

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – January 22, 2017

Announcements

- Morning revival this week, *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel*, Week 1, “Visions of God and the Unveiling of God’s Purpose and the Desire of His Heart.”
- No Wednesday ministry webcast until the full-time training resumes in February 2017.
- Main Hall cleaning: Andy Wu’s home meeting
- Second floor cleaning: Overlake
- International conference (in Chinese and English)—February 17-19, Anaheim, CA.
- The deadline to sign up for the middle-aged training is February 21. For more information, visit www.fttamidage.org and talk to Dexter Smith.
- The parking situation at the meeting hall is very limited; we encourage all saints who park at the meeting to carpool. Saints who drive by themselves are encouraged to park offsite (Chevron, residential streets, etc.). Last week, a visitor tried to come to the meeting hall but turned around because there were no available parking spots.

Schedule

- Sisters’ prayer meeting, Tuesday, 10:00 am
- Prayer meeting, Tuesday, 7:30 pm
- Breakfast, Saturday, 8:30 am

Burdens for Prayer

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

This Week: January 23 – January 29

Morning Revival: *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel*, Week 1

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Andy Wu’s home meeting
Upstairs – Overlake

Tuesday	10:00 am	Sisters’ prayer meeting
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer at meeting hall
Saturday	8:30 am	Breakfast
Lord’s Day	9:30 am	Lord’s Table

Ministry Reading Portion

Basic Lessons on Service

LESSON TEN

THE PRACTICE OF THE LORD'S TABLE MEETING (7)

4. The Offerer's Portion

a. The Flesh of the Cattle—the Supply of Christ

2) Of the Peace Offering for a Vow or a Voluntary Offering (of the Will) Good for Eating for Two Days

The meat of the cattle of the peace offering for a vow or a voluntary offering (of the will) is good for eating for two days (vv. 16-18). The peace offering for thanksgiving is something emotional, whereas the one for a vow is something of the will and is stronger and deeper. We need to help the saints to realize that an emotional offering is good, but it does not last too long. We need to go deeper to present a voluntary offering. Because He is the Lord and we are His redeemed, we should do something in a voluntary way. There is no emotion involved here, but something strongly motivated from our will. This offering can last for two days because it is stronger.

b. Cakes of All Four Kinds as Described in 1), 2), 3), and 4), under 2a—Christ in His Humanity as Food to His Offerer

The four kinds of cakes which we have described earlier signify Christ in His humanity as food to His offerer (Lev. 7:12-13). They are the portion of enjoyment to the offerer. The more we offer, the more food we have.

5. The Congregation's Portion

The congregation's portion for their enjoyment is the flesh of the cattle, signifying the supply of Christ for nourishment, under the condition of cleanness (Lev. 7:19-21; 1 Cor. 5:8-11, 13b). The entire congregation enjoys the meat of the cattle, but they do not have a share of the cakes. The condition for the entire congregation to enjoy, to participate in, the peace offering is that they must be clean. First Corinthians 5 points out that today we are keeping the real Feast of Unleavened Bread. We need to keep this feast without any leaven, that is, without any sinful things. Whoever is living in sinful things should be cut off from the fellowship of the church, the Body. Such ones have no share in the enjoyment of the peace offering. This strongly indicates that today any saint who is still involved in sinful things cannot have

the fellowship of the Lord's table. He has to be cut off from the fellowship of the Body.

LESSON ELEVEN **THE CHURCH-BUILDING SERVICE**

I. THE CHURCH BEING BUILT BY ITSELF, NOT ONLY THROUGH THE JOINTS OF SUPPLY BUT ALSO THROUGH EACH ONE PART

Ephesians 4:16 says, "Out from whom [Christ as the Head] all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love." This verse shows that the church is built up by itself, not by the Lord directly. The joints of supply refer to the particular gifted ones mentioned in verse 11: the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers. The Body builds itself up not only through the joints of supply but also through each one part, each member of the Body.

We have to stress this strongly. We are not in Catholicism or Protestantism. We are the church. In Catholicism there is the hierarchy of the pope, the cardinals, the archbishops, the bishops, and the priests. In Protestantism there is a hierarchy of pastors. But the church is an organism, the organic Body of Christ with all the living and functioning members. There is no hierarchy in the Body, the church.

We all have to endeavor to avoid any kind of hierarchy. It is so easy for the functioning ones and the non-functioning ones to fall into this snare. There is a natural tendency to have a hierarchy, just like there is a natural tendency for water to flow down from a mountaintop. This tendency still exists among us, so we must be careful to avoid it. Those among us who have the ability to function must be on the alert not to take others' opportunity to function. We must give the ground so that all the saints may have the opportunity to function, and we have to encourage all the saints, great and small, to function.

II. TO EACH ONE OF US GRACE HAVING BEEN GIVEN ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF THE GIFT OF CHRIST FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:7 says, "To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ." This grace was given to us for the building up of the Body of Christ (v. 12). Grace was given to each one of us without exception. We must convince the saints that there is no excuse for not functioning. As long as you believe in the Lord Jesus,

you have been regenerated. In your regenerated spirit, there is a measure. We have to convince the saints of this and do our best to develop their measure.

**III. AS EVERY MAN HAS RECEIVED A GIFT,
EVEN SO MINISTER THE SAME TO ONE ANOTHER,
AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE VARIED GRACE OF GOD**

First Peter 4:10 says, "Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God." In this verse Peter points out that each one has received a gift. The Word says everyone has received a gift, so there is no excuse; we must minister this gift to one another. We have to serve one another with this gift. The word minister in Greek really means serve. A minister simply means a servant or a deacon. Everyone is a minister, a servant, a deacon, a steward, ministering grace to others. Since we all have received a gift, we need to minister this gift to one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God. This is the grace in many aspects. The varied and manifold grace of God can be fully ministered only when all are ministering, or serving.

IV. THE PRACTICAL SERVICE—MINISTRY

Now we want to see something concerning the practical service — ministry (Rom. 12:7a; 1 Pet. 4:10). When we refer to the practical service, we mean the practical ministry.

A. As Deacons and Deaconesses

The practical service, the practical ministry, in the church is by the deacons and deaconesses (1 Tim. 3:8-13; Phil. 1:1; Rom. 16:1). The deacons and deaconesses are the serving ones. First Timothy 3:8-13 gives us the qualifications of the deacons and deaconesses.

*Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Service, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
Copyright © Living Stream Ministry, Used by permission.*

Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, January 22 nd	Job 20:1 – 21:34
Monday, January 23 rd	Job 22:1 – 23:17
Tuesday, January 24 th	Job 24:1 – 25:6
Wednesday, January 25 th	Job 26:1 – 27:23
Thursday, January 26 th	Job 28:1 – 29:25
Friday, January 27 th	Job 30:1 – 31:40
Saturday, January 28 th	Job 32:1 – 33:33