

WCCC2012

Christ is the Measuring Line of the Church 2

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Good afternoon, brothers and sisters. Let us begin by looking at the Gospel of John 1:14 – 18 *‘And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’” For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him’.*

I Corinthians 3:10 – 15 *‘According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how He builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which He has built on it remains, He will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, He will suffer loss; but He himself will be saved, yet so as through fire’.*

Ephesians 4:11 – 16 *‘And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love’.*

And then finally Revelations 21: 1 – 4 *‘Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a*

loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away”;

Verses 10 - 11 ‘And He carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper’,

Verse 15 ‘The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

Let us pray.

Our Father, we come to You this afternoon in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Even as His name is refreshment to our ears, so we pray the Holy Spirit will also refresh our hearts and our minds and our bodies. We thank You Lord, for all that we have received and heard and paid attention to during these days. But as a royal priesthood we would ask of You to give us an increased capacity for the details of all the things You have done. Even as we gathered together today as Your people and the church, we know we come under Your divine measure. Oh Lord, do open our eyes to all that You desire for us. We pray in Jesus’ precious name. Amen.

Yesterday we gathered together as priests of God to consider the greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who is the measuring line of the church. Our God is measuring the church, preparing her for the Lord. As we read in Revelations 21, when everything has been summed up in Christ, this new Jerusalem will come down from heaven full of the glory of God. And there in the city John saw there is an angel still measuring all of the walls and all of the streets of this wonderful city. God has been our dwelling place through all generations. God loves us and desires to dwell among His people. And even though we have sinned and fallen, our God in His mercy has found ways for us to be able to dwell with Him through sacrifices and blood. He revealed from heaven His measures for our dwelling with Him. There were the sacrifices of blood necessary for us to dwell before our holy God. God revealed the measurements of the tabernacle and the temple through which men can dwell with Him. And we know in the history of Israel whenever they lived according to that measure, they knew the presence of the holy God. But there really is not a house that can be built by men’s hands in which God can dwell. It is really the people of God that God wants to dwell with them. And so in the history of Israel when the people of God profaned God’s holiness, God had to remove His glory from the dwelling place.

Yesterday we saw that Ezekiel as a priest was called by God to observe His desire for glory. The God of glory lifted Ezekiel up from Babylon to the temple and showed him what was happening inside the

temple of God. Before God's glory left the temple and the city, the Lord wanted to reveal someone what was going on inside the temple. There were sins and abominations in the temple of God. God let Ezekiel see that the people were worshipping idols inside the temple. Others were standing in the court of the temple facing the east and worshipping Ra, the sun God. And so God said to Ezekiel, observe these things; hear these things and pay attention and then tell the people that these things were going on in the temple of God. And then Ezekiel watched as the glory departed from Jerusalem.

Twenty years later, Ezekiel saw another vision. He was taken to a high mountain outside Jerusalem, and there he saw the house of God built according to the Lord's measurements and he paid attention to all the details of the dimensions and the construction of this house. He saw in this vision that the glory of God came back to His house. And then he saw out of the house rivers of living water flowing out to nourish the earth from the throne in the house. He shared this vision among the exiles, and there was a remnant of those who saw this vision and repented and desired to seek such a house. We believe that Ezekiel's prophesy was a great encouragement to the remnant who came back to build this house.

But the actual temple that Ezekiel saw in that vision has yet to be built. But in the heart of God, the measurements of the Father's house were already known. Many years later in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, the Spirit poured out from heaven and the house not made with hands had begun. This house of God has no walls but it has a divine measure. This house of God is a living house. Paul called it a dwelling of God in Spirit. It is a holy temple in the Lord. But it has no single location. It was not on this mountain or on that mountain. The building began in Jerusalem but then it went to Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost part of the earth. The house of the Lord was being measured and full of glory.

