

Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Growing in Life unto Maturity**Monday 7/17****Related Verses****Rev. 14:4**

4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

James 5:7-9

7 Therefore be long-suffering, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer eagerly awaits the precious fruit of the earth, exercising long-suffering over it until it receives the early and late rain.

8 You also be long-suffering; establish your hearts because the coming of the Lord has drawn near.

9 Do not complain, brothers, against one another lest you be judged. Behold, the Judge stands before the doors.

Rev. 14:14-16

14 And I saw, and behold, there was a white cloud, and on the cloud One like the Son of Man sitting, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, Send forth Your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come because the harvest of the earth is ripe.

16 And He who sat on the cloud thrust His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Matt. 13:3, 8

3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

8 But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

Related Reading

The Lord's coming requires our growth and maturity. As long as we remain spiritually immature, we will delay the Lord's coming...The quicker we mature in the divine life, the more we hasten the Lord's harvest. We all need to grow by eating Jesus; the more we eat Him and grow, the more we hasten His return. Merely to declare, "Lord Jesus, come quickly," is not sufficient.

Just as a farmer cannot harvest his crops until they are ripe, the Lord Jesus will not return until a significant

number of His believers are mature. Hence, we need to keep feeding on Jesus. (*CWWL, 1972*, vol. 1, p. 410)

While we are awaiting the Lord's coming with long-suffering, He, as the real Farmer (Matt. 13:3), is also awaiting with patience our maturity in life as the firstfruits and harvest of His field (Rev. 14:4, 14-15). Our maturity in life can cut short the period of our long-suffering and His patience.

We need to pursue maturity in life to meet the Lord and be prepared to be judged by Him [cf. James 5:9].

In 5:7 James uses the illustration of a farmer awaiting with long-suffering the precious fruit of the earth...The Lord Jesus is actually the real Farmer, the unique Farmer. As we are awaiting His coming, He, as the real Farmer, is awaiting our maturity. We may pray, "Lord, come back quickly." However, He may say, "My children, mature quicker. While you are awaiting My coming back, I am awaiting your maturity...Only your maturity can hasten My coming back."

It is a great help for us to realize that if we are serious about awaiting the Lord's coming back, we need to grow in life. Most Christians today view the Lord's coming in an altogether objective way, in a way that has nothing to do with our spiritual condition or spiritual growth. Their expectation is that one day the Lord will suddenly come, and that His coming will have nothing to do with their maturity. It may be that the concepts many Christians hold regarding the Lord's coming back are actually causing Him to delay His coming.

The illustration of the farmer in 5:7 implies that the farmer is waiting for the crop growing in the field to ripen. According to Revelation 14, the Lord is also waiting for the harvest to be ripe. When the harvest in the field is ripe, He will come back. This harvest will be the issue, the outcome, of the Lord's sowing of Himself as a seed. This was accomplished during the Lord's first coming, and it is described in Matthew 13. We need to realize that it is the ripening of the harvest that will hasten the Lord's coming back.

For the Lord's coming back, we need long-suffering, endurance, and the growth in life. As we are exercising

long-suffering toward those who persecute us and endurance toward afflictions, we need to grow in life. Then we shall be able to say, "O Lord Jesus, come back sooner. Lord, can't You see that I am growing in life? Today I am growing faster than yesterday. Because I am growing, Lord, I ask You to speed up Your coming back."...I doubt that many Christians have prayed in this way concerning the Lord's coming back.

We need to realize that the Lord's coming is related to our growth in life. If we fulfill the condition of growing in life, the Lord will fulfill the condition of coming back sooner. Therefore, we need to grow in life, and as we are growing, to exercise long-suffering and endurance. This is the proper way to await the Lord's coming back. (*Life-study of James*, pp. 97-100)

Further Reading: *Life-study of James*, msg. 11; *CWWL, 1972*, vol. 1, pp. 410-411

Tuesday 7/18**Related Verses****Heb. 6:1**

1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

Matt. 5:48

48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

John 10:10

10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

John 3:6, 15-16

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

15 That every one who believes into Him may have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Growing in Life unto Maturity**Col. 2:19**

19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Rom. 12:2

2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

2 Cor. 3:18

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Related Reading

The meaning of the word *mature* in Greek is "at the end point." When the word is used to describe organisms, it denotes completion, full growth, and maturity. This word is used many times in the New Testament, referring to the believers' being full-grown, mature, and perfected in the life of God, which they receive at the time of regeneration. It indicates that although we receive the life of God when we are regenerated, after regeneration we still need to grow and mature unto perfection in this life. (*Life Lessons*, vol. 4, p. 69)

The last stage of transformation is maturity. Maturity means the fullness of life. When one is mature, he has no shortage of life.

