

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East Invitation: The Spirit and Bride Say, Come

Knut Holdhus
November 30, 2024



Dr. Michael Balcomb speaking 24th Nov. 2024

"One of the favourite words of God is 'come'", claims Michael Balcomb, extending invitation. "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'"

Part 1 of extracts from a sermon titled "The Spirit and the Bride Say, 'Come!'", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), gave at the Sunday service at the River South branch in London, UK on 24th November 2024. Slightly edited.

As you can see, my title is "The Spirit and the Bride Say, 'Come!'"

This was the theme of the seminar in Las Vegas that I just returned from late Friday night. And

of course it's talking about this verse in Revelation 22:17.



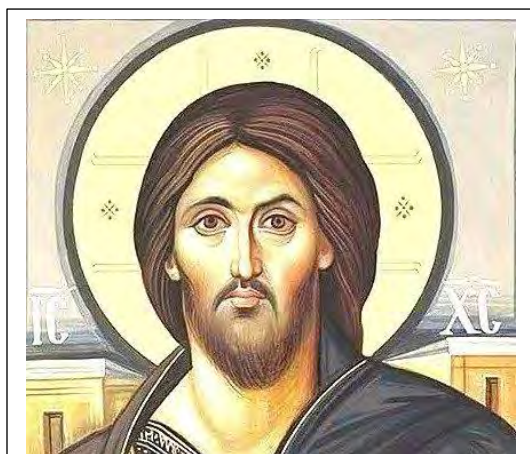
By the way, this is the 13,997th Bible verse, only two from the end in the 1189th chapter. And [True Father](#) said that [God](#) deliberately concealed the final message of the Bible right at the very end. And it is in fact the last word from [God](#) for 2000 years if we consider the Bible as the authoritative word of [God](#).

We're going to read it together [...] Shall we give it a try?

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'
And let the one who hears say 'Come!'
Let the one who is thirsty come;
and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17)

I think our Heavenly Parent's favourite word is "come". For example, in the Old Testament time, [God](#) said to the people of Israel,

"Come now, let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow [...]." (Isaiah 1:18)



Jesus of Nazareth

And Jesus said,

"Come to me all you who labour, [...] and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

And in this verse we have the Spirit telling us to come to receive the water of life.

So there's a principle here. Although [God](#) has been longing and waiting for thousands of years, our Heavenly Parent does not force or insist on what he wants, what she wants. It's always a matter of an invitation, but it's a really pointed invitation:

"Come! Don't think about it! Don't check your calendar!

Come! And come for something really special - to live eternally in the [Kingdom of God](#) with our Heavenly Parent."

But it starts, as we well know, with a very special event which we've heard a lot about this year - the 'marriage supper of the Lamb' [Editor's note: Revelation 19:6-9].

You may have heard so much about it that you don't want to hear anymore, but the bad news is you're going to hear about it one more time today.



Mother Moon speaking in Munich, Germany 19th May 2024

Of course, [True Mother came to Munich](#) in May. [...] It is a windy autumnal day today, with the leaves blowing on the ground. So I thought,

"Let's go back for a moment to spring and that very happy day when [True Mother](#) came to [speak to us](#) in Munich."

We had two and a half thousand people in the room, but later on we found out another 20,000 had been watching online, which is really quite extraordinary. [...]

[True Mother](#) was really smiling the rest of the day. And of course, she talked about the 'marriage supper of the Lamb',

"I came here today because of Jesus' wish, Jesus, who said that he would come again. And when he returns, there will be the 'marriage supper of the Lamb', and only then can we see the completion of the Christian providence."

And later on that day, at lunch, and again that evening when we went to visit [True Mother](#) in her hotel room, she

emphasized,

"What I really want you to be doing in Europe is to testify to the Christian churches and people of other faiths. For 2000 years, Jesus has been working in Europe to prepare for this day."

But you need to give the invitations, right? You need to invite people to come to this event.

