

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Jan 30, 2022

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

Vital Factors for the Recovery
of the Church Life – Week 5

Ministry Publication Reading

How to Meet, Chapter 21

Scripture Reading:

Psa. 45:1-17

Announcements

❖ 2021 Contribution Letter

- Saints who will need a 2021 Contribution Letter from The Church in Phoenix can request it from Won Huang via email at wzhcpa@outlook.com

❖ Upcoming Conferences

- International Chinese-Speaking Conference: February 18-20, 2022
- Phoenix Conference with Brother Ron K.: March 4-6, 2022
- Conferences will be held through Zoom. Zoom link information will be emailed to the saints.

❖ Church Prayer Burdens: <http://www.churchinphoenix.org>

❖ Offerings

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

Riches from the Ministry

Here in Psalm 45 we have some principles for composing praises to the Lord. The first principle is that the heart is overflowing with a good matter. When we look into the entire psalm, we see that this good matter concerns the King and the queen. The King, we know, is Christ, and the queen is the church; hence, the good matter with which the heart of the psalmist overflows is Christ and the church. We do need something concerning Christ and the church overflowing within us. The word inditing in verse 1 of the King James Version means "boiling up" in the original language. Something is so burning within us that we boil or overflow. We need to be burned with the good matter of Christ, the King, and we need to be burned with the beauty of the church, the queen. We need to be so burned that our heart simply overflows. This is the first principle of composing praises to the Lord.

The second principle concerning the praising of the Lord is found in the psalmist's statement: "I speak what I have composed." The psalmist has prepared something; he has composed something to speak. What he speaks is what he has already composed. So we all need to learn how to compose. Do not compose in the meeting — that is too late. You must bring to the meetings what you have already prepared and composed before coming. First Corinthians 14:26 says, "Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation." This verse clearly indicates that at the time of meeting, those who gather together already have something. It does not say that everyone will have something but that everyone has something.

I do not mean that we must compose our praises with knowledge in our mentality but with experiences in the spirit. For example, consider the knowledge we have just received in the past chapters concerning the incense. We should not compose praises simply according to this teaching. We need fresh composition drawn from our fresh experiences. Perhaps in the past few days you have experienced the sweet odor of the incense expelling the enemy. Whenever you utter something as incense to the Lord, the evil one is driven away. You have learned this experientially; therefore, you need to compose something out of this experience as a kind of new and living composition. When you come to the meeting, you can offer this at the proper time as an overflowing of what you have already composed. Our meetings then will all be new — not new in doctrine, teaching, or knowledge, but new in the freshness of praises from our current experiences.

If we have composed something beforehand, when we arrive in the meeting, our tongue will be the pen of a ready writer. This is the third principle. First, we need the experience with which to overflow; second, we need the composition before coming to the meeting; and third, we need to exercise our tongue. We all must be the writers, so equipped and ready with our tongue. We need to be overflowing with Christ and the church...

First we need to praise with what Christ is. In Psalm 45:2 we see this. "You are fairer than the sons of men; / Grace is poured upon Your lips; / Therefore God has blessed You forever." This is Christ's being, Christ's person. He is a man, a fair man, the man who is fairer than all men. As a man He is full of grace, and God has blessed Him forever. Hence, in the person of Christ, there is the fairness, the grace, and the blessing. From verse 3 through verse 5 we have Christ's accomplishments — the fighting, the overcoming, and the riding through. Today Christ is fighting, overcoming, spreading Himself, and riding triumphantly. Here it says, "Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O mighty One, / In Your majesty and Your splendor. / And in Your splendor ride on victoriously." Do not think that the Lord is so silent. If we have spiritual eyes, we will see how the Lord is riding through the whole universe. He is spreading Himself by riding and overcoming — this is the way He takes to ride on. I am assured that it will not be long before He will be here; He will return.

We have seen that the church is mentioned as the palaces of ivory in Psalm 45:8. In other words, the church in this verse is pictured as a building. Then in verse 9 the church is mentioned again as the queen. The palaces are the building, and the queen is the wife. In the entire Bible God always uses these two figures to signify the church. In Genesis 2 there are first all the materials for the building and second a bride, Eve. Then when we come to the end of the Scriptures, we see the completed building; it is the bride, the wife of the Lamb. So in this psalm we see the church on one hand as the dwelling place of the Lord and on the other hand as the wife of Christ. How many praises we can compose out of such experience! If we are praising Christ, we can never forget the church. Christ and the church are forever joined together.

Then we come to the third section, the praise to the King about His children. Verse 16 says, "In the place of Your fathers will be Your sons; / You will make them princes in all the earth." On one hand, we are the daughters and we are the virgins, but on the other hand, we are the princes, the children of Christ, who will rule the earth under Christ. In that day the earth in a practical way will be possessed to the uttermost by the King through all His princes. Then all the earth, all the saints, and the entire universe will say, "O Jehovah our Lord, / How excellent is Your name / In all the earth" (8:1).

I believe that this psalm, Psalm 45, is the richest psalm concerning Christ. No human mind could compose such a psalm; it is far beyond human mentality. In such a short psalm of only seventeen verses, how many points, how many aspects, how many items there are, all from which we may compose our praises to Christ. How much we have with which to overflow! May the Lord bring us more deeply into all these things, and may we exercise our spirit to compose and use our tongue as a pen to write praises touching Christ, the church, and all the saints.

(Lee, How to Meet, Chapter Twenty-One)