

I am the letter of Christ

[Short Word Meditation (2)]

James Kim

I should ask myself the right questions!

I should ask myself the right questions:

1. What is the benefit of all my works? (Eccle. 1:3)
2. What does pleasure that I pursue accomplish? (2:2)
3. What do I gain by being wise? (v. 15)
4. What do I get for all the toil and anxious striving with which I labor? (v. 22)
5. Am I now striving for the things that will endure forever (3:14) with “eternity” in my heart? (v. 11)
6. Am I enjoying my work? (v. 22)

We shouldn't sell ourselves.

We shouldn't sell ourselves to greed and craving (1 Kgs. 21:20, 25).

We cannot afford ourselves.

We should understand deeply

That we cannot afford ourselves (Cf.: Lev. 14:32),

So that we can completely depend on God

As we feel completely helpless.

As a result, we have no choice but to confess:

“I love you, O Lord, my strength” (Ps. 18:1).

I myself think that I am very weak person ...

Why did God tell Gideon who was “the weakest” and “the least”

To “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand”? (Judg. 6:14-15)

Why does the Lord telling a person who thinks that he is the weakest

To go and do the Lord’s work in his strength?

The reason why the Lord is telling us to go and do the Lord’s work in our work is

Because maybe the Lord’s word “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior” is that strength? (v. 12)

‘I can’t forgive you until I die’?

Some people say, ‘I can’t forgive you until I die’,

But they must forgive before they die (Cf.: Lk. 23:34)

What if I run away just for me to live?

Some of us may attempt to run away in despair

When we cannot see any sign for us to escape a crisis

Even though we try and try so many times

And that crisis gets longer and longer.

But if we try to run away for us to live

Instead of being together with our community,

Then God may not fulfill His will

To save the whole community.

(Acts 27:9, 18, 20, 30-31)

They shouldn't be divided.

The parents shouldn't be divided in loving their children.

When Rebekah was pregnant,

The children struggled together within her (Gen. 25:21-22).

Then she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?"

"So she went to inquire of the Lord" (v. 22)

The Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb;

And two peoples will be separated from your body ..." (v. 23).

But I think what God said "two people will be separated"

Can be applied to Rebekah and her husband Isaac

As their children Esau and Jacob born and were growing up:

"Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob" (v. 28).

Am I honorable in front of them?

Paul didn't refuse to die if he was a wrongdoer

And had committed anything worthy of death (Acts 25:11).

He had committed no offense (v. 8).

He had done no wrong to the Jews (v. 10),

Who had come down from Jerusalem and brought serious charges against him (v. 7).

Even if people sue me because they hate me and are hostile toward me,

If I haven't committed any injustice or sin to them,

Then in addition to my conscience, I will be honorable in front of them.

As “a letter of Christ” ...

How I am being read as “a letter of Christ”

To those who know me? (2 Cor. 3:3)

'I am not the person you think and expect.'

We must be free in the Lord.

Instead of hiding, we should reveal ourselves and said,

'I am not the person you think and expect' (Jn. 1:20).

We don't have to live up to the wrong expectations of the people around us.

We only have to live as the Lord expects from us.

I want to walk on the water.

If the Lord calls me "Come", I want to walk on the water.

I want to obey the Lord's calling and first 'get out of the boat' by faith.

The reason is because I believe that

It is better to walk on the water where the Lord is standing

Than staying inside the boat comfortably without the Lord.

Even though I know that I will sink because I will become frightened by seeing the wind,

I still want to obey His calling and get out of the boat and walk on the water.

The reason is because I believe that if I cry out to the Lord “Lord, save me!”

Then the Lord will immediately stretch out His hand and will hold of me and will save me.

I no longer want to stay inside the boat without the Lord,

I rather walk on the water where the Lord is. (Mt. 14:24-32)

Which one am I fixing my eyes on?

Although with my physical eyes I fix on what is seen that is temporary,
With my eyes of faith, I fix on what is unseen that is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18).

We must fear God's silence.

We must no longer be bold in committing sins against God without any hesitation in our conscience
Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly (Eccle. 8:11).
The reason is because God will surely rebuke us in His time
And He will certainly accuse us to our face.
We must fear God's silence. (Ps. 50:21)

I want to confess like this before I die.

