

THE CHURCH IN HAMILTON NEWSLETTER

15 November 2020

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Morning Revival Schedule

The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age and the Coming of the Lord

Week beginning:

16 Nov – Wk 4: Being Faithful in Service in the Lord's Commission and in His Gifts for His Second and Imminent Coming

Bible Reading Schedule

Mon	Philippians 3-4	Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
Tue	Colossians 1-2	
Wed	Colossians 3-4	
Thu	1 Thessalonians 1-3	
Fri	1 Thessalonians 4-5	
Sat	2 Thessalonians 1-3	
LD	1 Timothy 1-3	

Ministry Digest Reading Schedule

Ministry Digest Vol. 2, No. 8

Week beginning:

16 Nov – Shepherding and Teaching-The Obligation of the Vital Groups

Today's Radio Broadcast

Time of Broadcast: 2:30 pm on Free FM 89.0 MHz
Life-Study of Colossians 47: The Word of Christ Inhabiting us.

International Prayer Burden

Mon	USA	Please pray for the Lord's second coming
Tue	Austria	
Wed	Croatia	
Thu	Portugal	
Fri	Poland	
Sat	Switzerland	
LD	Ireland	

Weekly Church Accounts, 31 Oct – 6 Nov

Total general offerings	\$6,339.84
Average expenses	\$8,000.00
Deficit	\$1,660.16
Total building fund offerings	\$380.00
Total loan of the church	\$749,918.54

Bibles for New Zealand (BFNZ)

Any saint who would like to obtain the **New Testament Recovery Version Bibles** to give away can get them from the church office or from the NZTC reception.

Bank Cheques

Westpac Bank is phasing out cheques by June 2021. Therefore, the church in Hamilton will no longer accept cheques.

Upcoming Events, November–December

22-28 Nov	Jubilee Week
26-29 Nov	Church Conference of LSM Int. Thanksgiving Conference
12-13 Dec	Blending Conference with Brother Ron Kangas
18 Dec	Full-time Training Graduation
19-27 Dec	Summer Blending, Queenstown (www.summer.blendingtrip.org)
26 Dec-1 Jan	Church Video Training of the LSM Semi-annual Training
26 Dec-2 Jan	Summer School of Truth

Monthly Lord's Day Lunch in the Homes

Our next opportunity to blend with the saints from different districts in the homes is on **6 December**. May the Lord continue to pour His blessing through such time!

Saturday Church Practical Service at 22B Gordonton Rd

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Ministry of the Word	"The first reward for serving the Lord is to be honoured by the Father. This is a great matter. It should cause us to pursue serving the Lord."
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Morning tea	
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Practical service	

Family Outing

On Saturday 21 November, we will be having an outing for families with children and any saints who want to come. We will be visiting **Shaw's Bird Park**, 143 Hall Rd, Peacocke, Hamilton. It has an outdoor space with a variety of birds, other animals, a walking trail and a picnic area. This will be a time for saints, families, new ones and children to connect and blend. We will meet there at 3pm. We will have a shared afternoon tea. Looking forward to seeing you there! Contact Jack Pitcher 0220805818 for enquires.

2020 International Thanksgiving Conference

LSM will be holding the 2020 International Thanksgiving Conference online. The church in Hamilton will hold a physical gathering for this conference at the New Zealand Training Centre (33 Beale Street) where we can all gather physically to watch the messages. The messages will be shown in English, Chinese and Korean at three different locations at the Training Centre.

The schedule will be:

- Message 1: 6:45 PM Thursday 26 November
- Message 2: 6:45 PM Friday 27 November
- Message 3: 9:45 AM Saturday 28 November
- Message 4: 6:45 PM Saturday 28 November
- Message 5: 3:00 PM Lord's Day 29 November
- Message 6: 6:45 PM Lord's Day 29 November

We will have our usual Lord's Day meeting in our districts on 29 November.

Please arrive promptly for the meetings. Registration is not required and there is no fee to attend this conference.

Please pray for the Lord's blessing upon this conference. May it turn out to be a real memorial among us to the shame of God's enemy and to the glory of God's grace!

2020 Summer Conference replaced by Church Video Training

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will not be having any brothers from overseas visit to take our Summer Conference this year. Therefore, instead of having a Summer Conference, the Church in Hamilton will have a video training of the Living Stream Ministry's December semi-annual training at the end of the year. The video training will be from **Saturday 26 December to Friday 1 January**. We will announce more details and provide a registration link closer to the time.

1 Pet. 1:7-9 So that the proving of your faith, ...though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ; whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

THE SENSE OF LIFE

I. The meaning of the sense of life:

A. The feeling of death—weakness, emptiness, uneasiness, restlessness, depression, dryness, darkness, pain, etc.—on the negative side.

Rom. 8:6a For the mind set on the flesh is death, ...