When we think of the early days, we wonder why there is no model for this church. Now there are always engineers among us who want to know the pattern. And many times, they hope that in John chapters 13 – 17, they might find something about the design and the pattern of the church from what Jesus had spoken. They would like to have Jesus just gave them a little sketch of what the church should look like, what kind of meetings they should have and how they could set up the leaders higher up. But of course when we think about it, we can very easily realize why there is no outward pattern given. It is because the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the pattern of this living church.

Now Jesus told the disciples in John chapters 13 – 16 that until the Holy Spirit came and until they understood that Christ is in them, it was inconceivable how this church would grow. Years later at the beginning of John's gospel, John said this 'we have seen the pattern'. The Word was made flesh and tabernacled among us. Now there was Jesus Christ, the house of God on earth, tabernacled among us. And then John used the words and said 'and we beheld His glory'. Now this was not just a casual look because if you just looked at Jesus you would think He was just a man. But as the disciples looked at Jesus they saw the glory of God in Him and seeing the Lord Jesus in His life became a revelation upon

which the church was to be built. As Paul put it in his own testimony, when Christ was revealed in him, then he had the substance of his message regarding the church.

When John wrote his gospel we know that he had a ministry to recover the church. Now there were two reasons behind the writing of the Gospel of John. The first reason was by seeing the signs and the words that Jesus spoke we might believe and by believing we might have life. So it is truly a gospel. But John was also writing to the church because as the church was coming to the end of the first century, the church was losing the understanding of the 'I am' who was their pattern. There were teachings that were not according to Christ. There were positions being taken as a hierarchy in the church. And as the church is losing its vision of the living Christ and it was replacing the model with two man-made models. Rather having the church measured according to Christ, the church began to revert to a model of the Old Testament priesthood and temple. And through the first 1500 years of the church, it became more and more of a vestment, incense and rituals and liturgy. There were priests and high priests and sacrifices were made on the altar. But this way of the church was not according to Christ. Then there were others who took the synagogue as their models – a place where people freely gathered together and studied the word of God. And then there were the independent congregations that had their own rabbi to lead them as they worshipped God. And so the pastor system and that individual synagogue system developed. But this also was not according to Christ.

When we look at the Book of Acts, we see the church. The church was not perfect, the church was not even glorious but the church was living. By the movements and the worship and the life of the church, you can see that Christ was the Lord and head of His church. The church came to some crisis moments when they could have adopted the remedies of men. When the problem arose between the Hebrews and the Greek speaking worshippers in Jerusalem, they could have chosen men's way and divided the congregations into two different assemblies. Or later on when the Gentiles were being converted and were causing the commotion in Jerusalem, the Jewish Christians could have severed and separated from the Gentile Christians. But in those moments we see that the plumb line was in the hand of the Lord Jesus and they went the way of the cross. And so when you look at the church in the Book of Acts you see that the church was being measured by the life of Christ Himself; whether it was Jerusalem; whether it was Antioch; whether it was Corinth or whether it was Ephesus. How can we say that? Because according to the testimony of Luke wherever you saw the church, you saw Jesus; you saw the love of Jesus; you saw the holiness of Jesus; you saw the ministry of Jesus; you saw the authority of Jesus; you saw the mercy of Jesus, and you saw the hospitality of Jesus. The church looked like Jesus. The servants of God looked like Jesus. This was the church was measured according to Christ.

Now what about the church today? If we turn back to I Corinthians chapter 3, most of those who are in the church today, those who are born again and who truly know the Lord Jesus would agree on the

