

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 244 August 4, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2024 Northeast Summer School of Truth (continues through August 8)**

The 2024 Northeast Summer School of Truth (High School -- Grades: 9th to 12th grade in September 2024) concludes today, August 4, at KPCC.

Middle School section (Grades: 7th to 8th grade in September 2024) will be held from today, August 4, through August 8.

Topic: Lesson Book Level 5: The Church - The Vision and Building up of the Church

- **2024 Church in NYC's Family Bible Camp (Aug. 15-17)**

This year the Family Bible Camp will be held in - person from August 15-17, Thur. to Sat, in KPCC, 288 Hickory Bush Rd, Kingston, NY 12401.

The Family Bible Camp is open to all families in the church in NYC who attend the gatherings in Halls 1-9 and Rosendale with at least one entering Kindergarten to 6th grade and their families.

Please register at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLplhg41bF45LfI2UlwXlwaZvJQ9pWyg6xOujzw6UJ6HQgUg/viewform> by **today, August 4.**

For more details or questions, please contact the coordinators in your district.

- **Upcoming Church Events: details to follow**

1. **Sept 6 to 8:** Spanish-speaking Conference (KPCC)
2. **Sept 20 to 22:** Young Working Saints and Young Families' Conference (KPCC)
3. **Sept 27 to 29:** HS Junior/Senior Retreat

- **Service Office Hours**

Due to the many activities this summer, Service Office Hours will be suspended until after Labor Day.

PRAYER BURDENS

- That all the saints would be strengthened to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim. 6:12) in their daily living and in the church prayer meeting
- The high school section of the Northeast Summer School of Truth concludes today at Camp Penuel (the topic of the lessons this year is The Church--The Vision and Building Up of the Church); the middle school section will be held this week (August 4-8)
- The Family Bible Camp which will be held August 15-17 at Camp Penuel
- The European Young People's Conference/Family Conference held this past week in Poland
- The ongoing gospel outreach and Bible distribution at the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris
- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities (e.g. physical and emotional, health-related, job-related, family-related, etc.)

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: 2024 INTERNATIONAL CHINESE-SPEAKING CONFERENCE: Fighting the Good Fight, Finishing the Course, Keeping the Faith, and Loving the Lord's Appearing in Order to Receive the Reward of Christ as the Crown of Righteousness

WEEK 3: *Keeping the Faith*

Portions from Days 3 and 5:

First Timothy 6:11 and 12 are a marvelous summary of nearly the whole New Testament. A man of God should pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and meekness; he should fight for

God's New Testament economy and lay hold on eternal life. All these matters are essential aspects of the New Testament...We today must fight the good fight of the faith. This means that we must fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ. Furthermore, we must not merely fight objectively but fight subjectively, by laying hold on eternal life. We should not do anything apart from this life. We should speak to our husband or wife and to our children not by the natural life but by the eternal life. Even in the matter of buying a pair of shoes, we should live according to the eternal life to which we have been called. As today's Timothys, we need to lay hold on eternal life.

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To contend for the faith is to contend for the basic and crucial matters of God's new will.

The faith—our belief—is constituted of certain basic truths. First, we believe that God is one yet triune—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Second, we believe that our God became incarnated in the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Third, we believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God incarnated as man, lived on earth and died on the cross for our sins to secure our redemption. On the third day He was resurrected from the dead both physically and spiritually, and today He is our Savior, our Lord in resurrection, and our life. Because we believe in Him, our sins have been forgiven, He has come into us as our life, and we have been regenerated. Eventually, the Lord Jesus will come back to receive all His believers to Himself. These are basic truths, basic doctrines, that constitute the faith for which we should contend. Because every sound, genuine believer holds these

basic truths, they are called the common faith (Titus 1:4).

Corporate Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews, msg. 4*

MINISTRY READINGS

The Central Matter in the Bible— God in the Son Coming to be Life to Man

What is the central matter, the root and trunk, of the Bible, and what are the peripheral matters, the branches and the leaves? In the previous chapter we pointed out that the central matter, the root and foundation, of the Bible is God in the Son coming to be life to man. This simple word speaks of the very essence of the Bible. The subject of the Bible is God becoming life to man in the person of His Son. God is embodied in His Son, and He has given His Son to man. As soon as man receives God's Son, the Holy Spirit enters into man to become life to man. God becomes life to man by becoming man's food. When man receives Him as food and digests Him, He becomes every element within man. By living according to this life and by this life, man lives before God. This is the root, the foundation and central matter, of the Bible.

At the beginning of the Bible, in Genesis 1, man was placed before the tree of life. At the end of the Bible, in Revelation, the tree of life is still before man. All properly trained students of the Bible would agree that the tree of life symbolizes God revealing and presenting Himself to man as life in the form of food so that man would eat Him, thus enabling Him to become life to man. The accomplishment of this goal is recorded between Genesis 3 and Revelation 20. God has now entered into man and become life to man. God entered into man in His Son and through the Holy Spirit. He is now being digested by man to become man's satisfaction and life so that man can live by Him. Although the Bible says many things, the center of its revelation is this subject.

Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 18: Identifying the Central and Peripheral Matters in the Bible (part 1)