Like Joshua, before I die
I sincerely want to confess
To my beloved family and church members like this (Josh. 23:14):
'I know with all my heart and soul
That not one of all the good promises the Lord my God gave me has failed -
The promise to me, John 6:1-14
And the promise to the church, Matthew 16:18.

God who is for me

How much God will give or allow me all these things for me (1 Sam. 22:3) ...

As I think about these people in the Bible such as,

David who was running away from King Saul who was trying to kill him,

Jonah who disobeyed God's command,

Naomi who tasted the bitterness of her life,

Hannah who was bitter in spirit,

Gideon who was afraid, and etc,

This Bible verse came into my mind as a conclusion:

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all,
how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32)

Can I value someone who wants to harm me?

May the reason why I don't harm him

Even though I had opportunities to so is

Because not only that God forbids it, but also I value him ...? (1 Sam. 24:10)

The changes of people's thoughts toward me ...

When the islanders of Malta thought that Paul was “a murderer”

And then thought that he was “a god” (Acts 28:1, 4, 6)

I think the change of people's thoughts toward me aren't that important.

God who saved Naaman

Through Naaman, God had given victory to Aram (2 Kgs. 5:1).

As a result, Naaman became a great man in the sight of his master, the king of Aram, and highly regarded (v. 1). But he had leprosy (v. 1).

“Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife” (v. 2).

God used her to tell her master Naaman's wife

“If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria!

He would cure him of his leprosy” (v. 3).

As a result, Naaman went to Prophet Elisha (v. 9).

However, unlike what Naaman thought that Prophet Elisha would do for him (vv. 11-12)

Prophet Elisha sent a messenger and told Naaman,

“Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed” (v. 10).

However, Naaman eventually obeyed what “the man of God had told him”,

And his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy (v. 14).

As a result, Naaman knew that “there is no God in all the world except in Israel” (v. 15).

And he determined that he would never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the Lord (v. 17).

God saved Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram.

God who made Naaman to save Aram saved not only Naaman's leprosy but also his soul.

[God who saved the Gentile Naaman in the Old Testament saved the Gentile Cornelius in the New Testament (Acts 10)].

How can I forgive a family member who has harmed me?

Although my instinct is to repay another with evil for evil
How come the Bible says to always seek after that which is good
For another and for all people (1 Thess. 5:15),
Including those who harm me for my sake?

How can we overcome evil with good? (Rom. 12:21)
How can we forgive those evil people?
How can we seek after that which is good for them? (1 Thess. 5:15)
How can this be possible?

Joseph in the Bible did so.
Not only did he sincerely forgive his older brothers who hated him and even tried to kill him,
He also comforted them and spoke kindly to them, took care of them and their children,
And he died at the age of 110 (Gen. 50:21, 26).
How was this possible?
It was because Joseph tasted God's goodness (Ps. 34:8)
That he was able to do good to his brothers (Eph. 2:10).
In other words, because Joseph understood the God's good will in which
Even though his older brothers meant evil against him, but God meant it for good
In order to bring about this result of preserving many people alive (Gen. 50:2),
That was why he was able to sincerely forgive his older brothers
And comforted them and spoke kindly to them and took care of them and their children.

Only when the Lord gives us understanding and faith to believe and know
That God intends it for good to accomplish His saving will
Even when those evil people intend to harm us,
Then we can forgive those who harm us and even who try to harm us,
Comfort them, take care of them and do good to them.
Let us long for this great grace of God.

My arrogance is ...

My arrogance is not listening to an advice of the mature believers who love me
And is hating their rebukes.
Furthermore, my arrogance is even hating them who have rebuked me.

The wise man not only loves them who rebuke him in love
But he also gets instruction and become wiser
(Prov. 9:8-9).

"the day of my distress"

May "the day of my distress" become "the day when I call" (Ps. 102:2).

If I know that I am what I am because of God's grace ...

If we are Christians who know that I am what I am because of God's grace,
Then we must labor for the Lord and His church.
We must labor even more than those who don't understand His grace.
If we don't labor and just say 'It is God's grace'
Then we are proving that God's grace toward us is vain
(1 Cor. 15:10).

The reason my discouragement turns into my hope ...