Transformation is a metabolic change in life. Thus, transformation is not a matter of fullness; it is a matter of change...Only through transformation can we reach maturity. We have a natural life, but this life is not good for God's economy. Although our natural life does not need to be replaced, it does need to be metabolically changed...Although our human life is necessary for God's economy, it should not remain a natural human life; it should be a human life that has been transformed in nature so that the divine life may be mingled with the transformed human life to become one.

At least two verses in the New Testament unveil the matter of transformation. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be

fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind." The Greek word translated "transformed" in this verse also appears in 2 Corinthians 3:18...The word *transformed* in these verses indicates that in our Christian life we need a metabolic change. We do not need outward correction and alteration; rather, we need an inward change in nature and in life.

When we were saved, we were not only justified and our sins forgiven; we were also regenerated. At regeneration a new life, the divine life, was put into our spirit. From the time of our regeneration, this life has been transforming our natural life. As the divine life changes our natural life, it imparts more and more of the divine life into our being. Therefore, transformation is the change of our natural life. When this change reaches the point of fullness, the time of maturity has come...Maturity is not a matter of our being changed; it is a matter of having the divine life imparted to us again and again until we have the fullness of life.

To be transformed is to be changed in our natural life, whereas to be matured is to be filled with the divine life that changes us...Genesis 37 through 45 is a record of the process of Jacob's maturity. This process began in 37:1, and it lasted until 45:28...Probably in all his life Jacob never suffered as much as he did in these nine chapters. They are truly a story of Jacob's suffering. In these chapters we have the dealings in the last stage of Jacob's life. The sufferings he underwent here deeply touched his personal feelings. After these chapters, Jacob had no further dealings. Rather, he was fully matured, he was filled with the divine life, and he had the expression of God and the dominion of God.

For God's expression and dominion there is the need of maturity. Only a mature life can bear God's image and exercise His dominion. Even in chapter 37 Jacob could not bear God's image or exercise God's dominion. Although he was transformed, he was not yet mature. His partiality toward Joseph proves that he was not mature...Therefore, God sovereignly placed Jacob under His hand that he might become mature. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 1191-1192, 1184-1185)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msgs. 62, 92, 110-111

Wednesday 7/19

Related Verses**Heb. 12:10-11, 5-7**

10 For they disciplined for a few days as it seemed good to them; but He, for what is profitable that we might partake of His holiness.

11 Now no discipline at the present time seems to be a matter of joy, but of grief; but afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been exercised by it.

5 And you have completely forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when reproved by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons. For what son is there whom the father does not discipline?

2 Cor. 1:9-10

9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

10 Who has delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver us; in whom we have hoped that He will also yet deliver us,

Gen. 47:7, 10

7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went forth from Pharaoh's presence.

Related Reading

Maturity is a matter of the enlargement of capacity. You must allow God to give you time to suffer beyond measure; then your capacity will be enlarged...It is important for us to receive God's arrangement in the circumstances. This arrangement is the discipline of the Holy Spirit. To escape God's arrangement just one time is to lose an opportunity to have our capacity enlarged...A believer can never be the same after passing through suffering...For this reason, when believers are passing through suffering, they must pay attention and

Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Growing in Life unto Maturity

they must realize that maturity in life is the sum total of receiving the discipline of the Holy Spirit. People may see a person who has matured in life, but they cannot see the accumulated discipline of the Holy Spirit which that person has received secretly day by day throughout the years. (*Watchman Nee—a Seer of the Divine Revelation in the Present Age*, pp. 143-144)

In Genesis 27 we see a supplanter...Whoever came in contact with Jacob—his father, his brother, or his uncle—was the loser. Jacob, on the contrary, always came out ahead...However, at the time of Rachel's death, Jacob began to suffer loss. But even this loss produced a gain, and that gain was Benjamin. In chapter 37 Jacob underwent another loss, the loss of Joseph. In this chapter Jacob did not gain anything. From this point onward, Jacob lost one thing after another. Eventually, in chapter 47, he gained the fullness of life...When you are filled past the brim with life, this life will overflow into others. This overflow is the blessing. Therefore, in chapter 27 we see a supplanter; in chapter 37, a transformed man; and in chapter 47, a mature person. Jacob's transformation began at the time God came in to touch him (32:25), and it continued until chapter 37, when the process of transformation was relatively complete. However, in this chapter Jacob did not yet have maturity, the fullness of life. In order to gain this, he had to experience the dealings in the last stage, the dealings at Hebron.