B. The feeling of life and peace—strength, satisfaction, peace, rest, release, liveliness, watering, brightness, comfort, etc.—on the positive side.

Rom. 8:6b ... the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

C. Related to the consciousness of the conscience.

Eph. 4:19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.

II. The source of the sense of life:

A. The divine life with the richest, strongest, and keenest feeling.

Eph. 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

B. The law of life—the natural ability and function of life.

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Heb. 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.

C. The Holy Spirit—the anointing oil.

Rom. 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

D. Christ abiding in us.

John 15:4-5 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

E. God operating in us.

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

III. The function of the sense of life:

A. Making us know whether we are living in the natural life or in the divine life.

B. Making us know whether we are living in the flesh or in the spirit.

“Romans 8:6 says that the mind set on the flesh is death, but *the mind set on the spirit is life and peace*. Verse 2 of Romans 8 speaks of *the law of the Spirit of life*, and verse 11 speaks of *the Spirit who dwells in us*. Then we have to read Ephesians 4:18-19. In verse 18 there is *the life of God*. The unbelievers are alienated from the life of God. Then verse 19 says that they are “past feeling.” Hebrews 8:10 says that in the new covenant *God writes His laws within the believers*. Then 1 John 2:27 speaks concerning *the anointing that teaches the believers concerning all things*. John 15:4-5 speaks of *our mutual abiding with the Lord*, and Philippians 2:13 speaks of *God operating in us* both the willing and the working for His good pleasure. These are some of the most precious verses in the New Testament, and they all have something to do with the sense of life. Of course, in the whole New Testament you cannot find a verse that directly uses the term *the sense of life*. But the sense of life is thoroughly implied and referred to in all the above verses.

BLENDING CONFERENCE

with

BROTHER RON KANGAS

There will be a blending conference with brother Ron Kangas on 12 and 13 December 2020. We strongly encourage all saints to attend this time.

This conference will be conducted in both a physical format and an online format. We encourage as many saints as possible to attend the physical conference, which will take place in all 3 languages (English, Chinese and Korean) at the New Zealand Training Centre.

The meeting schedule will be:

Message 1: 10 AM -12 PM Saturday 12 December

Message 2: 3 PM-5 PM Saturday 12 December

Message 3: 10 AM-12 PM Lord's Day 13 December

Message 4: 3 PM-5 PM Lord's Day 13 December

In addition to the blending conference, there will be meetings during which brother Ron will fellowship with the responsible brothers between 8 AM and 9:30 AM on both Saturday 12 December and the Lord's Day 13 December.

Visit <https://nztc.ac.nz/blending-conference/> to register

SERVING IN COORDINATION IN THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH (2)

3. “God has placed some in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then works of power, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues” (1 Cor. 12:28).

In the church God has placed all kinds of people with different functions for our coordinated service. Whether apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of power, those with gifts of healing, helps, administrations, or speakers of tongues; everyone is a part of the coordinated service of the church, and everyone is necessary. No one can replace the service of another, and no one person can fulfil all the service of the church. The service of the church is a coordinated service of the Body of Christ, and every member needs to participate according to his function.

4. “Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16).

The church is the Body of Christ, and Christ is the Head of the church. The life that we receive from Him makes us His Body. Therefore, the life within us is the life of the Body, and we all have this life. If we live in this life, we will not only abide in Him, being joined to and fellowshiping with Him, but we will also be joined and knit together with all the saints. Then the Body, through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, will supply itself and grow unto the building up of itself in love. The Body grows and is built up through the function and the coordinated service of all the members.

A person who truly lives in the life of Christ is in the Body of Christ, the church. He is joined and knit together with all the members in a coordinated service. The life of Christ within us is the life of His Body, and it causes us to grow into His Body. If we act independently according to our own opinion in our service, our living will be in ourselves. However, if we live in the life of Christ, we will not act independently in our service to the Lord. The life of Christ requires us to coordinate with all the saints in the service in His Body—the church.

5. “Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in

all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 4:10-11).

We must serve one another according to the gifts that we have received. We must use our gift as good stewards of the varied grace of God. We should not feel that our gift is too small and not participate in the service of the church. Even the smallest gift can be useful in the coordinated service of the church. In the service of the church many matters and many things are needed. Some require large gifts, and some require only small gifts. May we faithfully use our gifts, no matter how large or small, so that God can be glorified.

THE REWARD FOR SERVING THE LORD

1. “If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him” (John 12:26).

The first reward for serving the Lord is to be honoured by the Father. This is a great matter. It should cause us to pursue serving the Lord.

2. “Blessed are those slaves whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Truly I tell you that he will gird himself and will have them recline at table, and he will come to them and serve them” (Luke 12:37).

Today we are slaves serving the Lord. When the Lord returns, we will receive the blessing of reclining at table and being served by Him. This blessing is a reward for our service to the Lord.