general reality. In verse 11 everybody agrees that Jesus Christ alone is the foundation of the church; *'For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ'*. And all Christians agree that Jesus Christ is the precious cornerstone in the center in the house of God. And all believers agree that Jesus will come back one day to place the top stone upon the church to the shouts of 'grace, grace'. We agree on all these things. So what is the problem? Some people say we are the testimony of Jesus. Others are more modest and say we have the testimony of Jesus. Still others are more humble and say we bear the testimony of Jesus. And then those who are really small say we hope to bear the testimony of Jesus. So praise God and we can all go home. But wait, we cannot skip over a very important phrase in I Corinthians 3:10; it is at the end of the verse 'but each man must be careful how he builds upon the foundation'. Now there is the question of how careful is careful? Are these builders with a heart of a priest concerned with every detail that is being according to Christ? Surely if this is the case, then everything built upon the foundation will be gold, silver and precious stones. But then how is it that the workers of the church can build upon this stone straw, hay and wood? If you think in term of just building a building you can build faster using these materials. But they will not go through the fire for they are not according to Christ. Now every assembly that gathered together with the heart to know Christ begins with the plumb line. But at some point it is so easy to make just a very small variation from the true plumb line. And this small insignificant angle after a generation is far wider from the true plumb line of Christ. It takes less than a generation to go from a plumb line to a varied and widely divergence of a caricature of the church.

Paul made it clear in his letter to the Corinthians that anyone who built apart from the plumb line of the cross of Christ will build wrong. When man tries to build the church by his own instrument, his own wood, his own hay and stubble, he is actually building a time bomb. It is because that which is built flesh upon flesh will explode in division. Any servant of God who set themselves up as the sole builder of the church is building a monument to himself but not the Lord's house. Now just a few minutes ago we sang a hymn 'Be Still For The Glory Of The Lord Is In This Place'. Now we thank the Lord that His presence is here among us. I know we like to sing these hymns and sometimes we imagine by singing them it is a reality. But is the glory of God really upon us? I think if we were to see a fresh vision of the measure of Christ in our midst we would be ashamed.

Now brothers and sisters, excuse me for one moment while I speak to my fellow workers. You know we workers are responsible for the poor condition of the church. What have we been building? When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he was under the plumb line of the cross himself. He loved the Corinthians, and he worked hand in hand together for a few years with them in the establishment of the church. But Paul was under the scrutiny of the Lord Jesus and he would not allow as much as within the power given him the carnal construction of the church in Corinth. Now there were many things as we know that the

Corinthians were doing that were fleshly and as babes. But the greatest damage was being done by the workers. Now some of them in their spiritual adolescence imagined themselves a better builder than Paul. And as we heard already, some even despised Paul's ministry. Paul said they came with arrogance, and some had even evidently proclaimed themselves as apostles. Paul would not allow it. You understand that Paul did not lead that church. He was not the pastor of that church but he was the spiritual father of that church and he would not allow this carnality to go on without a reproof. So Paul said in the letter *'do you want me to come with high wisdom and superiority of speech. But I come to you with nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified'*.

It is in II Corinthians chapter 10 that we see some very interesting statements made about measurements. Now I know this is translated variously in various versions. But in II Corinthians 10:12 – 13, Paul talks about measure. Now thank God, every brother and every sister in the body of Christ has a measure according to their faith. Now if they humbly serve in their measure the Lord will give them greater measure. But as they grow in the Lord and in responsibility in the ministry of the church, the workers are measured by Christ. But here we read a very strange thing. Verse 12 *'For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding'*. And verse 13 *'But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you'*. Brothers and sisters this statement here is relevant to the church today. As soon as servants of God measured themselves against other servants of God, they already veered from the measurements according to Christ. Here is a man who measured himself by himself. He thought about Paul's ministry. Maybe Paul sometimes did not speak with elegance and sometimes his speech was interrupted by tears. But it was not so with this servant of God. He spoke with philosophical eloquence and He was master of every word he spoke. Surely he was a better apostle than Paul in everything. Even with all the provocations, Paul never said I am better than that servant. All he could said was this, by the mercy of God I had been given a measure; I wanted to be faithful that God might want to extend my measure even further. And so we see as workers working together for God, we are under the measure of Christ and no other measure.

