

**Announcements**

- Today is the last day to sign up for the video training. After today, there is a late registration fee. Sign up with the bookroom.
- Registration is still open for the college training in Olympia (July 13-19) and the late fee has been waived. Please register at: <https://collegetraining.org/2018/>
- We are in week 3 of the morning revival on “Taking Christ as Our Person and Living Him In and For the Church Life”, copies are available in the bookroom.
- Online registration for the Bellevue Summer School of Truth is due today:  
[https://www.cognitoforms.com/Churchinbellevue1/\\_2018SummerSchoolOfTruth](https://www.cognitoforms.com/Churchinbellevue1/_2018SummerSchoolOfTruth)
- We will read messages 46-48 in the Life-Study of Leviticus.
- Chinese-speaking perfecting training, Franklin Park, New Jersey from July 27 - 29. Registration at: <http://mswe1.org/training>
- Wednesday night ministry webcast 7:30 pm at the following locations
  - Smith - South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
  - Chang - Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
  - Lancaster - Kenmore, (206) 724-4535, in English
  - Wang - South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
  - Lu - Kirkland, (206) 696-2543, in Chinese
  - Miyake - Central Bellevue, (425) 451-7294, in English

**Burdens for Prayer**

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| • Germany                                | • Dormant saints                       |
| • Summer activities for the young people | • Meeting hall modifications (parking) |
| • Summer training registration           | • Duplex                               |

## This Week: June 18 – June 24

**Morning Revival:** *Taking Christ as Our Person and Living Him In and For the Church Life, Week 3*

**Hall Cleaning:** Downstairs – Redmond  
Upstairs – Hall Team

<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer meeting
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 am	Breakfast
<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30 am	Lord's Table
<b>July</b>		
<b>13-19</b>	College training	
<b>23-27</b>	Bible Camp	
<b>August</b>		
<b>9-12</b>	Camp Canby	
<b>13-19</b>	Bellevue Summer School of Truth	

## Ministry Reading Portion LIFE-STUDY OF LEVITICUS

MESSAGE FORTY-SIX

### THE PROPITIATION (1)

Scripture Reading: Lev. 16:1-16; Heb. 10:1-4

In this message we come to the matter of propitiation.

Propitiation is a very difficult term in theology. The definition given in most dictionaries is not according to the meaning of the Hebrew word. The Hebrew word translated "propitiation" in Leviticus 16 means to cover; it has the same root as the word for the cover of the ark. In the ark, the place where God was to meet with His people and where the people were to meet with God, were the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. This means that the tablets of the Ten Commandments were in front of God and in front of the one coming to meet with God. The Ten Commandments pointed out all the sins committed by the one who was approaching God.

Between God and the one approaching Him there is a problem. The problem is not with God, for He loves His people and wants to meet with them. The problem is that His people have committed sins, doing many things contrary to His commandments.

The Ten Commandments are a portrait of what God is. God is love and light, and He is holy and righteous. These four words—love, light, holy, and righteous—describe what kind of God God is. God is full of love and light, and He is righteous and holy. The Ten Commandments were given by Him to show us that He is such a God.

The tablets of the Ten Commandments stood before the one who approached God and exposed him as being a sinner. Therefore, between God and the one approaching Him there was the problem of sin and sins. How could a sinful person approach and converse with the One who is love and light and who is righteous and holy? This problem had to be solved. Otherwise, there would be an obstacle, a hindrance, between God and the one approaching Him.

We have seen that we were born unclean and are surrounded by people who are unclean. Thus there is a problem not only with our birth but also with our contact with others. Through this contact it is very easy for us to be contaminated. Furthermore, in our condition we are altogether leprous; we are a totality of leprosy. In addition, whatever comes out of us as a discharge is unclean, contagious, and contaminating. How can such a person approach God, who is clean, holy, and righteous, and converse with Him? It is impossible. God loves man, but man is in a pitiful situation. This situation reveals what we need. We need propitiation.

I have pointed out that the Hebrew word for propitiation means to cover and that the word for the cover of the ark comes from the same root. There was the need for the tablets of the Ten Commandments in the ark to be covered. Only if the Ten Commandments were covered could the situation between us and God be appeased.

Propitiation appeases our situation. In propitiation it is not mainly God but our situation with God that is appeased. The problem is with us, not with God. God is not angry with us. God loves us, but there is nevertheless a problem between us and God. For this reason, our situation needs to be appeased by the cover that is placed over the condemning, judging commandments.

We do not need to beg God to forgive us. He is ready to forgive us, once He has the standing to do so. Because God is righteous, His forgiveness requires that He have the standing to forgive us. Suppose we were to say, "God, I know that You love me. I beg You to forgive me." If we said this, God would reply, "Yes, I do love you. There is no need for you to beg Me to forgive you. But what about the Ten Commandments? I shall put a cover over them for you. Then your situation will be appeased." How wonderful that through propitiation our situation with God has been appeased!

In preaching the gospel, some have said that God is angry with us, but that Jesus, our Friend, asks God to do Him a favor and forgive us.

According to this kind of gospel preaching, God grants the Lord’s request and forgives us. This way of preaching the gospel is absolutely wrong because it describes God altogether in a wrong way.

John 3:16 says, “God so loved the world.” The “world” here means fallen mankind. Although mankind is fallen, God still loves mankind. We should not have the thought that He is angry with us. Instead of being angry with us, He loves us. He has loved us to such an extent that in eternity past He prepared a way first to cover our sins and then to remove them. In the Old Testament God’s economy was to cover man’s sins; in the New Testament God’s economy is to take away man’s sins.

Even though in the Old Testament time man’s sins were not taken away, God still provided something to cover the Ten Commandments so that the situation of fallen man might be appeased. On the cover of the ark were the two cherubim watching over the Ten Commandments. In typology the cherubim signify God’s glory. Thus for the cherubim to watch over the Ten Commandments was for God’s glory to watch over the Ten Commandments. The glory of God was watching over the Ten Commandments, waiting to see what the holy and righteous God would do with the approaching sinner. A cover was inserted to cover the Ten Commandments so that the glory of God could not see the Ten Commandments but could see only the cover. This is the way it is with God: He sees only the cover; He does not see the Ten Commandments. In Leviticus 16:2, 13-15 this cover is called the propitiatory cover. Hence, in the Old Testament propitiation was, according to the Hebrew, a matter of covering.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord’s day, June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 14:25-35
Monday, June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 15:1-10
Tuesday, June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 15:11-21
Wednesday, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 15:22-32
Thursday, June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 16:1-13
Friday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 16:14-22
Saturday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 16:23-31