overcomers will be raptured to the third heaven before the tribulation, whereas the other believers will be left on earth to pass through the time of the great tribulation. Like the woman in Revelation 12, these believers will be preserved, cared for, and nourished by God. Nevertheless, the situation on earth will be very threatening. The devil will be cast down to earth to damage the human race, Antichrist will come up from the abyss, and the false prophet will join Antichrist to destroy the earth, making it no longer fit to be inhabited by human beings. Those three and a half years, therefore, will be a terrible time.

We have considered the portions of Deuteronomy which declare the blessings and the curses. We have also seen that instead of giving up Israel, God is chastising her for her perfecting. Thus God's chastisement is a kind of perfecting. God has two peoples on earth—Israel and the church—and He is perfecting both. While He is perfecting Israel, He is also perfecting us. Today God is dealing with Israel, and He is also dealing with the church.

Announcement:

1. District prayer meeting on the coming Tuesday 3/31 is scheduled at district prayer meeting on-line locations starting from 8 PM. We encourage the saints to separate time to attend.
2. The coming Tuesday 3/31 is global prayer day. May we all pick up the burden, seize the opportunity, separate some time to pray specifically for the pandemic.
2. Corporate pursuing of Life-study of Deuteronomy schedule: This week we will cover messages 25 and 26.
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 (3/20~21): 167

Lord's Table (3/22): 147

Prayer Meeting (3/24): 59

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.

Report (Young Adult & Young Family Online Blending)

In the past there has been much fellowship concerning the Lord gaining the households. The intention was to continue this fellowship by having a Young Adults and Young Families Blending on March 20th-21st at KPCC. Because of the threat posed by COVID-19, a fellowship was held this past Saturday for about an hour online via Zoom. Over 100 families from NY, NJ, PA and other places joined the video call for a total of approximately 200 saints, including children. The families were refreshed by seeing one another's faces and the children recognized the saints by greeting them with warm hellos. It was a wonderful experience to have a time of mutuality between the different families.

It was brought out in the sharing that despite the current world situation, this is a golden time for the families. The saints are used to being busy, not having much time for fellowship or even family time because of work responsibilities. But now that the Lord has limited and restricted families to being in the homes, He can continue to gain what He is after in the households. The saints were encouraged to take advantage of this period of time by allowing the Lord to strengthen the relationships between the parents and among the children. This is an amazing opportunity for all the families to have much needed family home meetings with their children.



Testimony (Shepherding A New Believer)

I started pursuing New Believers Morning Revival with a newly saved brother this February. This dear brother got baptized last November. At that time, I had a burden that this brother needs not only be saved but also enter into the Word and be shepherded. However, I felt I lacked experience in shepherding and I was not ready for it. But brothers and sisters never stopped praying with me for this brother's growing and pursuing in the Lord. I was encouraged and enlightened that this is the burden from Lord. I must pick up this burden and cooperate with His work. After fellowship, I was surprised that he was very glad to pursue the word with me. Praise the Lord!

During these two months, we call one another on the phone 3 times a week, and our Lord truly enlightened me through our pursuing. Shepherding is not from our own teaching or any of our natural efforts. Only the Lord is our good Shepherd and He is shepherding every one of us. Cor. 3:7, 'neither is he who plants anything nor he who waters, but God who causes the growth'. Starting from only me speaking, and then we could call on the Lord together and even pray a little bit, I can testify that His life is growing inside our dear brother. Every time he started to pray, I was very joyful. The word is very near to us, even in our mouth and in our heart! Praise the Lord! We should never trust in ourselves or feel we are not 'experienced' enough. Because He is the one who strengthen us, abide in us, and grow in us. We just open ourselves to the Lord and keep praying. He shepherded us, is shepherding us and will shepherd us every day.