

CLEANING THE CUP

Victor Quaye

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Evangelist
Charlie Gómez

Campus Minister
Ladipo Davies

Family Minister
Robert Young

Worship Directors
David Luhrs
George Bullinger

Minister of Finance
Arthur Shlesinger

Long Island School
of Evangelism

Office Telephone
(631) 348-7322

www.licoc.org

info@licoc.org

PO Box 607M
Bay Shore, NY
11706

It's never a pleasurable experience when reaching for a cup during a moment of thirst only to find some residue that shouldn't be there. Quite honestly many of us are disgusted in moments like these. Furthermore, it is never a good feeling to later find out that you were the last person responsible for washing the dishes. "Oh boy", you might say, "How did I miss that spot?" Unfortunately, this happens to the best of us and has happened to me on a few occasions when not only washing the dishes but also in my spiritual walk. However, praise God for His word! It often helps us to see the dirty spots in our lives that need extra cleaning (2Tim 3:16-17). And if we're honest with ourselves, we'll see we need a lot of cleaning.

In **Matt 23:25-26**, Jesus warned of cleaning only the outside of the cup without cleaning the inside. **"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean" (ESV)**. Ouch! Those words always cut to the heart but remind us of what Jesus is most concerned about which is the "inner man". However, our sinful nature is more concerned about exactly the opposite: how we appear to one another. This is the ultimate trap that can lead to our spiritual demise! In order for us to avoid hypocrisy both the inside and outside of the cup need to be cleaned. God has provided the blue print for us to succeed in our cleaning process which requires being born again and applying the word of God. Peter writes **"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God" (2Pet 1:22-23 ESV)**.

Obedience to the gospel truly does "clean the inside of the cup" but our cleansing continues through God's sanctification process which requires that you **"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them" (Col3:5-7 ESV)**. Therefore despite how many Sunday services, bible classes, devotionals we attend, ministries we serve in, or fellowships we attend, if we aren't putting to death these acts of the sinful nature, God isn't pleased. In addition, it isn't enough to simply get rid of our old practices; we need to replace them with new practices.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And (whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3:12-17 ESV)

Some practical ways of doing this is reflecting on the daily time you've spent reading your bible and praying, then assessing how it is impacting your relationships. God's word is always manifested in how our relationships are with one another. Are you able to show compassion to your brethren when they've gone before the congregation and confessed their sins, or perhaps sinned against you? Are you able to forgive in action and not just words? Are you able to show kindness to those outside of your inner circle at church and in your community? Do you practice humility by being a team player in all you do or do you complain and keep others at arms length when things aren't going your way? Are you putting on love? Are you thankful for your lot in life? When the word of God is dwelling in us richly, we have peace, and Christ rules our hearts. Most of all, we truly allow ourselves to be cleaned by the Father. And when we're clean, we can be useful to our Master and ready for every good work (2Tim 2:20-22).

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS

CONTENTMENT: GODLINESS’S DIVIDEND

Don Strittmatter

As we walk with the Lord over time and try to assess our growth as a Christian, this one characteristic is a very good test of maturity of our faith and trust. Are we content? Or is there restless desire in our heart outside of God’s Will? When we allow ourselves to be convinced that we need more than what God provides, then we live in unbelief and have a false understanding of God and who He is. **Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)** “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” The love of money is not the only temptation that Satan tries to use to take away our contentment in the Lord. This passage is a reminder that once in Jesus we have been reconciled back to God our Father. God promises to always be there for us. The maker of the heavens and earth gives us His word to never forsake us. Paul warned Timothy against those who twist godliness into being a way to gain wealth and taught that true gain is contentment brought through godliness. **1Timothy 6:6-7 (NIV)** “6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.” When we think that Jesus promised to prepare a place for us (**John 14:2-3**) and come back to take us there to live in the Holy City, how can we desire to stay and be satisfied in a fallen world? When we trust and believe God without doubting His promises, then we can wholeheartedly understand the psalmist and echo his longing: **Psalms 73:25 (NIV)** “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.”