Affliction ... (Song 3:19)

Makes peace to go away from our hearts (v. 17).

Sometimes our affliction cut off our strengthen and hope (v. 18).

Surely our hearts can get downcast when we remember our afflictions (v. 20).

But how can we have hope when we recall to our mind? (v. 21)

How can our afflictions that cut off peace, strengthen and hope in our hearts

Be our hope when we call to our mind?

If we just look at our afflictions, they cannot be our hope.

But when we look at our God who gives or allows us the afflictions,

Then they can be turned to hope.

Our downcast can be turned to hope

When we understand that the Lord's great love and His great faithfulness toward us (vv. 22, 23)

In the midst of holy and just God disciplining us faithfully due to our unrepented sins.

My word and my works

My word should be upright and all my works should be done in faithfulness (Cf.: Ps. 33:4).

Will He not grant me my every desire?

Will the Lord, who gave me His promise Word, arrange and secure in every part

And "Will he not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?" (2 Sam. 23:5)

My foolishness is ...

My foolishness is

Not knowing and disregarding

The future bitter consequence of my present wrong choice. (Prov. 5:3-5)

My foolishness is ...

My foolishness is

Not knowing my path is crooked. (Prov. 5:6)

Our foolishness is ...

Our foolishness is

Not keeping to a path far from opposite sex but getting close to her/him

Even though we know our weakness in fighting sexual temptation. (Prov. 5:8)

My foolishness is ...

My foolishness is

Regretting about experiencing the bitter results

Due to not listening and hating his discipline and correction at that time

(Prov. 5:11-14).

My faith

When I see my faith

I have nothing to say because it is terrible.

My prayer and expectation is

That my faith toward God becomes known to many people around me

So that they don't need to say anything about it. (1 Thess. 1:8)

The driving force of my life

The driving force of my life is only the love of Christ.

Since the love of Christ compels me (2 Cor. 5:14),

No matter what adversity and suffering, I no longer live for me

But for Jesus who died on the cross for me (Gal. 2:20).

Since the love of Christ, the driving force of my life, works powerfully in me,

I must be able to fulfill my mission and ministry faithfully and sacrificially

By the irresistible power and grace of God.

With attitude of have debt of love, I must fulfill it faithfully (Rom. 13:8).

That mission and ministry is to reconcile others to Him (2 Cor. 5:18)..

I must bear the responsibility of the ministry of reconciliation between my neighbors (v.18).

Also, as I look each soul in God's perspective,

I must reconcile each one of them who is created in God's image with God

Through the gospel of Christ.

This is the purpose of my life.

[Meditation of the Word of God given to us during the Word Revival in 2016]

What is my cross?

Maybe the cross that we have to bear is
The difficulties of our families and our lives
Due to loving the Lord
More than loving our families and our lives
(Lk. 14:26-27).

My foolishness is ...

My foolishness is
Making my heart and my ears close
So that I won't listen to God's word saying
"let him turn in here",
"proceed in the way of understanding"
(Prov. 9:4, 5, 16).

My weeping ...

My weeping
Can break
The other person's heart.
(Acts 21:13)

My death ...

Our death must reveal the glory of God (Jn. 11:4).

In addition, we must face death

That is beneficial to our family, relatives, church members and neighbors (vv. 50-52).

When they see my death?

Will there be people

Who may say 'Truly this man was the man of God!'

When they see my death?

(Mk. 15:39; 2 Kgs. 4:9)

My delight, my counselors

The Word of God is "my counselors" (Ps. 119:24).

God rebukes me when I am proud due to His Word

And when I am wander from His commandments (v. 21).

God makes me to treasure in my heart so that I may not sin against Him (v. 11).

The Word of God is "my delight" (v. 24).

God opens my eyes so that I may behold Wonderful things from God's law (v. 18).

That Wonderful things are that God faithfully fulfills His promises to me

So that I may taste God's goodness (v. 17).

Therefore, even when people slander me,

I meditate the Word of the Lord (v. 23).

“I am responsible”

David

Knew that he was responsible
For the death of the priest Ahimelech,
Who was anointed by God (1 Sam. 22:22).

Shouldn't we

Know that the Lord's servant is suffering
And “I am responsible” for it?

Shouldn't pastors

Know that the church members are suffering
And “I am responsible” for it?

