

We really thank the Lord for coming to the last night of the conference. Our hearts do desire that the Lord returns quickly. Then we don't need to gather in this way anymore. We'll have a far better gathering. Each one of us can hear the voice of our Lord. This is our glorious hope. Today, the Lord has not yet returned, so we still need to gather in this way. May the Spirit of the Lord govern in all aspects. Although we are still on this earth, may the Lord give us the experience of "we are on earth as it is in heaven". In the beginning, let me ask brothers and sisters to read some words of God. We'll read Hebrews 8:1-13.

*Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in My covenant, and I did not care for them, says the Lord. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.*

Let's turn to Hebrews 10:15-22.

*And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them," He then says, "and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore,*

*brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Hebrews 10:32-39

*But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.*

Lastly, we'll read Mark 14:22-25.

*While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."*

The burden I received this time is to share with brothers and sisters about 'a better covenant'. Last night, we already mentioned the relationship between the covenant and tabernacle. We know that God gave the Law to the people of Israel on the mountain top of Mount Sinai. Through the Law, God made a written covenant with the people of Israel. We know that this is the major content of the Old Testament. We know that the people of Israel in the Old Testament time evolved their lives around this covenant. We also mentioned last night that the reason God built the tabernacle was to carry out this covenant. When they heard the words of God and kept this covenant, God would dwell in the tabernacle among them. Whenever they disobeyed this covenant and they did not listen to the voice of God, the presence of God was gone, even if the tabernacle was still there with them. The tabernacle would lose its intended meaning. Therefore, we can see that there is a close relationship between the covenant and tabernacle. We also mentioned that although God gave this Law to the people of Israel in the Old Testament time, it was not God's original intent. God loves us. He desires to bless us. When the Law came, it became a condemnation. Therefore, in the Book of Hebrews, it says that the old covenant is with fault.

Why is it with fault? It is because the Law demonstrates God's life. However, we, the fallen men, in our low humanity we cannot reach such a high standard. Therefore there is a fault. In God's heart He also knows this. Therefore the apostle Paul says the Law only keeps us under guard, while waiting for the promised Seed. Before our Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth, the Lord used

Jeremiah to prophesize, saying, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a new covenant". God knows there is a fault with this covenant. The covenant was with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Bible scholars tell us Jeremiah's prophecy will be fulfilled in the millennium kingdom. The prophecy will be fulfilled among the people of Israel. We thank God, because of the coming of Jesus Christ, this new covenant first comes to us who are saved by grace. So brothers and sisters, God's principle never changes, yet the method He does His work may change. The method in the Old Testament time could not fulfill God's purpose. Therefore there is a new method for the new covenant.

We really thank our God. As we come to the New Testament time, the principle is still the same. God establishes the true tabernacle in order to carry out the new covenant. I think this idea is very simple. The tabernacle in the Old Testament time is to carry out the old covenant. The true tabernacle in the New Testament time is to carry out the new covenant. There is a difference in the methods. Our God is still the God who keeps covenant and loving-kindness. In the Old Testament time our God acted according to His own Law. When the people of Israel kept His Law, the mercy of God would come upon them. This is also true in the New Testament time. God acts according to His Law. For people who are under the new covenant, we also have to keep the new covenant. Whenever we break the covenant, the mercy of God upon us will be hindered. Brothers and sisters, in the New Testament time God no longer uses a physical tabernacle, and yet He builds the true tabernacle. God does not dwell in a physical tabernacle, and yet He dwells in the true tabernacle. Today we know this very well that the true tabernacle is the church of the Lord. As the true tabernacle is built up, everything has to be according to the requirements of God. Tonight we'll take a look at how our Lord came to this earth to make this new covenant with us. This is a better covenant.

I think we are very familiar with some of the truth. Yet we need to look at the truth with a complete perspective. When the new covenant came, our Lord Jesus Christ was the "Word became flesh" and came to this earth. Please pay attention to this, our Lord Jesus Christ took on the flesh of a man. Through this flesh He brought the life of God to this earth, just like the ark. We mentioned that there were three important things in the ark. One is the golden jar holding the manna which represents the provision of life. The two tablets talk about the nature of life. And the budded rod represents the power of resurrection. These three things demonstrate the three aspects of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament time, they were the contents in the ark.

