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Sunday School Lesson – September 17, 2017

Excerpts from: *The Lord's Supper Holy Communion* written by Pastor Eddie E. Willis Sr.

FELLOWSHIP

According to its basic biblical meaning, fellowship is concerned not with people enjoying each other's company, but with people participating together in something. Fellowship is communion – having a share in something.

FELLOWSHIP 'WITH' MEANS SHARING 'IN'

An example of the biblical meaning of fellowship is the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion. The believer's act of eating bread and drinking wine in the Lord's Supper is an act of fellowship with Christ, for it is a spiritual sharing in his body and blood. It is a participation in Christ and all that his sacrificial death means to the believer (I Corinthians 10: 16). By being united with Christ, the believer shares in him, has fellowship with him (I Corinthians 1: 9; Hebrews 3: 14). Likewise the believer has fellowship with the Father (I John 1: 3) and with the Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 13: 14; Philippians 1: 21; Hebrews 6: 4), for through faith in Christ he has become a sharer in the divine nature. (II Peter 1: 4).

In all these cases the fellowship may involve only the individual believer and God. The believer may have fellowship with God, regardless of whether his fellow believers join with him. If others join with him, they may all have fellowship together with God. Therefore, when the Bible speaks of Christians having fellowship together, it means that together they have fellowship with God, not that they enjoy being with each other (I John 1: 3). But by having fellowship together with God, they will indeed be joined together in true happy union (St. John 17: 21 – 22; I Corinthians 10: 16 – 17).

Sin spoils the believer's fellowship with God. Those who think they can sin as they please and still have fellowship with God are deceiving themselves. By contrast those who live righteously will enjoy unbroken fellowship with God, because God in his graces cleanses the sins that they unknowingly (un-willfully) commit. (I John 1: 6 – 7)

Fellowship with Christ means not only sharing in the blessings that come through his sacrificial death, but also sharing in the sufferings that he endured (Galatians 2: 20; Philippians 3: 10; I Peter 4: 12 – 14; Revelation 1: 9). But if people have fellowship with him in his suffering they will also have fellowship with him in his glory (II Timothy 2: 11 – 12; I Peter 5: 1 – 4).

NO CROSS – NO CROWN

Sharing in a common possession (*The Fellowship of the Sheepfold*):

As Christians jointly participate in Christ, so this fellowship binds them together (Acts 2: 42). There is therefore a sense in which they have fellowship with one another, but again this fellowship is usually in someone or something that they have as a common possession (Philippians 1: 7; Hebrews 3: 14; I Peter 1: 3 – 4). Their fellowship is a joint sharing in a common faith (Titus 1: 4), in a common salvation (Jude 3) and even in their common sufferings (II Corinthians 1: 7; Revelation 1: 9). They share in the gospel by helping those who preach it (Philippians 1: 5; 4: 14 – 18), and share the financial support of the poor Christians by giving money to help them (Romans 15: 26 – 27; II Corinthians 8: 1 – 5; 9: 10 – 12). From this latter example 'fellowship' developed the more specialized meaning of 'financial contributions' (Romans 15: 26; II Corinthians 8: 4; 9: 13).

There are certain things that the Christian is not to have fellowship with, not to share in, not to participate in. He is not to identify with another person in a way that shares in the wrongdoing of that person (I Timothy 5: 22; II John 10 – 11). Neither is he to share in a marriage with a non-believer (II Corinthians 6: 14 15) or in a religious feast where food has been offered to idols (I Corinthians 10: 20 – 21). He is to have no part, no share, in anything that is sinful (Ephesians 5: 11; Revelation 18: 4).

SINNERS/UNSAVED (7 – 11 and 12 & older)

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 45: 5 – 7

Subject: **I AM THE LORD AND THERE IS NONE ELSE, THERE IS NO GOD BESIDE ME: I GIRDED THEE, THOUGH THOU HAST NOT KNOWN ME. Isaiah 45: 5 (KJV)**

Text: Isaiah 45: 12

Introduction: Isaiah 46: 5 – 11

Lesson Outline

1. Deuteronomy 32: 39
2. Job 12: 1 – 25
3. Revelation 19: 5 – 6
4. Isaiah 41: 8 – 13
5. Psalm 29: 1 – 3