

# **Sharing with gratitude**

**[Short Word Meditation (1)]**

**James Kim**

## **Are you familiar with suffering?**

Although Jesus Christ is familiar with suffering (Isa. 53:3)

I am familiar with comfort.

## **Can Satan entice us even by using close loved ones?**

Satan deceives us.

He can even use

Our brothers and sisters,

Our children,

Our wife (husband)

Our friends who share life with us

(Deut. 13:1-5).

## **We can't get closer.**

We cannot get closer to each other in Christ

With those who are not repenting,

With those who are not forgiven.

(Cf.: Eph. 2:13)

## **He shouldn't have gotten closer.**

Where the Lord will destroy in the future

Lot shouldn't have gotten closer there (Gen. 13:10, 12).

Eventually he lived in there (14:12) and made friends with them (19:7).

And he gained an authority there (v. 1).

It was none other than Sodom and Gomorrah where wicked and great sinners lived (13:13).

## **They will become poor.**

Drunkards,

Gluttons,

Drowsiness are related.

The result is they will become poor (Prov. 23:21).

## **We must live sincerely even in poverty.**

Better a poor but wise whose walk is blameless

Than a fool whose lips are perverse and who no longer knows how to receive instruction

(Prov. 19:1; Eccle. 4:13).

## **We must not join**

When we have too much concern about two brothers are arguing with each other in church,  
We may interfere with it because we want to know why they are fighting.  
Then there is greater chance that we may make contention bigger  
By listening to only one side and  
Not being neutral but joining and leaning to that side (cf. Prov. 26:17).

## **“Do not be like Cain”**

"Do not be like Cain" (1 Jn. 3:12).  
Like Cain, we should not hate our brothers (v. 15).  
“Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer” (v. 15).  
Like Cain, we should not kill our brother (v. 12).  
We must know that “no murderer has eternal life in him” (v. 15).  
Cain killed his younger brother Abel because his own actions were evil (v. 12).

Be like Abel!  
We must be killed like Abel.  
Doing like Abel means saving another person through our own death.  
To be like Abel is to be like Jesus.  
Jesus was killed to save us (4:9).  
We too must be killed like Jesus.

## **We must not be like Cain.**

We must not belong to the evil one and murder our brother

Because our own actions are evil and our brother's actions are righteous (1 Jn. 3;12).

We who do not love our brothers (sisters) but hate them are murderers (v. 15).

## **We should not disguise ourselves.**

We must not disguise ourselves (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

## **The purpose of God's fiery trial in the wilderness is ...**

1. To test our family members to know what is in our hearts, whether we will keep His commandments or not (Deut. 8: 2).
2. To make our family members to understand that we do not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord (v. 3).
3. To do good for us in the end (v. 16).

## **The more we are hated by our family?**

As the Lord extended kindness to Joseph, who was hated even more by his older brothers  
(Gen. 37:3-5, 8; 39:21)

I think the more we get hated by people, especially by our own families,  
God extends His kindness to us.

## **Hidden intention of a cunning woman?**

A cunning woman (a harlot)

Hides her intention

And meet a foolish man who is without wisdom (Prov. 7:10).

Her hidden intention is to dig a pit (22:24; 23:27-28; cf. 26:27)

In order to make him to be unfaithful to his marriage.

The true hidden intention of the harlot

Is to make many men to destroy the covenant

That they have made during their marriage ceremony (Park Yun-sun).

## **Let's not interfere**

We don't need to go through unnecessary difficulties

By interfering in a quarrel that is not our own as a passer-by.

It's not wise

And it's not loving neighbor

To meddle in the quarrel that is not our own

(Prov. 26:17; 1 Pet. 4:15).

## **Even though I know it's adultery ...**

I saw a scene I shouldn't see.

I shouldn't be interested, but I was interested.

In the end, I sinned even though I knew it was adultery (2 Sam. 11:2-4).

## **Even if we think we are trapped ...**

Although our adversary may think that we are trapped (Exod. 14:3; 1 Sam. 23:7)

God will provide a way out and enable us to handle it (1 Cor. 10:13).

## **“a staff of reed”**

Although it seems on the surface that we can rely on

Something like “a staff of reed” (or a person) (Ezek. 29:6)

So we walk with that staff of reed as we lean on it,

But eventually we tore open our shoulders and

We broke and our backs are wrenched (v. 7).

Therefore, the Lord who loves us

Makes the staff of reed, which we leaned more than the Lord, very weak

So that never again will we look at the staff of reed and rely on it.

Therefore, the Lord makes the staff of reed as a reminder of our sin

In turning to that staff for help (vv. 15-16).

This is God's grace and love.

## **Faith and bearing**

Need strong faith in order to bear with the failings of the weak (Rom. 15:1).

## **Let's offer thanksgiving prayer**

Let's not be anxious about anything,  
But in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
Let's present our requests to God (Phil. 4:6).

## **Sharing with gratitude**

There will be left over when we share with thanksgiving (Mk. 8:6-8).

## **When we begin to praise the Lord with thanksgiving ...**

As we begin to praise the Lord with thanksgiving because of His eternal lovingkindness  
By trusting God that this great crisis is in God's sovereign hands  
And God will certainly deliver us from it,  
Then God will work and will destroy our enemies  
(2 Chron. 1:1-23).



## **Thank God and give glory to Him**

He who has been pitied by the Lord and healed  
Should go to the Lord and bow down,  
Giving thanks to Him,  
Should give glory to God  
(Lk. 17:11-19).

## **I can only thank God.**

I can only thank God (1 Tim. 1:12)  
Because even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man (v. 13),  
The worst sinner (v. 15),  
Christ Jesus my Lord has given me strength that  
He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service (v. 12).

## **Let's find the conditions to be thankful for.**

Let's not be anxious about anything as the Scripture says,  
But in faith let's find the conditions to be thankful for  
Even in the midst of our worrisome circumstances  
And let's offer our prayer and petition with thanksgiving  
(Phil. 4:6).

## Those who overuse their power

Those who overuse their power hotly pursue the afflicted (Ps. 10:2).  
They give trouble and grief (v. 14) to  
Those who are weak (v. 2), helpless (vv. 9, 12),  
Unfortunate (v. 10), innocent (v. 8)  
Their mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression,  
So their tongue hurts others and sins (v. 7).  
They sit in the lurking places of the villages,  
Their eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate,  
And they kill the innocent (v. 8).  
They lurk in a hiding place as a lion in their lair  
And lurk to catch the afflicted when they draw them into their nest (v. 9).

They boast of their heart's desire and are the greedy people (v. 3).  
They are arrogant and haughty (v. 4).  
So they say, "Nothing will shake me;  
I will always be happy and never have trouble" (v. 6).  
They don't seek God;  
In all their thoughts there is no room for god (v. 4).  
They think that God has forgotten.  
He covers His face and never sees (v. 11).  
Their ways are always prosperous (v. 5).  
So they don't realize that God's judgement is waiting (v. 5).

But God saw the wicked things they were doing.  
The Lord knows that they are giving trouble and grief (v. 14).  
Therefore, the Lord will judge them (v. 18).

But the Lord helps the helpless who commits himself to Him (v. 14).  
He listens to the desire and the cry of the afflicted who are in trouble and grief  
And encourages them (v. 17).

## **Worship that costs me something?**

What is the price that I am paying for worshiping God?

(2 Sam. 24:24)

## **To give to those who cannot afford to repay ...**

When we give to our neighbor

We should give to “the poor” who cannot repay us,

Rather than to “the rich neighbors” who are capable of repaying us.

The reason is because we will be blessed because they cannot repay us.

That blessing is we will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

(Lk. 14:12-14; cf. Mt. 25:40).

## **Shepherds who are worse than dogs**

Shepherds who are worse than dogs don't tell the flock to go the right way.

The Bible says that these shepherds are “mute dogs” who cannot bark (Isa. 56:10).

