

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Mar. 12, 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 5

Ministry Publication Reading

The Genuine Ground of Oneness, Chapter 5

Scripture Reading:

Deut. 12:6-7; Col. 3:11

Announcements

- ❖ **Annual Business Meeting of the Church in Phoenix and Fellowship Concerning Ministry Burden**
 - 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 Berkeley are arriving 3/28 and departing 4/1: 10 sisters; 18 brothers; 1 couple
 - Group from Fullerton arriving 3/31 and departing 4/2: 12 sisters; 10 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.
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- ❖ **Monthly Brothers' Meeting**
 - Saturday, March 18 at 8:30 am
 - In-person gathering at two districts:
North Hall: 17803 N. 27th Ave.
TSC: 1619 S. Hardy
 - Lessons on the Eldership, Vol. 2, Lesson #45

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

In the place God had chosen, the children of Israel were to eat before the Lord and rejoice (v. 7). Nowhere in the book of Deuteronomy were God's people told that they should go to the unique place to engage in mere "worship." Of course, they were expected to worship the Lord in the place He had chosen but not to worship according to their concept of what worship is. Instead, they were to worship according to God's thought, concept, of worship...The worship indicated in Deuteronomy 12 is not a matter of kneeling, bowing, or prostrating ourselves. According to this chapter, to worship is to eat before the Lord. When they came to the place God had chosen, God's people were to eat the top portion of the offerings and sacrifices before God.

Deuteronomy 12:6 describes this: "There you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and your vows and your freewill offerings and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock." The best portion of the produce of the good land was to be eaten before the Lord in the place He had chosen. The children of Israel were required to set aside the tithe, the top tenth, of the produce of the land and bring it to the place of God's choice. Moreover, they were to set aside the firstlings of their herds and flocks. Three times a year — at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles — they brought the tithes and the produce to the house of God in Jerusalem. During these feasts they could enjoy all these riches in the presence of the Lord. They were forbidden, however, to enjoy these particular portions at home. They could enjoy them only at the times of the feasts and only in the place designated by God. Their eating of the offerings was their worship of God. After bringing the tithes and sacrifices to the proper place, they offered them on the altar. Then they ate of the very things they had offered. There was a portion for God, a portion for the priests, and a portion for the one who presented the offering. Therefore, God's people enjoyed the rich produce of the good land before God and with God. This was the genuine worship of God.

...According to this portion of the Word, proper worship is a matter of eating before God the rich produce of the good land. The good land is a type of Christ, and the rich produce of the land is a type of the riches of Christ. Hence, the worship God desires from us is that we eat and enjoy the riches of Christ in His presence. Spiritually speaking, we all need to gain more weight by eating more of Christ. The focal point of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy is the eating of Christ. If we do not eat of Christ, we cannot worship God. The worship God is seeking is related to the enjoyment of Christ. The various offerings and sacrifices in Deuteronomy 12:6 all typify aspects of Christ for our enjoyment. May we all be impressed with the fact that proper worship is a matter of eating the produce of the good land, that is, of enjoying with God and before God the riches of Christ in the unique place chosen by God.

Deuteronomy 12:7 also says, "You and your households shall rejoice in all your undertakings, in which Jehovah your God has blessed you." This indicates that the children of Israel not only ate before the Lord; they also rejoiced before Him. Eating and rejoicing go together. As the children of Israel enjoyed the produce of the good land in the presence of God, they rejoiced. Apart from the riches of the land of Canaan, they had nothing to eat and therefore no reason to rejoice. Both the eating and the rejoicing were dependent upon the riches.

The ground of oneness is not simply a matter of one city, one church. The ground of oneness is deeper, richer, higher, and fuller than this. We all must learn that in this universe God has chosen only one place, and that place is the church. God requires us to go to this place He has chosen. Spiritually speaking, we must destroy every place other than the church and every name other than the name of Christ. This means that we must destroy our culture and religious background. You were born in a particular region of this country. You need to destroy the influence of that place. Perhaps you had a religious background in a particular denomination. Now you must destroy that denominational place within you. The places that we must destroy include our disposition, temperament, and habits. We must destroy everything that damages the oneness of the one new man.

...In order to fulfill the word of Colossians 3:11, every other place must be utterly destroyed. We must destroy everything that is not the church with Christ. Then we will simply be in the church life enjoying Christ as the riches of the good land. As we enjoy Him with God, we will be planted in the house of the Lord, we will grow, and we will flourish. This is the proper way to have the Christian life and the church life. This is the ground of oneness.

The church life has been weakened because of the lack of willingness to destroy the heathen places. Deuteronomy 12 has great spiritual significance for us today. In our human life and culture there are many places that remain to be destroyed. We must destroy them all and then go to the unique place of God's choice, the church. In the church there cannot be anything other than Christ. Christ must be all and in all. It is easy to say this, but it is not easy to practice it in a definite way. Nevertheless, we have no excuse for not practicing this principle.

In every place that is to be destroyed there is a dedicated pillar, a symbol, or an image. This means that even in our character or disposition there may be such pillars, symbols, or images. Therefore, we must destroy all the places with their pillars, symbols, and images. Do not preserve any place. Rather, destroy them and go to the place of the Lord's choice. As we have pointed out again and again, this place is the church. Having come to the church, we should have nothing other than the person of Christ and the unique way of the cross. Then we will enjoy Christ in the church as the top portion of the rich produce of the land. As we enjoy Him before God, this enjoyment will become our worship, our church life, and even our Christian daily living. Then we will grow and mature on the ground of oneness. (Lee, *The Genuine Ground of Oneness, Chapter Five*)