

## **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – June 30, 2019**

### **Announcements**

- We will continue our ministry reading from the Ministry Digest from section 1 on The History and Revelation of the Lord's Recovery, "The Beginning of the Lord's Recovery in China"
- You can subscribe to the Ministry Digest at:  
<https://www.lsm.org/ministry-digest/index.html>
- We will start an English-speaking new believers meeting starting July 21st. Newer believers are encouraged to sign up; we will cover important foundational matters.
- Webcast training registration is still available but with a late fee. The webcast training will begin July 2nd - 10th. The schedule for the webcast training is:
  - Message 1, Tuesday, July 2nd, 7:00 pm
  - Message 2, Wednesday, July 3rd, 7:00 pm
  - Message 3, Thursday, July 4th, 9:00 am
  - Message 4, Thursday, July 4th, 10:30 am
  - Message 5, Friday, July 5th, 7:00 pm (Open Meeting)
  - Message 6, Saturday, July 6th, 9:00 am
  - Message 7, Saturday, July 6th, 10:30 am
  - Message 8, Lord's day, July 7th, 10:30 am
  - Message 9, Lord's day, July 7th, 6:00 pm (Open Meeting)
  - Message 10, Monday, July 8th, 7:00 pm
  - Message 11, Tuesday, July 9th, 7:00 pm
  - Message 12, Wednesday, July 10th, 7:00 pm
- We need help setting up for the video training on the second floor after the meeting today.
- Registration for the Bellevue/Renton Summer School of Truth is due June 30th. You can register at:  
[https://www.cognitoforms.com/Churchinbellevue1/\\_2019SummerSchoolOfTruth](https://www.cognitoforms.com/Churchinbellevue1/_2019SummerSchoolOfTruth)
- We are continuing with week 4 in the Holy Word for Morning Revival on The Development of the Kingdom of God in the Christian Life and the Church Life.
- The upcoming national college training is planning to receive up to 2800 saints. Financial support is needed to bear the needs of the training. You can donate at  
<https://donate.collegetraining.org/>. You can sign up to pray for the college training at  
<https://collegetraining.org/2019/pray.php>

## Burdens for Prayer

- London Training Center
- Germany
- Everett
- Meeting hall modifications (parking permit)
- National College Training (July 14-20)
- College-age perfecting (Ethiopia)

### **This Week: July 1 – July 7**

**Morning Revival:** *The Development of the Kingdom of God in the Christian Life and the Church Life, week 4*

**Hall Cleaning:** Downstairs – Issaquah Sammamish  
Upstairs – Eastgate

<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30am	Breakfast
<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30am	Lord's Table
<b>July</b>		
<b>2-10</b>	Webcast training	
<b>14-20</b>	National College Training	
<b>August</b>		
<b>10-12, 17-19</b>	Bellevue Summer School of Truth	

## **The Kingdom and the Church**

### **Chapter Three**

#### **THE RELATION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18-19; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Col. 2:19

The opening proclamation of the New Testament is this: “The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near” (Matt. 3:2). The New Testament calls immediate attention to the matter of the kingdom. But after a while, when the disciples had come to know Him, the Lord raised the question of the church. The church was a mystery

that had been hidden throughout all the generations of the past, and it was not until the Lord Jesus had brought His disciples to the point of recognizing Him as “the Christ, the Son of the living God,” that He spoke openly of the church. When Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,” the Lord came in at once with the word: “Upon this rock I will build My church” (16:16-18). It was as though He was saying, “I am the Son of God, the Christ, for this purpose—the building of My church. As the Son of God and as the Christ, I am a rock, the foundation stone of a building that is to be built, and that building of which I am the foundation is the church.”

Let us bear in mind that the first mention of the church is in Matthew 16, and Matthew is the book that proclaims the kingdom. The Lord’s second mention of the church is still in the book of Matthew—chapter 18. The four Gospels record only two occasions when our Lord on earth made reference to the church, and both of these are in the book that specifically proclaims the kingdom. From that fact we may know how intimately the kingdom and the church are related. Throughout the New Testament we find these two advancing together in the closest connection. When the Lord said, “Upon this rock I will build My church,” He immediately added, “I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens.” The keys of the kingdom are given to make the building of the church possible. Where the authority of the kingdom is absent, there the building of the church will be lacking. Anyone who refuses to submit to the authority of the kingdom can at best be a saved person; he will never be built into the structure of the church.

The Bible first presents the kingdom and thereafter presents the church. Where the kingdom of the heavens is in authority, there a church will be built up. A church comes into being where a company of people accept the government of heaven. So it would appear to be the presence of the kingdom that produces the church. But the New Testament goes beyond that. That is only one half of the New Testament revelation; the other half is this—the church brings in the kingdom. The church that comes into being under the rule of heaven, by reason of her submission to the heavenly rule, deals with God’s enemy. It is the presence of God’s enemy that hinders God’s will from being done on the earth, and it is the exercise of God’s authority by the church that casts him out. Then the New Jerusalem appears, and in the New Jerusalem you see the kingdom and the church blending into one. The New Jerusalem is the bride, which according to Ephesians 5 is the

church. It is also a city, which speaks of government, and in this center of government there is the throne of God and of the Lamb. The New Jerusalem combines in itself both the church and the kingdom. And in saying this, we have summed up in a sentence the entire content of the New Testament. We might express it in three statements—the kingdom produces the church, the church brings in the kingdom, and the ultimate issue is the kingdom and the church. The New Testament opens by presenting the kingdom and thereafter presenting the church. But how does the church become an actuality? It is through the exercise of kingdom authority. When the church has ceded to the kingdom the right to rule and has submitted to its sway, the church then brings the dominion of heaven to the earth. All the way through the New Testament we see the church blending with the kingdom and the kingdom blending with the church, until eventually this blending issues in the New Jerusalem. In the New Jerusalem, where you can detect the nature of the church and the conditions of the kingdom, God is able to express His sovereignty fully and can therefore execute His will and display His glory.

Watchman Nee, *The Kingdom and the Church*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord's Day, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	2 Tim 3:14 – 4:8
Monday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	2 Tim 4:9-22
Tuesday, July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Titus 1:1-4
Wednesday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Titus 1:5-16
Thursday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Titus 2:1-15
Friday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Titus 3:1-8
Saturday, July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Titus 3:9-15