"O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days"

“For my days have been consumed in smoke ...” (Ps. 102:3),

“My days are like a lengthened shadow ...” (v. 11),

Even though God “has shortened my days” (v. 23),

I pray to God like this:

““O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days,

Your years are throughout all generations” (v. 24).

It is better to be loved afterward.

Rather than flattering that person to be loved now
It's better to rebuke him and be loved afterward
(Prov. 28:23).

Discouragement, longing, hope!

When we are discouraged, let us long for our God and put our hope in Him (Ps. 43:2, 5, 11).

When I am in despair and disturbed in me ...

The reason why I am in despair and disturbed within me
Is because I think that God seems to have forgotten me and forsaken me
When my soul pants for Him and thirst for God.

At that time, I must go to God in prayer, proclaiming to my soul like this:

'James,
Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?
Hope in God,
For I shall again praise Him
For the help of His presence.'
(Ps. Chs. 42, 43).

We think that we are holier than others ...

Although we are continually provoking God to His face
By walking in the way which is not good, following our own thoughts,
We say like this to the people around us:
'Do not come near me,
For I am holier than you!'
(Isa. 65:2, 3, 5)

Why blame others?

We blame others to hide our own sins from the truth (Gen. 3:12-13).

We shouldn't take another's spouse.

We shouldn't covet our neighbor's possessions (Exod. 20:17).
If we take our neighbor's spouse to be our wife,
Then it is despising God, His Word
And doing evil in His sight.
(2 Sam. 12:9-10).

“his neighbor’s wife”

Do not desire your neighbor’s wife in your heart,

Do not go in to your neighbor’s wife,

And do not even touch her.

(Prov. 6:25, 29)

About 5,000 men

Jesus fed about 5,000 men

With five loaves and two fish (Lk. 9:13-14).

When Jesus’ apostles taught the people and proclaimed

The Jesus’ resurrection from the dead,

Those who had heard the message believed

And the number of the men came to be about 5,000

(Acts 4:1-4).

Husband/father’s responsibility

We the husbands shouldn’t be harsh with our wives.

We the fathers shouldn’t embitter our children.

(Col. 3:19, 21).

A woman not loved by her husband

Leah with weak eyes (Gen. 29:17) who was unloved by her husband Jacob (vv. 31, 33)
Was a woman with affliction (v. 32).
But God saw her unloved by Jacob and opened her womb
And gave her children as gifts (vv. 31-35).

God, who sees a woman unloved by her husband, sees her affliction (v. 32).
God gives heed to her, and endows her with a good gift (v. 20).

A wife not loved by her husband ...

Although Leah, who was unloved by her husband Jacob (Gen. 29:31),
Was buried in the cave that was in the field of Machpelah, which was before Mamre,
Rachael, who was loved by Jacob (29:18, 30),
Was buried on the way to Ephrah (that was, Bethlehem) (35:16-20).

Not 'lower' but 'better'

The reason why we look others 'lower' than us is because our hearts are proud.
Those who are humble in heart regard others 'better' than themselves.
(Phil. 2:3)

I was lowered.

I was lowered because of my sin (Ps. 106:43).

My sin is being rebellious in my counsel (vv. 33, 43).

I mingled with the worldly people and learned their practices

And served their idols (vv. 35-36).

Therefore, I became unclean in my practices and played the harlot of their deeds (v. 39).

As a result,

I provoked Him to anger with my deeds and He disciplined me (vv. 29, 40).

And as a result of that discipline, I was lowered (v. 43).

God who states the case in order

God will reprove us.

God will state the case in order before our eyes (Ps. 50:21).

My stubbornness and unrepentant heart

Although God is leading me to repentance in His kindness,

I don't even realize it

And still committing sins against Him,

Not knowing that the kindness of God leads me to repentance ...

(Rom. 2:4)

I think there is only speck in my eyes.

Even though Jesus says “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye,
But do not notice the log that is in your eye?” (Mt. 7:3)
We look at the log that is in our brother’s eyes
And think that there is only speck in our eyes.

When my will conflicts with the will of God ...

