

Pastor's Desk 2026.4.05

Pastor Mark Liu

Dear Brothers and Sisters of RCAC, peace be with you.

Thank God! This year, 23 brothers and sisters will participate in our church's Easter baptism. Through this ceremony, they are willing to declare to their friends and families: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

This is not just a reminder, but a declaration. This verse mentions "behold." That is an invitation. An invitation to family and friends to come and see how a new life is displayed before them. This is also a commitment to use one's life to live out the pattern of a new life. However, this does not come naturally; we must exert "effort" to begin displaying a new life. To give a simple example: to break the pull of a magnet, one must apply a greater opposing force so as not to be pulled in. When we accept the salvation of Jesus Christ, the Bible tells us that we are already a new creation. The problem is: this "new creation" must resist the "habits" left behind by the "old self." We do not need to exert effort to live out our habits. We need to use even more effort to overcome the magnetic pull brought about by those habits.

To break the pull of those habits, we must begin doing new things. These new things all revolve around one center: a life centered on building a relationship with Jesus Christ. Why must we do this? Because we value Him. When important guests come to stay at our home, we change the pace of our lives to welcome them. We would not ask the guest to accommodate us, because this guest is our Lord, Jesus Christ. Whether we truly value this Lord can be seen by whether our lives have begun to center around Him. This does not need to be described with words; our actions are the most direct reflection.

Building a relationship with someone must be done through certain ways; there is no alternative. First, there must be dialogue. Reading God's Word is important. Some people might say: I don't really understand what it means. Jesus Christ knows this, which is why He says in John 9:39:

"For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." (ESV)

What we need to pay attention to is "that those who do not see may see." This means it is normal not to see at first, because we might be encountering God's Word for the very first time. But later, we are able to see. What does this mean? Being able to see does not mean the words of the Bible suddenly changed, but rather our lives have changed. We begin to understand the meaning of God's Word. This can only happen when we live it out with our lives. When we don't fully understand, it is because we have not lived out these truths. And because of this, we continue living in a state of not seeing.

Building a relationship also requires two-way communication. I have never seen a relationship that can be built without conversation. In building our relationship with Jesus Christ, we must have prayer. Some people think that praying is like talking to thin air. Actually, this is because we are living with a faulty understanding. We think that if something is unseen, it does not exist. This is very dangerous. God looks at our hearts. When we are willing to pour out our thoughts and intentions to God, He will respond.

Allow me to share a personal experience. When I was frustrated about certain things, I prayed to God. Even though God did not say those things were wrong—in fact, many times, those things were true—He did not rebuke me. Instead, a question arose in my heart: "Do you love me more than these?" Yes, I might have loved the validation of others more than the validation from Jesus Christ. But the question is: who was willing to lay down His own life just to validate me? Wasn't it Jesus Christ? At that moment, I found peace. Brothers and sisters, do not underestimate the power of prayer. A new creation must pray and experience God through it.

Today is a special and deeply meaningful day for those 22 brothers and sisters. As we give thanks for them, we must also reflect on where we are in our own journey as new creations.

May God bless our church,

In Him,
Pastor Mark