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# Church in Campbell Weekly News

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## LIFE-STUDY OF ISAIAH 28, 29

In Isaiah 56:2, 4, and 6, Isaiah speaks of keeping the Sabbath. The real meaning of keeping the Sabbath is to cease from our work, to stop our doing, to get ourselves "fired," in order to enjoy what God has done. To believe in the Lord Jesus is to keep the Sabbath. On the day we were saved, we were fired and replaced with Christ. Hence, that day was a real Sabbath, a day of rest, to us. "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). This is the keeping of the Sabbath. Our whole Christian life should be such a Sabbath rest. This extended Sabbath becomes a feast in which we cease from our doing and are replaced with Christ.

In the foregoing message we saw that the real meaning of keeping the Sabbath is that we cease from our doing, stop our work, and enjoy what the Lord has done for us, drinking of Him as the waters. In the Old Testament, to keep the Sabbath was not to do any work but to remember what God had done in His creation. In the New Testament, to keep the Sabbath is to believe in the Lord Jesus. To believe in Christ is actually to be "fired," to be replaced with Christ, and to drink of Him as the waters. In the sight of God, this is the real keeping of the Sabbath. If we keep the Sabbath in this way, we will be able to say, "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). The more we realize that it is no longer we who live but that it is Christ who lives in us, the more we drink of the waters. The crucial point in Isaiah 55 and 56 is learning how to drink the divine waters and to keep the Sabbath by being fired and replaced with Christ.

The crucial point in chapters fifty-seven and fifty-eight is how to fast. The real meaning of fasting is to stop eating all things other than the Lord Jesus and to not have the taste for anything other than Him. We should be weary of "eating" worldly styles, fashions, and beautification. We need to fast, to cease from all other kinds of eating, to stop the taste for all other foods, and to eat Jesus as the bread of life embodied in His word (John 6:48, 51, 63, 68). This is our fasting.

Let us keep this understanding of fasting in mind as we see in Isaiah 57 and 58 the evil condition and the need of the wicked of the house of Jacob who have nothing to do with Christ as the Servant of Jehovah. Christ was willing to serve them, but they were not willing to receive His service.

The evil condition of the wicked is that they do not come to the Lord to eat and enjoy the Lord. They do many things, but they do not come to contact Him, to take Him, to receive Him, to taste Him, and to enjoy Him. In the sight of God, nothing is more evil than this. Today, we may have a morning revival, come to the meetings, sing hymns, and even pray without contacting the Lord. To do this is to be a hypocrite.

Isaiah 58:1-9a describes the hypocrisy of the house of Jacob. They fasted, but they did many things in pursuit of their own interests. They did not rest in God nor take Him as their nourishment and life supply. This was their hypocrisy.

Concerning those who fast in a genuine way, verses 8 and 9 say, "Then your light will break forth like the dawn, / And your recovery will speedily spring forth./And your righteousness will go before you;/The glory of Jehovah will guard you from behind./Then you will call, and Jehovah will answer;/You will cry out, and He will say, Here I am." If we fast in the way of contacting the Lord, taking Him as our nourishment and sustaining power, our light will break forth like the dawn. Otherwise, we will be in darkness.

Verse 9b is a word about removing the yoke from their midst, the pointing of the finger and the speaking of wickedness. In the church life today, some may gossip about others and criticize them. To do this is to point the finger at others and to put a yoke on them. Some may think that they are right and others are wrong, that they are spiritual and others are not serious with the Lord. As a result, these ones condemn others in the church life, and their condemnation becomes a yoke on others' shoulders. For instance, an elder may be criticized to such an extent that he does not know how to serve as an elder. In the eyes of certain saints, he is wrong, no matter what he does. He must bear the yoke of criticism and condemnation.

To those who remove the yoke and cease from the pointing of the finger and the speaking of wickedness, Jehovah says, "Then your light will rise in the darkness,/And your gloom will be like midday;/And Jehovah will guide you continually, / And satisfy your soul in the dry times,/And strengthen your bones;/And you will be like a watered garden,/And like a spring of water,/Whose waters do not deceive./And those who are of you will rebuild the ancient ruins;/You will raise up the foundations of generation upon generation;/And you will be called the repairer of the breach,/The restorer of the paths in which to dwell" (vv. 10b-12). These verses indicate that the one who fasts in the right way will be full

of light and life, that he will be useful, and that he will enable others to go on.

