

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – December 23, 2018

Announcements

- We are two-thirds of the way toward meeting our financial goal to support the London training center. We want to meet our goal in a timely way.
- The ushers will meet together for extended fellowship and prayer after the Lord's day meeting on January 6th. Lunch will be provided.
- We are covering week 4 for the Holy Word for Morning Revival, copies are available in the bookroom.
- No parking is permitted at the Presbyterian church parking lot. A map of available parking is on the tables.
- We are reading messages 29 and 30 from the Life-Study of Numbers. The reading schedule is on the table and posted on the church website.
- There will be no ministry meeting until the full-time training resumes in February.

Burdens for Prayer

- England Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking)
- Prayer meeting
- Winter Training
- Northwest localities

This Week: December 24 – December 30

Morning Revival: *Propagating the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ as the Development of the Kingdom of God,* week 4

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Central Bellevue
Upstairs – Downtown

Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lords' Table
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2018 Winter Training Webcast Schedule

Tuesday, December 25 th	Msg. 1	9:00 am
	Msg. 2	10:30 am
Wednesday, December 26 th	Msg. 3	7:00 pm
Thursday, December 27 th	Msg. 4	7:00 pm
Friday, December 28 th	Msg. 5	7:00 pm (open meeting)
Saturday, December 29 th	Msg. 6	9:00 am
	Msg. 7	10:30 am
Lord's Day, December 30 th	Msg. 8	10:30 am
	Msg. 9	6:00 pm (open meeting)
Monday, December 31 st	Msg. 10	7:00 pm
Tuesday, January 1 st	Msg. 11	9:00 am
	Msg. 12	10:30 am

LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS MESSAGE TWENTY-NINE

JOURNEYING (14)

A crucial matter revealed in Numbers 20 is that God's nature is holy. To be holy is to be different, to be separate. As the holy One, God is different from all the false gods. The false gods are easily angry with people, but not the true God. God does not have that kind of nature. In His nature He is full of mercy, grace, love, and sympathy. He is not offended with His people when the lack of water causes them to contend. Even if He must punish His people, He punishes them sparingly. For example, Korah was devoured, swallowed up, by the earth, but a descendant of Korah became a holy man and a psalmist. This indicates that God is sparing in His judgment.

We must not give people the wrong impression concerning the God whom we serve. In order to avoid giving such a wrong impression, we should be careful whenever we are offended by some of the saints in our locality. We should not be angry with them or go to God to plead against them. If we plead against the saints, God may feel that we are accusing them and that we are not sanctifying Him. We should not be hasty in speaking about those who offend us. Rather, in representing God, we need to learn always to regard His holy nature. This is to sanctify Him. All that we say and do concerning God's people must be absolutely according to His holy

nature. Otherwise, in our words and deeds we will rebel against Him and offend Him.

Inwardly God has His nature, and outwardly He has His administration, His economy, His way of action. God's word to Moses about speaking to the rock that it may flow out water was a word according to God's administration and for His economy. Thus, when Moses, in anger, acted wrongly, he broke the principles of God's economy. This should be a warning to us not to hold on to our anger but to practice Paul's word in Ephesians 4:26: "Do not let the sun go down on your indignation."

Moses offended both God's holy nature and divine economy. He represented God wrongly, and he broke the principles of God's economy. Because of this, even though he was intimate with God and may be considered a friend of God, he lost the right to enter into the good land.

Being careful about the way we speak concerning God's people when we are offended will help us remain in the kingdom of God. Regarding this, I recommend that you consider Matthew 18:1-35, where we see that the best way to be kept in God's kingdom is to forgive others. We should not offend other saints or stumble them. Whenever we are offended or stumbled, we should be forgiving. If we know only to condemn others and have no intention of forgiving them, we will have trouble. In the church life there is the need of forgiveness.

To forgive is to forget. Suppose a particular married couple does not have the practice of forgiving and forgetting offenses. Instead of forgiving there is condemning, and instead of forgetting there is remembering. It is not likely that such a marriage will last. Even if the marriage does last, it will lack joy and happiness. If you want to have a joyful married life, you need to forgive the offenses caused by your spouse and forget them.

The church life should be a forgiving life. Concerning the Bible we should have a good memory, but concerning others' wrongdoings we should have a poor memory. This will keep us in the church life. Otherwise, we will have many negative things to say about the saints, and eventually we will forsake the church life. For the church life and in the church life, we need a forgiving spirit. Then instead of condemning the saints, we will forget their mistakes and offenses.

We all need to realize that the church life is very tender and touchy and that every brother and sister in the church is likewise very tender and touchy. Sometimes we offend others because we do not remember that the church life and the saints are tender and touchy. We may think that a certain brother is very good and that he could not possibly be offended by anyone. Such a brother may be good for many years, but suddenly, because he is tender and touchy, he may

get offended by someone and no longer have a positive feeling about the church life. Cases like this remind us that we need to learn always to be conscious of the tenderness and touchiness of all the saints in the church life.

The lesson we need to learn from Moses' failure in Numbers 20 is that we should be very careful when we speak about God's people. We may think that we are right and that others are wrong. However, God may come in not to vindicate us but to vindicate the ones we condemn.

My aim in this Life-study of Numbers is not to teach the Bible merely in a doctrinal way. I hope that from this word on Numbers 20 we all will receive some light and revelation which will help us in our present, practical Christian life and church life. From the type in this chapter, we may learn to have regard for God's nature and for His administration among His people. If we learn this lesson, we will be careful about speaking in a negative way concerning God's people.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, December 23 rd	Romans 14:13-23
Monday, December 24 th	Romans 15:1-13
Tuesday, December 25 th	Romans 15:14-33
Wednesday, December 26 th	Romans 16:1-5
Thursday, December 27 th	Romans 16:6-24
Friday, December 28 th	Romans 16:25-27
Saturday, December 29 th	1 Cor. 1:1-4