When my will conflicts with the will of God
I must submit myself to God’s will
And willingly be obedient to His will
By “praying very fervently” like Jesus did.
(Lk. 22:44)

“When my anxious thoughts multiply within me”

“When my anxious thoughts multiply within me” (Ps. 94:19)
The Lord didn’t abandon me nor forsake me (v. 14).
Rather, He helped me (v. 17).
When I said “My foot has slipped”,
His lovingkindness held me up (v. 18).
Eventually,
The Lord’s consolations delighted my soul (v. 19).

The evidence that my heart and conscience is defiled?

The evidence that my heart and conscience is defiled is that
I profess to know God
But by my deeds I am denying Him
(Tit. 1:15-16).

Sorrow and sadness that is good for my heart?

Let sorrow and sadness be good for my heart (Eccle. 7:3).
Sorrow and sadness that comes from keeping my end (death) in mind
Can be good for me (v. 2).

When sorrow in my heart lasts too long?

When sorry in my heart lasts too long
Because I feel like the Lord has forgotten me forever and has hidden His face from me,
I have trusted in His lovingkindness
And my heart shall rejoice in His salvation.
(Ps. 13:1, 2, 5)

My heart's selfishness ...

My heart's selfishness causes my heart to turn toward worthless things (Ps. 119:36, 37).

When my heart is proud ...

When my heart is proud and my eyes are haughty

Then I will try myself with great matters or things to wonderful for me (Ps. 131:1).

I must be very alert that my heart doesn't get hardened.

I must be very alert that my heart doesn't get hardened (Exod. 10:1, 20, etc.).

If God give me over, then my heart will certainly get hardened (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).

My responsibility to be diligent is

To let the word of God that is like fire and a hammer (Jere. 23:29)

To melt and to break my heart.

I must continue to let the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Eph. 6:17)

To pierce my conscience (1 Sam. 24:5, 10; Acts 2:37).

Like this, I must break up my heart that is like "my fallow ground" (Hos. 10:12).

May the Spirit of God grant me "a new heart", obedient heart

By removing "the heart of stone" every day and every moment (Ezek. 36:26).

**I shouldn't rely on my own understanding,
I must trust in the Lord with all my heart.**

It was probably in 1989.

When I received discipleship training by a pastor for first time,

I learned that Proverbs 3:5-6 is the verse of assurance of guidance:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”

About 25 years later,

I mediated on this Bible verse again

And I learned that the biggest obstacle in trusting God with all my heart is

Leaning on my own understanding.

My instinct is to lean on my own understanding rather than trusting in the Lord.

But the Bible tells me to overcome my instinct

And trust in the Lord with all my heart.

How can I obey this word of God?

In particular, I acknowledge that

There certainly is great danger of being wise in my own eyes

By living according to my instinct that is to lean on my own understanding (v. 7).

I don't want to fall in this danger.

The reason is because if I am wise in my own eyes

Then not only that I will not trust in the Lord with all my heart

But also I cannot do so.

This is not a life of fearing God but doing evil (v. 7).

What a foolish life that is.

I won't lean on my own understanding.

I am thankfully accepting the things that don't happen

According to thought and plan and in my way and in my time.

The reason is because more I to that, the more I can rely on the Lord.

I hope and pray that I may trust in the Lord who fulfill His will in His time and in His way.

Who is the basis for my beliefs?

If the basis for our belief is our difficult situation
And ourselves who feel incompetent,
Then we can only say to the Lord,
'Lord, I can't do it.'

But if the basis for our belief is the promise word of God
And our Almighty God.
Then we can only say to the Lord,
'Lord, the Lord can do it through me.'

[As I meditate the 2 fish and 5 loaves miracle story in the four gospels]

The result of my unbelief choice?

Although it seems to me that
The path that I have chosen by leaning on my own understanding
Instead of trust in God with all my heart (Prov. 3:5-6)
May seem good to me,
In the end, the time will come for me to realize
How wrong the result of my unbelief choice is.
But the surprising thing in the midst of that is
God is merciful to me and gives me great grace.
(Cf.: the Book of Ruth).

I need to let them know my circumstances.

I need to encourage them
By letting them know my circumstances
(Col. 4:8).

God who knows my situation best

If someone who knows my situation best
He should think of me and show me grace.
But he didn't remember me,
But forgot me. (Gen. 40:14, 23)
Although I could have been very discouraged,
I put my trust and hope in God
Who knows my situation best.