## **The holy God is just.**

David who was convinced that  
God who struck Nabal (1 Sam. 25:38)  
Would also strike Saul (26:10) ...  
Since David had done evil in the sight of the Lord (2 Sam. 11:27)  
God struck the child of David and the Uriah's wife Bathsheba (12:15)  
So the child eventually died (v. 18).  
After all, David not only experienced God striking Nabal and Saul  
But also his own child.  
The holy God is just.

## **Christians who regard the God's command as easy to disobey without any hesitation**

Although we rebel against the command of the Lord (Deut. 1:26) without trust Him (v:32)  
We regard His command as easy to obey without hesitation  
Even though we didn't truly repent our sin (v. 41).  
This will lead us to disobey God's command again and again without hesitation (v. 42)  
That will result in sin.

## **Refuse and reject**

The fool and arrogant person  
Refuses and rejects the advice of the wise (2 Chron. 10:1-15).

## **We shouldn't be disobedient.**

We shouldn't be disobedient to the vision from heaven (the revelation from God).

We shouldn't be disobedient to the Lord's calling (Acts 26:19).

## **False pastors bear bad fruit.**

False pastors who are like "the bad tree"

And who prophesies in His name,

Cast out demons in His name,

Perform many miracles in His name,

Practice lawlessness

And thus bear bad fruit.

(Mt. 7:17, 22, 23).

## **We shouldn't love the false gospel.**

Now even though we don't have peace  
Because of our unrepented sins  
We like to hear the message "Peace, peace" and love the false gospel.  
How can we Christians who know that we are sinning against God now  
Enjoy peace when there is no peace  
By just hearing the false message of "Peace, peace"?  
Shouldn't we first repent our sins and turn to God  
So that we enjoy peace  
By receiving forgiveness from God?  
Why, then, do we want to enjoy peace without repentance and turning to God?  
Why do we want to be free from sin without forgiveness?  
I think we no longer have the biblical concept of sin.  
We don't regard sin as sin.  
And since God's punishment is slow,  
We are bold in committing sins against God.  
Why have we come to this point?  
The reason is because we the pastors are preaching and teaching  
Other gospel that is false gospel to God's people.  
Now we say that we are preaching and teaching them the way to the Father God and His commands,  
Without truly knowing the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Now we the pastors are not nurturing God's people with "knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:15).  
As a result, the church members now consider the message  
'God bless you. Live positively. Then you can have happiness on this earth.'  
Than "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 3:2).  
We must love this false gospel (Jer. 5:31).

## **False Prophet, False Pastor?**

Like the false prophets who stole God's words  
At the time of Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 23:30)  
There are false pastors who plagiarizing sermons in this age.

## **False rich**

A false rich man's ways are perverse (Prov. 28:6).  
Although he seems to walk on the good way outwardly  
He is actually walking on the evil way (Park Yun-sun).

In short,  
The false rich man is gathering his riches  
By inconsistent behavior between outward and inward actions.

## **Isn't it a lie?**

Isn't it lie  
That we don't love our brothers who we have seen  
And saying that we love God who we have not seen?  
(1 Jn. 4:20)

## **Even those who have been tempted by “a lying spirit” ...**

Even those who have been tempted by “a lying spirit” (2 Chron. 18:21)  
Know that God’s word of disaster is “the truth” (v. 15; cf. vv. 18-22, 29).  
And yet the reason why they refuse to accept the truth is  
Because that word of God is not “good” about them but “bad” (vv. 7, 17).

## **Those who take delight in lies**

Those who take delight in lies  
Bless with their mouths  
But curse in their hearts.  
(Ps. 62:4).

## **We shouldn’t cause anyone to stumble.**

We shouldn’t cause those whom we want for them to be saved to stumble.

Those who cause them to stumble ...  
Don’t edify them.  
Seek their own benefit instead of them.  
Don’t act according to their own conscience.  
(1 Cor. 10:23-33).



## **Outside, but inside ...**

You look clean, beautiful and righteous on the outside  
But inside you are full of greed, self-indulgence,  
Hypocrisy and wickedness, and full of everything unclean ....  
First clean the inside!  
(Mt. 23:25-28)

## **A lazy man**

A lazy man makes his hands lazy (Prov. 10:4)  
But his head diligent (15:19).

## **A lazy man**

A lazy man ...

- (1) Wants wealth on in his heart (Prov. 13:4).
- (2) Desires the plunder of evil men (12:12).
- (3) Plunders whatever is left even by all means of injustice (v. 12).
- (4) Pursue what is worthy nothing and vain dissipation (13:11).
- (5) Is a great waster (18:9).

As a result, he will become poor (10:4).

## **The sluggard is unwise. The unwise man lacks sense.**

The sluggard is unwise.

The unwise man lacks sense (Prov. 24:30).

His lack of sense is a priority.

The sluggard is lack of judgement in setting priority,

Which he should do first,

And what he should do later.

For example,

The unwise sluggard doesn't seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Mt. 6:33).

Rather, he worries about his life, what he will eat, or drink;

Or about his body, what he will wear (v. 25).

Since the unwise sluggard doesn't trust God and His words (vv. 31-33)

He doesn't live up to the priority that God says.

## **Laziness, foolishness, arrogance**

Laziness and foolishness,

Laziness and arrogance,

There seems to be related.

The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes

Than seven men who can give a discreet answer.

This is because he is not only arrogant

But also he is foolish and lacks discernment

(Prov. 26:16).

## **Pastor like Gehazi? Pastor like Elisha?**

I should be a pastor like “Elisha” ...

No matter how many times the church member is urging me to accept the gift,

I must know how to say ‘No’ ...

I must know that Now is not the time to receive it ... (2 Chron. 5:15-16, 26)

## **We shouldn’t be a pastor like “Gehazi”.**

We shouldn’t run after our church members

And try to get something from them (2 Kgs. 5:20).

We shouldn’t lie to them

And try to get some money from them (v. 22).

We shouldn’t try to hide the money

That we receive from the church members (vv. 24-25).

## **In the end you will be ashamed.**

Those church members who turn away from God’s Word and always turn away from God,

Think that they are wise even though they aren’t.

They don’t say what is right, cling to deceit,

And don’t say “What have I done?”

By repenting of their wickedness.

They walk in lying path

And will eventually be ashamed (Jere. 8:5-9).

## **In the end, God will restore you.**

Although God hides His face from us  
According to our uncleanness and our offenses for His holy name,  
In the end, He will restore us and will have compassion on us  
And will make us to forget our shames and all the unfaithfulness we showed toward Him  
When we live in safety in our land with no one to make us afraid  
(Ezek. 39:24-26).

## **In the end, poverty awaits him.**

He who has the covetous eyes walks the perverse way  
Because he is eager to get rich.  
In the end, he will not go unpunished, will suddenly fall  
And poverty awaits him.  
(Prov. 28:18, 20, 22).

## **We should never love it.**

Without washing the evil from our heart  
And harboring wicked thoughts for long time  
Make us not to love the thing we suppose to love  
And makes us to love the thing that we aren't supposed to love  
So that we commit sin against God in confusion  
(Cf. Jere. Chs. 4-6, 5:31)

## **God never wastes His time.**

Although it seems to us  
That Joseph wasted his time for 13 years  
When he was hated by his older brothers (Gen. 37:4, 5)  
And was sold to the merchants (v. 28)  
And became a slave at an Egyptian Potiphar (39:1)  
When he was 17 years old (37:2)  
And was in prison (39:20-23) for 2 years (41:1)  
And was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt (v. 41)  
When he was 30 years old (v. 46)  
God never wasted His time.

God delivered Joseph from the cistern (37:20, 22)  
And raised him as Potiphar's attendant (39:4).  
Although it seems that Joseph wasted his 2 years  
While he was falsely accused and was in prison,  
God showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden (39:21-22).  
Not only God allowed Joseph to meet the cupbearer of the king of Egypt (40:1)  
But He also made the cupbearer to introduce Joseph to King Pharaoh after 2 years (41:9-13)  
And interpreted the Pharaoh's dreams  
So that he was put in charge of the whole land of Egypt (v. 41).

