

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – January 8, 2017

Announcements

- Morning revival this week, *Returning to the Orthodoxy of the Church*, Week 8, “The Church in Laodicea”
- There will be a Bible distribution Tuesday and Thursday this week from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Bellevue College. Please sign up for two-hour slots.
- No Wednesday ministry webcast until full time training resumes in February 2017.
- Main Hall cleaning – Volunteers
- Second floor/entry area cleaning – Downtown

Schedule

- Prayer Meeting, Tuesday 7:30 pm
- Service coordinators meeting, Thursday, January 12, 7:00 pm
- Fellowship with all service group Saturday, January 14
- 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 9 – January 15

Morning Revival: *Returning to the Orthodoxy of the Church, week 8*

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – volunteers
Upstairs – Downtown

Tuesday	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer at meeting hall
Thursday	7:00 pm	Service coordinators meeting
Saturday	8:30 am	Breakfast Fellowship with all service group
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)

In this lesson we want to continue our fellowship concerning the enjoyment of the peace offering. We have seen that God's portion of the peace offering is mainly of two things: the blood and the fat. We have to realize that these two things are of great significance. This is because the Bible reveals that our relationship with God is always based upon three of His attributes: the righteousness of God, the holiness of God, and the glory of God. According to the whole Bible, the relationship we have with God must be based upon or built on these three divine attributes.

The whole book of Romans was constructed with these three elements or attributes. The first section of Romans is concerning justification, and justification is according to God's righteousness. Then the second section of Romans covers the matter of sanctification, and sanctification is by the holiness of God. Then Romans has another section concerning glorification. We have been justified; we are now being sanctified; and some day we will be glorified with God's glory. Romans is constructed with God's righteousness, holiness, and glory because it is a book that shows us the real relationship between God and us. This relationship is based upon and built on God's righteousness for justification, God's holiness for sanctification, and God's glory for glorification. When these three things of God are taken care of in a good way, then there is no problem in our relationship with God.

All the offerings in their reality are for our relationship with God, so in these offerings, the crucial items to God are the blood and the fat. The blood meets the requirements of God's righteousness and holiness, and it also maintains God's glory. Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The cleansing power of the blood keeps God's glory from being insulted by sin. Instead of expressing God in His glory, man expresses sin and his sinful self. Hence, man falls short of God's glory. This falling short of God's glory and expression is sin. The blood cleanses us from every sin (1 John 1:7) and thus maintains the glory of God.

Then there is the need of the fat on the positive side to satisfy God's desire unto God's glory. The fat is to satisfy God's desire, whereas the blood is to meet His requirements. The fat signifies Christ's inward riches for God's satisfaction according to His glory and up to the

standard of His glory. God's satisfaction issues in God's glory. This implies that the fat fulfills God's purpose. The fat is the inward riches of the cattle offered as a sacrifice, and this signifies the riches of the inward life of Christ. This life satisfies God the Father and fulfills God's eternal purpose.

Also, this life has the abundance of riches which preserves the inward functions, typified by the liver and the kidneys. The inward functions are all preserved, protected, and covered by the riches of life. According to our own experiences, we can realize this and testify to this. If we are short of the riches of life, our inward functions become rough, numb, and dull. The more riches of life we have, the more our inward functions become so tender, fresh, new, and living. This shows us that the riches of the inward life of the Lord Jesus preserved His inward functions for them to be so tender and fresh to the Father. This all satisfies the Father's desire unto His glory.

Thus, we can see that by the blood and the fat of the peace offering, God's requirements are taken care of and God's desire is satisfied. Then nothing insults God's glory, but instead God is expressed in His glory. Actually, the blood and the fat should be the essential elements of our service today, with the blood taking care of all God's requirements and the fat taking care of God's desire unto His glory.

2. The Offering Priest's Portion

Leviticus 7:12 through 14 says, "If he offers it for thanksgiving, then with the thanksgiving sacrifice he shall offer unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes of fine flour saturated, mingled with oil. With the thanksgiving sacrifice of his peace offering, he shall offer his offering with cakes of leavened bread; and from it he shall offer one from each offering as a heave offering to Jehovah; it shall be for the priest who dashes the blood of the peace offering." Out of the many cakes offered, one of each kind had to be set apart and heaved unto God as a heave offering. This became the portion of the serving priest.

a. One Cake out of Each of the Following as a Heave Offering unto Jehovah— Christ in His Humanity as Nourishment in Ascension to the Serving One

All the cakes are types of Christ in His humanity, and these become a heave offering to Jehovah. This shows that Christ in His humanity becomes nourishment in ascension to us, the serving ones.

1) Unleavened, Perforated, Thin Cakes Mingled with Oil—Christ Living a Crucified Life Mingled with the Spirit and Easy to Be Contacted and Received

The unleavened, perforated, thin cakes mingled with oil signify Christ living a crucified life mingled with the Spirit and easy to be contacted and received (Lev. 7:12a). The thin cakes are easy to eat, meaning that Christ is easy to be contacted and received. If a cake is too thick, it is hard to eat. These cakes are also perforated, pierced through. This indicates the dealing of the cross and signifies the crucified life.

The four Gospels show us that the Lord's life on this earth was "full of holes." His life was a perforated life, a crucified life. He was living a life which was always pierced through by some sufferings. Furthermore, the four Gospels show us that Christ was easy to be contacted and received, as typified by the thinness of the unleavened cakes. These cakes were mingled with oil, signifying that Christ was mingled with the Spirit.

*Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Service, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, January 8 th	Esth. 4:1-5:14
Monday, January 9 th	Esth. 6:1-7:10
Tuesday, January 10 th	Esth. 8:1-17
Wednesday, January 11 th	Esth. 9:1-10:3
Thursday, January 12 th	Job 1:1-22
Friday, January 13 th	Job 2:1-3:26
Saturday, January 14 th	Job 4:1-5:27