After 2 years
God made the person who knew my situation
To remember my situation through some occasion.
So he granted my request (41:9-13).

As a result,
God not only delivered me
But He also exalted me (vv. 37-43).

The Word of God than my thought

We should be careful not to get angry
Because our pastor is not doing
As we thought
And as we expected.

The important things is
Not my thought but the Word of God
And my attitude in trying to obey His Word by faith
(Cf.: 2 Kgs. 5:10-11).

Some evidences that my faith is growing?

1. The closer I get to my holy God,
The more I become aware of my sins and how great sinner I am
(1 Tim. 1:15).
2. I have not choice but to admit
That I can only rely on the merit of Jesus Christ on the cross
(Gal. 1:4, 6:14).
3. I have deeper and greater understanding
That I am what I am because of God's grace
(Rom. 5:20; 1 Cor. 15:10).
4. I labor harder on the Lord's work with the power of grace
(1 Cor. 15:10).

The Pharisee in me

The Pharisee in me peeps

Not only whether that person is doing the thing that is not lawful on the Sabbath

But also whether he is sinning on the Sabbath.

But the Lord is the Lord of the Sabbath (Lk. 6:2, 5, 7).

This hope I have as an anchor of my soul

God who gave me His word of promise interposed with an oath

In order to show to me the promise of the unchangeableness of His purpose.

And God gave strong encouragement to me

So that I can take hold of the hope set before me who has taken refuge in Him.

This hope I have as an anchor of my soul

Is a hope both sure and steadfast (Heb. 6:17-19).

God sent a wasting disease among us.

Although God gave us our request in our intense craving

He sent a wasting disease among us (Ps. 106:14-15).

The reason is because

We forgot God our Savior (v. 21)

And we quickly forgot His great work of salvation (v. 13).

And because we didn't wait for His counsel (v. 13) and tempted God (v. 14)

God sent the wasting disease among us (v. 15).

When my soul fainted within me ...

When my soul fainted within me, I cried out to the Lord in my trouble (Ps. 107:5-6).
He humbled my heart with labor (v. 12) because I rebelled against the words of God (v. 11)
And because of my rebellious way and because of my iniquities (v. 17).
When there was none to help me (v. 12),
I cried out to the Lord in my trouble and my distresses (vv. 13, 19, 28).
Then God sent His word and healed me (v. 20), saved me out of my distresses (vv. 6, 13, 19, 20),
Brought me out of darkness and the shadow of death (vv. 14, 28),
led me also by a straight way (v. 7) And caused the storm to be still (v. 29).
God has satisfied the thirsty soul and has filled the hungry soul with what is good (v. 9).
Therefore, I will give thanks to the Lord
For His lovingkindness and for His wonders to me (vv. 8, 15, 21, 31).

I should focus on ‘God’s sufficient grace’ rather than ‘my thorn in the flesh’.

Although I have asked God to remove ‘my thorn in the flesh’ for countless years,
God says to me, “My grace is sufficient for you.”
Although I wanted ‘my thorn in the flesh’ to be removed,
The purpose that God have given it to me is to keep me from exalting myself.
If I hadn’t had the thorn in the flesh, how much more self-exalting I would be?
Starting from now, I want to focus on God’s sufficient grace
That He gives me in the thorn of my flesh
Rather than focusing on ‘my thorn in the flesh’.
And I want to enjoy humbly God’s sufficient grace.
I want to experience God’s power even more
By boasting about my weaknesses. (2 Cor. 12:7-9)

I want to live up to my name.

"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever." (Dan. 12:3).

This Bible verse is a word of God that means a lot to me.

The reason is because when my father gave me a Korean name when I was born is "Jee Woun"

And the meaning is 'The best (or number one) in wisdom.'

But when I meditated this Bible verse before,

I used to focus on "those who lead the many to righteousness."

However, as I was exercising a little while ago

And was memorizing Isaiah 58:10 for the church Memory Time

I got a new insight.

That new insight was

I must live my life in shining the light of Jesus

By giving myself to the hungry and

By satisfying the desire of the afflicted.

If I summarize my life in two words ...