Now all this time you want to say 'tell us the measure now'. We want to know. If I say the measure is Christ, you will say 'yes, yes but really, what is the measure'? One of the great privileges in my life is that I had a chance to speak in Singapore. There all these engineers who wanted to know the details and what the measure is. Well, I will give you the line of measure, just one of the many rulers we have in the word of God. Alright, you want the line of measure? Let us carefully measure ourselves by Ephesians. How is that? Now let us look at some details and see what we mean. When Paul begins in Ephesians chapter 4, he was beginning to share his practical exhortations for those who understand that they are

under the measure of Christ. Now we can talk about this measuring in Christ but there is a great assumption that must be made. Before we can be measured practically, we have to have seen ourselves rooted in Christ and Christ living in us. Now outward rulers and Christian exhortations even regarding practical matters of morality are no good unless we understand we are in Christ and Christ is in us. And the wise master builder Paul, in his masterful way, built in the first three chapters. When we come to chapter 4 we begin to see the measurements for the church as a corporate body. Now if we have seen our calling in Christ; and we have seen the glorious inheritance of the church; and we have seen the exceeding greatness of His power for those who believe; then the first thing we need to do is to live together upon the foundation that has been laid for us in Jesus Christ. Verses 1 – 6 tell us something that we all knew. We are living in the unity of His Spirit. What does it mean to live in the unity of the Spirit? Paul gave them a very real measurement. It is the same as the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Paul says in verses 4 – 6 *‘There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all’*. We are one. If we are to walk worthy of our calling we walk in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace. Now if we cannot walk in the unity of the Spirit, then stop walking until you can. We are one with another. That is the measure of Christ. Nothing is to be done outside of that oneness. You know there is long suffering involved; there is patience involved. But we willingly do this because we are one in spirit. Now we come to the second part which is in verses 7 – 13 and here we see that Christ wants to fill all things according to His purpose. He is bringing us into a fullness. In verse 10 we see how it begins *‘He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things’*. Now there is Christ sitting exalted in heaven and now because of what He is and what He has done, He wants to fill all things. And He will fill the body until it comes to the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ. You see that in verse 13, *‘until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the true knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ’*.

Alright church, do you see the measurement? Are you paying attention? The church is to be the fullness of Christ. And now He is filling and filling under that promise. And how did it work out? Now Paul divided it into a few ways. First He gives to the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Now these brothers have come to a measure of Christ in themselves where they can lay the foundation and help build the church. Do you see this? Look at your assembly. What do you see? Do you see fullness? That’s the measure of Christ. Is that what you see? Think of your assembly, do you see apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers? No, I do not see any of those. But this is the measure of Christ. Did He stop all that in the 1990’s? Did He say no more evangelists, no more pastors and teachers? No, He did not. Now why are we so careful about this? Here on the west coast we have

the head apostle of the twelve apostles of the world and they have proclaimed themselves this way. There is an organization in California where the man in charge is the head of the apostles of the worldwide church. Maybe you do not know that you have the apostles right here in California. Now you see there are so many people proclaiming themselves to be apostles and prophets that we have to be careful. But I do believe this is the provision of the Lord for His church today.

Now where is this fullness? Let me go back to the illustration yesterday. Ezekiel was a priest, a detail man. In the perfecting of the church, we need detail man. I think pastors and teachers are detail. We may have some workers here who see heavenly visions but they are no good at details. But thank God we have the fullness. Now where are the detail people? Do not forget when we see Zerubbabel holding the plumb line, where Joshua, the high priest built according to pattern. Now Nehemiah could build the wall of the city but it took Ezra to give the saints the detail of the word of God and beautified the city. There should be a full complement of ministry in the body of Christ. And it is not just these workers that are mentioned but it is their working together which is the key to fullness. You do not have apostles working over in one church and evangelists over at the other and teachers over at another. You have apostles, evangelists, teachers all working together in one place.

