

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – April 9, 2017

Announcements

- There will be a Bible distribution at Bellevue College on April 11 and 12; please sign up to participate.
- Immigration Training, Anaheim, July 12 - August 4
- Registration for the summer training is now open; the deadline to sign up is May 1st.

Schedule

- Morning revival this week, The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel, Week 12
- The Economy of God reading schedule, chapters 22, 23, 24
- Sisters prayer meeting, Tuesday, 10:00 am
- Prayer meeting Tuesday 7:30 pm
- Breakfast Saturday morning April 8
- YP Parent's Prayer and Fellowship (with lunch), April 9
- Main Hall cleaning (Korean saints)
- Second floor cleaning (Hall team)
- Wednesday night ministry webcast 7:30 pm at the following locations:
 - Andy Wu - Redmond 206 617 7767
 - Lu - Kirkland 206 696 2543 (Chinese language)
 - Miyake - Central Bellevue 425 451 7294
 - Menezes - South Bellevue 425 499 5515
 - Lancaster - Bothell 425 482 4499
 - Horace Wang - Somerset 425 653 2249 (Chinese language)
- We have received an invitation to the conference in Spokane with brother Ed Marks, April 28 - 30; all saints are encouraged to attend.
- Puget Sound conference with brothers Ed Marks and Albert Lim, May 12-14
- Memorial Day conference, New York City, May 26 - 29
- Bible Camp, July 24 - 28
- Summer School of Truth, August 7 - 12
- Camp Canby, August 10 - 13

Burdens for Prayer

- Bible distribution at Bellevue college
- Building up an atmosphere of reading the ministry
- Present situation in Germany
- Gospel to the nations in Europe and North America
- Prayer and petition for all who are in a high position in this country (1 Tim. 2:1-3)
- The shepherding of all the saints

This Week: April 10 – April 16

Morning Revival: *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel, Week 12*

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Korean saints
Upstairs – Hall team

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

Ministry Reading Portion

Basic Lessons on Service

LESSON SIXTEEN

**THE IMPOTENCE OF OUR NATURAL BEING
IN THE THINGS OF GOD**

Many years ago in Shanghai, there was a preacher who strongly taught the heresy of the eradication of sin. One day he and some of his followers went to a park which required them to purchase tickets in order to be admitted. He bought three or four tickets to be used by a total of five persons. Some of them entered the park with the tickets, and then one of them came out with the tickets and gave them to the others for them to enter. That preacher brought his young followers into that park in a sinful way. As a result of this, one of the young men began to doubt about the teaching of eradication. He went to the preacher and asked him if this was a sin. The preacher responded by saying that it was not a sin but a little weakness. But regardless of what term you use, sin is sin, and we are sinners. Although you may call it another name, it remains sin nonetheless. We should never accept a teaching which says that we have become so spiritual that it is impossible for us to sin.

However, even though we are still fallen, our regenerated spirit cannot practice sin. Fallen man has a spirit which is reserved for God Himself. To repent involves the conscience, and the conscience is a part of man's spirit (Rom. 9:1; cf. 8:16). For God's own purpose, He preserved a part of man for Himself, that is, man's spirit. Our spirit is precious. Only our regenerated spirit does not sin, so we have to live in our spirit.

LESSON SEVENTEEN

KNOWING THE FLESH

The subject of this lesson—"Knowing the Flesh"—is very simple. After the previous lesson on the impotence of our natural being, we need to see this. My burden in these few recent lessons is to help the saints in the Lord's recovery realize the real service which the Lord wants and to help them see that what Christianity does is absolutely condemned and repudiated in the eyes of God. This is because the works or services in Christianity are either by strange fire (natural enthusiasm), the soul, or the flesh. Now we need a lesson to help us know what the flesh is.

I. THE FALLEN MAN BECOMING FLESH

Genesis 6:3a is the first verse in the Bible which says something concerning the fallen man as flesh. This verse indicates that man fell to such an extent that he became totally flesh. The fallen man is flesh.

II. THE FLESH VERSUS THE SPIRIT

The flesh is versus the Spirit. In Galatians 3:3 Paul said, "Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?" The flesh is condemned and repudiated throughout the entire book of Galatians (1:16; 2:16; 3:3; 4:23, 29; 5:13, 16-17, 19, 24; 6:8, 12-13), and from chapter three every chapter gives a contrast between the flesh and the Spirit (v. 3; 4:29; 5:16-17, 19, 22; 6:8).

III. THE FLESH LUSTING AGAINST THE SPIRIT

The flesh not only is versus the Spirit but also lusts against the Spirit. Galatians 5:17 says, "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these oppose each other that you would not do the things that you desire." There is a warfare between the flesh and the Spirit.

IV. THE WORKS OF THE FLESH THAT DAMAGE THE CHURCH LIFE

The apostle Paul spoke of the works of the flesh that damage the church life (Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 3:3-4). Here I do not list all the works of the flesh; I mention only the works of the flesh that damage the church life.

A. Enmities, Strife, Jealousy, and Outbursts of Anger

Enmities, strife, jealousy, and outbursts of anger are of one group, concerning evil moods and fleshly feelings.

B. Factions, Divisions, Sects, and Envyings

Factions, divisions, sects, and envyings are of another group, concerning parties. A faction develops into a division, and then a division becomes a sect. Jealousy and envyings are two different words in the Greek text. Jealousy is actually envy in a smaller state. When jealousy is intensified and becomes greater, reaching "manhood," it turns into envy. Envy is more bitter and more severe than jealousy. Paul classified jealousy with the first group of evil moods, but he classified envy with the second group of parties. This second group is not just a matter of evil moods but of evil doings. Envy begins with jealousy. When jealousy becomes mature, it is envy. The above two groups of items are the damaging items to the church life revealed in Paul's writings. First Corinthians 3:3 and 4 show that the flesh was a damaging factor to the church life at Corinth.

**V. PEOPLE OF THE FLESH PERSECUTING
THOSE OF THE SPIRIT**

Galatians 4:29 says, "But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now." The children according to the flesh, like Ishmael, persecuted the children according to the Spirit, like Isaac. Paul said that now it is also the same. The people of the flesh always persecute those of the Spirit.

VI. NOTHING GOOD DWELLING IN THE FLESH

In Romans 7:18a Paul said, "For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells." We should not say that we have something good in our flesh. We may think that we have bad flesh and good flesh, but there is no such thing as "good flesh." Nothing good dwells in our flesh.

*Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Service, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, April 9 th	Psa. 141:1 – 144:15
Monday, April 10 th	Psa. 145:1 – 147:20
Tuesday, April 11 th	Psa. 148:1 – 150:6
Wednesday, April 12 th	Prov. 1:1 – 33
Thursday, April 13 th	Prov. 2:1 – 3:35
Friday, April 14 th	Prov. 4:1 – 5:23
Saturday, April 15 th	Prov. 6:1 - 35