Like this, the reason why God didn't waste Joseph's 13 years (vv. 17-30)  
And raised him to be in charge of the whole land of Egypt  
Was to save and preserve the Jacob's and his descendants' lives on earth (45:5, 7).

## **It's not a waste.**

A woman poured perfume on Jesus' body beforehand  
To prepare for His burial (Mk. 14:8).  
But His disciples thought that  
She was wasting perfume (v. 4).

The thing that is offered to the Lord  
For the preparation of His Second Coming  
Is valuable  
And is not a waste.

## **You married men, mothers with (only) son!**

God tells  
The married man  
To leave his father and mother (Gen. 2:24).  
But what if his parents (mother)  
Refuse to let him go  
And continue to hold him back? (Exod. 9:2)

## **To the humble ...**

The humble will rejoice in the Lord (Isa. 29:19).

## **You cannot ...**

You cannot serve both God and Money (Mt. 6:24).

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord

And the cup of demons too (1 Cor. 10:21).

[While the cup and the table of the Lord

Refer to the believer participating in the blood and body of Christ (v. 16),

The cup of demons

Refers to the unbeliever offering sacrifice to idols (vv. 19-20)]

## **A godly man is ...**

A godly man is not without sins.

But he confesses his sins to God without hiding them.

Thus he receives forgiveness,

And his sins are covered

And the Lord does not count against him.

(Ps. 32:1-6)

## **Dangerous pattern to watch out for**

We should watch out for this pattern:

Sin → God's discipline → Adversity/Affliction/Suffering (Slander/Mock) → Discouragement →

Unbelief (Ps. 42)

## **Pastors who are leading them astray**

Now we pastors are leading God's flocks astray.  
As a result, they are wondering over mountain and hill  
And forgetting their own resting place (Jere. 50:6).

## **Are you keep on changing? Or are you getting corrupted?**

On the one hand,  
King Saul, who comes out in the Old Testament,  
Was humble but corrupted  
And became proud  
(1 Sam. 15, esp. vv. 11-12, 17, 22)

On the other hand,  
Apostle Paul, who comes out in the New Testament  
Was proud but changed  
And became humble.  
(1 Cor. 15:8-10; 1 Tim. 1:12-15)

Am I keep on changing now Or am I getting corrupted?

## **Sufferings flow and comfort overflows**

Where sin increased,  
Grace increased all the more  
(Rom. 5:10),  
Where sufferings flow  
God's comfort overflows.  
(2 Cor. 1:5).



## **Suffering itself is comfort.**

We need to be comforted in our own suffering.

The reason is because if the suffering is due to our sins then it is for our own good (Ps. 119:71)

And if the suffering is for the gospel and the church of Jesus Christ, it is God's grace (Phil. 1:29).

## **When we are in trouble**

When we are in trouble

We must not forget the Word of God,

But we must seek and think about only His Word

And we must delight in His Word.

Then the Word of God will preserve our lives (Ps. 119:92-95).

## **When we are afflicted**

We must ponder the Word of the Lord (Ps. 119:95)

Because His Word will preserve our lives (v. 93).

We must seek His Word (v. 94)

Because we are seeking His salvation (v. 94).

True believers place their hope in the Word of God.

Therefore, we don't forget His Word (Park).

The Lord is our only hope in suffering.

Therefore, we must seek and think about the Lord's word more and more in our sufferings.

The Lord will strengthen us by His Word in our sufferings.

The Lord will save us according to His Word.

## **The Lord who troubles us through affliction?**

Perhaps the reason why the Lord troubles us through affliction  
And makes us not to be in peace and to crush each other  
Is because maybe He wants us to repent our sins of living  
Without the true God and a teaching pastor  
And without the commands of God.  
(2 Chron. 15:3-6)

### **Suffering is ...**

Suffering can be temptation that may make us to leave God's Word  
But it can also be an opportunity to make us to get closer to His Word,  
To pray to God by holding on to His promised Word,  
And to make His Word our possession by keeping it (Ps. 119:49-56).

### **Comfort to endure suffering**

The purpose why God uses us to  
Comfort our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ  
Is not to get rid of their sufferings  
But this comfort can produce in them patient endurance of the sufferings.  
(1 Cor. 1:6).

## **Why shouldn't we refuse to suffer?**

The reason why we shouldn't refuse to suffer for Jesus and His church is because

We learn to obey by participating in His suffering (Heb. 5:8)

And "our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us"

(Rom. 8:18).

## **Through suffering, through obedience**

We learn obedience through suffering (Heb. 5:8)

And through obedience we learn Father God's heart (Hosea ch. 1).

## **I want to learn even through suffering.**

Rather than asking God, "may this cup be taken from me"(Mt. 26:39)

We must learn obedience (Heb. 5:8) like the Son of God, Jesus, even through this cup of suffering

So that we be able to pray, "Yet not as I will, but as You will" (Mt. 26:39).

The important thing is not for suffering to be removed

But to learn obedience even through suffering.

## **Path of Suffering, Path of Grace**

The way of Jesus, the way of suffering, is the way of grace (Phil. 1:29).

### **The benefit of affliction is ...**

The benefit of affliction is that through affliction

We realize that we were going astray in the sight of God,

We learn His Word, and

We obey His Word (Ps. 119:67, 71).

If there is no realization of our sins

And no learning of God's Word

And obedience to His Word,

Then our affliction is useless.

### **The blacksmith Lord who makes us to go through the furnace of affliction**

The Lord the Blacksmith makes us to go through the furnace of affliction (Isa. 48:10).

The purpose is to test our hearts (Prov. 17:3),

And to remove the dross from us

So that we may come forth as gold (Job 23:10) and a vessel for the smith (Prov. 25:4)

So that the Lord can use us

As an instrument for noble purpose (2 Tim. 2:21).

## **Is suffering an opportunity?**

Many sufferings in our lives

Can be an opportunity to imitate our Lord Jesus Christ.

In order to do so,

We must receive the Word of God “with the joy of the Holy Spirit” (1 Thess. 1:6)

And obey His Word.

## **Our groaning due to the bondage**

When we cry out to God for help because of the bondage,

God heard our groaning

And remembers His covenant with us

And takes care of us (Exod. 2:23-25).

## **God’s promise to heal**

God sees us walking in the path of sinful greed.

Nevertheless, God promises to heal us.

God will guide us.

God will restore comfort to us (Isa 57: 17-18).

## **Sin over pain**

We must be much more afraid of being still in our sins than in our pains (1 Cor. 15:17).

### **The pain among the pains ...**

I think the pain among the pains is being forsaken by a loved one.

Jesus was forsaken by Father God.

“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’—

which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mt. 27:46)

### **Two questions to ask God in pain**

When we are in a tension between personal suffering and God's promise

Two questions can be asked of God:

1. God, how long will you let me suffer?
2. God, when will you fulfill Your promise to me?

(Ps. 13)

(As I was reading Professor Mark D. Futato's book on "The Book of Psalms")

## **Looking at the loved one suffering ...**

Although when I see a loved one suffering  
My heart hurts and tears come out  
I can go to Dad Father God and cry out to Him in tears.  
Then God helps us to acknowledge God's sovereignty  
That His sovereign will is good, pleasing and perfect (Rom. 12:2)  
And that He will cause all things to work together for good to us who love God (8:28).  
In the end, God makes us to confess that 'God is good, all the time' (Ps. 43:4).

## **A sorry comforter**

A sorry comforter (Job 16:2)  
Keeps on speaking unlimited windy words to me (v. 3)  
He cannot speak as if he is in my place (v. 4).  
He torments me and crushes me with words (19:2).  
He exalts himself above me (v. 5).  
He thinks that he is better me.

