

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – January 29, 2017

### Announcements

- Morning revival this week, *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel*, Week 2, “The Spiritual History of a Normal Christian—the Wind, the Fire, and the Electrum.”
- No Wednesday ministry webcast until the full time training resumes in February 2017.
- Main Hall cleaning (Englehart, Lancasters)
- Second floor cleaning (Kirkland)
- International conference (in Chinese and English) February. 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, Anaheim, CA.
- The deadline to sign up for the middle aged training is February. 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, visit [www.fttamidage.org](http://www.fttamidage.org) or 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.)
- Please fill out household information sheet. One sheet per household. Particularly note the box for receiving church emails.
- Annual church business meeting will be held on February 12.
- If you would like your 2016 donations documentation for tax purposes, please send an email request to [bellevuefinanceservice@googlegroups.com](mailto:bellevuefinanceservice@googlegroups.com).
- We will have overflow prophesying on the All-Inclusive Christ February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Schedule

- Sisters prayer meeting, Tuesday, 10:00 am
- Prayer meeting Tuesday 7:30 pm
- Breakfast, Saturday morning Feb 4
- (All-inclusive Christ chapters 8, 9, 10)
- Annual business meeting February 12.

### Burdens for Prayer

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

**This Week:** January 30 – February 5

**Morning Revival:** *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel, Week 2*

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Engleharts, Lancasters  
Upstairs – Kirkland

<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer at meeting hall
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 am	Breakfast
<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30 am	Lord's Table

### **Ministry Reading Portion**

Basic Lessons on Service

#### LESSON ELEVEN

### **THE CHURCH-BUILDING SERVICE**

#### **B. Serving Others**

The practical ministry is one of serving others. Acts 6:3 says that seven deacons were appointed to take care of the practical need of serving tables. These ones were full of the Spirit and of wisdom.

#### **C. Helping Others**

First Corinthians 12:28b uses the term helps. This refers to the services of the deacons and deaconesses. These verses give us a clear view that the saints in the local church should take care of one another. If you need something, I should serve you. If I need something, you should serve me. The church life is not merely a matter of meeting. Serving one another should be a part of our communal life. In the early church life, the serving ones even took care of serving tables. Paul used the word helps in a very general way. This word covers everything. If a brother does not know where a barber shop is and you help him, this is the practical service and this is brotherly love. To help one another is the practice of the Body life in a communal way.

#### **D. As a Servant, Even as a Slave**

Our practical service should be as a servant, even as a slave. This is according to Matthew 20:26-27. The great ones among us should be slaves to others. At least we should be servants to serve others.

## **V. THE EXAMPLES OF SUCH SERVICE**

In this lesson we want to give three examples of such service.

### **A. The Lord Jesus**

The Lord Jesus said that He came not to be served but to serve, to minister (Matt. 20:28). He served us even by giving up His life. This shows that we even have to die for the brothers if there is the need. We have to lay down our lives for the brothers (1 John 3:16). The Lord Jesus is the example to us of serving the brothers even at the cost of our lives.

### **B. Epaphras**

In the book of Colossians Paul mentioned Epaphras twice. Paul said that he was "a faithful minister of Christ" on behalf of the saints (1:7) and one who was always struggling on their behalf in his prayers (4:12). A faithful minister is a faithful servant. Epaphras went to Paul from Colossae, and came back from Paul to Colossae to serve the saints there. A minister of Christ is not only a servant of Christ, one who serves Christ, but a serving one who serves others with Christ by ministering Christ to them.

### **C. Tychicus**

In Colossians 4:7 and Ephesians 6:21 Paul spoke of Tychicus as a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow slave in the Lord. These verses indicate to us that in the early days some of the brothers served the church full-time. Otherwise, they would not have been able to travel as extensively as they did. In ancient times to travel by boat from one place to another could have taken a few months. It took them a long time to go to a certain place and return, so surely they were serving the saints and the churches full-time.

We should point out that there was such a unique and special characteristic of the church life in the ancient days. The church life is not an organization in which people are hired and fired. The church life is a matter of love toward the Lord and toward the saints. Because some of the dear saints loved the Lord, loved the church, and loved the saints, they served others at the cost of their lives. In the early part of the nineteenth century, there was this kind of situation among the so-called Brethren. This is why they were considered as the fulfillment of the church in Philadelphia, the church of brotherly love. The service that builds up the church must be like this.

**LESSON TWELVE**  
**THE GRACE-MINISTERING SERVICE**

In this lesson we want to see the grace-ministering service. Romans 12:4-6a says that grace is given to every member and that every member has a gift. Ephesians 4:7 says that to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Then 1 Peter 4:10 tells us that we have to be good stewards of the varied grace of God. John 1:17b shows us that grace is Christ Himself coming as the embodiment of God for our enjoyment. In 1 Corinthians 15:10 Paul said, "I labored more abundantly...yet not I but the grace of God which is with me." Then in 2 Corinthians 12:9 the Lord told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness."

**I. ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY  
OF CHRIST BEING GIFTED**

Romans 12:6a says that we all have gifts which differ according to the grace given to us. This shows that all the members of the Body of Christ are gifted. We have to impress the saints with this. They may know that all the members of the Body of Christ are gifted, but they do not use their gift.

**II. EVERY MEMBER HAVING BEEN GIVEN GRACE**

According to Ephesians 4:7 and Romans 12:6b every member has been given grace. We need to read these two verses to the saints repeatedly in order to impress them that all of them have been given grace. In this message what is needed is mainly to impress the saints. They may know some of these points, but they have never been impressed with them.

*Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Service, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord's Day, January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Job 34:1 – 35:16
Monday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Job 36:1 – 36:33
Tuesday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Job 37:1 – 37:24
Wednesday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Job 38:1 – 38:41
Thursday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Job 39:1 – 39:30
Friday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Job 40:1 – 40:24
Saturday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Job 41:1 – 41:34