Now God put His very life into the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. No wonder the apostle John says in John 1:4, "In Him was life." We can see how precious God's life is. God could not impart His life directly to man. He first placed His life into the flesh of Christ. Through that flesh the life was brought to the earth. Even today the principle is still the same. Whenever you touch Christ, then you touch life. If you have not touched Christ, then you have no life. Once the Lord Jesus told the Jews, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life... and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life." We know that life is not in doctrine or letters. The life is in Christ. Often time we mention to brothers and sisters that it is not enough to touch

only on the letters when studying the Bible. You have to touch Christ and then you touch life. This is a principle. We really thank our Lord Jesus Christ. In His flesh He brought the life of God to the earth.

We also notice when the Lord came to the earth, he came in the form of a bond slave. He was the son of a carpenter. The prophet Isaiah mentioned, "He has no stately form or majesty." What is the meaning of "He has no majesty?" It means He is not good-looking. Therefore we do not admire Him. When the Lord Jesus came to the earth, He was very ordinary. He took a humble identity. Outwardly He was a very humble person, yet He manifested the heavenly beauty in His life. This is a great reminder to us. God does not care what your outward identity is. He does not care how much knowledge you have. He does not care how honorable you are in the eyes of men. Brothers and sisters, God only cares about the manifestation of His life. This is such a great grace.

Therefore in the epistle to the Corinth the apostle Paul mentioned, "There were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty". Thank the Lord that He chose us who are in lowliness. So we can see God's great grace when the Lord came to this earth. We can see His wonderful deeds. The Lord brought this life to this earth in thirty-three and a half years, and He demonstrated this life on earth. He demonstrated this life in His daily living. He said that He came to fulfill the Law. He had this life within Him, and the nature of this life was the Law. In His flesh He lived out this life and this was the fulfillment of the Law. In the old covenant, the low humanity of man could not live out this life. Jesus' outward appearance was a man but the life of God was in Him. Through His daily living He manifested the glorious nature of God. Now we know that the reality has come. We thank our God for His acts are so wonderful. The followers of our Lord Jesus were merely men. Therefore according to the four Books of Gospel, they were amazed every day when following the Lord. Signs and miracles were performed by Jesus. For example, Jesus walked on water; and as He commanded the storms of the ocean to cease; and demons fled. The Jews felt that Jesus was very special, and He spoke with authority. But the Jews did not like Him as a person. In their mind they thought that the Messiah would come as a handsome and great person. They could not accept the fact that this humble son of a carpenter was the Messiah. Yet, His disciples were attracted to Him. He was so personal and so adorable. They were amazed when they looked at Him. Often time they were amazed by what kind of person He was. It is because they looked at Him from their lowly humanity.

We thank our Lord for the four Books of Gospel recorded how our Lord brought the life of God to this earth. We know that in the Garden of Eden, God desired Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of life. Of course if they would eat the fruit of the tree of life, then the whole history would be rewritten. Brothers and sisters, regrettably, they did not eat the fruit of the tree of life. God's work had to be delayed for almost four thousand years. However, God's heart has never changed. God still brought His life to be among man. Through His son, His glorious life was demonstrated. Through the life of Lord Jesus, the requirement of the Law was first fulfilled. Our brother already mentioned this in the morning that when our Lord came to this earth, He did not live for Himself at all. Not only in three and a half years did He manifest the glory of this life, but also in the end He

put His body on the altar. We know that His sacrifice was a burnt offering, and this fully satisfied the heart of God. When the Lord came to this earth from the very beginning of His ministry, He started in the position of self-denial. When He was thirty years old, He came to the Jordan River and was baptized by John the Baptist. When He came out from the water, there was a glorious scene – the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove. Some bible scholars told us that the Holy Spirit dwelled in Him. From the Book of Genesis we know that the Holy Spirit hovered over the face of the waters. In the Old Testament time the Holy Spirit could only move above men. Some pious men, who loved God, were moved by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was once upon them and they were filled with power. However the Holy Spirit could only temporarily stay with them, and the Holy Spirit had to leave. Now when our Lord Jesus Christ came out from the water, the Holy Spirit dwelled in Him. This fulfils the words in the Book of Ephesians chapter 2 - the church is a habitation of God in the Spirit. God dwells in the church through the Holy Spirit. We thank our Lord Jesus Christ. He fully devoted Himself to the will of God when He was on earth. During the last Passover feast, the Lord took up the cup and said, “This is the new covenant in My blood.” In the Gospel according to Luke, the record is different. In that breaking of the bread, the Lord took up the cup twice. Luke mentioned that after the supper the Lord took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood.” We thank the Lord. He paid a great price for us. He was crucified on the cross for us. He made this new covenant, a better covenant, for us.