This summer, Fumiko [Mrs. Balcomb] and I were happy and fortunate to celebrate not the 'marriage supper of the Lamb', but the marriage supper of our little lamb, our youngest son. And when you plan a big event, there's a number of things you think about, right? First of all, you try to set the date, and then you start thinking about the potential guests, who might be a good person to come. And then you think about who will actually get an invitation and then hopefully they'll RSVP (respond) and they'll say, "Yes, I'm coming." Then, with that information you can plan the event.



Who's invited to the 'marriage supper of the Lamb' - not one family's wedding, but this culminating event at the end of history?

A long time ago, a famous evangelist went to Chicago, and he was welcomed by the mayor. The preacher said,

"Could you give me a list of some of the people in Chicago who need to hear the gospel message?"

He was thinking, "Perhaps the civic leaders or persons with positions."

The mayor said, "Just a moment." He went out and came back with the Chicago phone book. He said,

"Here it is. Everybody in Chicago is in need of the gospel message."

Reaching out to Christians. I've been doing a bit of that lately with your help. For example, we held a [Divine Principle](#) workshop in Birmingham about six weeks ago in a Christian church with 150 or so people of all faiths actually coming to hear the [Divine Principle](#). [...]

And as you know, I've just come back from Las Vegas where this week we had the World Clergy Leadership Conference which is now called the World Christian Leadership Conference. [...]

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon

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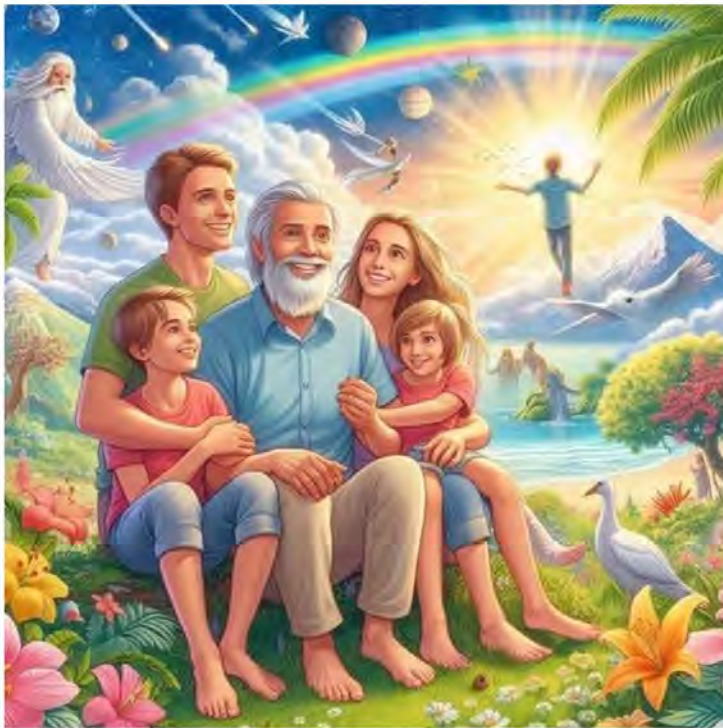
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The Day When Heavenly Parent's Dream Comes True

• August 24, 2024 • Knut Holdhus



The need to clearly understand our starting point and destination in order to experience the day when Heavenly Parent's dream comes true



Joo-hwa Lee giving her lecture 23rd August 2024. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission via PeaceTV.

The first part of a prize-winning presentation given by Joo-hwa Lee, a young South-Korean participant in a sermon competition held 23rd August 2024 as part of the events organized by the Family Federation in Gapyeong, South Korea commemorating the 12th anniversary of Father Moon's passing in 2012.

Today, I'll be giving a lecture based on presentation 5 from "The Status and Value of True Parents from the Viewpoint of Heaven's Providence".

The title of my speech will be "The Long Anticipated Day When Heavenly Parent's Dream Comes True".

