

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – May 21, 2017

Announcements

- This week we are reading *The Glorious Church*, 2nd half of chapter 5 and the appendix.
- Registration for Bible camp is open until June 4th. Please see Izumi Miyake or Rose Wu for registration information.
- This is the last day to register for Summer School of Truth in Langley BC. Please see Tony Yu, Tim Liaw, or Atsuo Miyake.
- Remember to register for the summer video training. The deadline is June 18th, after which there is a late fee.
- No Wednesday night ministry webcast this week.
- Memorial Day conference video schedule:
 - Messages 1 & 2: Saturday 5/27 9:30am - 12:30pm
 - Message 3: Lord's day 5/28 10:30am.
 - Message 4: Lord's day 5/28 6:00pm.
 - Message 5: Monday 5/29 10:00am.
 - Message 6: Lord's day 6/4 6:00pm.

Burdens for Prayer

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

This Week: May 22 – May 28		
Morning Revival: <i>The Direction of the Lord's Move Today</i> , Week 6		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Engleharts, Smiths, Lancasters' Home meeting Upstairs – Hall team		
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
May		
26-29	Memorial Day Conference, New York City	
July		
3-8	Summer Training	
Jul. 12 – Aug. 4	Immigration Training	

24-28	Bible Camp
August	
7-12	Summer School of Truth
10-13	Camp Canby

Ministry Reading Portion

Basic Lessons on Service

LESSON NINETEEN

THE DENIAL OF THE SELF

**I. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE SELF AND THE FLESH**

There is a difference between the self and the flesh, but most Christians do not realize this or care for this.

**A. The Flesh Being
the Corrupted and Transmuted Body**

At man's fall his body was corrupted, and then it was transmuted, changed. Galatians 5 speaks of the lusts of the flesh (v. 16b) and of the passions of the flesh (v. 24). The lusts and the passions are the evil things of our fallen body. The flesh is the corrupted and transmuted body. This is the most proper definition of the flesh.

B. The Self Being the Fallen and Rebellious Soul

The soul was created by God but it became fallen. When it became fallen, it became rebellious toward God. In Matthew 16:26 the Lord said, "What shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life?" In Luke 9:24-25, soul-life is replaced with himself, indicating that our soul-life, our soul, is our self.

We have seen that God created a body for man, but He did not create the flesh. The body became the flesh by being corrupted. In the same way, the soul was created by God, but the self was not. The soul became the self by becoming fallen and rebellious. The source of the flesh is the body, and the source of the self is the soul.

**II. WHEN THE FLESH DOMINATES THE SELF,
THE SELF BECOMES AN EVIL PERSON**

In Romans 7:18-21 Paul shows how the flesh dominates the self and how the self tries unsuccessfully to overcome the flesh. When the flesh, which is full of lusts and passions, dominates the self, the self becomes an evil person doing evil things.

III. WHEN THE SELF SUBDUES THE FLESH, THE SELF BECOMES A "GOOD" PERSON

Some people are very strong in their will or in their character, so to some extent, but not altogether, they can control their flesh with its passions and lusts. Matthew 19 speaks of a rich young man who considered that he was good in this way. He came to the Lord and asked Him what good thing he could do to inherit eternal life (v. 16). When the Lord told him to keep the commandments, he said that he had kept them (v. 20). No doubt, he was a "good" person. This shows us that when the self subdues the flesh, the self becomes a "good" person.

IV. THE SELF BEING INDEPENDENT OF GOD

The self is independent of God (Matt. 16:23-24). It does not care for God's will or for God's interest.

V. THE SELF BEING THE EMBODIMENT OF THE SOULISH LIFE, ONE WITH SATAN, AND EXPRESSED THROUGH THE MIND— OPINIONATED THOUGHTS

In this point there are three subpoints. First, the self is the embodiment of the soulish life. Second, it is one with Satan. Third, it is expressed through the mind, which is actually the opinionated thoughts (Matt. 16:23-24). We have seen already that the fallen soul is the source of the self, so the self is just the soul. The self is the embodiment of the soulish life.

At man's fall, Satan not only entered into man's body but also entered into man's soul. This is because Eve firstly accepted Satan's thought into her mind (Gen. 3:1-5). Then she ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which entered into her body (v. 6). Before the fruit entered into her body, Satan's thought had already entered into her mind. Therefore, the fallen soul is one with Satan. This is also based upon what we see in Matthew 16, where the Lord rebuked Peter by calling him "Satan" (v. 23). At that time Peter was in the self, in his soulish life, so he became Satan. This proves that the self is one with Satan.

After addressing Peter as "Satan," the Lord said, "You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men." This shows that the self, which is one with Satan, is expressed through the mind as opinionated thoughts. Thus, Matthew 16:23-24 shows us that the self is the embodiment of the soulish life, is one with Satan, and is expressed through the mind, that is, the opinionated thoughts. The mind is the channel, the means, for the self to express itself.

VI. THE SELF BEING THE HIDDEN, DAMAGING FACTOR OF OUR SERVICE IN THE CHURCH

We need to impress the saints that the self is the hidden, damaging factor of our service in the church. It is like a hidden worm, eating up the fruitfulness of our service. We may have very much service without any result of life because this worm, the self, is operating. If our eldership is not effective, no doubt, the self is there. If our ministry is not potent, the self is there. If our shepherding or fellowship with the saints does not work so well in life, we have to realize that the self is there. The self is the basic damaging factor, but it is hidden.

VII. THE SELF NEEDING TO BE CROSSED OUT

In Matthew 16:24 the Lord said, "If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." The self needs to be crossed out. For dealing with the self, we need to bear the cross. This means that we must remain under the killing of the death of Christ for the terminating of our self. The self is so living, active, and aggressive, so we need to apply the cross every day and all day long.

If our self is crossed out, the ministry will be wonderful, the eldership will be wonderful, all the services will be wonderful, and there will be no problem, no dissension, and no division among us. The self is a great, hidden, damaging factor to our service in the church. We need to share this lesson with the saints with the ministry of life to give them a deep impression of our need to deny the self.

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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, May 21 st	Isa. 2:1-22
Monday, May 22 nd	Isa. 3:1-26
Tuesday, May 23 rd	Isa. 4:1-6
Wednesday, May 24 th	Isa. 5:1-30
Thursday, May 25 th	Isa. 6:1-13
Friday, May 26 th	Isa. 7:1-25
Saturday, May 27 th	Isa. 8:1-22