Now that the Lord completed the entire salvation, the Holy Spirit can descend from heaven. He can come to the earth and do an important work. Through the experience of rebirth He imparts this life to those who are saved by grace. The original purpose of God creating man starts to realize. Adam did not eat from the tree of life. Because of the accomplishment of Jesus Christ’s salvation, the Holy Spirit can bring this life into man. Brothers and sisters, the life that we received from the Lord is exactly the same life as in the Lord Himself. He does not give a piece here and a piece there. The life that we received has the same nature and components as Jesus’. When this life comes in, the requirements of God’s Law can be fulfilled by us who are saved by grace. It is not for us to do it, but we can live out the conditions which satisfy the requirements of God’s Law. When we come to the New Testament time, God has higher requirements than those in the Old Testament time. In the Gospel according to Matthew, chapters 5, 6 and 7 mentioned the teaching on the mountain. God’s requirements are high. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the left cheek. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. If someone takes your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. The requirements are higher than those in the Old Testament time. When I was young, an unbelieving classmate in school knew the words in the Bible. One day he came over and slapped me on my cheek. Of course it was just a soft hit, and then he told me to turn the other cheek to him. I did not know how to respond on that day. Brothers and sisters, it is not easy to put these in practice. We cannot do it with our human lives. And yet we can do these with the life that the Lord gives us. Once this life comes into us, we can live under the requirements of the Law. Now God can put all those who are saved by grace under this better covenant. The prophecy by the prophet Jeremiah a few hundred years ago can now be fulfilled in the life of the Lord Jesus, and it can be realized by us who are saved by grace.

The Book of Hebrews chapter 8 quotes what was said by the prophet Jeremiah. It tells us the nature of the new covenant. Three important points are clearly stated. First, this is an inward covenant. In the Old Testament time the Ten Commandments were carved on the tablets of stone. Now they are not written on the tablets of stone, but in the heart. You know the heart is the place with most feelings. That's why we sometimes say that something touches our hearts. A heart is the place filled with feelings. Now the Law of God is written in the place with the most feelings. In our spiritual living, often time we have feelings towards the demand of God. The new covenant is not about something to keep outwardly. God requires inward obedience. This is the difference. Thanks to the Lord. He has given us the life to fulfill the Law. Now the Law of God has entered into us. When there is a requirement of Him, His life will give us strength to live it out. This is very different from before. Brothers and sisters, if you have some experience then you'll know. God has requirements for His people, just as He had requirements for His people in the old covenant. Before we believed in the Lord, even though we had determination to fulfill them, we couldn't do it. Now if He has a requirement for you, He'll give you strength to carry it out. Therefore people under the new covenant are blessed.

Today as we follow the Lord, we need not be like the saints under the old covenant to keep these laws. We need to follow the life from within to follow the Lord. We live out as Christians, not work out as Christians. Lots of young Christians after their baptism, they said from now on they would work out as a good Christian. We all have that experience. We want to work and work in order to be a good Christian. A Christian should not be like this. Brothers and sisters, we do not need to work it out, but to live it out. God gives us His life. God does not give us outward laws and regulations. Yet you know we are very foolish. Once a brother, who was just saved by grace, came to me and said, "Brother Sun, I don't know what to do to be a good Christian. Please write eight to ten items from the Bible for me to follow. Then it will be easy for me. I don't know how to follow the sense of life." You can truly see that we are fallen men. We like the fallen methods. Actually those methods are painful.

