

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – May 14, 2017

### Announcements

- This week we are reading *The Glorious Church*, chapter 5.
- Registration for Bible camp is open until June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please see Izumi Miyake or Rose Wu for registration information.

### Schedule

- 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 206 290 3787
  - Menezes - South Bellevue 425 499 5515
  - Lancaster - Bothell 425 482 4499
  - Horace Wang - Somerset 425 653 2249 (Chinese language)

### Burdens for Prayer

- Present situation in Germany and Middle East
- The shepherding of all the saints

<b>This Week: May 15 – May 21</b>		
<b>Morning Revival:</b> <i>The Direction of the Lord's Move Today</i> , Week 5		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Redmond Upstairs – Downtown		
<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
<b>May</b>		
<b>26-29</b>	Memorial Day Conference, New York City	
<b>July</b>		
<b>3-8</b>	Summer Training	
<b>Jul. 12 – Aug. 4</b>	Immigration Training	
<b>24-28</b>	Bible Camp	
<b>August</b>		
<b>7-12</b>	Summer School of Truth	
<b>10-13</b>	Camp Canby	

## **Ministry Reading Portion**

### **Basic Lessons on Service**

#### LESSON EIGHTEEN

### **FURTHER KNOWLEDGE OF THE FLESH**

#### **II. THINGS BELONGING TO THE FLESH**

##### **L. Gossip**

Gossip is another item of the flesh. It can be considered as an unnecessary exchange of information. Gossip is idle talk with idle words. In Matthew 12:36 the Lord said, "I say to you that every idle word which men shall speak, they will render an account concerning it in the day of judgment." The Greek word for idle means "not working." An idle word is a non-working word, an inoperative word, a word that has no positive function and is useless, unprofitable, unfruitful, and barren.

##### **M. Rivalry**

Paul told us in Philippians 2:3 to do nothing by way of selfish ambition, or rivalry. Rivalry is different from competition. In a school, the students compete. In athletics, the athletes compete. Competition is not bad, but rivalry is evil. Rivalry is negative competition. Someone may give a good testimony, and another saint may want to give a better one. Someone may bring three persons into the recovery, and another may see this and want to bring in six. If you always want to be higher and better than others and have something more than others, this is rivalry. Rivalry is of the flesh.

If the saints in the church service, by the Lord's grace, exercise to avoid all the thirteen items of the flesh listed above, we will have a wonderful church service. It would even be good if some of these items could be on our wall as frameable quotes such as "No vainglory," "No outward show," "No ambition for leadership," etc.

#### **III. THE FLESH FIGHTING AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE IN THEIR JOURNEY TO ATTAIN TO GOD'S GOAL**

Exodus 17:8-13 speaks of Amalek fighting against the children of Israel while they were journeying to attain to God's goal. Amalek signifies the flesh. This reveals that the flesh fights against God's people in their journey to attain to God's goal. As we follow the Lord on His way, the biggest subjective and inward frustration is our flesh. The flesh always frustrates, hinders, and fights against us in our journey. The church is delayed from going on mainly because of the flesh.

#### **IV. GOD BEING DETERMINED TO BLOT OUT THE FLESH AND TO FIGHT AGAINST IT FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION**

Exodus 17 tells us that the Lord swore to have war with Amalek from generation to generation (vv. 14-16). The children of Israel overcame Amalek through Moses and Joshua. Moses was praying on the mountain, while Joshua was fighting Amalek. Moses and Joshua are two aspects of Christ: the ascended Christ interceding and the indwelling Christ fighting. We have no other way to overcome the flesh except by the living Christ, who is the ascended One interceding for us and the indwelling One fighting within us.

This warfare cannot be settled once for all. It is a warfare that continues from generation to generation. Day after day and all day long, while we are still in the old creation, we have to fight against the flesh. God is determined to blot it out, but this is not easy. In the fight against Amalek, Moses built an altar and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi, which means "Jehovah my banner" (Exo. 17:15). This means that Jehovah is the banner for fighting. God is determined to blot out the flesh and to fight against it from generation to generation.

#### **V. GOD COMMANDING US TO UTTERLY DESTROY THE FLESH**

In 1 Samuel 15:1-3 God charged King Saul to destroy Amalek utterly, and He told Saul that this was because of what happened in Exodus 17 when Amalek frustrated the journey of God's people to reach His goal. God commanded Saul to destroy everything belonging to Amalek, but Saul did not do it.

#### **VI. WE WILL LOSE THE KINGSHIP BY NOT UTTERLY DESTROYING THE FLESH**

Saul lost his kingship because he did not utterly destroy Amalek (1 Sam. 15:4-23). This tells us that we also will lose the kingship if we do not utterly destroy our flesh.

In Galatians 5:19-21 fifteen items of the works of the flesh are listed. Fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, bouts of drunkenness, and carousings are related to the lust of the corrupted body. Enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, and envyings are related to the fallen soul, which is very closely related to the corrupted body. Idolatry and sorcery are related to the deadened spirit. This proves that the three parts of our fallen being—body, soul, and spirit—are all involved with the corrupted, evil flesh. Thus, in order to deal with the flesh, we have to deal with the lustful body, the corrupted soul, and the deadened

spirit. We need to deal with the flesh by the all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit.

## LESSON NINETEEN

### THE DENIAL OF THE SELF

In the foregoing lessons on service, beginning from lesson thirteen, we have dealt with many negative things that frustrate and damage our service. Lesson thirteen is on the danger and loss of not using our gift. Lesson fourteen is on the strange fire. Lesson fifteen shows us that we need to take heed how to build. We should not build with wood, grass, or stubble, but with gold, silver, and precious stones (1 Cor. 3:12). Lesson sixteen speaks of the impotence of our natural being in the things of God. Then we saw in lessons seventeen and eighteen that we need to know the flesh in a thorough way.

We have to help the saints realize that in the service of the church we must know all these negative things. If we are not clear about these negative things and do not have a thorough clearance from these negative things, we can never have a proper church service. If we are not cleared up from all these negative things, we are still in Christianity in nature. So it is worthwhile for us to stay with the saints on all these negative points.

In this lesson we want to see the need for the denial of the self in our service to the church. The outline for this lesson is simple, but there is the need for much development, labor, and prayer on our part to enter into its intrinsic significance.

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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord's Day, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	S.S. 4:9-16
Monday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	S.S. 5:1-16
Tuesday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	S.S. 6:1-13
Wednesday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	S.S. 7:1-13
Thursday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	S.S. 8:1-14
Friday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Isa. 1:1-11
Saturday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Isa. 1:12-31