

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Mar. 5, 2023

The church in Phoenix

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meetings at Districts 1 & 2

7:30 pm – Chinese-speaking prayer meeting at District 2

7:00 pm - Spanish-speaking prayer meeting in the homes

Friday

6:30 pm – English-speaking College Meetings

7:00 pm – Chinese-speaking Student Meetings

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

The Divine Dispensing of The Divine Trinity for The Divine Economy – Week 4

Ministry Publication Reading

The Genuine Ground of Oneness, Chapter 4

Scripture Reading:

Deut. 12:1-4, 8, 17-18

Announcements

❖ Annual Business Meeting of the Church in Phoenix

- Date: March 19
- Place: Hall 1 @ 17803 N 27th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85281

❖ First Lord's Table as the church in Tempe

- April 2, 2023
- 1619 S. Hardy Tempe, AZ 85281

❖ Hospitality Request

- Group from Albuquerque arriving 3/11 and departing 3/13: 2 brothers, 1 sister; 1 couple
- Group passing through Phoenix from joining FTTA short-term arriving 3/11 and departing 3/12: 9 brothers

❖ 2023 International Memorial Day Conference

- Dates: Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29
- Place: Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, 540 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611
- Lodging: special group rate of \$139.00 USD/per night plus tax for single and double occupancy rooms (one king bed), and \$149.00 USD/per night plus tax for triple and quadruple occupancy rooms (two double beds).
- For room reservations, please call 1-877-303-0104 and request the Living Stream Ministry group rate for the 2023 Memorial Day Blending Conference. To make
- online reservations at the special group rate, please go to: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50485866>.
- Reservations must be made on or before 5:00 PM local time (CDT) on Friday, May 5, 2023 in order to get this reduced rate.

❖ 2022 Contribution Letter

- Saints who need a 2022 Contribution Letter from The Church in Phoenix can request it from Won Huang via email at: wzhcpa@outlook.com.

❖ Offerings

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

In the first three chapters we considered certain principles related to oneness. Beginning with this chapter we will devote our attention to a number of details. The first of these details is the unique place of God's choice for keeping the oneness. In Deuteronomy 12, 14, 15, and 16 the unique place of God's choice is mentioned at least sixteen times. For example, in Deuteronomy 12:5 Moses charged the people to go "to the place which Jehovah your God will choose." According to Deuteronomy 14:23, God's people were to eat the tithes before the Lord their God in the place where He would choose. The fact that this matter of the unique place is mentioned again and again reveals its crucial importance.

In Deuteronomy 12 the desire of God's heart with respect to the living of the children of Israel in the good land is made known. Verse 1 speaks of the statutes and ordinances that God's people were to observe in the land. In the next verse Moses presents the first of these statutes: "You shall completely destroy all the places where the nations whom you will dispossess have served their gods." In verse 3 Moses goes on to say, "And you shall tear down their altars and crush their pillars; and their Asherahs you shall burn with fire, and the idols of their gods you shall cut down; and you shall destroy their name from that place." Before the children of Israel could have a full enjoyment of the riches of the good land, they had to utterly destroy the heathen places of worship. All the pagan worship centers had to be utterly destroyed. Every place in which the heathen peoples had worshipped idols was to be destroyed, no matter whether such places were "on the high mountains and on the hills and under every flourishing tree" (v. 2). God's people were to tear down their altars, crush their pillars, burn their Asherahs, and cut down the idols of their gods. Furthermore, they were to destroy the names of them from that place. Three main things were to be dealt with: the places, the idols, and the names. This reveals that the good land was to be thoroughly cleared of all the heathen centers of worship.

Deuteronomy 12:4 says, "You shall not do so to Jehovah your God." This indicates that the children of Israel were not to worship the Lord in the same way as the heathen worshipped their gods.

In verse 5 Moses utters a very important word: "But to the place which Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, to His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go." After all the places of pagan worship had been destroyed, God's people were to go to the place chosen by God. In that unique place God would put His name. God's name denotes His person. For His name to be in a particular place means that His person dwells in that place. This indicates that the unique place of God's choice was God's dwelling place, God's habitation.

God does not allow us the freedom to choose the place of worship. In this matter we must fear Him and simply come to the place of His choice. If we exercise the right to make our own choice, we follow the way of the heathen, the way of the nations. According to Deuteronomy 12, the children of Israel were to destroy all the places where the pagans worshipped their idols. In principle, we must do the same thing when we come to the church life. The choice of the place of worship is altogether the Lord's; it is not a matter of our preference. If we act according to our preference, we indulge our lust, for we satisfy our own desire regarding the place of worship.

Deuteronomy 12:8 says, "You shall not do according to all that we do here today, each man doing all that is right in his own eyes." It is dreadful to do what is right in our eyes. The Lord charges us not to behave in this way. Nevertheless, Christians today often say that to them a certain thing is right or wrong. To live in this way is to do what is right in our own eyes. But we must do what is right in the eyes of God. According to Deuteronomy 12:13, the children of Israel were not to offer their burnt offerings in places that seemed good to them: "Be careful that you do not offer up your burnt offerings in every place that you see." They were forbidden to offer burnt offerings on the mountains, on the hills, or under the flourishing trees. They had no right to worship God in the place of their choice. Instead, they had to do what was right in the eyes of God. Likewise, if we fear God, we will not do what is right in our own eyes. On the contrary, we will do what is right and good in the eyes of God.

There are a number of reasons that the Lord commands us not to do what is right in our own eyes but to go to the place of His choice. The first of these reasons is that we should not abuse God's grace. The children of Israel were required to separate unto the Lord the top tenth, the tithe, of the produce of the good land. Furthermore, they were to offer to Him the firstlings of their flocks and herds. They had no right to keep the firstborn or the top tenth for themselves. They were not allowed to eat them at home. Deuteronomy 12:17 and 18 say, "You may not eat within your gates the tithe of your grain or of your new wine or of your fresh oil, nor the firstborn of your herd or of your flock, or any of your vows which you vow or of your freewill offerings or of the heave offering of your hand; but you shall eat them before Jehovah your God in the place which Jehovah your God will choose." These verses indicate that the Israelites also had to present the sacrifices for vows and freewill offerings in the place of God's choice. No doubt, God's people presented the best of their produce and flocks as vows or freewill offerings. The point here is that all these offerings — the tithe, the firstlings, the vows, and the freewill offerings — could be enjoyed only in the place God had chosen to put His name. In other words, the children of Israel were required to go to the place of God's habitation with the top portion of the rich produce of the good land. This indicates that they were not permitted to abuse the grace of God. They had no right to enjoy the top portion according to their taste or preference. Rather, they had to enjoy them according to God's regulations. They had no choice except to bring these offerings to the place God had chosen for His name and His habitation. (*Lee, The Genuine Ground of Oneness, Chapter Four*)