

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – November 3, 2019

Announcements

- The Puget Sound conference is on November 15-17.
- We will receive hospitality for the Puget Sound conference, please sign up if your family can host.
- We have made special arrangements to use Chinook Middle School for the Saturday meetings during the Puget Sound conference for children in grades 1-6. Parents can drop off their children as early as 3 pm. Dinner will be provided and parents are encouraged to join. Children should be picked up immediately after the evening meeting. Toddlers through kindergarten will remain in the Bellevue meeting hall. We are starting week 1 from the Memorial Day Conference, please pick up a copy in the bookroom.
- The ushers will meet next week for prayer and fellowship next Lord's day during the break.
- The new phone list is now available to be picked up on the table.
- We are reading chapter 17 of the *Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life* this week.
- We will continue week 2 in the Holy Word for Morning Revival from the Memorial Day Conference, please pick up a copy in the bookroom.
- We have some copies of Volume 2 of the Ministry Digest available in the bookroom.
- The dates of the video training are December 24 - January 1.
- If you would like to ride down to Anaheim in the church van, please sign up in bookroom.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting webcast starts at 7:30 pm and will be shown at the following locations:
 - Smith - South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
 - Chang - Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
 - Wang - South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese

Burdens for Prayer

- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Meeting hall modifications - finding contractor
- District meeting
- Children and YP meetings
- College work coordination

This Week: November 3 – November 9		
Morning Revival: <i>The Experience of Christ</i> , week 2		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Korean Saints Upstairs – Overlake		
Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30am	Lord's Table
November		
15-17	Puget Sound Conference	
December		
12/24 – 1/1	Video Training	

2019 Puget Sound Conference Schedule		
Friday, November 15 th	7:30 pm	Bellevue meeting hall
Saturday, November 16 th	3:30 pm	Bellevue meeting hall
	7:00 pm	
Lord's day, November 17 th	9:30 am	Seattle (Greenlake)

THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST

CHAPTER ONE

THE MYSTERY OF EXPERIENCING CHRIST

In order for Christ to be lived out by us, He must be in us. Paul says, "To me, to live is Christ." This means that we can live to be Christ. As we are living to be Christ, we still expect to be with Him. Thus, Christ is present, yet absent. This also is a mystery showing that Christ is unlimited. Because we are limited, we cannot be both absent and present. The Christ we are experiencing is unlimited. Therefore, He can be present and absent.

The Christ whom we experience and by whom we live is different from what we think He is. Experiencing Christ and living by Him is a mystery. If you think that you are experiencing Christ, you may not be experiencing Him. But if you think that you are not experiencing Him, you are probably experiencing Him. As you are experiencing Christ, you may not sense that you are experiencing Him. He is not only mysterious but also abstract, invisible, and intangible. When you feel like rejecting Christ and giving Him up, you have a certain sense

within. This sense is different from the sense that you have most of the time. Perhaps now you do not feel that you are experiencing Christ. You may feel that you are just experiencing yourself. Do not be robbed—you may actually be experiencing Christ. However, when you abandon Christ and give Him up, you have quite a different sense within. When you have that sense, then you can realize that you had been experiencing Christ. This shows that the experience of Christ is mysterious.

Those in the Pentecostal movement often try to make Christ someone who is not mysterious. But anything that is not mysterious is not real. If your experience is not mysterious, it is not the real experience of Christ. Christ is here, yet He is not here. It is the same with God. The Bible says that no man has ever seen Him, yet He has appeared to men. It is difficult to say whether Christ is abstract or concrete. People always try to make the mysterious Christ so concrete that He is no longer mysterious. This is a false performance.

In the past many of us have claimed to have had wonderful experiences. But after a certain period of time, we no longer thought that those experiences were wonderful. Rather, we realized that they were a performance. Although we may not have such so-called wonderful experiences in the church life, we cannot deny the fact that we have experienced Christ. We have experienced something that cannot be erased from our being. This is Christ as our mystery.

This type of mysterious experience produces the genuine growth in life. The so-called wonderful experiences actually do not help us to grow in life. It is these mysterious experiences of Christ that help us to grow.

The experience of Christ is altogether a mystery, and this experience is unlimited, for it is Christ magnified. Any experience that is not mysterious but is easily understood should be doubted. The genuine experiences cannot be understood; they are mysterious. Suppose someone would say, “I simply do not understand what happened to me yesterday. I can’t tell whether or not I loved the Lord. I simply don’t know. If I say that I loved the Lord, I will sense an accusation within that I did not love Him. But if I say that I didn’t love the Lord, I would be telling a lie. I love the Lord, yet I dare not say that I love Him.” This is a real experience. However, suppose someone says, “Praise the Lord! Yesterday, by the Lord’s grace, I was very humble.” This kind of humility is a performance. But, on the other hand, suppose someone says, “I couldn’t tell whether I was humble or not. Maybe I was humble, but it also seemed to me that I was proud.” This is a real experience of Christ as humility. This kind of experience of Christ is visible yet invisible, tangible yet intangible. Such an experience is unlimited; it is enduring because it is the magnification of Christ.

If you are certain that what you are experiencing is an experience of Christ, that is not normal, and you should question it. The only thing we can be sure of is our salvation. The more you are assured of salvation, the better. You should be able to say, "Praise the Lord that I have been saved! Heaven may pass away and the earth may be removed, but my salvation cannot be questioned. I have the full assurance of salvation." However, the subtle enemy will not easily allow any to have the assurance of salvation. At every opportunity he raises a question about this and causes doubt. This doubt is the strongest assurance of salvation. If you have never doubted your salvation, it is an indication that you are probably not saved. Your doubt is the strongest confirmation and assurance that you are saved. Although Satan does not want us to have the assurance of salvation, he may push us to have the false assurance of other things. For example, some may say, "I have the assurance that I am an overcomer. Yesterday I received the assurance that I am among the firstfruit. By the Lord's grace I am now one of the hundred forty-four thousand" (Rev. 14:1). We need to doubt this type of assurance. Do not have any assurance of your experience, for all experiences of Christ are mysterious. I believe that we all are now experiencing Christ, but in a mysterious way. The church is mysterious because the universal mystery is here. Thus, the church is a mystery within a mystery.

We magnify Christ by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Although this supply is bountiful, it is not visible. We may not sense that the supply is bountiful; nevertheless, it is bountiful. Christ can never be exhausted. Many of us may feel that we are weak, but this weakness is a mysterious weakness, for actually we are not weak. Some, however, may claim to be strong, but their strength is not real. All the experiences of Christ are a mystery. This is the magnification of Christ.

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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, November 3 rd	Rev. 1:12-13
Monday, November 4 th	Rev. 1:14-16
Tuesday, November 5 th	Rev. 1:17-20
Wednesday, November 6 th	Rev. 2:1-6
Thursday, November 7 th	Rev. 2:7
Friday, November 8 th	Rev. 2:8-9
Saturday, November 9 th	Rev. 2:10-11