

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Oct. 29, 2023

The church in Tempe

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meeting at meeting hall

7:00 pm – Spanish-speaking prayer meeting at home

Thursday

7:00 pm – Small Group Meetings

Friday

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

9:30 am – Cleaning & Maintenance at the Hall

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

*Knowing, Experiencing, and
Enjoying Christ as Revealed in
Philippians – Week 5*

Riches from the Ministry

*The Experience of Christ –
Chapters Two & Three*

Announcements

❖ 2023 December Semiannual Training

- Date: December 25 through December 30
- Location: Living Stream Ministry Campus, MCC
- Registration Donation: Live \$205; Video \$130 due on **October 29**.
- Registration Fee can be sent through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: register@churchinphoenix.org. Indicate on the memo line "2023 December Training".
- Registration form:
- <https://tinyurl.com/cipregisterDecember23>

❖ 2023 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference

- Dates: November 23 through November 26
- Location: Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75201
- Special Group Rate: \$119.00 USD/per night plus tax for sgl, dbl, trpl, & qdrple occupancy rooms.
- Reservation: please call 1-800-228-9290 and request the Living Stream Ministry group rate.
- For online reservations at the special group rate: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50571223>

❖ 2023 CIP Phone & Address List

- Deadline to correct your information is 11/19/23.

❖ 2024 Gospel Calendar

- Pre-order price is \$13.00 (includes shipping)
- You can purchase (pre-pay) the calendar at the church's book room by Oct. 29, 2023.

❖ 2024 International Chinese-speaking Blending Conference in Taipei, Taiwan

- Dates: February 10-11, 2024
- Saints attending the conference should be registered corporately by church, region, or country only. Registration donation is \$150.00 USD.
- Registration donation, flight information, and all other requirements must be submitted by Nov. 30.

❖ Offerings

- Please send your offerings through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org.

Riches from the Ministry

The first two chapters of Philippians are related to the Spirit of Jesus, and the last two are related to the Spirit of Christ. Chapters 1 and 2 are related not to resurrection but to Jesus. Chapters 3 and 4 are related to resurrection. For example, Philippians 3:10 says, "To know Him and the power of His resurrection." Furthermore, Philippians 4:13 says, "I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me." This is the Spirit of Christ, who is related to resurrection...The Spirit of Jesus is clearly portrayed in the first two chapters. The Spirit of Jesus does not strive, and it has no rivalry or enmity [Phil. 1:15, 17]. When Jesus the Nazarene was on earth, He did not have any envy, strife, or rivalry. These three negative things are mentioned in chapter 1. In this chapter there are also some positive things, such as the fellowship and the matter of being in one spirit and one soul. How can we have one spirit and one soul? This is not possible by our spirit, for our spirit is a spirit of envy. When we see others taking the lead, we are envious. Then we begin to strive in the spirit of rivalry. Although our spirit is like this, the Spirit of Jesus is not. Consider the life of Jesus as presented in the Gospels. His life was a life without envy, strife, or rivalry. To be one in spirit and in soul is possible only in the Spirit of Jesus.

In our gospel-preaching life there should be no envy, strife, or rivalry, not even with the opposers. Instead, we should simply preach the gospel by the Spirit of Jesus...if we are not in the Spirit of Jesus, we are not in the fellowship unto the gospel, and we are through with the experience of Christ. To experience Christ we need the fellowship unto the gospel by the Spirit of Jesus without envy, strife, or rivalry.

The problem with the experience of Christ is not mainly with our spirit but with our soul...We who have been in the church life for a number of years are somewhat familiar with the spirit. With us, the problem in experiencing Christ is mainly with our soul. In the past we have laid great emphasis upon the spirit. But simply to speak of the spirit in the experience of Christ is not adequate, for we have not only a spirit but also a soul.

Although the Philippians were good, they had lost their enjoyment of Christ. They may have had a proper spirit, but there was a problem in their soul. They might have been one in spirit, but they were definitely not one in soul. This is the background of this Epistle...The reason for writing the Epistle to the Philippians was that, although they were for the Lord and cared for His servant and were very good in their spirit, they had a problem in their soul because they did not think the same thing [Phil. 2:2]. In their thinking they had a problem. Hence, Paul wrote this Epistle to advise them and even to beg them to be one in soul.

Our need today is very similar to that of the Philippians...I am somewhat concerned that you may not have very much enjoyment of Christ. Perhaps when you first arrived in your locality, you had considerable enjoyment of Him. But as time has gone by, you may have lost this enjoyment. The reason for this is that there is a problem in the soul. Either the sisters are too much in the emotion, or the brothers are too much in the mind. But we all have a problem with our stubborn will...If you do not have much enjoyment of Christ, it indicates that you are not one in soul. Your thoughts and emotions differ from those of others. The reason Euodias and Syntyche were not one was that they had a problem in the soul [Phil. 4:2]. They were not thinking the same thing.

It seems that it is impossible for us all to think one thing. Nevertheless, the Bible charges us to do this. Paul's word in Philippians about thinking one thing is not history. In other words, he was not telling us how the Philippian believers were thinking one thing. On the contrary, it is a word of advice. In our humanity it is impossible for us to carry out Paul's advice, but it is possible by the Spirit of Jesus. If we live by the Spirit of Jesus and not by our soul, we will be able to think one thing. Notice that Paul does not say to praise concerning one thing or to pray one thing. To praise and pray are matters in the spirit. Thinking, however, is a matter in the soul. As we have seen, the hindrance to enjoying Christ is not in our spirit but in our soul. And the problem is mainly not with our stubborn will or perplexing emotion but with our troublesome mind. Our mind is affected by our emotion and will. If our emotion is not finely tuned and if our will is not subdued, we will not think properly.

...In order to enjoy Him, we need to deal with every part of our soul, especially with our mind. If our way of thinking is dealt with, we will have the proper taste for Christ, and we will both experience Him and enjoy Him. We will not only eat but enjoy what we are eating. Whether or not we enjoy the food we eat depends upon our taste. Concerning Christ, our taste is mainly with our soul. This is the reason that concerning the experience of Christ and the enjoyment of Christ, we need to deal with the various parts of our soul. (Lee, *The Experience of Christ*, Chapters Two and Three)