## **Through suffering**

As Christians and Jesus' disciples  
We must imitate Jesus  
And learn obedience through suffering (Heb. 5:8).

## **When suffering is stopped?**

When we suffer as a result of our sins  
We seek God desperately.  
But when suffering is stopped,  
Then we sin again and harden our hearts.  
We disobey God's word again (Exod. 9:34).

## **Suffering is an opportunity to make the Word mine.**

If we don't leave the Word of God in the midst of severe suffering and pain  
But rather keep it more and better,  
Than His Word will become mine (Ps. 119:51, 55-56).

## **We must get rid of our spiritual unbalanced diet habit.**

When God who speaks to us whom He chose in love  
We must get rid of our spiritual unbalanced diet habit  
In which we pick only the Word that we like to hear  
(2 Chron. 18:5, 7, 11-12, 17).  
Our spiritual unbalanced diet habit  
In which we pick only the Word we like to hear  
Doesn't make our souls healthy.



## **There is communal responsibility.**

We who believe in Jesus in a community called church  
Have communal responsibility as a member of the body of the Lord.

For example,

We must grow in faith not only for ourselves  
But also for the whole community.

Also,

We must obey the Word of God  
So that we may not sin not only for our own souls but also for the whole community.

In particular,

We must overcome the sin of covetousness.  
We must guard ourselves from covetousness.

The reason is because covetousness makes us to extort from others (Ecc. 7:7).

If we have covetousness like Achan

Then we will even steal something from the devoted things (Josh. 6:18).

As a result,

Because of one man Achan's sin  
He troubled the whole Israelites (7:25).

Likewise

I will trouble the whole church members  
Because of one person my sin (7:25; cf. 1 Cor. 12:26).

## **Christians who miss the past?**

Like Dathan and Abiram,  
Who said that Egypt, in where the Israelites were slaves,  
Was like “a land flowing with milk and honey” (Num. 16:12-13),  
There are many Christians who think  
That this sinful world, in where we used to live as slaves to sins as non-believers,  
Is God’s Promised Land, Heaven ...

## **Past and Present**

In the past, we were under law (Rom. 6:15).  
Originally we were slaves of sin (v. 17).  
Before we presented our members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness,  
Resulting in further lawlessness (v. 19).  
At that time, we bore the shameful fruits (v. 21).  
When we were slaves to sin, we were free from the control of righteousness (v. 20).  
Therefore, we supposed to die as slaves to sin (vv. 16, 21).  
The wages of sin is death (v. 23).  
We are now under grace (v. 15).  
Now we are slaves to obedience which leads to righteousness (v. 16).  
We are wholeheartedly obeying the form of teaching to which we have been entrusted,  
So that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness (vv. 17-18).  
Now we offer the parts of our body in slavery to righteousness leading in holiness (v. 19).  
Now we have been set free from sin  
And have become slaves to God, the benefit we reap leads to holiness,  
And the result is eternal life (v. 22).  
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (v. 23).

(As I meditate again on our church retired pastor’s sermon  
that he preached during the Wednesday night prayer meeting yesterday)

## **Be careful not to be overestimated!**

I should stop boasting

Because people may think more of me than is warranted

By what I do and say (2 Cor. 12:6)

## **Do I really ...?**

Do I really

Experience Christ's power

That is made perfect in my weakness?

(2 Cor. 12:9)

Do I really

Boast all more gladly about my weaknesses? (v. 9)

Do I really

Know that I am strong

Then I am strong? (v. 10)

Am I

Content with my weaknesses

For Christ's sake? (v. 10)

## **We don't need to be afraid that the relationship will be broken.**

We don't need to be afraid that the relationship will be broken.

The reason is because no one can separate us

From the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord

(Rom. 8:35, 39).

## **The church is suffering.**

The church is suffering  
Because the church leaders are abandoning God's command  
And idolizing the money  
(1 Kgs. 18:18).

## **Pride**

Pride makes us blind.  
Pride doesn't make us to examine ourselves  
And to look at our own weaknesses and shortcomings.  
Rather, pride makes us to bring out other person's weakness and shortcoming  
And to compare ourselves with him/her  
And thus make us to boast ourselves quietly  
That we are better Christians than him/her.  
(Cf. Rom. 2:19-20)

## **With proud heart ...**

With proud heart (Isa. 16:6) ...

Wearing yourselves out in serving is useless (v. 12).  
Coming to his sanctuary to pray is useless (v. 12).  
Boasting is false (v. 6).

The Lord stops the voice of joy and gladness from the proud heart (v. 10).  
And the Lord turns that joy and gladness into wail and moan (v. 7) and tears and weeping (v. 9).

## **The proud ...**

The proud have no patience.  
They provoke in their spirits.  
But the humble have patience.  
(Eccle. 7:8-9)

## **Church member counting?**

We shouldn't be pleased in counting the church members ...? (2 Sam. 24:1-3)

## **A pastor who is afraid of being mocked by the church members?**

Can we say that he is a true leader  
If he disobeys God's voice  
Because he is afraid of being mocked by the church members?  
(cf.: Jere. 38:19-20)

## **The joy of fellowship**

We Christians who have fellowship with the Lord  
Have joy in our hearts  
Because we have fellowship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ with His love (1 Jn. 1:1-4).

## **A horrible and shocking thing in the church ...**

A horrible and shocking thing in the church is  
The church members are love  
That the pastors prophesy lies and rule by their own authority.  
(Jere. 5:30-31).

## **The prosperous and powerful sinners ...**

The purpose of the prosperous and powerful sinners in the church in the church is  
Not to worship God  
But to consider God as “Baal” and  
For their own economic well-being and personal prosperity  
(Cf. Zeph. 1:4-6).

(As I was reading Iain M. Duguid & Matthew P. Harmon’s "Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi" REFORMED EXPOSITORY COMMENTARY")

## **There are people in the church who should be silenced.**

There are people in the church who should be silenced:  
Rebellious people,  
Empty talkers,  
Deceivers,  
Those who are pursuing dishonest gain,  
Those who are upsetting whole families.  
(Tit. 1:10-11)

## **My complaint in the church ...**

Our complaint in the church  
Can discouraged other brothers and sisters in Christ  
(Num. 14:36; Deut. 1:28).

The reason is because  
We refuse to believe in the Lord  
And don't follow Him wholeheartedly  
(Num. 14:11, 24).

## **One who makes great disturbance in the church?**

Usually in the church,  
There is one person who causes a great disturbance (Acts 19:23-24).  
The main reason why s/he causes the great disturbance is  
Because of love of money and greed (vv. 25, 27).  
S/he makes a faction with people close to her/him or those who are related (v. 25)  
And stir them up (21:27).  
Based on thoughts that are unconfirmed (v. 29) and lies (18:13)  
S/he slanders and attacks her/his pastor (v. 12)  
And make the people to be furious (19:28).  
Eventually, s/he creates a commotion in the church and they have disorderly gathering (19:40, 21:30).  
So the people gather at that disorderly gathering  
But they don't know for what reason they have come together  
So the assembly is in confusion (19:32).

## **There may be conflicts because of gifts in the church.**

There may be conflicts within the church because of gifts.

I think there are at least four reasons for this:

- (1) Because we forget that the gifts we have received are given to us by the Lord  
“according to the grace,”
- (2) Because we don’t acknowledging the different gifts we receive,
- (3) Because we have gone too far in using our gifts,
- (4) Because we use our gifts in pride, and boast ourselves.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ...

Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.

Do not be conceited.”

(Rom. 12:6, 16)

## **What’s the use of being distracted with all the church service?**

What’s the use of being distracted with all the church service

If we keep on complaining in dissatisfaction even to the Lord? (Lk. 10:40)

Isn’t it better to chose only one thing that the Lord says it’s necessary

Rather than worrying and being bothered about so many things? (vv. 41-42)

That one necessary thing is to seat at the Lord’s feet and listen to His word (v. 39).



## **The church must have these things.**

In the church

There must be peace, being built up

And the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit

(Acts 9:31).

