

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

July 23, 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 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

*Making Ourselves Ready for
the Lord's Coming – Week 4*

Riches from the Ministry

Finding Christ by the Living Star

Announcements

❖ Gospel Trips in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria

- Dates: Oct 8-22, 2023
- Information & Registration:
bit.ly/GermanyGospelTrips

❖ Labor Day Conference with Brother James Lee in Denver

- Dates: Sept 2-4, 2023
- Place: Denver meeting hall at 2180 South Leyden Street
- Meeting Schedule:
Meeting 1: Sept. 2; 9:30 AM
Meeting 2: Sept. 2; 7:00 PM
Lord's Table & Meeting 3: Sept. 3; 9:30 AM
Meeting 4: Sept. 3; 7:00 PM
Meeting 5: Sept. 4; 9:30 AM
- Translation will be available in Burmese, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. Saints requiring translation are encouraged to bring their own FM radios.
- Children's Program: There will be a toddlers' class for children ages 1 and 2 and a program for children age 3 through 5th grade during the morning meetings only. Parents bringing children must take turns helping to serve in the morning children's program. All parents must make their own arrangements for Saturday evening and Lord's Day evening childcare. No children may be left in vehicles or outdoors or be allowed to roam freely at any time.
- Hospitality: Each family must complete and turn in the hospitality request form to his/her own locality for their locality to submit all the hospitality request forms together to the Church in Denver.
- Registration Deadline: Each locality sending saints must submit one master registration list in Microsoft Word, one childcare registration form (if applicable), and all the hospitality request forms from its locality by **Friday, August 4, 2023**. They need to be submitted electronically to email@churchindenver.org.

❖ 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

Merely to hold the Bible in our hand and read Micah 5:2, which indicates that Christ will be born in Bethlehem, does not work. We may say after we have read it that we have it, but we may not have seen it. We may have it, but nothing has happened to us. Those chief priests and scribes knew the Bible so well, but the Lord did not go to them. He went far away to a heathen land to reveal this matter to some pagans, not through the Scriptures but through something which human hands cannot touch — a heavenly star [Matt. 2:2, 9-12].

Oh, we all need to see this star! It is not a matter of holding the Bible but a matter of seeing the star. What is the star? The star is the living revelation, the living vision, not the dead knowledge of the Scriptures in the letter, not the dead knowledge of Micah 5:2. What we need today is not merely Bible knowledge but the heavenly vision, the instant vision, the living vision, the vision that human concepts cannot teach.

Let me check with you. What do you have? Do you have the Scripture verses, or do you have the star? Do you have the scriptural knowledge, or do you have the heavenly star? Do you have the teachings concerning an old way, or do you have the up-to-date, instant vision? Today many have the Bible in their hands, but they have not seen the star...To know Christ today is something living, not according to the knowledge of the Bible in dead letters but according to the living, heavenly star.

In the Bible we see how we may not only follow the star but even become one of the stars. There are two ways: first, by the Bible, and second, by the Spirit.

Second Peter 1:19 gives us the first secret: "We have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." We have the prophetic word, the Bible. However, the prophetic word is not the star; the Bible is not the star. Then what should we do? This verse says that since we have the prophetic word, we need to give heed to it, we need to pay full attention to it, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts.

The word used for star here can be translated into English as "phosphorus." This star is something as phosphorus, bringing light in the darkness. The darker the situation is, the brighter the phosphorus shines. The Bible should not simply be words in black and white; it should not be dead letters. We should give heed to the words of the Bible until something as phosphorus rises within us — that is, Christ as the morning star.

If we deal with the Word livingly and properly, it surely will turn into the living Christ. This is the turning point — the Word needs to be turned into Christ; the written word needs to be turned into the living word. We can never separate Christ from the living word. We should give heed to the prophetic word until it rises within us as Christ, as the phosphorus, as the day breaking through the darkness.

To have the Bible in our hands is one thing; to give heed to the word until the morning star rises in our heart is another. To have the knowledge of the Bible is one thing, but to have a shining star rising in our spirit is another. To take the way of studying the Bible in a seminary means nothing. What we need today is to take the Word into us, to give heed to the living word until something within rises and shines in our heart. Then we will have the star, and then we will be a star. This is not merely the knowledge about Christ but Christ Himself as the living star.

If there are believers on this earth who love the divine Word, I believe we should be numbered among them. We love the Word, but not in the way of dead letters. We love the Word by giving heed to it until something within is dawning and rising in our heart — not the knowledge, not the written code, but the breaking through of day, the rising of the shining star.

In the days of the magi, the seeing of the star was a miraculous occurrence, but today to see the morning star is only normal and should be our regular experience. Day by day we need to have the morning star rising in our heart. We should not merely read the Bible and not even merely pray-read the Bible; we need to give heed to the prophetic word until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our heart. We need to go on until we reach this point.

Today, therefore, the star comes from the living word. I am so happy that in this verse we have the word and the morning star together. First, we have the word; second, by giving heed to the prophetic word, we have the morning star rising in our heart. If we will simply go along continually with this inner, rising star, we will consistently be in the Spirit. This is the New Testament service.

In 2 Peter we have the prophetic word, but in Revelation we have the seven Spirits. Revelation 3:1 says, "These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars." The hand of Jesus holds not only the seven stars but also the seven Spirits. This means that the seven Spirits are one with the seven stars, and the seven stars are one with the seven Spirits. If we have the living word as the morning star rising within us and we are one with the seven Spirits, eventually we will become the stars. We not only have the star shining within us, but by looking to the star and following in the Spirit, we become the stars. (Lee, *Finding Christ by the Living Star*)