

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – September 24, 2017

Announcements

- Parents need to sign in and sign out their children for children's meetings. Third through sixth grade signs in at the multi-purpose room. Please sign out your children immediately after the meeting ends.
- Bible distribution at Bellevue College will be this coming Tuesday (9/26) and Wednesday (9/27). Please sign up at the counter to participate.
- The reading schedule for the book *The Experience of Life* is now available on the church in Bellevue website (<http://churchinbellevue.org>). We are reading chapter 4, "Dealing With Sins," this week.
- Registration for the high school retreat is due today.
- Early registration for the junior high boys' retreat is due today.
- Wednesday night ministry webcast 7:30 pm at the following locations:
 - Andy Wu - Redmond, (206) 617-7767, in English
 - Kim - South Bellevue, (714) 213-5213, in Korean
 - Lancaster - Kenmore, (425) 482-4499, in English
 - Lu - Kirkland, (206) 696-2543, in Chinese

Burdens for Prayer

- Mexico and Puerto Rico
- Situation in Houston
- ITERO
- Present situation in Germany and Middle East

This Week: September 25 – October 1

Morning Revival: *The Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel*, Week 4

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – East Bellevue
Upstairs – Hall Team

Tuesday 10:00 am Sisters' prayer meeting

Tuesday 7:30 pm Corporate prayer meeting

Saturday 8:30 am Breakfast

Lord's Day 9:30 am Lord's Table

October

13-15 JH Boys retreat, Easton, WA

20-22 High school retreat, Lakeside Bible Camp

27-29 JH Girls retreat, Easton, WA

Ministry Reading Portion

The Experience of Life

CHAPTER THREE

CONSECRATION

I. THE BASIS OF CONSECRATION—GOD’S PURCHASE

The first main point is the basis of consecration. On what basis must we consecrate ourselves to God? On what basis does God require us to consecrate ourselves to Him? We need to have a basis for whatever we do. For example, when we move into a house and live in it, it is because we have paid a price and rented or bought it. This renting or purchasing is the basis upon which we live there. When a creditor takes action to obtain payment of debt from someone, it is because the other party is indebted to him. The debt is the creditor’s basis for seeking payment. Our God is one who is most legal and one who acts most reasonably. All His doings are legal and have a basis. He cannot obtain something in the universe without paying a price, and He also cannot demand something from us without a basis. When God, therefore, demands that we consecrate ourselves to Him, it cannot be without a basis. In this matter, He has a very solid basis, that is, His purchase. He has already bought us. He can, therefore, demand that we consecrate ourselves to Him.

First Corinthians 6:20 says: “Ye were bought with a price.” Our consecration is based on this purchase of God. For instance, you may go to the Gospel Bookroom and see a great number of books on display, but you cannot help yourself to any of them, because you have no basis for doing so. But if you pay three dollars for one of the volumes, then you can demand that the book be turned over to you and claim that it belongs to you. This demanding is based upon your purchase. The basis of consecration is exactly the same. How can God demand that we consecrate ourselves to Him? The reason is that He has bought us. Some think that the reason for consecrating ourselves to God is because God has created us. This is not right. Consecration is not based on God’s creation; it is based on God’s purchase. In Exodus 13:2 we see that after the Passover, God commanded the Israelites, saying, “Sanctify unto me all the first-born.” The reason for this command is that all these first-born were redeemed by God through the death of the lamb. They were bought by God with the blood of the lamb. To purchase is to acquire the right of ownership. When God has bought us, He then has the right of ownership, that is, He has a basis to demand that we turn ourselves over to Him to belong to Him. The basis of consecration, therefore, is God’s purchase.

God has bought us with none other than the precious blood shed by His beloved Son on the cross (1 Pet. 1:19). How great “a price” (1 Cor. 6:20) is this precious blood! God used this precious blood as the price to buy us, that we may belong to Him.

II. THE MOTIVE OF CONSECRATION—GOD’S LOVE

The motive of consecration refers to one’s heart in consecration. In order to have a good consecration, we not only need to realize its basis; we also need to have a motive. Although one knows the basis of consecration as having been bought and redeemed by God, yet this realization may not be sufficient to touch his feeling, move his heart, and cause him to consecrate himself willingly to God. If the things which God purchased were inanimate objects, such as a chair or a garment, He could proceed directly to use them as He pleases. But what God has redeemed today are living persons, each with a mind, an affection, and a will. Although God wants to have us, we may not be happy to let Him have us. Although God has the legal right and basis to possess us, we may not have the heart to let Him do so. Therefore, when God desires us to consecrate ourselves to Him, He must move our heart. He must give us the motive of love that we might be willing to consecrate ourselves to Him.

The motive of consecration is the love of God. Whenever the Holy Spirit sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts, we will naturally be willing to become the prisoners of love and consecrate ourselves to God. This kind of consecration, motivated by the love of God, is mentioned very clearly in two places in the Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and Romans 12:1.

III. THE MEANING OF CONSECRATION—TO BE A SACRIFICE

When one sees the basis of consecration and also has the motive of consecration, he is willing to consecrate himself to God. What then is consecration? What is the meaning of consecration? Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice.” This verse shows us that the meaning of consecration is to be a “sacrifice.”

What does the phrase “to be a sacrifice” mean? What is a sacrifice? The Scripture shows us that whenever a thing is set apart from its original position and usage and is laid on God’s altar, specifically for Him, this thing is then a sacrifice. In the Old Testament men offered bullocks and rams as sacrifices. The principle is this: The bullock originally lived in a corral and was used for plowing the field and drawing carts. Now it is taken out from the corral and brought beside the altar. There is a change in its position. Then it is killed, placed on the altar, and consumed by fire to be a

sweet smelling savor unto God. This is a change in its usage. Thus, this bullock becomes a sacrifice. A sacrifice, therefore, is none other than a thing which is set apart for God and laid on the altar, with a change in position and a change in usage. Whether it is a bullock or a ram, whether it is fine flour or oil, once it is offered as a sacrifice, it leaves the hands of the offerer and can no longer be used for his own advantage and enjoyment. All the sacrifices on the altar belong to God and are for His use and enjoyment. To put it simply, to be a sacrifice means to be offered to God for His use.

When we present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice, there are also these two aspects: one is a change in our position, and the other is a change in our usage. When we understand this meaning of consecration, we can then discern the genuineness of the consecration of others. When a person says he is consecrated, we may ask whether he has changed his position and changed his usage. If not, he is not a sacrifice, and there is no true consecration. Nothing is offered as a sacrifice without a change in position and in usage. Those who truly offer themselves, therefore, must pass completely out of their own hands and into God's hands for His use.

Witness Lee, *The Experience of Life*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Sunday, September 24 th	Ezek. 22:1-31
Monday, September 25 th	Ezek. 23:1-49
Tuesday, September 26 th	Ezek. 24:1-27
Wednesday, September 27 th	Ezek. 25:1-26:21
Thursday, September 28 th	Ezek. 27:1-36
Friday, September 29 th	Ezek. 28:1-26
Saturday, September 30 th	Ezek. 29:1-30:26