## **We must edify the church ...**

Although God gave us gifts to edify the church (1 Cor. 14:3, 4, 5, 12, 26)

How come we are edifying ourselves? (v. 4)

## **The joy of our salvation and a willing spirit**

When we sin and are not repenting

We don't have the Lord's joy of salvation and a willing spirit.

(Ps. 51:12).

## **If you don't stand firm in your faith ...**

If you don't stand firm in your faith  
You will stand at all (Isa. 7:9).

The reason you aren't standing firm is  
Because you don't believe firmly.

## **God who looks down from heaven**

Just as from the point of view of the universe, the earth is extremely small,  
I who live in this small earth, am smaller than an ant ...

How great is this grace and love of God,  
God who is looking down on me from heaven  
Who is much smaller than dust in Creator God's point of view  
(Ps. 33:13-15)

## **God's love in causing us to be in need?**

The reason why just God causes us to be in need  
As a result of our sins is  
So that we may realize our sins and repent.  
It's God's love in causing us to be in need.

(As I meditate Judges chapter 7, especially 6).

## **To be in need ...**

It's not bad to be in need ... (Lk. 15:14, 17)

## **Why not listen to advice?**

The reason why a fool doesn't listen to advice is  
Because his way seems right to him. (Prov. 12:15)

## **Give up my right?**

We need to endure all things without using our right.  
The purpose is so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ  
(1 Cor. 9:12).

## **Purpose to endure without using my right**

We should endure all things without using our right  
In front of those who criticize us  
The purpose is so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ (1 Cor. 9:12).

Now aren't we abusing our right without enduring all things  
And causing hindrance to the gospel of Christ?

## **They should be honored**

Shouldn't our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who don't receive honor

Be honored at least in the church?

(1 Cor. 12:24)

## **Precious children of God ...**

The precious children in the sight of God

Love God with all their lives.

They give thanks to God for His grace that never stops.

They obey all God's commands.

[Tried to apply 'Precious daughter-in-law' (Ruth 4:15) to "Precious children of God"]

## **Respect your wife**

Husbands, respect your wives.

Then nothing will hinder your prayers

(1 Pet. 3:7).

## Unbalanced self-examination

I personally think it is very important  
To reflect myself in the spiritual mirror that is the Word of God  
And to confront myself that is reflected in that mirror of the Word.

But my problem is that  
I look at my reflection in the mirror of God's Word with my own eyes  
Instead with the eyes of the Lord.

Here what I see with my own eyes means  
I only see my own sinful image in the mirror of God's holy Word  
And I suffer from extreme discouragement, guilt conscience, and sense of shame.

The limitation of looking at myself with my own eyes is that  
More sins that are continually being exposed by the holy Word of God (Rom. 5:20).  
This is wrong and twisted self-introspection.  
The wrong self-reflection only looks at myself with my own eyes.  
In other words, the wrong self-reflection  
Makes me to look at only myself  
And not Jesus Christ who died on the cross to take away all my sins and to forgive me.

The right self-examination is  
To look at Jesus Christ who bore all my sins and died on the cross (Heb. 12:2).  
Although I have to realize and acknowledge all the sins  
That are being exposed continually by the holy Word of God,  
I dwell more and more in God's abundant and increasing grace with assurance of God's forgiveness,  
Trusting and relying on the Jesus Christ and His cross  
As I confess and repent my sins (Rom. 5:20).  
Therefore, I confess "I am what I am because of God's grace" (1 Cor. 15:10).

I no longer want to do the wrong and twisted self-introspection.  
Rather, I want to have balanced and correct self-examination.  
Therefore, I want to see myself with the eyes of the Lord.  
In the eyes of the Lord, I want to see myself as precious and honor child of God  
So that I will be able to love myself with His love (Isa. 43:4).

[Cf.: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/dont-be-introspective-examine-yourself/>]

## **We should know our detestable practices ... (Ezek. 16:2)**

Although God made the Israelites' beauty perfect  
So that their fame spread among the nations on account of their beauty (vv. 9-14)  
The Israelites trusted in their beauty and used their fame to become a prostitute  
And lavished their favors on anyone who passed by (v. 15).  
They also took the fine jewelry God gave them  
And made for themselves male idols and engaged in prostitution with them (v. 17).  
And they took their embroidered clothes to put on them,  
And they offered His oil, fragrant incense, the food He provided for them before them (vv. 18-19).  
But their prostitution wasn't enough so they didn't stop here.  
They took their sons and daughters and sacrificed them as food to the idols (vv. 20-21).  
They build a mound for themselves and made a lofty, shrine in every public square (v. 24).  
They offered their body with increasing promiscuity to anyone who passed by (v. 25).  
They engaged in prostitution with the Egyptians, their lustful neighbors (v. 26),  
And with the Assyrians too because they were insatiable (v. 28),  
And with Babylonia, a land of merchants, but even with this they weren't satisfied (v. 29).  
They were corrupted women who acted like a brazen prostitute when they did all these things  
(v. 30).  
They were adulterous wife who preferred strangers to their own husband (v. 32).  
Every prostitute receives a fee, but they gave gifts to all their lovers,  
Bribing them to come to them from everywhere for their illicit favors (v. 33).  
They weren't like other prostitutes  
Because they didn't receive payment but rather they gave to them (v. 34).

But toward them, God said, "I will put a stop to your prostitution,  
And you will no longer pay your lovers" (v. 41).  
Although she had to bear the consequences of their lewdness and their detestable practices (v. 58),  
God said, "Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth,  
And I will establish an everlasting covenant with you" (v. 60).  
Although God had right to break the covenant that He made with the Israelites  
since they broke the covenant with God first,  
instead God said He would establish the everlasting covenant with them.  
So they would know that 'God is the Lord' (v. 62).  
God said He would make atonement for the Israelites for all they had done (v. 63).  
How could God forgive a prostitute for doing so detestable things?  
Now the church, His bride, is doing detestable things in the sight of the Bridegroom, Jesus.  
Now we the Christians are acting as prostitutes.  
Now we are not satisfied with Jesus, the Bridegroom  
We keep trying to satisfy our own lust with the things of the world.

But since our lusts aren't satisfied, we are complaining in our dissatisfaction and disobeying God's Word.

The unrighteous things that we are not committing are indeed more detestable sins than the corrupted women.

The reason is because we want to satisfy our greed in addition to our lust.

That's why we are bold to do detestable things in the sight of God.

Nevertheless, the Lord, the Bridegroom, is faithful to the everlasting covenant that

He promises not to let us do any more detestable things.

And the Lord promises to forgive all our detestable sins.

The Lord promises to establish the bride Church as a glorious church (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 5:27).

When the day that Jesus, the Bridegroom, comes back to this world,

the bride Church will suddenly be transformed and will wear the glorious spiritual body

that will not decay and strong and will participate in the wedding of the Lamb (Rev. 19: 9).

## **Through the pain**

We are not envious of the wicked prosperity

(Prov. 23:17; 24: 1, 19; Cf.: Ps. 73).

Rather, we share in the sufferings of the righteous (Phi. 3:10),

And experience God's presence through the sufferings (Gen. 39).

## **Even He makes that relationship to be far away?**

Whether it's couple relationship or parents-children relationship, or whatever relationships,  
If that relationship is closer than our relationship with God  
Then God even makes that relationship to be far away  
In order to make our relationship with Him closer.  
That's how much God wants intimate relationship with Him (Cf. Gen.ch. 22).  
Our Father God made us very close to Him  
Even by making His begotten Son Jesus to be far away from Him on the cross.

## **I want to taste that joy.**

Our instinct is to hate.

Our instincts are never forgiving.

But God is commanding us to live not according to our instinct,  
But to forgive and love those who hate us (Lk. 6:37; Mt. 5:44).

We have no power to obey this word of God.

It is only God who gives that power.

'For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose' (Phil. 2:13).