At Hebron Jacob constantly lived in fellowship with God...After the loss of Joseph, Jacob was free from every frustration and was completely open to the Lord. Undoubtedly, Jacob thought about Joseph day after day. He had concluded that Joseph had been devoured by an evil beast, but this had not been confirmed. Hence, Jacob might have thought that perhaps he would see Joseph again. This pressed Jacob to God and opened him up to God...During all these years, Jacob was a jar open to the heavens, and the heavenly rain was continuously falling into him. In this period of time Jacob was daily in the presence of God, being filled with the divine life.

Our preoccupations frustrate the growth of life...But when Jacob heard the news about Joseph in Egypt, he had been emptied of every preoccupation. Nothing was

occupying his inner being. Rachel had died, his twelve sons had gone away, and Jacob had been utterly emptied out. He was so empty that when the good news came, he was not excited by it. In fact, his heart was even rather cold (45:26, Heb.). When the news came regarding Joseph, Jacob had not only been transformed; he was completely filled with the divine life. He had become mature.

Like Jacob, after we have been changed, God will sovereignly use persons, things, and events to empty us of everything that has filled us and to take away every preoccupation so that we may have an increased capacity to be filled with God.

From Jacob's experience we see that everything that happens to us is under God's sovereignty for our transformation and maturity. Nothing is accidental. God's eternal purpose can only be accomplished through our transformation and maturity. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 1193-1195, 1199-1201)

Further Reading: *Life Lessons*, vol. 4, Isn. 46

Thursday 7/20

Related Verses**Gal. 4:19**

19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

2 Cor. 3:18

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom. 8:15, 29

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!

29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Col. 2:19

19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Heb. 5:13-14

13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

Col. 3:4

4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Related Reading

We all know that the purpose of God's salvation is to work in us so that we may have His image (Rom. 8:29)...To be mature is to have the Lord fully formed in us. It also means that we, those who have been saved, have been fully transformed into the Lord's image. Originally, we were men who were merely natural—not having the life of the Lord, the nature of the Lord, or the image of the Lord within us. However, through the salvation of the Lord, the Lord has added Himself into us. Since the time of our regeneration and salvation, the Lord has been adding Himself into us, causing us to have His life and nature. In other words, from the time of our salvation, the Lord has been working in us so that we may have His image. When the Lord has fully worked His image into us and is fully expressed out from within us, then we will be mature in life. (*CWWL, 1955*, vol. 3, "The Way for a Christian to Mature in Life," pp. 295-296)

In the Epistles we see that the Galatians undoubtedly believed in the Lord. Their sins were forgiven, and they had the life of God, yet they lived by themselves, relying too much on themselves rather than on the life of Christ. The apostle Paul said to them, "My children, with whom I travail again in birth..." (Gal. 4:19). Why did he travail again in birth for them?...It was for Christ to be formed in them.

The unique purpose of God's salvation is for God to come into us and mingle Himself with us. God wants to come into us to be our life (Col. 3:4a) and to grow in us (2:19b)...The ultimate goal of our salvation is for us, the saved ones, to be mingled with God that Christ may make His home in our hearts through faith (Eph. 3:17) as our life and that we may grow up unto maturity (4:13).

Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Growing in Life unto Maturity**Friday 7/21****Related Verses****Phil. 3:12-15**

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.

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

Eph. 4:13-15

13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

1 Cor. 3:7, 9

7 So then neither is he who plants anything nor he who waters, but God who causes the growth.

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

Related Reading

The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:12-15 how he pursued growth and maturity in the life of Christ. In this matter, he was never contented with himself but always pursued, forgetting the things which were behind and stretching forward to the things which were before, pressing toward Christ, who is the goal and the mark. This he did in order to gain Christ that he might grow and mature in His life. With his own pursuit as the pattern, he exhorted the believers whom he was leading and caring for to be like him, to pursue in the life of Christ, and to gain Christ fully in order that they might

grow and mature. Finally, Paul said that as many of us as are (relatively) full-grown should have this mind and set this as the goal. (*Life Lessons*, vol. 4, pp. 71-72)