Brothers and sisters, in Galatians 2:20 Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." Now Christ lives for us from within. What kind of life that is. Often time I feel a Christian who follows the sense of life is very natural. He needs not force himself to do anything, and there is no pretence. Christians have a traditional mental picture of a spiritual man. I saw many brothers and sisters were like this. In the beginning I admired them because I could not do it, but they could do it. They dressed plainly, they bowed when walking, and their voice was very soft. They had an image of what a spiritual man was like in their mind, but it is not natural at all. If you truly follow the sense of life, then your living is very natural. When John the Baptist came, he did not eat or drink. But when our Lord Jesus came, he ate and drank. He was very natural. If a Christian's living is unnatural, then his condition is not right. It is because God has given His life to us. We have to live according to that life. When our Lord Jesus was on earth, He was the most normal person. He was very natural in all circumstances. You never see Him nervous or embarrassed. He was very natural. Whether He was under persecution or being praised, He was very natural. So brothers and sisters, He is our example. We need to live in

this life. The new covenant is an inward covenant. The Law is written in the heart; that is to live according to this life before God.

Also in 2 Corinthians chapter 3, Paul tells us the ministry of the new covenant. He says the result of the ministry is to write a letter on the tablet of human heart with the Spirit of the living God. This group of people follows the work of the Holy Spirit to write the words of God in man's heart. This is so precious. When I was young, I saw many mature elderly brothers and sisters. Often time they quoted the words of God. Just one simple sentence and yet it was written in man's heart, and it had a life-long influence. This is the kind of ministry of the new covenant. Brothers and sisters we need to follow the Holy Spirit to write letters in man's heart. We can see that all services under the new covenant are inward. Let's have an example from the Bible: in the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit poured down and as Peter stood up and preached the gospel, 3,000 people felt that their hearts were pricked. If you read his message you'll find that the message is not touching at all. Why were their hearts pricked? It is because this was not a matter of words. On that day the power of the Holy Spirit was upon it. Therefore the gospel at that time pricked their hearts. When I was young, some brothers told me that some messages did not prick their hearts; instead their ears were pricked. The ministry of the new covenant is to prick the hearts. Now we have come to a very different era. We have to understand that the new covenant is an inward covenant. This is the first point.

Now the second point: *"And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them."* What does "they shall not teach everyone" mean? In today's church services, we feel that many people need teaching. Then we do our best to teach, but often time we do not see good results. What does it mean that you need not teach everyone? It means that through their life experience, they directly know God. Through life experience to know God is a living knowledge, a true knowledge. Although there is a difference in the levels of the knowledge, from the least to the greatest of them all will know God. Brothers and sisters, often time we feel that we are the least. And yet God's life is in you. One day when you experience God in your life, you know God. That knowledge is directly from God. This personal knowledge is very unique. The apostle Paul is the greatest. He had visions from God and knew the eternal purpose of God. He had such an abundant experience and knowledge of God. Although your knowledge of God is so little, the apostle Paul does not have your knowledge obtained on that day. It is the knowledge through your life experience with God. Often time we hear brothers' and sisters' testimonies in church. We are greatly moved by their testimonies. That is their unique personal experience. That is the knowledge of God through their life experience with God. God has given His life to all of us. In the church we have various levels of life, and yet we can know God through the life we received. This is such a precious matter. Therefore we have to learn to live in this life in our daily living. When we have experience we'll have knowledge of God.

The third point: *"For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."* In the New Testament time, with the blood of the Lord, God has this complete forgiveness. We

know that the blood of bulls and goats can only cover sins. Only the blood of the Lord can remove sins. Often time I hear brothers and sisters pray, "Lord, cover my sins with your blood." This prayer is not good enough. We have to say, "Lord, thank you for your blood that cleanses my sins." In the Old Testament time, Israelites covered their sins with the blood of bulls and goats. The blood of the Lord can cleanse our sins which are as scarlet, that we will be as white as snow. This tells us when our sins are cleansed by the blood, God will remember no more. In the original language, it means God will totally forget them. In the past I did not understand how sins could be forgotten. It is impossible to forget about it. We thank the Lord. One time I read a book by an elderly brother, and it solved my confusion. He says our God is omniscient. So, He can remember all things and also totally forget. That is so good. Now my confusion is cleared. In the past I did not understand how that could be possible. If someone sins against me, I can forgive but not forget about it. It is because our wisdom is incomplete. Therefore we are so troublesome. We forget things that we should remember, and remember things that we should forget. Yet there is such a great grace that God remembers no more, once the Lord Jesus cleanses our sins. It is hard for us to imagine. Brothers and sisters, this is the new covenant, a better covenant.