“And the Lord added to their number” Acts 2:47

BAPTISMS

Naudia Arkward	September, 2013	Gabriel Ponte	July, 2013
Nilisa Arkward	August, 2013	Tamika Robinson	May, 2013
Mary Begin	July, 2013	Rana Ryan-Begin	May, 2013
Andrew Genova	July, 2013	Ester Asare	May, 2013
Jennifer Chiaramonte	July, 2013	James Newsom	April, 2013

“They gave themselves first to the Lord” 2 Corinthians 8:5

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
July 2013	267	\$8,084
August 2013	262	\$7,698
September 2013	268	\$8,314
Weekly Averages for Q3	265	\$8,054

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

FINDING THE WAY

Claribel Rodriguez

We plan out a trip ahead of time so that we don't get lost along the way. In days past you may have used a map, or maybe you still do. New technology brings us to the GPS (Global Positioning System) device. Some things can happen, though, even if I have a map or GPS and a clear understanding on how to get there. Along the way I may see a store or event that may motivate me to detour from my goal. I may lose focus because I get distracted by other drivers, or the scenery, or something that happens inside my own vehicle. These may cause me to reach my destination late or to never reach it at all. To reach a goal there needs to be a commitment to remain on track even in the midst of distractions – to keep focused on the directions the GPS gives us, provided they are right. In the same way we need to follow Jesus because Jesus is our true GPS. Man-made GPS can fail and lead you down the wrong path, even make you go into the water! It can even sometimes become a distraction, But Jesus never fails us because of His love for us. Love never fails (**1 Co 13:8a**)! Is Heaven your goal? Is that the destination you want to make sure you reach? I think it is for all of us here! Jesus teaches us: He is **the way, the truth, and the life.** - **John 14:6 (NIV)**

Clary is not the way; Jesus is way, the truth and the life. I need to always check up on myself to make sure there are no distractions from this focus. How do we make sure we are heading towards that destination? Here are two important verses to keep in mind:

- **Acts 2:42 (NIV)** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Four crucial elements to maintain our focus to reach our eternal destination.
- **Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)** ...not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. The proper motivation and encouragement to avoid distractions: Helping one another get there!

Be careful you may not allow your busy life to distract you from your ultimate goal. Being busy with work, family or fulfilling your dreams – like wanting to get married – may give you some fulfillment (or not) but unless you are engaging them as kingdom work they can pull you away from your heavenly goal. None of these things are real goals in life.

Be careful that your tiredness or sickness may not make you weary to be distracted. Are you making excuses not to meet with the church or your mentor? Be careful that your body or attitude are not making your decisions, but your desire to be with Jesus is!

Are you too busy with your husband and forgetting about God? “I need to clean my home! Why can't I get pregnant?” Be careful your obsessiveness doesn't derail you! Maybe you're busy taking care of the baby or children or doing home school with children. I need a lot of self-control and patience! Focus and depend on the Lord! Don't forget to spend much time in meditation in the word of God!

Whether single, old, wife, or mom; we all need to check on ourselves to be sure we are on our way to heaven. **Matthew 6:33 (NIV): Seek first His the kingdom and His righteousness!** What you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what He wants you to do. Then He will give you all these other things you need.

“Good works, which God prepared beforehand” Eph. 2:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: Nov 27th, December 25th
- † Devotional Service Dates: Dec 7th, Dec 20th
- † Women’s Day: November 9th from 9am – 2pm at The Hilton Long Island/Huntington
- † Suffolk Ministry Ladies Life Talks: January 18th 11am – 1pm at the Jules’ Residence
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: November 7th, December 15th at 3:45 PM
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: November 3rd at 3:45 PM
- † Children’s Ministry Supervisors’ Meeting: December 29th at 3:45 PM
- † Sunday Bible Classes: Will resume on September 8th with Fantastic Families, a new curriculum for the whole family.
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link!
- † If you would like to order a CD of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- † All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- † Any directory change can be submitted using the form here: www.licoc.org/directory .
- † **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel” Mark 16:15

MISSION WORK

- † Apologetics Press.....International
- † We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- † Ron Clayton.....India
- † Queens & Long Island Harvest Campaigns.....Central Islip, NY

“Watch your life an, d doctrine closely” 1 Timothy 4:16

BIBLE CLASSES

Long Island Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Robert Carr (631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Pedro Gelabert (347) 732-2101
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Sr Center
133-21 232nd Street
Jamaica, NY 11413

College Ministry

Thursdays 7:20pm-8:20pm

Ladi Davies (631) 413-5863
SAC Room 308 at Stony Brook University
100 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Spanish Ministry

Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

Charlie Gómez (631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

Sunday Bible Classes

Grades 2-12 and Adults

Sundays 12:30pm-1:15pm

Pedro Gelabert, Robert Young
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.