The word therefore at the beginning of [Matthew 5:48] indicates that this word is the conclusion of the law of the new life in the kingdom's constitution, which the Lord decreed in the preceding text, verses 17 through 47. In this conclusion, the Lord commands us to be perfect (in life) as our heavenly Father is perfect. To be perfect in life is to grow and mature in life. The Lord commands us in this way in the conclusion of the law of the new life in the kingdom of the heavens because we are children born of our Father with our Father's life. This life is able to make us perfect in the life of our Father, as our Father is perfect. Therefore, this commandment of the Lord is based upon the divine life of the Father. It is also fulfilled by the divine life of the Father. The divine life of the Father is able to make us perfect in life as He is perfect. This is not only the Lord's commandment to us but also the Lord's expectation concerning us. We should care for the Lord's heart's desire, keep His commandment, and grow and mature by the Father's life within us, thus accomplishing the will of the Triune God.

The prerequisite for maturity in the spiritual life is to grow continually in this life. As soon as a believer is regenerated and becomes a newborn babe spiritually, he should long for God's word in the Bible as the guileless milk that he may grow in his spiritual life [cf. 1 Pet. 2:2].

In the spiritual life, a believer is, on the one hand, a person with the spiritual life and, on the other hand, like a plant cultivated on God's farm (1 Cor. 3:5-9). Whether as a person or like a plant, a believer needs to grow that he may become mature. Therefore, continuing growth is a prerequisite for becoming full-grown and mature.

We grow in the spiritual life by holding in love to Christ as the truth and growing up into Christ as the Head in all things [cf. Eph. 4:15]. This kind of growth, which takes Christ as the truth and which grows into Christ, is a further prerequisite for our becoming full-grown and mature.

The full-grown man in Ephesians 4:13 refers to the church as the Body of Christ growing into a mature man.

The goal of God's salvation is that the believers gradually grow and mature in life until, consummately, they are exactly the same as Christ.

How does God accomplish such a salvation? First, He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross for our sins. Then in Christ and as the Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b), He enters into us to live in us as our life. Christ is not only living in us (Gal. 2:20) but also growing in us. He intends to grow, to be formed, and to mature in us (Eph. 4:13). This is God's saving way...To grow unto maturity means that Christ lives in us as our life and that He continually grows in us to the extent that He is formed in us. When Christ is fully formed in us, we will be mature in His life. (CWWL, 1955, vol. 3, "The Way for a Christian to Mature in Life," pp. 143-145)

If we do not grow and mature, we will remain in the childish stage, unable to comprehend God's word of righteousness, which is like solid food [cf. Heb. 5:12-14]. Hence, like the Hebrew believers in the early days, we will be unable to comprehend the revelation of God's deeper word and thus be unable to participate in God's New Testament economy. The wisdom in God's economy can be spoken only to the full-grown (1 Cor. 2:6). To enter into God's New Testament economy, into God's eternal plan, requires that we grow and mature in the life of God.

After our regeneration as believers, although we may no longer be newborns in the life of God, we still may be babes, easily tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching, deceived and led in craftiness with a view to a system of error, being tricked by Satan [cf. Eph. 4:13-14]. We need to grow and mature in order, on the positive side, to comprehend the revelation of God and to know His economy and plan, and on the negative side, to not be deceived or tricked by Satan. (*Life Lessons*, vol. 4, pp. 69-70)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1955, vol. 2, pp. 485-489, 492

Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Growing in Life unto Maturity

The fullness of Christ indicates the Body of Christ becoming His expression. In brief, the measure of the stature is just the stature. This stature is the church as the Body of Christ growing into the stature of Christ. This is the ultimate and full issue of the believers' growth and maturity by the life of Christ in His Body. Our transformation in the life of Christ makes us like Him in the image of His essence; our maturity in the life of Christ makes us like Him in the measure of His stature. Thus, on the one hand, we have His image, and, on the other hand, we have His stature. (*Life Lessons*, vol. 4, pp. 70-73)

Further Reading: *Truth Lessons—Level Two*, vol. 2, Isn. 19

Saturday 7/22

Related Verses**Col. 1:28-29**

28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

29 For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.

Col. 3:10-11

10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Heb. 6:1

1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

Eph. 3:19

19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Rom. 5:17

17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Matt. 5:48

48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Related Reading

The Greek word rendered “full-grown” [in Colossians 1:28] may also be translated “mature,” “complete,” or “perfect.” Paul’s ministry was to impart Christ to others so that they may be perfect and complete by maturing in Christ unto full growth...We must have the same goal that Paul had.