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Before I begin my lecture, I'd like to ask you one question,

"What do you do when you get lost on your way to your destination?"

Most people will turn on their GPS, press their destination, and find out how to get there. In this way, when searching for directions, we set a starting point and a destination.



Guided by GPS. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 24th August 2024.

But what happens if we don't know one of these? It will clearly be difficult to find our way.

So, when I watch the news every morning, I feel like I'm living amidst various problems, like

- parents killing their own children or children killing their parents – parricide,
- obsessions,
- violence against one's partner in the name of love,
- citizens losing their lives,
- the war between Israel and Hamas,
- teenagers living isolated from the world after the coronavirus pandemic,
- school violence where the age of those committing crimes getting lower every year,
- natural disasters caused by humans,
- reckless destruction of nature, and so on.

In this kind of world, many of the future generation are giving up on the things they should enjoy and dream of. We are called the "endpoint generation".

In the midst of these countless problems, I came to think of this question:

"What is the origin of these numerous problems and such suffering?"

We have been struggling to solve these problems until now, but why couldn't we solve them? We can see that this is like having a destination called happiness but instead falling into a condition in which we lose the way, not knowing how to get there.

The apostle Paul expressed it like this in Romans 7:21-24,

"So I find this law at work: although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" (NIV)



Saint Paul (ca. 10-67 AD), one of the apostles of the early church and author of several letters in the New Testament. From painting by El Greco, from Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri, USA. Photo: Jonathunder / Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image

All problems and difficulties stem from the two minds of human beings. The multitude of humanity is unable to escape from the quagmire of this contradiction. [...]

[...] This contradictory nature of human beings brings about family contradictions and causes numerous problems through domestic violence, infidelity, divorce, and lack of family communication.

Such families create as well social contradictions. And this creates against social structures and institutions that oppress or create differences.

When such family contradictions form a nation and the world, just as Charles Tilly (1929-2008) said, "War made the state, and the state made war."

States inevitably fall into a national contradiction where war becomes a justification for forming the state. This leads to an increasingly deeper quagmire that cannot be controlled.



What happens when you are struggling to get out on your own from a quagmire? You are drawn deeper into it. So how can you get out of it? You can never get out of that quagmire without going through someone else.

Ultimately, we cannot solve this difficulty alone. The Messiah is

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In a quagmire. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 24th August 2024.

...therefore necessary to save us who have fallen into the quagmire.

What is the common point of all these problems discussed above? To understand this, we must first

realize that there is a clear starting point from where the problems began. It all started with the parent-child-relationship.

Everyone, since we have lost our original Parent, we struggle to solve this in the present circumstances where we do not know our starting point and our destination.

To solve this, we need to clearly understand our starting point and our destination.

We need to know how to use GPS to go to the ultimate peace and ultimate happiness.

Everyone, lets investigate the starting point. [...] In the beginning, our Heavenly Parent had a dream. Our Heavenly Parent wanted to live with, feel with, and share with the humans that He/She created.

Our Heavenly Parent walked a course of waiting and waiting for



thousands of years for that day. And that day the dream begins is none other than the proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven – “Cheonilguk” in Korean. Cheonilguk basically refers to a kingdom that starts when two become one.

So, who are the two we’re talking about here? It refers to a kingdom that starts when the Heavenly Parent, who represents the spirit world, and the True Parents, who represent the earthly world, became one.

Our Heavenly Parent wanted to become one with us human beings and share His/Her heart with them. To live together as one was the purpose of our Heavenly Parent creating human beings.

That point is where we are reborn as sons and daughters who become what we humans were originally meant to be, a state that was lost through the fall of Adam and Eve in the beginning.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like the “original garden” where we converse with and live in harmony with our Heavenly Parent.

Text based on simultaneous translation from Korean to English, edited version. Not all ideas expressed may be the official view of the Family Federation.

Featured image above: A happy family in a kingdom of heaven. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 24th August 2024.

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