3. “Well done, good and faithful slave...I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21; see also 24:47; Luke 19:17).

If we are good and faithful slaves of the Lord today, we will receive the reward of being set over many things in the future, and we will enter into His joy.

THE PUNISHMENT FOR NOT SERVING THE LORD

1. “That slave who knew his master's will and did not prepare or do according to his will, will receive many lashes” (Luke 12:47).

All believers should serve the Lord. If we serve the Lord, we will receive a reward. If we do not serve the Lord, we will be punished. Since we know that it is the Lord's will for us to serve Him, we will not escape His punishment if we do not serve according to His will. This is a warning to us.

SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE MINISTRY:

SOULISH ENJOYMENT

As tripartite men, we have three kinds of enjoyment: physical enjoyment, spiritual enjoyment, and psychological enjoyment. Physical enjoyment includes the enjoyment of fine food and of a pleasant place to rest. Spiritual enjoyment includes the enjoyment of God's presence, God's blessing, God's speaking, and God's grace. Between the physical enjoyment and the spiritual enjoyment there is the psychological enjoyment, which includes things such as the enjoyment of sweet music, the satisfaction of being praised by others, and the pleasure of being with our intimate friends.

Which of these three types of enjoyment do you think is the highest? According to the New Testament, both the physical enjoyment and the spiritual enjoyment are for the soulish enjoyment. The reason for this is that God did not create man as a body or as a spirit but as a soul. In Matthew 11:29 the Lord Jesus said that if we would take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, we would find rest for our souls. This kind of rest, however, needs to be supported by the rest of the spirit. If our spirit does not rest in the Lord, our soul cannot be at rest. Soulish rest needs to be supported by spiritual rest. Those who attend nightclubs may be satisfied in a fleshly, soulish way, but they do not have the support of spiritual satisfaction. Because they lack this support, their fleshly and sinful satisfaction is vain. However, the rest we enjoy in our soul is lasting because it has the support of the rest in the spirit, the support of spiritual satisfaction.

The highest enjoyment is neither the physical nor the spiritual but the soulish. The physical enjoyment is for the soulish enjoyment, and the spiritual enjoyment supports the soulish enjoyment. As human beings, we all seek enjoyment. There is no one on earth who does not seek it. Even children desire enjoyment. The children's enjoyment is mainly in their soul. Soulish enjoyment dominates their actions and behaviour. The behaviour of children is genuine because with them there is no performing. But as we grow up, our behaviour ceases to be genuine because we learn to perform. Genuine enjoyment is soulish enjoyment. Therefore, what the Lord was talking about in Matthew 16 was the soulish enjoyment.

THE REWARDS FOR LOSING OR SAVING THE SOUL

The Lord said that whoever desires to save his soul will lose it and that whoever loses his soul for His sake will find it. For both the losing of the soul and the saving of the soul, we will be rewarded. Matthew 16:27 says, "The Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings." If we deny the self, take up the cross, and lose the soul, we shall receive one kind of reward. But if

we save the soul, we will receive a different kind of reward. One way or another, at the time of the Lord's coming, we shall be rewarded.

This reward, however, is not strictly a matter of the future. This is proved by verse 28: "Truly I say to you, There are some of those standing here who shall by no means taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." The Lord will come in two ways, in His coming in the future and in His coming in His transfiguration. The Lord's transfiguration on the mountain was a form of the coming of the kingdom. In both types of comings there is a reward according to our doings, according to whether or not we deny ourselves, take up the cross, and lose the soul.

SAVING THE SOUL BEING TO PLEASE THE SELF

We need to understand this matter of the saving or losing of the soul in the light of our experience. We also need to remember that the subject of the last half of Matthew 16 is the building of the church and that we should not isolate verses 21 through 28 from verses 16 through 19 since these verses are concerned with the way to build up the church. Suppose the brothers living in a brothers' house have seen the vision concerning Christ and the building of the church. They realize that the Lord desires to recover the church life for His economy. However, the living situation in the house may not be very encouraging. Perhaps no one is willing to do the dishes. Because of the discouraging situation, some of the brothers may consider moving out of the house. But if they move out, they will be saving their souls to have an easy way for themselves. One brother may actually move from that house to another house, where, after a few weeks, he learns that the situation is the same. Then he moves to a church in another part of the country, concealing the reason for his move under the cloak of seeking a better church life. By making this move, he is saving his soul. When he arrives in the new locality and moves into a brothers' house there, he finds the situation even worse than the one he left. At this point, disappointed with the church life, he may decide to leave the church entirely. If he does this, he will be saving his soul to the uttermost. By this we see that to please the self is to save the soul.

(The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1978, vol. 1, "The Exercise of the Kingdom for the Building of the Church," pp. 90-92)

Matthew 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

Luke 9:25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?