As we preach the gospel to unbelievers, minister Christ to them, and help them to receive the Lord, our goal is not merely that they should be saved from the lake of fire and from God’s condemnation. Our goal is not only for them to experience God’s forgiveness; it is to minister Christ into them so that they may eventually be presented full-grown in Christ. If we fail to impart Christ to others as we preach the gospel, our gospel preaching will fall short of God’s standard. Christ must be infused into all those to whom we speak. Imparting Christ should be our aim in our gospel preaching. (*Life-study of Colossians*, p. 129)

If we would present others full-grown in Christ, we must minister Christ to them as the portion of the saints (Col. 1:12). The Christ we minister must be the all-inclusive One, the centrality and universality of God’s economy (1:15, 18-19, 27; 2:4, 9, 16-17; 3:4, 11). If we do not experience Christ in a full way, we shall find it difficult to minister Christ to others. For example, if we do not experience living by Christ, we cannot help anyone else to live by Christ. But if in our daily living we live Christ, grow Christ, and produce Christ, we shall spontaneously infuse Christ into others as we contact them. The more we take Christ as our life and our person, the more we shall be able to minister Christ to others...We need to enjoy Christ as our good land, labor on Him, live in Him, walk in Him, and have our being in Him. If we are such persons, we shall transfuse into others the very Christ whom we experience and by whom we live...We need to minister the riches of Christ into others so that they may grow and mature. For this

we ourselves need to experience more of Christ as the portion of the saints.

To present every man full-grown in Christ, we need to minister the unsearchable riches of Christ for the building up of the church to fulfill God’s eternal purpose (Eph. 3:8-11)...As I have traveled, I have met many who lacked the riches of Christ in their daily living, although everyone would consider them very good brothers and sisters. May the Lord awaken within us the aspiration to be rich in Christ. We need to pray, “Lord, I don’t want to be one who seems to be good but who is poor as far as the riches of Christ are concerned. Lord, for the building up of the church, cause me to be filled with the riches of Christ.”

We need to minister Christ as the mystery of God, that is, as the embodiment of God (Col. 2:2, 9). We need to share with others from our experience how Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God. We need to be able to testify how we daily experience Christ as the Father, Son, and Spirit. Because we have Christ, we also have the Father. Because we are in Christ, we are also in the Spirit. The Spirit who moves within us actually is Christ Himself. Day by day we should be one spirit with the Lord and experience His being one with us (1 Cor. 6:17). More and more our experience must be that in every aspect of our daily living, wherever we may be, we are one spirit with the Lord. This should not be a doctrine or theory; it must be our practical Christian living.

Concerning my ministry, I often pray like this: “Lord, give me the grace to be one spirit with You as I speak. Lord, I pray that You will speak in my speaking. I believe, Lord, that You are one Spirit with me. But I ask that as I minister the Word, I shall be one spirit with You.” Whatever impact this ministry has comes from such a oneness with the Lord. (*Life-study of Colossians*, pp. 130-132)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Colossians*, msg. 16

Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Growing in Life unto Maturity**Lord's Day 7/23****Related Verses****Rev. 3:15, 17-21**

15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.

17 Because you say, I am wealthy and have become rich and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

19 As many as I love I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

Rev. 14:1, 3-4

1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth.

4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Further Reading:Further Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 92**Hymns, #750**

1 God's intention is to have us
All conformed to His dear Son;
Thus a work of transformation
By the Spirit must be done.

Chorus

Lord, transform us to Thine image
In emotion, mind, and will;
Saturate us with Thy Spirit,
All our being wholly fill.

2 God hath us regenerated
In our spirit with His life;
But He must transform us further-
In our soul by His own life.

3 Spreading outward from our spirit
Doth the Lord transform our soul,
By the inward parts renewing,
Till within His full control.

4 By the power of His Spirit
In His pattern He transforms;
From His glory to His glory
To His image He conforms.

5 He transforms, all sanctifying,
Till like Him we are matured;
He transforms, our soul possessing,
Till His stature is secured.

Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Romans**Level 1—Romans Sequential Study**

Scripture: Rom. 12:9-21

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Romans*, msg. 27-28**Level 2—Romans Topical Study**

Crucial Point: The Law of the Spirit of life Having Freed Us from the Law of Sin and of Death

Scripture: Rom. 7:1-8:15

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Romans*, msg. 14-16, 38, 67Supplemental Reading: *Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans*, chs. 13-14

Hymn: 736

For study questions and additional materials, please visit the church website at churchinnyc.org/bible-study