God enables us to overcome our instinct and forgive and love those who hate us

By bringing forth in us the fruit of the Spirit, love (Gal. 5:22).

There is divine joy in forgiving and loving (Ps. 90:14).

I want to taste that joy.



## **Now is different from that time ...**

When we were our old self

Our body was the body of sin and we were slaves to sin (Rom. 6:6).

At that time

We let sin reign in our mortal body

So that we obey its evil desires (v. 12).

At that time

We offered the parts of our body to sin,

As instrument of wickedness (v. 13).

We used to offer the parts of our body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness (v. 19).

At that time

Sin was our master,

Because we were under the law (v. 14).

At that time

We were slaves to sin,

Which was leading us to death (v. 16).

In short

When we were controlled by the sinful nature,

The sinful passion aroused by the law were at work in our bodies,

So that we bore fruit for death (7:5).

But now

We are new creation (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:15; Col. 3:10).

Now

We are not under law but under grace (Rom. 6:14, 15).

In order to redeem us under the law that we may receive the full rights of children  
Through the crucified body of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born under law (Gal. 4:4-5)  
Now (Rom. 6:21, 22)  
We also died to the law (7:4) and to sin (6:2-4).

Now  
We are not slaves to sin who were free from the control of righteousness (v. 20)  
But we have been set free from sins (v. 22)  
And are slaves to obedience and to righteousness (vv. 16-18).

Now  
Our old self was crucified with Jesus  
So that the body of sin is done away with,  
That we should no longer be slaves to sin (v. 6).  
'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death  
In order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father,  
We too may live a new life' (v. 4).

Now  
By dying to what once bound us,  
We have been released from the law  
So that we serve in the new way of the Spirit (7:6).

Now  
It is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose (v. 18; Phil. 2:13).

In short,  
Now that we have been set free from sin  
And have become slaves to God,  
The benefit we reap leads to holiness,  
And the result is eternal life (Rom. 6:22)

[After listening to the sermon on Romans 7:1-6 by our church retired pastor yesterday in Wednesday  
Night Prayer Meeting]

## **Why not repay the grace we received?**

The reason we don't repay God's grace is  
Because our hearts are proud (2 Chron 32:25).

## **Even after He has done good to you ...**

The Lord has done good to us (Josh. 24:20)  
Even though we have not labored (v. 13; Jon. 4:10).  
But if we forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods,  
Then He will turn and do us harm and consume us  
Even after He has done good to us (v. 20).

## **We can trust him.**

If he is honored in his hometown  
and among his own relatives and his own household,  
Then we can trust him (Cf. Mk. 6:4).

## **The reason we don't trust him?**

The reason we don't trust him is  
Because we are only thinking about his negative past  
Instead of believing that the Lord began a good work in him  
(Cf.: Acts 9:26; Phil. 1:6).

## **That person is crazy.**

There is no crazy person,  
Who says 'I was only joking' after he lied to me,  
Who enjoys inflicting a fatal wound in my heart with deception.  
That person is crazy.

"Like a madman who throws Firebrands, arrows and death,  
So is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, 'Was I not joking?'"  
(Prov. 26:18-19).

## **The Lord who delivers him from crisis**

There are people who are jealous of him.  
Who keeps the Lord's commandments faithfully and  
Thus who has done no wrong and is faultless,  
So they try to put him in dangerous crisis  
By making rules and regulations that he cannot keep.  
But God whom he faithfully serves delivers him from that crisis (Cf. Daniel chap. 6).

## **God who turns the curse into a blessing ...**

God turns the curse into a blessing  
Because He loves us (Deut. 23:5).

## **Fear that his deeds will be exposed**

Everyone who does evil hates the Light  
Because he loves the darkness.  
Since he loves the darkness,  
He does not come to the Light.  
The reason is because he has fear that his deeds will be exposed  
(Jn. 3:19-20; Eph. 5:11, 13).

## **We don't aware that we have sinned ...**

When we sin unintentionally and do what is forbidden in any of the Lord's commands,  
We don't aware that we have sinned against God.  
That's why it is a great grace to be able to realize our sin and regard it as sin.  
In order not to waste God's grace  
We must courageously face our sin  
And humbly acknowledge and confess our sin before the holy God.  
(Cf.: Lev. 4: 13, 14).

## **We shouldn't even go near the door of her house.**

We must keep our way far from an adulteress

And do not go near the door of her house (Prov. 5:3, 8).

Otherwise, we will give our vigor to others and our years to one who is cruel (v. 9)

And will groan at the end of our lives (v. 11).

We should rejoice in the wife of our youth (v. 18).

Her breasts should satisfy us always, and we must be captivated by her love (v. 19).

## **Nevertheless, they still don't listen.**

Although Moses clearly said to the Israelites

“This will not succeed!,”

“Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies,”

“Because you have turned away from the LORD,”

Nevertheless, they didn't listen to Moses (Num. 14:41-45).

Why didn't they listen to the Lord's servant like this?

Why don't you listen to the Lord's servant?

## **Nevertheless, are we still going to believe in God?**

If we believe in God, not because of Jesus but because of material blessing, the blessing of children, the blessing of health and so on that we want and expect from God,

Then God may allow Satan to take away all those blessings (Job 1:9-12).

Nevertheless, are we still going to worship God

Without committing the sin of blaming on God? (vv. 20-22)

## **So we should be able to enjoy life.**

In this world, all our days our work is pain and grief (Eccle. 2:23).

We can do nothing better than

To eat and drink and find satisfaction in our work (v. 24; 3:13, 22; 5:18; 8:15),

And to be happy and do good while we live (3:12).

This is our lot (v. 22; 5:18), is from the hand of God (2:24) and the gift of God (3:13).

So we should be able to enjoy life (8:15).

“Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love,

All the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—

All your meaningless days.

For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun” (9:9).

## **But those who are trapped in the truth ...**

Those who are trapped in a situation (Exod. 14:3)

Are afraid and grumble

Because they are under the influence of circumstance (vv. 10-12).

But those who are trapped in the truth,

Are controlled by the Word of God

And hope by focusing on the Lord by faith (vv. 13-14, Ps. 43:5).

## The wrong value

We have the wrong value.

The wrong value is not esteeming Jesus (Isa. 53:3).

The reason why we don't esteem Jesus is

Because we don't like sorrows and suffering (v. 3).

Jesus was a man of sorrow (v. 3).

And He was familiar with suffering (v. 3).

But we turn our face away from sorrow and suffering

Because we hate them.

It's because we are very used to joy, happiness, comfort and peace.

So we don't esteem Jesus.

Rather, we don't like Him and are rejecting Him.

It's because our wrong value is driven by the lust of flesh (1 Jn. 2:16).

Like when Eve saw the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye (Gen. 3:6),

The reason why the things that we see in this world are

Pleasing to our eyes and good for food in our wrong value point of view is

Because of the lust of flesh.

The lust of flesh causes us to forsake eternal value

And make us to choose the momentary value.

The lust of flesh makes us not to distinguish what is precious and what is insignificant.

As a result, we eat vain things that are good for food and pleasing to the eye

And thus we sin against God.



## The wrong perspective

The wrong perspective we have is that  
We are unable to see the beauty of Jesus (Isa. 53:2).  
In other words, our wrong perspective is that  
We don't see the beauty of Jesus  
Who obeyed the Father God's will until death on the cross (Phil. 2:8).  
We aren't attracted to Jesus' obedience.  
That's we are disobeying the Lord.  
And when we look at obedience from our disobedience perspective,  
We cannot see the beauty of obedience.  
Our wrong perspective can be understood better  
If we think about the word that Eve saw that  
The fruit of the tree was pleasing to the eye (Gen. 3:6).  
Obviously from the point of obedience  
The fruit of the tree shouldn't be pleasing in Eve's eyes.  
But since the fruit of the tree was pleasing in her eyes,  
There was ugly of disobedience than beauty of obedience.  
She committed sin of disobedience to God's command  
Because she was drawn by the lust of the eyes (1 Jn. 2:16).  
The wrong perspective commits sin against God  
By doing wrong things  
As we are drawn to the lust of the eyes.

