

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – April 15, 2018

Announcements

- A one-day college outing will be held here in Bellevue on Saturday (4/28). Please contact Atsuo if you can help with food preparation.
- Please sign cards for the trainees. A care package will be sent down after April 15.
- The deadline to order the Collected Works of Witness Lee at a discount is April 30. Please go to www.livingstream.com/cwwl to place an order.
- We are continuing week 6 in the Holy Word for Morning Revival on “The Crystallization-Study of Leviticus.”
- We will read messages 19-21 in the Life-Study of Leviticus.
- Registration for the Summer Training is due by May 1; please sign up with the bookroom.
- Wednesday night ministry webcast 7:30 pm at the following locations:
 - Smith - South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
 - Miyake - Central Bellevue, (425) 451-7294, in English
 - Kim - South Bellevue, (714) 213-5213, in Korean
 - Lancaster - Kenmore, (206) 724-4535, in English
 - Wang - South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
 - Lu - Kirkland, (206) 696-2543, in Chinese

Burdens for Prayer

- ITERO
- Germany
- Dormant saints
- 6th Grade Retreat

This Week: April 16 – April 22

Morning Revival: *The Crystallization Study of Leviticus*, Week 6

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Issaquah/Sammamish
Upstairs – Central Bellevue

Tuesday	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer meeting
Saturday	8:30 am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table

April	
21-22	6 th Grade Retreat
28	College one-day out

Ministry Reading Portion

LIFE-STUDY OF LEVITICUS

CHRIST—THE MAN GIVEN TO US BY GOD

Chapter one of 1 Corinthians reveals that Christ is the man given to us by God. Verse 2 says that the Lord Jesus Christ is “theirs and ours.” Christ is yours and mine. As John 3:16 tells us, God loved the world—fallen mankind—and gave His only begotten Son to us. Now Christ is ours, and we have been called into the fellowship of God’s Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor. 1:9). We may now enjoy Him, participate in Him, and share Him with one another.

Furthermore, 1:30 says, “Of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” It is of God that we are in Christ Jesus, and Christ has become wisdom to us. Such a Christ has been given to us.

Christ is God’s present, God’s gift, to us. This present is a person; He is the Son of God and also the God-man. God has also called us into the enjoyment of this gift and has made this gift to be wisdom to us, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. This is Christ as a man revealed in 1 Corinthians 1.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The second element in the meal offering is the oil, which signifies the Spirit of God. First Corinthians has a great deal to say about the Spirit. Paul speaks of the Spirit of God in chapters two and three. In 2:4 he says that his speech and preaching were “in demonstration of the Spirit,” and in verse 12 he tells us that we have received “the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been freely given to us by God.” Then in 3:16 he goes on to say, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you?” Many Christians do not realize that they are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in them. Do you know that in your daily life there is One who indwells you? Do you realize that the Spirit of God takes you as His dwelling place? The Spirit has been given to us, and now He dwells in us.

In 6:17 Paul says, “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.” This indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit. Since we are one spirit with the Lord, we are part of Him. This does not mean that we are part of God as an object of worship; it means that we are a part of the Lord in our life experience. In our spirit we are one with the divine Spirit. We have been oiled with the Spirit, and we have even been joined to the Spirit. Not only have we received the Holy Spirit—we are one with Him.

If we were not one with the Spirit, we could not have the church life. The church life is a life of humanity oiled by the Holy Spirit and with the Holy Spirit. We are one with the Holy Spirit, and we need to remain in this oneness.

CHRIST IN RESURRECTION

In 1 Corinthians we also have the frankincense, that is, Christ in resurrection. In fact, one entire chapter, chapter fifteen, is devoted to the matter of resurrection. Therefore, in this book we surely have the fragrance of the resurrected Christ.

Some of the Corinthians had been deceived by the Devil to say that there would be no resurrection of the dead. Paul argued with them, saying, “If there is no resurrection of the dead, neither has Christ been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then is our preaching vain; your faith also is vain; and we are found also false witnesses of God, because we witnessed concerning God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if indeed the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised” (15:13-16).

In 15:9 and 10 Paul speaks concerning his experience of the resurrected Christ. First, in verse 9 he refers to himself as “the least of the apostles.” Then in verse 10 he says, “But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.” In this verse the grace of God equals resurrection; it equals the resurrected Christ. The grace of God which we are enjoying today is Christ in resurrection. With Paul we can say that it is not I but the grace of God, not I but Christ in resurrection.

In verse 58 Paul gives us a word of encouragement. “Wherefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” Our labor is not in vain because we are laboring not in our natural life but in the resurrection of Christ. Our labor for the Lord in His resurrection life will never be in vain.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

The salt—the fourth element of the meal offering—can also be found in 1 Corinthians. In writing to the Corinthians, Paul spoke regarding the cross of Christ and the crucified Christ. “Jews indeed ask for signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified” (1:22-23a). Paul did not say that he preached Christ glorified; he said that he preached Christ crucified. Paul did not preach miracles or wisdom—he preached Christ crucified.

The crucified Christ is a Christ who does nothing to save Himself. When the Lord Jesus was on the cross, “the chief priests with the scribes, mocking with one another, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save! Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe!” (Mark 15:31-32a). No matter how much He was challenged, the Lord Jesus remained on the cross, doing nothing to save Himself.

To the Corinthians Paul preached such a crucified Christ. To the Greeks, who were proud of their culture and wisdom, this was foolishness. The situation is the same today. People are still proud of their culture and wisdom, and we need to preach the crucified Christ to them.

First Corinthians 1:18 says, “The word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Through the preaching of the gospel, the word of the cross can save people. If we would have power in preaching the gospel, we need to live a crucified life. We must learn to live a crucified life, being crossed out every day. We may experience this in our married life, for every wife is a cross to her husband and every husband is a cross to his wife. This arrangement, which is for our salting, is of the Lord’s sovereignty.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Sunday, April 15 th	Mark 11:1-16
Monday, April 16 th	Mark 11:17-33
Tuesday, April 17 th	Mark 12:1-27
Wednesday, April 18 th	Mark 12:28-44
Thursday, April 19 th	Mark 13:1-13
Friday, April 20 th	Mark 13:14-37
Saturday, April 21 st	Mark 14:1-26