

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – January 1, 2017

Announcements

- Morning revival this week, *Returning to the Orthodoxy of the Church*, Week 7, “The Church in Philadelphia”
- No Wednesday ministry webcast until full time training resumes in February 2017.
- Main Hall cleaning – Young people
- Second floor/entry area cleaning – Eastgate & Redmond

Schedule

- Winter Video Training begins December 27 – January 4
 - Message 8, Lord’s Day (1/1), 6:00 pm – Open Meeting
 - Message 9 & 10, Monday (1/2), 9:00 am, 10:30 am
 - Message 11, Tuesday (1/3), 7:00 pm
 - Message 12, Wednesday (1/4), 7:00 pm
- Service coordinators meeting: Thursday, January 12, 7:00 pm
- Fellowship with all service group: Saturday, January 14 (Details forthcoming)

Burdens for Prayer

- Building up an atmosphere of reading the ministry
- Bellevue College
- Gospel to the nations in Europe

This Week: January 2 – January 8

Morning Revival: *Returning to the Orthodoxy of the Church, week 7*

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – young people
Upstairs – Eastgate & Redmond

Monday	9:00 am 10:30 am	Video training message 9 Video training message 10
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Tuesday	7:00 pm	Video training message 11
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Wednesday	7:00 pm	Video training meeting 12
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Lord’s Day	9:30 am	Lord’s Table
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Ministry Reading Portion

Basic Lessons on Service

LESSON NINE **THE PRACTICE OF THE LORD'S TABLE MEETING (6)**

*c. The Two Kidneys—
the Most Tender Part of the Inwards*

Now we need to consider what the two kidneys signify (Lev. 3:4, 10, 15). Of all the inward parts, the kidneys are among the smallest. Furthermore, the kidneys are the most tender of the inward parts. This indicates that we need some small yet most tender things within us toward God the Father. Within us God does not want big things. Within us the Father wants small things which are very tender and precious. The kidneys are protected by the fat, which means that the small yet tender and precious things within us toward the Father are protected by the inward riches.

What we are speaking of here is altogether based upon our experiences. If we do not have the rich experiences of life, we cannot have the small, tender, and precious things within us toward God the Father. With the inwards, which are so sweet to the Father, the size means nothing, but the quantity does. The more fat there is, the better. With the life of the Lord Jesus in the four Gospels, there were the riches, the abundance in quantity, but there was no greatness in size.

An illustration of this can be seen in John 7. In this chapter the Lord's brothers in the flesh told Him to go to Judea and manifest Himself to the world (vv. 3-4), but the Lord responded by saying, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready" (v. 6). Such an instance shows us the tenderness, the preciousness, and the riches of life within the Lord. His life was not one of a great work, a great career, or a great activity. Although He was the Son of the Almighty God, He was willing to be limited in not doing anything. His brothers in the flesh challenged Him to manifest Himself publicly, to do something great to make a name, but He said His time had not yet come. He liked to be small. In His life with the Father, there was an inward restriction. This shows us the kidneys of the peace offering offered to the Father with the smallness, the tenderness, and the preciousness.

No human word can adequately express this revelation, but this instance in John 7 shows us the Lord's inward being as typified by the kidneys of the peace offering with the fat around them. If we are great, spiritual giants according to the way of today's Christianity, we will not be able to offer the fat with the two kidneys. If we read the four Gospels to see the life of Jesus, we can see His inward being as typified by the inward parts of the peace offering. We can see that His inward being was rich in life with something tender and small, yet so precious to God the Father. This fully corresponds with our experiences. This indicates that strength and power signified by the thigh do not satisfy the Father. The Father desires the inward parts of Christ signified by the fat and the kidneys.

d. The Net above the Liver

The net above the liver (Lev. 3:4, 10, 15), not the liver itself, was offered to God as the additional inward riches and the covering of this inward part. I believe that the liver was not required because it was not as small as the kidneys. The net above the liver is thinner than the fat surrounding the other parts. Of course, a net cannot be that thick. This means that the liver is not only bigger than the kidneys but also not as greatly protected by the fat. But regardless of how thin the net is, it is still the fat, and the fat is required as God's portion. This shows that we must have the riches of life to protect and to keep our experiences of the inward parts of Christ, which are so precious to God the Father. Within us we may have some experiences of the inward being of Christ, but we may not have that much of the riches of life. The net of the liver is thin, but it still functions as the additional inward riches to cover the liver.

*e. The Fat Tail of the Sheep or the Lamb—
the Additional Riches*

The fat tail of the sheep or the lamb was also God's portion of the peace offering as additional riches (Lev. 3:9). With the sheep or the lamb, the riches of life as the fat tail are outside of the inwards. This indicates that the sheep or the lamb, according to the fat, is better than the ox because the ox's fat tail is not accepted. It is not tender enough.

The fat, the kidneys, the net above the liver, and the fat tail all indicate the riches of life inwardly with the tenderness, the smallness, and the preciousness. If we want to do a great work, make a great name, or have a great success right away, there can be no inwards in our offering to God. In other words, there can be no riches stored, concealed, or

hidden inwardly. There can be nothing small, tender, and precious for God the Father.

I do not have the human language to adequately express this, but I would repeatedly refer you to the life of the Lord Jesus in the four Gospels. The life in the Gospels is sweeter and more tender than the life revealed in Acts. The life in the Gospels has more fat and inwards. I am not depreciating the life in Acts, but nothing can compare with the life of the Lord Jesus Himself revealed in the Gospels. The life in the Gospels is richer, more tender, more precious, and yet smaller. Which do you appreciate more—the three thousand saved on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 or the three disciples on the high mountain with the Lord Jesus in Matthew 17? Do you want to be among the three or merely among the three thousand? Pentecostal preachers would prefer the three thousand. But what happened with the three thousand was not even as high in a certain sense as what took place with the five thousand who were fed by the Lord in the Gospels (Matt. 14:14-21). This shows that in the Gospels there are more inwards with more fat.

*f. A Sweet Savor Made by Fire
of Items b through e as Food to God*

The portions of the peace offering which are God's portion become a sweet savor made by fire as food to God (Lev. 3:5, 11, 16). It is a sweet savor made by fire of the fat, the kidneys, the net above the liver, and the fat tail. These four items burned by fire produce the savor, and this savor is food to God (3:5, 11, 16). This is God's enjoyment of the peace offering. Whether or not we can offer such a peace offering depends upon our daily walk.

*Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Service, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, January 1 st	Neh. 9:1-20
Monday, January 2 nd	Neh. 9:21-38
Tuesday, January 3 rd	Neh. 10:1-11:36
Wednesday, January 4 th	Neh. 12:1-47
Thursday, January 5 th	Neh. 13:1-31
Friday, January 6 th	Esth. 1:1-22
Saturday, January 7 th	Esth. 2:1-3:15