## The wrong thought

We do the wrong thought (Isa. 53:4).

Our wrong thought is that

We think Jesus was stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted (v. 4)

Even though He was pierced and crushed for our transgression and our iniquities (v. 5).

Although Jesus clearly took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows (v. 4)

And suffered because of our transgressions and our iniquities (v. 5)

We think that Jesus was crucified on the cross

Because He was punished by God

Due to His sin of blaspheming God (Self-proclaiming that He is the Son of God)

And His sin of blaspheming the temple.

Obviously, His suffering is due to our transgressions and iniquities.

The root of our wrong thought is pride.

Pride twists our thoughts.

Pride makes us think ourselves wise.

So when Eve saw the fruit of the tree,

It was not only good for food and pleasing to the eyes

But also desirable for gaining wisdom (Gen. 3:6).

This is said by Apostle John as “the boastful pride of life” (1 Jn. 2:16).

This is not from the Father but from the world (v. 16).

The boastful pride of life makes us to do wrong thought and sin against God.

## **Do I want to be exalted by people that much?**

It seems so sweet to be glorified by people.

When I get use to taste that sweetness,

I think I will try more to get respect and glory from more and more people.

If I get addicted to that taste, then I will become a slave to people rather than servant of God.

I imagine I get collapse by trying to anything

To be recognized and exalted by people as the slave of people.

I remember King Saul from the Old Testament.

Before he became a king,

He was once small in his own eyes (1 Sam. 15:17).

But after he became king of Israel and after he won the battle against the Amalekites,

He set up a monument in his own honor (v. 12).

Even as he disobeyed God's command (vv. 3, 8-9).

Saul didn't obey the Lord and pounced on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord (v. 19)

And have sinned against God (v. 30).

But he caught hold of the hem of Samuel's robe and asked him,

"But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel" (vv. 27, 30).

How ugly is this. Do I want to be exalted by people this much?

Do I want to be exalted by people the more I am exalted by people?

The greed of possession is dangerous.

But it seems like the desire for honor is very dangerous.

But what good is it to have glorious honor in the eyes of people?

What good is it to have glorious resume that a person read during my funeral service

Since I have to go back to dust.

Everything is meaningless and meaningless.

This isn't why God gave His begotten Son Jesus to die on the cross to save me,

Not just waste God's given time for me to live in this earth.

I should remember and meditate this word of Jesus:

"If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. ..." (Jn. 8:54).

I shouldn't forget to pray like this: "Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." (Ps. 115:1)

**We must spread everywhere  
the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ.**

We Christians are the aroma of Christ  
Among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.  
Therefore, we must spread everywhere  
The fragrance of the knowledge of Christ.  
(2 Cor. 2:14-15)

**Be filled up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions**

I pray that  
You may be filled with with the knowledge of His will  
In all spiritual wisdom and understanding  
(Col. 1:9).

I want to obey.  
I want to be filled up in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions  
For the sake of the Lord's church  
According to God's will (v. 24).

## **‘The love of Christ’ and ‘The love of God’?**

‘The love of Christ’ is ... (Rom. 8:35)

The love that He died on the cross (v. 34)

In order to receive all the punishment of our sins.

It is the love that He rose again (v. 34)

In order to justify us (4:25).

It is the love that the Lord Jesus Christ also interceding for us (8:34).

‘The love of God’ is ... (v. 39)

The love that He didn’t spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us” (v. 32).

‘The love of God’ and ‘The love of Christ’ is the love that saved us.

[After listening to our church retired pastor’s sermon]

## **A Christ’s letter, My letter**

‘You are my letter.

I wrote you in my heart.’

You are a Christ’s letter.

The Spirit of the living God wrote you

On the tablet of my heart.’

(2 Cor. 3:2-3)

## **The Christian's beauty ...**

The Christian's beauty is  
To be obedient to the Lord  
To the point of death  
(Phil. 2:8; Isa. 53:2).

## **The Christian's grievous evil?**

Although we who have already received  
Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 1:3),  
If we cannot enjoy the blessing,  
Then that is a grievous evil  
(Eccl. 5:16, 19; 6:2).

## **Then you will be delivered**

We must rid ourselves of all the idols  
And return to the Lord with all our hearts.  
We must commit ourselves to Him and serve Him.  
Then the Lord will deliver us.  
(1 Sam. 7:3)

## **Although I don't have that much, but what I have ...**

What we need now is 200 denarii worth of bread  
(a large amount of money equivalent to a worker's 200 days wage),  
But we only have 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.  
When we think of it with our own understanding, we can never feed 5,000 men.  
But when 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread were in Jesus' hands,  
Jesus looked up to heaven and gave thanks  
And told His disciples to distribute the loaves of bread and fish to the people.  
Then they all ate and were satisfied  
And 12 basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish were left over  
(Mk. 6:30-44).

Although we don't have enough that we think we need it now,  
But when we offer by faith whatever we have to the Lord,  
Then the Lord will receive it, will give thanks to God  
And will perform 2 fish 5 loaves miracle.

## **He was cursed for us ...**

It's God's total grace (Eph. 2:8-10)  
That we have received every spiritual blessing (1:3)  
And became blessed (Deut. 33:29)  
Because Jesus was cursed on the cross for us (Gal. 3:13-14).

(As I was reading Dennis E. Johnson's book "JOURNEYS WITH JESUS:  
EVERY PATH IN THE BIBLE LEADS US TO CHRIST")

## He who is “in unrelenting pain”

He is “in unrelenting pain” (Job 6:10)

Has agony, pains and sufferings that are “surely outweigh the sand of the seas” (v. 3)

That can’t be placed on the scales (v. 2).

He has lost his appetite so he refuses to touch it;

Such food makes him ill because it is tasteless food for him (vv. 6-7).

He can’t sustain his life anymore because he has no strength

And can’t be patient because he is without hope (v. 11; 7:6).

He has become powerless (6:13) and has suffered a long time,

And nights of misery has been assigned to him (7:3)

And his body is clothed with worms and scabs,

His skin is broken and festering (v. 5).

So his life is but a breath and his eyes will never see happiness again (v. 7).

Therefore he will not keep silent and will speak out in the anguish of his spirit;

He will complain in the bitterness of his soul (v. 11).

He tries to forget his pain even in bed but he suffers from nightmares (v. 13).

So he prefers strangling and death, rather than his body (v. 15).

So he said like this:

“I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning” (v. 16).

But even in the meantime “What is man that you (the Lord) make so much of him,

That you (the Lord) give him so much attention” (v. 17).

The Lord never looks away from him (v. 19).

The Lord examines him every morning and tests him every moment (v. 18).

He who is “in unrelenting pain” (Job 6:10) thinks and feels that

The arrow of the Almighty are in him,

So God’s terrors are marshaled against him (v. 4).

He thinks that the Lord is frightening him with dreams



And is terrifying him with visions (7:14).

So he wants God to cut his life and to kill him (6:9).

But he makes an amazing confession:

“Then I would still have this consolation-- my joy in unrelenting pain—  
that I had not denied the words of the Holy One” (v. 10).

How can he be comforted and rejoice even “in unrelenting pain”???

It is because “I have not denied the words of the Holy One” (v. 10).

## **What is God's comfort in the midst of extreme suffering?**

God’s comfort that Jesus received on a cross that was like the valley of the shadow of death,

When He was in the midst of extreme suffering,

Which He was being forsaken by His own Father God was

Satisfying Father God by being obedient to His beloved Father

To the point of death on the cross.

(Ps. 22:1; 23:4; Isa. 53:11; Mt. 27:46)

God’s comfort that we can receive (even at the crossroads of life and death) in extreme suffering

Is to satisfy the Lord by obeying Him until death.

