

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – September 8, 2019

Announcements

- The church in Berlin has identified a good property for a meeting hall, but there is a financial need to help secure the property. We would like to provide a donation to help meet the Lord's need in Germany.
- Children's meetings resume today.
- We will resume our ministry reading with the Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life starting with chapter 10 this week. We would like to encourage the reading groups to start again. We will meet together next Saturday morning (September 14th) at 10:00 am. If you were not in a reading group, we encourage you to join yourself to an existing group or start a new group.
- Registration for the junior high retreat is due September 22nd. The JH boys retreat is October 11-13, the JH girls retreat is October 25-27. You can register at www.churchinboise.org.
- The high school retreat is October 18-20. Registration for the high school retreat is due September 29th.
- The foundational truths meeting will start at 11 am on the third floor after the break.
- We are covering week 18 in Holy Word for Morning Revival on Numbers.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting resumes this week; the webcast starts at 7:30pm at the following locations:
 - Smith - South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
 - Chang - Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
 - Wang - South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
- The Thanksgiving conference will be held in Houston, Texas. Reserve hotel rooms now.
- You can subscribe to the Ministry Digest at www.lsm.org/ministry-digest/index.html.

Burdens for Prayer

- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications - finding contractor
- District meeting
- Retreats
- Beginning of the new school year
- Children and YP meetings
- College work coordination

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| This Week: September 9 – 15 | | |
| Morning Revival: <i>Crystallization Study of Numbers</i> , week 18 | | |
| Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Kirkland & Bellevue College Upstairs – Hall Team | | |
| Tuesday | 7:30pm | Prayer meeting |
| Saturday | 8:30am | Breakfast |
| Lord's Day | 9:30am | Lord's Table |
| October | | |
| 11-13 | JH Boys' Retreat, Double K (Easton, WA) | |
| 18-20 | High School Retreat, Lakeside Bible Camp | |
| 25-27 | JH Girls' Retreat, Double K (Easton, WA) | |
| November | | |
| 11-13 | Puget Sound Conference | |

GOD'S NEW TESTAMENT ECONOMY
CHAPTER THREE
THE SON'S DEATH IN HIS HUMANITY
WITH HIS DIVINITY THROUGH THE SPIRIT
IN HIS HUMANITY

In human history there was only one person who was qualified to die such a death—the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He died such a death in His humanity. He was the Son of God, having the divine life (1:4; 14:6). He was God (1:1), even the embodiment of the Triune God (Col. 2:9), the aggregate of the Father, of the Son, and of the Spirit. In Him was life, and this life was released through His death. However, if He were only the complete God and not a man, He could not die for man. To die for man, to accomplish redemption for man, He had to be a man with a man's blood (Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22), since only a man's blood can redeem man. Therefore, He was not only the Son of God but the man Jesus Christ. God has the divine life, but He does not have the human blood. God, by Himself, is qualified for everything, but He is not qualified by Himself for man's redemption. Man's redemption needs the genuine blood of a genuine man.

Praise the Lord that there was such a mysterious, excellent, marvelous, and wonderful One who was both God and man! He had the divine life, and He had the human blood. Our Savior, our Redeemer, was the complete God and the perfect man. As the complete God, He had the divine life, and as the perfect man, He had the human blood. Because He had the divine life, He could release

the divine life for the divine dispensing, and His human blood qualified Him to be our Redeemer, to die a vicarious death for us. This God-man's death takes away our sin and sins (John 1:29; 1 Cor. 15:3), and His blood cleanses us from every sin (1 John 1:7). He accomplished His redemption for us, the sinful man, in His humanity, that is, in His flesh (Col. 1:22).

The Word Becoming Flesh

When God became a man, He did not become a new man. John 1:14 does not say that the Word became a man; it says that the Word became flesh. When the Son of God became a man, man had become old, and man had become flesh. In the Bible, especially in the New Testament, *flesh* denotes fallen man. The Bible tells us that God created man, but God did not create the flesh. Genesis 1 tells us that after God created man, He “saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good” (v. 31), indicating that the man God created was very good. In Genesis 3, however, this God-created man fell, and in Genesis 6 this fallen man became the corrupted, fallen flesh through sin (v. 3). Romans 3:20 says that out of the works of the law “no flesh shall be justified before Him.” *Flesh* here refers to fallen man. In the eyes of God, fallen mankind is simply flesh.

Although John 1:14 says that the Word became flesh, in our understanding, we always say that the Word became a man. There is a big difference between the God-created man and the flesh, which denotes the fallen man. The reason God sent the flood in Noah's time was because man had become flesh. Because the God-created man had become flesh, God's will was to destroy him (Gen. 6:7).

The Likeness of the Flesh of Sin

Romans 8:3 says, “That which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” God sent His Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin. Even though Christ was only in the likeness of the flesh of sin, we still must realize that this flesh was something related to sin. In John 1:14 only the flesh is mentioned. John does not give us any modifier for the flesh. Paul, however, uses the term *the likeness of the flesh of sin*. Three items are here in Romans 8:3—the likeness, flesh, and sin. If Paul had said that God sent His Son to come in the likeness of an angel, this would not give anyone a problem. But God sent His Son to come in the likeness of the flesh of sin.

The Bronze Serpent

In John 1:14 we see the flesh, and in John 3:14 we see the serpent. John 3:14 says, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” In this verse Christ is typified as a

serpent. Verse 15 says, “That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.” The Bible likens Christ to a serpent. In John 1:29 Christ is typified as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Lamb is a type of Christ, and the bronze serpent is also a type of Christ. Numbers 21 tells us that Moses did not lift up a real serpent with poison; he lifted up a bronze serpent (vv. 4-9).

If there were a serpent in our bedroom, I do not think that most of us would be able to sleep so well. Even if you gave me a golden serpent, I still would not put it in my room. Gold is precious, but I do not care for gold in the form of a snake. Have you ever realized that the Bible likens Christ to a serpent? The very flesh that Christ became is related to this serpent. The old serpent is in our flesh. Christ became flesh, and Satan, the serpent, is related to this flesh. In the eyes of God, when Christ was crucified on the cross, He was like a serpent only in form, in likeness, without the poisonous, sinful nature. For Christ to be in the form of the serpent is the same as saying that He was in the likeness of the flesh of sin.

Christ came in the likeness of the flesh of sin, and in this flesh was Satan. To say that Christ became flesh and that in His flesh was Satan is heretical. However, to say that Christ became flesh and that in the flesh (not Christ’s flesh) was Satan is correct. To teach the truth we must learn of the attorneys. They use many modifiers in their speech, and they are very careful, cautious, and detailed. For example, the Bible says that the Word became flesh, but this does not mean that the Word became something sinful. The Bible also likens Christ to a serpent, but this does not mean that the Bible likens Christ to something having the poisonous nature. In Romans 8:3 Paul modifies *the flesh*. He says that God sent His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin. Also, the serpent in John 3:14 is defined in Numbers 21. The very serpent lifted up by Moses was a bronze serpent. It had only the form, the likeness, of the serpent, without the poisonous nature.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Numbers*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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| Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes | |
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| Lord’s Day, September 8 th | 1 Pet. 4:7-16 |
| Monday, September 9 th | 1 Pet. 4:17-19 |
| Tuesday, September 10 th | 1 Pet. 5:1-4 |
| Wednesday, September 11 th | 1 Pet. 5:5-9 |
| Thursday, September 12 th | 1 Pet. 5:10-14 |
| Friday, September 13 th | 2 Pet. 1:1-2 |
| Saturday, September 14 th | 2 Pet. 1:3-4 |