Now the Ephesians have an example of this. Paul came to town but he came with Silas and Timothy. Eventually he brought Trophimus. And he worked alongside Priscilla and Aquila. And they all worked together to bring fullness into the body. I think we think Paul walked around like some kind of a giant, in some kind of authoritative way. But Paul was the most servant of all the servants. We should expect and we priests need to pray for this kind of fullness in the church. We lone rangers, we lone workers that are in the church by ourselves are on dangerous ground. If a worker lives in a certain locale within a certain assembly; if that assembly is built up into fullness; and if this worker decreases and allows others into the ministry and fullness and if he equips other brothers to rise up, then he has done a good work. But if the lone worker after years of living in a place is the main speaker, and the assembly is hopelessly dependent upon his ministry then he has gone off the mark of the measure of Christ. We got to be very careful about this. If we are not careful then we will restrict the fullness that is meant to be in the house of God. Now we notice carefully in chapter 4:12 *'for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ'*. And if you read this verse carefully you will realize that it is the saints who do the work of the ministry of the building up of the body of Christ primarily and it is not those workers. So this means with the fullness of Christ in every assembly there are always saints waiting to be equipped to build up the body of Christ.

I do not know if the word of the Lord Jesus Himself has ever put fear into your heart. But I fear when I hear the Lord exposes how He hates the work of the Nicolaitans. Now we need to embrace the cross and not allow the Nicolaitans to take over ourselves. It is not enough only for the workers to be careful. The

saints need to rise up in their calling. Let me ask you a question. How many of you know Archippus? He is mentioned in the bible. When you get to heaven and you meet him you are going to ask one question. Now if you know the bible you will know the question you are going to ask him when you get to heaven. You are going to see your brother Archippus and you are going to ask him 'did you fulfill the ministry that God has given you? You remember in Colossians 4:17 '*Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord that you may fulfill it"*'.

I fear that we may have many Archippuses here today. And so brothers and sisters I want to ask you a few searching questions regarding your equipping. Now like Archippus you are planning one day to fulfill your ministry. Question number one, how many conferences have you been to all these years? Number two, how many mp3 have you listened to? Number three, how many books from CMP have you read? By 27 years old, our brother Godwin was already preaching the gospel. Paul had to tell Timothy that he should not allow anyone to look down on him and despise his youth. Now the Jews had a problem. They respected their elders. There is nothing wrong with that. But they despised the young ones. What can the young one Timothy say? Now I think I know the heart of apostle Paul. You think when he traveled with Timothy he always spoke. Timothy, bring me a glass of water, otherwise keep quiet. I think we will be amazed if we saw how often Paul told Timothy to speak. Timothy was never comfortable because God was raising up a worker in him. I think there is something wrong if we have people who are in their 30s or in their 40s and they have yet to fulfill their ministry unto the fullness in the body of Christ. It is not a problem, it is a tragedy. Think of the fullness we could have. How we need apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors for the fullness of Christ. And there is our Lord sitting in heaven waiting to fill all things in His inexhaustible supply. You Archippuses, if we are to have fullness, you need to be faithful to your calling. We must get out of our mind that only full time workers are called by God. Many of you who have a heart for the Lord have a calling in your heart and you have to respond by faith as Paul said '*walk worthy by the calling that you have been called*'.

Now in our assembly we should have five to ten who should be able to preach the word of God and even to speak the oracle of God. There should be many of them. And we should be overflowing with evangelists. What is stopping and hindering your call? The body of Christ is an interesting phenomenon. For we find there are some who are ambitious and think they have the call but they have no gifts. Or if they have a gift, they are so absolutely independent that they are unwilling to submit that gift to the Lord's working. And then on the other side, there are some people who have some tremendous gifts in them but all of their energy and all of their gifts are being used for the world. And the gifts are not developed in the body. Rather all of their talents are being used to make money in the world. No wonder we lack fullness. You think of your assembly and you can think of some brothers and sisters who are so gifted and yet they are virtually useless in the body because they are so busy in the world.