In other words, it is our comfort to satisfy the Lord.

May this comfort of God be with you brothers and sisters in Christ

Who are going through extreme suffering.

## **He should have restrained them.**

A father who knows that his children are sinning against God should restrain them.

What was the result? (1 Sam. 3:13; 4:11)

## **Hasty heart**

A foolish Christian is hasty in his heart to utter anything before God,

And he is quick to get angry (Eccle. 5:2; 7:9).

## **Compassion, devotion, contentment**

Looking back this year

I am just grateful for God's "mercy" to such a great sinner like me (1 Tim. 1:13).

God has displayed His unlimited patience to me (v. 16).

When I think about God's great mercy and abundant grace (v. 14) in appointing me to His service (v. 12),

I want to devote myself more to the meditation of the Word of God and sharing it (4:13).

I want to be rich in the Word (6:17)

And be rich in good work that is willing to share my meditation of the Word (v. 18).

As I do so, I pray that I may be able to have contentment (v. 6).

I just want to be content with what I have such as food and clothing

Since I didn't bring anything into the world and I can take nothing out of it (vv. 7-8).

In this New Year

I want to be faithful in His service as I get strengthen from God's mercy.

And I want to devote myself more in meditating in the Word of God by His abundant grace.

And I want to enjoy sharing my meditation of His Word with others.

Most of all, I want be content only with my Lord.

## **A merciful Christian**

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Mt. 5:7)

A merciful Christian ...

1. He knows that God has been merciful to him (Ps. 59:17; 1 Pet. 2:10).  
He gives thanks to God for His mercy that God blot out his transgression even though he must be destroyed forever because of his sins (Ps. 51:1).
2. He forgives those who have sinned against him (Lk. 17:4).  
Since he believes that God has forgiven all of his sins in Jesus Christ, he also forgives those who have sinned against him.
3. He has compassion on those who are suffering  
with the affection of Jesus Christ (Mt. 9:36; 18:33; Phil. 1:8).  
He resolutely rejects and hates the sins of those who suffer because of sin  
But he is merciful to the sinner. So he helps and serves him with the love of Christ.

(As I was reading the Iain M. Duguid's book "Hero of Heroes")

## **We are appalled.**

When we see or hear  
Some things being done in the church,  
We are appalled  
(Eza. 9:3, 4).

## **We need to be afraid to receive our prayer answered.**

I think we need to be afraid to receive our prayer answered.

In particular, when we pray with greedy and unbelief attitude (Ps. 78:18, 19)

And receive our prayer answered (v. 29),

We must know that it's God's grace, be thankful and repent our sin.

Nevertheless, if we still sin against God and don't believe in God's prayer answers

God will bring our days to an end in futility (vv. 32-33).

So we must be afraid to receive answers to our prayer that was offered in greed and unbelief.

## **Why is prayer answered?**

The reason why we receive from God whatever we ask

Is because we keep His commandments

And do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

(1 Jn. 3:22).

## **Are we sharing prayer topics?**

Under the name of sharing prayer topics

We shouldn't reveal others' secrets.

(Cf.: Prov. 11:13, 20:19)

## **During prayer I myself get transformed**

During prayer

I myself get transformed.

(Acts 10:9-16; 11:4-10).

After prayer

There is a meeting that the Lord leads.

(10:17-23; 11:11-12)

When we obey the Lord's lead by faith

There is amazing work of the Lord in that meeting.

(10:23-48; 11:12-17)

## **When we start praying ...**

How about going to God

As we proclaim who God is

When we start praying?

“Surely this is our God”,

“This is the Lord” (Isa. 26:9)

Then what if we wait for God?

“for whom we have waited” (2x) (v. 9)

In the meantime,

What if we rejoice and be glad in His salvation? (v. 9)

## **How about changing our prayers?**

Instead of keep on asking God

To take away my sufferings that I am going through (2 Cor. 12:8),

It may be better to ask God for His good will (Rom. 12:2)

In giving or allowing me to go through sufferings

And trust good God

That He will even use my sufferings for good

To us who love God,

To us who are called according to His purpose (8:28).

## **The habit of praying**

It is very important to have the habit of praying according to God's will

Rather than praying according to my will,

Trusting that God knows what we need.

(Mt. 26:39)

## **As we pray ...**

As we pray, let us not lose heart (Lk. 18:1).

Let us not give up and pray persistently in faith.

## **After Gideon's death ...**

After Judge Gideon's death

The Israelites again played the harlot with the Baals,  
Didn't remember the Lord their God,  
And didn't show kindness to the household of Gideon  
In accord with all the good that he had done to Israel.  
(Judg. 8:33-35)

## **The lesson that the written Word of God gives us ...**

The lesson that the written Word of God gives us is  
That the Scriptures give us encouragement and hope  
So that we may be able to persevere (Rom. 15:4).  
The reason is that the God of the Scriptures is  
The God of perseverance, the God of encouragement and the God of hope (vv. 5, 13).

## **Carried out all that was written about Him**

Through they found no proper ground for a death,  
Jesus died on the cross.  
The Bible refers Jesus as  
"they had carried out all that was written about him."  
(Acts 13:28-29)

## **Helper of joy**

We work with you for your joy,  
Because it is by faith you stand firm.  
(2 Cor. 1:24).

## **We must learn even through long suffering.**

Through long suffering  
We must not rely on people  
But must learn to truly rely on the Lord.  
(Isa. 10:20)

## **Father God who think deeply**

Not only God thinks deeply whenever He speaks against us,  
Who are dear to Him and delightful children to Him  
But also He will surely have mercy on us.  
(Jere. 31:20).



## **"for nothing"?**

Isn't it Satan's favorite

To fear God

Due to overflowing possessions?

Shouldn't we fear God "for nothing"? (Job 1:9-10)

## **Will be assured after recognize**

The owner of the home and the church is the Lord.

The Lord rules over our homes and churches.

Our home and church will be assured to us after we recognize this truth.

(Cf.: Dan. 4:26).

## **I want to be broken by understanding.**

I pray that the indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5)

Makes us understand the Word of God.

I pray that the Spirit

Pierces my conscience (Acts 2:37) with the sword of the Spirit

That is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17),

Keeps breaking my hardening heart with the Word of God

That is like a hammer (Jere. 23:29),

Continues to melt my cold heart with the Word of god

That is like fire (v. 29).

## **"keep on the alert"**

Jesus said "keep on the alert" four times (Mk. 13:33, 34, 35, 37).

The reason is because we don't know when the appointed time will come (v. 33).

Since we don't know when the Lord is coming,

We must be on the alert (v. 35).

Jesus said "If he comes suddenly,

Do not let him find you sleeping" (v. 36).

## **I really want to learn**

One of the things we need to learn diligently is

The secret of being content.

In any and every circumstance

We have to learn the secret of being content (Phil. 4:11-12).

To do so we must be satisfied with the Lord alone.

Then even when we are rich,

We won't be greedy but content

And can use the abundance given by God's grace

For the glory of the Lord.

Also, when we are in need,

We won't be complaining

But thank the Lord for give us our daily bread.

So we can confess "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (v. 13).

## **"false humility"**

"false humility",

It is "inflated without cause by his fleshly mind" ...

(Col. 2:18)

## **Favoritism to the end?**

Father Jacob showed favoritism to the end.

He loved Joseph among his twelve sons.

So not only he made a richly ornamented robe for Joseph (Gen. 37:3),

He also gave the portion of the Shechem land

More than his brothers (48:22).

## **God will bring it to an end**

God will bring it to an end to those

Who don't humble their hearts

Even though they know the consequences of arrogant sins,

Who don't glorify God,

Who controls our breath and all of our ways,

But keep on exalting themselves.

(Cf.: Dan. 5:22-23, 26)

## **The sword should pierce even our own soul ...**

The Word of God, the sword of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

Should pierce even our own soul

So that the thoughts of our hearts should be revealed

(Lk. 2:35).