

Announcements

- Living Stream Ministry is getting ready to put in a production order for the Collected Works of Witness Lee. This is a historic project compiling published and unpublished ministry from 1963 to 1997. There is a significant discount for orders this month. The last day to order the Collected Works of Witness Lee is December 31, 2017. Information and payment options can be found at www.livingstream.com/cwwl.
- A larger training center in London is needed to meet the training needs for all of Europe. Land has been acquired adjacent to the current training facility and more funds are needed to complete this project. In the short-term, this is the most urgent financial need for the Lord's move in Europe.
- The final registration deadline for the webcast training on Leviticus is next Lord's day (includes a late fee). The video training begins Tuesday, December 26th and concludes Wednesday, January 3rd.
- We are not permitted to park next door in the Presbyterian parking lot, if the meeting hall parking lot is full, please use nearby street parking or the Chevron parking lot.
- This week we will finish our reading of chapter 10, "Dealing with the Self".
- This week we are covering week 4 in the Holy Word for Morning Revival on "The Recovery of the Church".
- The 2018 International Chinese-speaking Conference in Taipei, Taiwan is Feb 16-18, 2018. Registration has been extended to 12/20/2017.
- Audio messages for the Puget Sound conference on The Recovery of the Church are available on the church in Bellevue website <www.churchinbellevue.org>

Schedule

- Wednesday night ministry webcast 7:30 pm at the following locations:
 - Andy Wu - Redmond (206) 617-7767, in English
 - Miyake - Central Bellevue (425) 451-7294, in English
 - Smith – South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
 - Kim – South Bellevue, (714) 213-5213, in Korean
 - Lancaster – Kenmore, (425) 482-4499, in English
- Video Training Schedule

- Message 1, Tuesday (12/26), 7:00 pm
- Message 2, Wednesday (12/27), 7:00 pm
- Message 3, Thursday (12/28), 7:00 pm
- Message 4, Friday (12/29), 7:00 pm - Open Meeting
- Message 5 and 6, Saturday (12/30), 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Message 7, Lord's Day (12/31) 10:30 am - Open Meeting
- Message 8, Lord's Day evening, 6:00 pm - Open Meeting
- Message 9 and 10, Monday (1/1), 9:30 and 11:00 am
- Message 11, Tuesday (1/2), 7:00 pm
- Message 12, Wednesday (1/3), 7:00 pm

Burdens for Prayer

- Germany
- Fruits to be borne from Bible distributions in Europe
- Winter Training on Leviticus
- Israel

This Week: December 18 – December 24		
Morning Revival: <i>The Recovery of the Church, Week 4</i>		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Korean Saints Upstairs – Hall Team		
Tuesday	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer meeting
Wednesday	7:30 pm	Ministry Webcast
Saturday	8:30 am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table

Ministry Reading Portion

The Experience of Life

CHAPTER TEN **Dealing with Self**

If we desire to deal with self, we need firstly to define what self is. There are many spiritual terms which we use quite often, but when we press for the real meaning, it is difficult to explain them. So it is with self. We often hear people speak about self, but few can define it. What, really, is self? Simply, self is the soul life with the emphasis on human thoughts and human opinions. We can discover this from the Bible, where self is clearly mentioned. [By reading Matthew 16:21-

25], we can find a definition for self: self in essence is the soul life, while the expression of self is opinion. Self, soul life, and opinion are three aspects of one thing.

Now that we have clearly seen the definition of self, we need to see the difference in seven related items: the old man, “I,” the soul life, the flesh, the temper, the self, and the natural constitution. If we wish to pursue the experience of the cross, we should know the definition and differentiation of these seven items very clearly, because these are the objects of the dealing of the cross.

Let us first give a simple definition to each of these seven items: The old man refers to our very being, the created and fallen man. “I” is the title which the old man calls himself. The old man is the “I,” and the “I” is the old man. The soul life is the life of the old man. The life that the old man possesses is the soul life. These three—the old man, “I,” and the soul life—are one and the same. The old man is the man of the old creation which is in Adam, the soul life is the life of this old man, and “I” is the title which the old man calls himself.

The flesh is the living out of the old man, or the living of the old man. Before our soul life is lived out, it is simply the old man, but once it is lived out, it is the flesh.

The temper is man’s natural disposition, especially referring to the bad temperament. Self, as we have seen, is the soul life as expressed in the human idea and opinion. The natural constitution is our natural ability, capability, and wit.

If we join these seven items together, we may state the following: There is a created, fallen man whose name is the old man. He calls himself “I.” The life within him is the soul life, which when being lived out is the flesh. In this flesh there is a part which is bad, the irritability and anger of which is called the temper. In the flesh there is also a good part, the opinion and idea of which is called the self, and the ability and capability of which is called the natural constitution.

These seven items are the objects of the dealing of the cross. Yet these dealings differ. In the whole Bible we find no reference which says that the Lord has put our soul life, flesh, temper, self, or the natural constitution on the cross.* We can only find that our old man has been crucified with the Lord on the cross (Rom. 6:6). What the Lord has crucified and put to an end on the cross is our old man. This is a fact which the Lord has accomplished. When we see this fact and

acknowledge that the Lord has done away with the old man on the cross, then we can say, “I am crucified with Christ” (Gal. 2:20; 6:14). These two references acknowledge what the Lord has done for us. After this acknowledgement, we need to experience this cross in dealing with these last five items: our soul life, our flesh, our temper, our self, and our natural constitution.

Therefore, the whole experience of the cross lies in the following three steps: first, the crucifying of our old man, which is an objective fact accomplished by Christ; second, when we acknowledge and receive this fact, it becomes “I am crucified with Christ”; third, when we go on to experience this fact subjectively, there are five different points, which are due to the five different aspects of the old man. First, the old man has a soul life, which when being lived out is expressed in the flesh, temper, self, and the natural constitution. As we apply in our experience the crucifixion with Christ through the Holy Spirit to our soul life, that is dealing with the soul life. Second, when we apply the death of the cross to whatever is lived out from our soul life, whether it be good or bad, that is dealing with the flesh. Third, dealing with the flesh includes also dealing with the temper. Fourth, when we apply the death of the cross to our opinions and ideas, that is dealing with self, or bearing the cross. Fifth, when we apply the death of the cross to our maneuvering, capability, ability, methods, wisdom, and knowledge, that is dealing with the natural constitution, or the breaking of the cross.

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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Sunday, December 10 th	Zech. 10:1-11:17
Monday, December 11 th	Zech. 12:1-13:9
Tuesday, December 12 th	Zech. 14:1-21
Wednesday, December 13 th	Mal. 1:1-14
Thursday, December 14 th	Mal. 2:1-17
Friday, December 15 th	Mal. 3:1-18
Saturday, December 16 th	Mal. 4:1-6