I ask you only one thing; ‘what is the measure of Christ in this fullness’? Are we a church with no gifts, no ministry, and unable to help to build up the body of Christ? And how about this third section that Paul talks about the body of Christ assembled together? In verse 4:15 – 16 *‘but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love’*. How many of you are a member of the body of Christ? How many of you are a joint of supply in the body of Christ? Throughout the whole Book of Ephesians there are instructions and measures but when we come to 5:18 – 19 we are showed how we should gathered together in the fullness of the Spirit. Joint in supply, have you supplied a hymn, a prayer, the giving of thanks? Are you overflowing with the Spirit that is the church according to Christ’s measure, an overflowing church? Every joint supplying, there is no one of us that is not under the measure of fullness that Christ expects in His church. As He has given us His Spirit, so He expects His Spirit to be expressed in our life. Be filled with the spirit, speaking among yourselves.

Now we finally go to Colossian 3:11 which is the theme. Once again we see this in the light of the measure of Christ for us. He is talking about put off the old man and putting on the new man that is being renewed. Now what is this renewed image look like corporately? Verse 11 says, *‘a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all’*. The church is one new man corporately and there is no distinction anymore. Just a few weeks ago our brother Christian Chen brought to us in New York a very challenging message about the church in Antioch. And he spoke about the church of Antioch according to the Book of Acts where they were first called Christians. At one time there were Christians at Antioch but they were not called Christians. They were Jews who believed and became Christians, living in the Jewish quarter of Antioch and worshipping in the synagogue and believing in Jesus. They were not called Christians but were called people of the way. And they were seeing some kind of a Jewish group that believed in the Messiah. But when those men came up from Cyprus to Antioch and they began to preach the gospel to the people, including the Gentiles, some Gentiles got saved. And they joined with the Jewish believers. And according to the list of names in Acts 13, we can assume some of them spoke Hebrew, some spoke Greek, some spoke Latin and some spoke Cyprian, the local dialect. And so the Lord put all of these different groups together in His blender and people looked at these believers. They did not look Jewish anymore. What should we call them? They were not really Greeks and even though some of the Romans spoke Latin they were not Italians. Who were they? They were Christians. This is Christ’s measure for us. As long as the world looks at us and says this is Chinese, then this is not according to the measure. Somebody comes into your assembly no matter whether it is in California, Seattle or New York, they should be confused. Well, I see Chinese. But they are not Chinese nor are

they Americans. What if we capture and recover just the word 'Christian'? Now you may have grown up in China; you may be thoroughly Chinese. You young people are Americans. And they are looking for a place to call home. What measure do they see when they come into your assembly? I meet in Flushing and we have about three hundred Chinese and fifty non-Chinese. I am afraid people come into the assembling and said this is Chinese assembly. And we are working to confuse them. Everything we do we do in English. And it is three hundred Chinese doing everything in English. If they have to speak Chinese then we have somebody translates for us because there is only one language in the Christians and we do not want to have any distinction. We believe the measure of Christ is just Christians. Think of all of the adjustments of the cross so as to make this a reality in our assembly. I know this is the way of the cross. There is no assembly here including the one I attend that has come into perfection and glory. But are we under the plumb line of the cross? Is His spirit bringing us into this fullness that is the measure of the church? If it is, then praise God. We are being measured for glory.

Dear brothers and sisters, hold to the high standard of Jesus Christ. Do not allow for compromise. If you see Him as He really is, we will bow down in shame.

Oh Lord, have mercy upon us. We pray for the workers here. Have mercy on us. O Lord, we want the work that is done to survive the fire of Your measure. And we all know we are not satisfied with the fullness that has been attained. Send down the divine plumb line over us. We would be measured according to Jesus Christ. Let the cross do its work in our assembly. We know You are measuring us, even now. And the glory is revealed. We pray according to the hope of glory that we have. We pray in Jesus precious name. Amen.