

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – March 1, 2020

Announcements

- The church in Cheney has a purchase agreement for a meeting hall; please be before the Lord in regard to any financial support.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting webcast starts at 7:30pm and will be shown at the following locations:
 - Miyake – Central Bellevue, (425) 451-7294, in English
 - Chang – Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
 - Wang – South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
 - Smith – South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
 - Macgilvary – Sammamish, (360) 220-3014, in English
- We have additional parking stalls now at the meeting hall, but we would encourage the saints who park off-site to continue parking off-site. Please be careful backing up into the new stalls as the trees are fairly close.
- We will continue with week 4 from the Holy Word for Morning Revival on “Knowing and Experiencing the All-Inclusive, Extensive Christ”.
- We will continue our church ministry reading in the Ministry Digest from Volume 2, Number 1.
- If you would like a tax report for 2019, please email bellevuefinanceservice@googlegroups.com

Burdens for Prayer

- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Meeting hall modifications
- District meeting
- Children and YP meetings
- College work coordination
- Material offerings
- Coronavirus epidemic in China

This Week: March 2 – March 8

Morning Revival: *Knowing and Experiencing the All-Inclusive, Extensive Christ*, week 4

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Issaquah & Sammamish
Upstairs – Eastgate

Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer meeting
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Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
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Lord's Day	9:30am	Lord's Table meeting
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March	
6-8	High School Retreat
13-15	Junior High Girls Retreat
27-29	Junior High Boys Retreat

LIFE-STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

MESSAGE 9

THE PREEMINENT ONE

In both the old creation and the new creation Christ is the first and occupies the first place, the place of preeminence. Both in the universe and in the church, Christ is the preeminent One. If we see this as a vision, not as a mere doctrine, our living and our church life will be revolutionized. We shall realize that in all things Christ must be the first.

In 1:18 Paul says, "That He might have the first place in all things." In the Bible to be the first is to be all. Since Christ is the first both in the universe and in the church, He must be all things in the universe and the church. As the first, He is all.

God's way of reckoning in this matter is different from ours. According to our estimation, if Christ is the first, then something else should be the second, third, and others in sequence. However, from God's point of view, for Christ to be the first means that He is all.

The first Adam included not only Adam as an individual, but all of mankind. In the same principle, in the eyes of God, the firstborn of the Egyptians included all the Egyptians. The firstborn includes all. Therefore, for Christ to be the firstborn in the universe means that He is everything in the universe. In like manner, for Christ to be the firstborn in resurrection means that He is everything in resurrection. For Christ to be the firstborn both of the old creation and of the new creation means that He is everything both in the old creation and in the new creation. This corresponds to Paul's word in 3:11, where he says that in the new man, in the new creation, "There cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all and in all." In the new man Christ is everyone and in everyone. In the new creation there is room only for Christ.

HAVING THE ONE WHO IS ALL

In this Epistle Paul seemed to be telling the Colossians, "Why are you so foolish? You have received Christ, the One who is everything. He is the first in the old creation and in the new creation. What need

is there for you to take in something else? Why do you worship angels and turn to Gnostic philosophy? Why do you follow the elements of the world? Don't you know that the very Christ you have received and now possess is everything? He is the Head of all the angels, and you are in Him. In Him you have been made full."

Chapters two and three reveal that the Colossians had turned to various isms—Gnosticism, mysticism, legalism, and asceticism. These isms are the elements of the world. Because we have the all-inclusive Christ, we do not need isms. We do not need philosophies, theories, and practices, for we have the One who is all in all. Christ is profound. What philosophy can equal Him? All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him (2:3).

This Christ is the image of God, the full expression of God. He is not the hidden God, the concealed, mysterious God; He is God expressed, the image of the invisible God. Furthermore, He is the first among God's creation. As we have pointed out, this indicates that He is everything. He is the alpha, the omega, and all the letters in between (Rev. 22:13). He is everything in the universe, and He is the first in the new creation, the church.

INFUSED AND SATURATED

Perhaps you are wondering how this understanding of Christ can help you in a practical way. If for a period of thirty days you are occupied with the revelation of Christ in Colossians, you will be revolutionized, reconstituted, and transformed. Pray over these messages on Colossians and have fellowship concerning them, and you will see what a difference it will make in you. I can testify that it makes a tremendous difference when the vision of the all-inclusiveness of Christ pervades our being. When you see this vision, you will hate everything that issues from the self. You will despise not only your hatred, but even your love, kindness, and patience. As this vision causes you to hate the self, it will constrain you to love the Lord. You will say, "Lord Jesus, I love You because You are everything. Lord, there is no need for me to struggle or strive to do anything. O Lord, You are so much to me. You are God, You are the firstborn of all creation, and You are the firstborn from among the dead." I suggest that you pray-read Colossians for thirty days. Pray until all the aspects of Christ revealed in this book saturate your being. We do not need regulations or teachings—we need to be infused and saturated with Christ as the all-inclusive One.

If Christ is infused into you, you will drop everything that is not Christ, and you will be constituted with Christ in your very being. Religion gives people doctrines and teaches them how to behave. The book of Colossians, on the contrary, speaks of the all-inclusive Christ. This Christ is already in us, but we need to see Him, know Him, be

filled with Him, be saturated with Him, and become absolutely one with Him.

THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST

In Him we are made full. We may be familiar with these words in 2:10, but, sorry to say, we may take them for granted. Have you seen that in Christ you are made full? I doubt that many see the reality of this verse. We may know this as a doctrine, but not as an experience. In our actual living, we may not yet be full. Thus far, our partaking of the unsearchable riches of Christ has been very limited. Christ is our good land, but we do not yet enjoy Him in full as this land. Paul's purpose in Colossians is to bring us into the full enjoyment of Christ as the all-inclusive land.

Life-study of Colossians Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, March 1 st	Gen. 48:1-22
Monday, March 2 nd	Gen. 49:1-15
Tuesday, March 3 rd	Gen. 49: 16-33
Wednesday, March 4 th	Gen. 50:1-26
Thursday, March 5 th	Exo. 1:1-22
Friday, March 6 th	Exo. 2:1-25
Saturday, March 7 th	Exo. 3:1-22