We are truly blessed. Yet the Bible also reminds us, when the Holy Spirit enlightens us for any committed sin, we need to confess and repent. Our hearts should not be hardened. We are very foolish when we are under such a great grace but we are still unwilling to repent and change. We also cannot treat the blood of Jesus, who made the covenant, ordinary. We know that the Lord loves us. He is willing to forgive our sins. In the Old Testament time sins that were committed deliberately would not be forgiven. But in the New Testament time, even sins that are committed deliberately can be forgiven. Why do we say that? You remember the story about Peter. Peter swore and denied Jesus and it was not unintentional. Yet once he repented he was forgiven. We know that Peter repented completely. In the entire Bible, only Peter called the blood of Jesus the precious blood. Brothers and sisters, we cannot consider the blood of Jesus ordinary. As Christians we don't have to sin, we don't sin and we don't sin deliberately. Sometimes the temptation is so great that we cannot hold it and sin. 1 John 1:9 says, "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." This is very precious. It gives us a great restoration. We need to come before the Lord and confess. God is faithful and just. He will forgive us because of the blood of His Son Lord Jesus Christ.

We are in the New Testament time and the grace that we received from God is so great. Brothers and sisters, these are the three important points concerning the new covenant mentioned in the Book of Hebrews. These are the things we need to hear and keep. If we are obedient and keep the covenant, not only are we blessed before the Lord, but the church can also manifest the true meaning of the true tabernacle. Brothers and sisters, this is very important. If we are disobedient and break the covenant, then the meaning of "church is the true tabernacle" is lost. Just like in the Old Testament time, when the Israelites were disobedient and did not keep the covenant, the meaning of the tabernacle was lost. Today we need God's grace upon us. The Book of Hebrews tells us that the true tabernacle is not pitched by man. It does not belong to this world. The building of the church is not according to the will of man, and cannot be carried out by the methods

of this world. How is this true tabernacle built? It depends on the children of God living in this life that is under the conditions of this better covenant. Then the building is conducted by the Lord, and the building is not of this world. There are local churches in various places. We know there is no fake church, but many local churches lose their true meaning. It is because God builds His church to be the true tabernacle. In some local churches the Lord can merely be the Savior. If a church is built up to be the true tabernacle according to the principle of life, the Lord Jesus can be the High Priest there. Whenever we do not follow the law from within, but follow rituals, forms, regulations or organization, we are breaking the covenant. We are not fulfilling the requirements of God. Whenever we do not focus on the knowledge of life experience, but only focus on head knowledge or explain scriptures according to man's wisdom, we are breaking the covenant.

Often time we are in sin but we don't repent. The blood of Jesus has already been shed and we can be forgiven, but our hearts are hardened and we are not willing to confess our sins. Brothers and sisters, I have a heavy heart in recent years. I feel that in the church on earth, the ability of the children of God to repent is very weak. On one hand it is a lack of enlightenment from the Lord. They cannot see their mistakes. Some of them know their mistakes but they are not willing to repent. If this is the condition, then we don't expect our assembly to become the true tabernacle. The principle has never changed. Whenever we are disobedient and are not keeping the covenant, the work of God will suffer loss. The Book of Hebrews tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect High Priest. He manifested the perfect humanity and glorious divinity of God. Now He fulfils a better ministry to pour down the blessings of God. And yet there is a condition: He can only minister in the true tabernacle. This is such an important reminder to us. If we are obedient and keep the covenant, the church can be built up as the true tabernacle. This High Priest can come in and rule over the house of God. Then greater blessings will be brought in. We can live in the most holy place every day experiencing the most abundant fellowship with God. Brothers and sisters, do not look lightly on this matter. This is very important. God has revealed His heart to us. We thank the Lord.

Throughout church history we have seen that numerous brothers and sisters understood this truth. They were willing to be obedient. They were willing to keep the covenant of God. The Book of Hebrews tells us, this group of people experienced great conflicts. After God opened their eyes, they were enlightened and they knew God's requirements. In turbulent conditions they wanted to live out the normal conditions even though the conflicts were great. Brothers and sisters, we saw that the disciples in the first century received God's revelation. They went through great sufferings. Stephen was the first martyr. His eyes were opened. He knew the condition of Judaism was not right. Then he was martyred in the hand of Judaism. He was stoned to death. Later Paul rose up, and he was under the persecution of Judaism throughout his life. From Paul's epistles, we know that Paul experienced all kinds of sufferings. He was made a public spectacle through reproaches. Now we know that in order to build the true tabernacle, we need to be obedient, to keep His covenant, and that we need to pay a price just like the saints in the Old Testament. This morning Brother Kaung talked about church history. That is the history of blood and tears. In order to hold fast to the truth of God, to live before God, many saints in the past shed blood and they were

martyred. The church today is not in a normal condition. We have to live out the true tabernacle condition which is required by God.

