

Penitence of the Chinese Church

Dear Lord,
Thank you for your Grace and
The touch of your Spirit
That we may see
 Your mighty works
 In the Early Church
 Which eventually made them
 Pioneers of world evangelization

Dear Lord,
May you
Do the same
Among churches today, especially
Chinese churches

May you breakthrough us,
 Forgive us for
 Caring only ourselves, not others
 Loving only ourselves, not the “whole church”
 Seeking to improve only ourselves, not
 the rest of the world
 Also,
 Our personal pride
 Racial pride
 Intellectual pride
 Spiritual pride

Forgive us for our
 Love for the world
 Love for money
 Love for power
 Love for sinful pleasures

May you change our
 Selfish attitude

Remove our
 Cowardice and timidity
Kindle our
 Lukewarm hearts
Enlighten our
 Inward darkness

May you give

 An open mind
 A broader view
 A generous heart
To the Chinese churches today
To your servants

That they may teach the saints
Lead the flock
 onto
The way that is pleasing to you
No longer to be imprisoned in “self”
No longer preconditioned by “self-benefit”
No longer bounded by culture, race, language and geography
No longer planting only “Chinese churches” everywhere

But by your grace
 Motivated by your
 Great love
 Universal love that
Not even prophet Jonah could understand
To establish
 Churches with open doors
 Churches with Kingdom in mind
 Churches that “love all peoples, far and near”
 Churches to the ends of the earth

Dear Lord, we

 Rather be rebuked by you
 Than to be

Immature children
Rather be disciplined by you
Than to regret
But not truly repent
Rather be pruned by you
Than to be
Fruitless branches

Because in your rebuke
Is incomparable love
In your discipline
Is comfort
And in your pruning
Is cleansing

Dear Lord

May each of the 17 breakthroughs
Of the Early Church
Come to us
Because only thus
We have hope
To fulfill your
Never changing will!

Suggested Readings:

Hedlund, Roger

The Mission of the Church in the World (Baker)

McCavran, Donald

The Bridges of God (Friendship Press)

Richardson, Don

Eternity in Their Heart (Regal Books)

Sjogren, Bob

Unveiled at Last (YWAM)

Stott, John

The Lausanne Covenant (LCWE)

Winter, Ralph D

Four Men, Three Eras (U S Center of World Mission)

Winter, Ralph & Hawthorne, Steven (ed)

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader (William Carey Library)