In verse 13 Jehovah instructs the house of Jacob to turn back their foot from the Sabbath, from doing what they please on His holy day. They were to call the Sabbath a delight and honor it, not doing their own ways, nor finding their own pleasure and speaking idle words. They were to keep the Sabbath by enjoying God, having been fired and replaced by Him. But if they did not keep the Sabbath in this way, they would be those who do their own ways, find their own pleasure, and speak idle words. If they honor the Sabbath, they will have delight in Jehovah, and He will cause them to ride upon the heights of the earth, and He will feed them with the inheritance of Jacob their father (v. 14).

In the book of Isaiah, we have seen that God has an economy. In His economy God makes Christ the centrality and universality. God wants us to learn one lesson—to stop our doing and to keep away from the taste of anything other than Christ. We should be replaced by Christ and enjoy God continually. This is the purpose for which Christ died for us and was resurrected for us. He is our Sabbath and our food. Now we can rest in Him, feed on Him, and have Him as our replacement in every way and in everything.

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## **Speaking for God: CHAPTER SIX**

### **FACING VARIOUS PROBLEMS IN OUR SPEAKING FOR GOD**

In 1933, Brother Watchman Nee began publishing a little magazine called Collection of Newsletters, mainly to publish the fellowship among the churches raised up by the Lord in various places in China. Due to the lack of correspondence, the churches were not receiving news of each other, so Brother Nee published this magazine to allow the churches to receive this news. He was the editor, and when he was busy on a trip, he would ask Sister Ruth Lee to be the acting editor. In 1934, the second year of its publication, Sister Lee also took a trip, so he asked me to be the acting editor. That year there was a great deal of fellowship; letters from different localities were continually flooding in. All these letters, however, repeatedly referred to things such as leaving the denominations, baptism, head covering, and the breaking of bread. As the acting editor, I selected eight or ten good ones and published them. After reading them, Brother Nee, who was in Foochow at that time, immediately wrote me a letter, saying, “Brother Witness, do not publish in the Collection of Newsletters things concerning leaving the denominations, baptism, head covering, and the breaking of bread.”

After that, Brother Nee also asked me to co-sign a statement with him saying that “if any co-worker goes out to specifically speak about things such as head covering, bread breaking, and baptism, then he is no longer our co-

worker.” Concerning this matter, some asked, “Was it not Brother Nee who taught us head covering?” For sure Brother Nee taught this, and not only he taught this but the apostle Paul also did. In 1 Corinthians 11 Paul gave us this teaching, but he linked this teaching to Christ. He said, “Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ” (v. 3). Hence, the sisters should have their head covered. Paul’s teaching of head covering was linked to Christ. Today, however, people teach head covering as something detached from Christ; this is to teach differently.

Among Christians, there are many debates concerning baptism. There are endless arguments even on what kind of water to use. Should we use water from the faucet, water from the river, or water from the sea? Should it be cold water or warm water? Should it be fresh water or salt water? Some pastors even say that the scriptural way is to go and be baptized in the river of Jordan as the Lord Jesus was. Even more absurd is that some in the United States are discussing how many times a person should be immersed—once or three times? Those who advocate the practice of being immersed three times base their argument on the Lord’s word in the Gospel of Matthew that we have to baptize people into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (28:19). Therefore, they say that we need to immerse people once in the name of the Father, once in the name of the Son, and once in the name of the Holy Spirit and that only then is the baptism complete. Others ask about the way to baptize people. Should we baptize them leaning backward, leaning forward, or leaning sideways? These things produce many questionings among Christians, causing people to become confused. This shows us that although there are many teachings among Christians and although these teachings are all from the Scriptures, they are different teachings and are even strange. (to be cont’d)

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### **Burdens for Church Prayers**

- Pray for Boston Training Center that all the practical needs will be met.
- Pray for Russian speaking world: they long for those co-workers to go back to help them to move forward again.
- For daily exercise in GOW training: prophesying on Lord’s day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth.
- Pray for migration to the 30 cities for shepherding and establishing churches.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.

### **Announcement**

- Morning Revival: Crystallization-Study of Isaiah, Week 21.
- YP Bible Reading this week: Mark chapter 3-4.
- Prayer meeting 7:30PM on Tues.(4/12) at Meeting Hall
- NorCal sisters blending conference will be held on 4/15-16, registration fee is \$20 per person.
- Summer Training 7/4-9 Anaheim, registration deadline 5/1, please register with brother Tien.