A price must be paid. Do not think that the true tabernacle can be built up easily. The lyrics of a hymn say, "There is blood in the battlefield. We cannot enter into heaven on a bridal sedan chair." Brothers and sisters, even though we are in the New Testament time, we can see that the covenant of God has been broken in many places. We need God's mercy. Today the Lord has spoken to us and He has a demand for us. We are people under this better covenant. Are we willing to be obedient? Are we willing to rise up and re-establish this covenant with Him? The Bible does not deceive us, and it says a price must be paid. We thank the Lord that some people have seen the need of God. They have sensed the great grace of God, and they are willing to pay the price. They are willing to stand side by side with those who suffered, and even to a point that their properties are confiscated. They say it is alright since they know they have better and lasting possessions in heaven. Brothers and sisters, in this rebellious, dark and confusing generation, our perfect High Priest is looking for a place where He can minister. We have to remember that He can only minister in the true tabernacle. This time around the Lord has brought us before this truth. This is a very solemn matter because a great price has been paid ahead of us.

Therefore the author of the Book of Hebrews encourages us saying, "do not throw away your confidence". Although the circumstances are difficult and the situations today are not easy, we shall never compromise. We cannot compromise. He also reminds the saints at his time saying, "For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay." We know that the words were spoken almost two thousand years ago. The apostles at that time in their spirits felt that the Lord's return was imminent. They also used this as an exhortation. And yet these words are real to us who are still living on this earth. Really just in a little while the Lord will come. The Lord has given this opportunity to us who come from different places. We should place the will of God in our hearts. For the people who are living under the new covenant, remember that the Lord has shed His blood for us. We thank the Lord for establishing the new covenant with His blood. In this little while let's rise up and keep His words, to be built up as the true tabernacle in various assemblies. I say it again, God's word is very clear, we need to go inwardly. We need to follow the Lord inwardly. We need to know the Lord in our daily living. We need to have a soft heart to repent and return before Him. If this life continues to grow and become abundant, God's tabernacle would be built up. Therefore the author of the Book of Hebrews encourages us not to shrink back. We cannot shrink back. No matter what happens we have to do our best to please Him.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are children of God under the new covenant. The Lord has made this better covenant with His blood. We have received this life from the Lord, and we can do it. We look upon the Spirit of the Lord to work in us, leading us in various locations to live before the Lord and according to His will. Our brother also tells us in the Book of Revelation chapter 21 that the tabernacle of God will surely be set up. God also reminds us, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men." That is God's work and it will surely be accomplished. And yet God's heart desires local assemblies on earth to manifest the condition of the true tabernacle today. If the Lord points

to our assembly saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men,” then we shall be blessed. May the grace of the Lord be upon us. Brothers and sisters, let’s be the people who listen to His voice. In the New Testament time, let’s be the people of His new covenant. The new covenant is carried out through the church which is the true tabernacle.

Let’s bow our heads and pray:

*Lord, we want to thank you with all our hearts. In these days you have spoken to our hearts unceasingly. Lord, we look upon your Spirit to do your work; that for the Holy Spirit to do His work, so that these words can be engraved in our hearts. Lord, do not let our inward condition be numb, so that we shall be full of feeling. Let us learn to be obedient to you. Lord, we are willing to tell you that we are willing to listen to your voice, and that we are willing to live in the reality of your covenant. May you be among us on earth that you obtain what you desire to obtain. May you, the High Priest, find the true tabernacle in various places. Then, you can minister the better covenant and we can be brought more into the presence of God, and our Lord can have a true resting place on earth. Lord, we thank you. Man’s word is so limited. May the Holy Spirit do the work of revelation within us. The time has come to its end. We really feel that it is in just a little while. We pray that let’s hold on to this opportunity to closely follow you. Not only your heart is satisfied, we can also truly be blessed. We worship you from the depth of our hearts. Please hear our prayer, in Jesus’ precious name.*