When I look back on my life

I think I can summarize it in two words:

"Eliezer" and "Ebenezer":

"my God is help" ["Eliezer" (Exod. 18:4)]

'Thus far the Lord has helped me' ["Ebenezer" (1 Sam. 7:12)].

I need to know my place in life well.

I am not aware of the fact that I am not following my own standard
Even though I am judging others and even criticizing them by the same standard.
What is that?
Maybe the reason is because
I am not looking at myself humbly and diligently with the absolute truth of God.
As a result,
Since my heart is proud and I don't know my place
I judge and criticize others based on my own standard.
(Cf.: Rom. 2:1).

What is more important than my conviction?

An upright believer thinks based on the Word of God
Obeys His Word by not doing it if God forbids it
Even though he sees God's works in his own life
And has conviction that it is God's work,
And the faithful beloved people around him say to him
'This is God's given opportunity'.

The Word of God is more important than
My own conviction or what people say.
(Cf. 1 Sam. 24:4-7, 26:10-12)

When I think I'm trapped ...

When I think I'm trapped God receives His glory

By manifesting His power of salvation through judgment. (Exod. 14:3-4, 15-31)

When I called upon the Lord from my distress ...

When I called upon the Lord from my distress

The Lord answered me and set me in a large place (Ps. 118:5).

He set me free from fear (v. 6), from loneliness (v. 7) and from relying on men (vv. 8, 9).

The reason we are proud ...

The reason we are proud is not only because we don't diligently teach ourselves with the word of God

But rather we love to teach others without obeying His word. (Rom. 2:21)

Affliction and comfort that I've received ...

Affliction and comfort that I've received is for someone to be comforted and to receive salvation.

(2 Cor. 1:6).

God's hand is heavy ...

Although "my complaint is bitter" due to "his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning" (Job 23:2),

How about taking this as an opportunity to cry out to God for help (30:24) and

To fear God and "not do such things" anymore? (31:23)

When I think I'm suffering now ...

What should I do when I think I'm suffering now because of my sins?

I want to receive some lessons from Psalms 143 again.

David's spirit was overwhelmed within him and his heart was appalled within him (v. 4)

When the enemy was persecuting his soul (v. 3).

God had crushed his life (v. 3) and he lost hope and was in deep despair (v. 4).

At that time, he stretched out his hands to God and his soul longed for Him (v. 6).

In other words, David cried out to God in his prayer (v. 1).

How did he pray to God?

He remembered the days of long ago and meditated on all God's works

And considered what His hands had done (v. 5).

He made a small noise, repeatedly asking the Lord

To speak of all the things the Lord had done in his life in the past ["meditate" (v. 5)].

And because he trusted the Lord, he cried out to God,

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love" (v.8).

David wanted to hear the word of the Lord's love every morning (v. 8).

As he lifted up his soul to God, he prayed "Show me the way" (v. 8).

As he went to God for His protection, he prayed for God to rescue him from his enemies (v. 9).

He asked God to preserve his life for His name's sake and

To bring him out of trouble in His righteousness (v. 11).

As he did so, David prayed for God to silence his enemies in His unfailing love

And to destroy all his foes since he was the servant of the Lord (v. 12).

And surprisingly, David confessed "you are my God"

And prayed "Teach me to do your will" in the midst of that (v. 10).

He cried out to God "may your good Spirit lead me on level ground" (v. 10).

When my plan didn't go as I intended ...

When my plan didn't go as I intended and what I have purposed didn't stand,
I must ponder and meditate this word of God:
"The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned,
so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand." (Isa. 14:24)

Few evidences that I am living a wrong Christian life ...

1. I am becoming (or seems to be) increasingly insensitive to sin (Eph. 4:19).
I don't regard sin as sin (Rom. 5:13).
2. I am becoming more and more tied to the sense of merit (Lk. 18:11-12).
I think about what I am doing for the Lord and His church
Rather than what the Lord is doing for me (Mt. 25:44).
3. I am becoming more and more proud (Prov. 21:4; Ezek. 28:5).
I like to reveal my own glory rather than the glory of God (Jn. 12:43).

Even through my writing ...

I shouldn't reveal my hate and lose my temper
Toward people were created in God's image
Not only through my words and actions but also even through my writing.
(Cf. Prov. 29:11)

When I was brought low ...

When I was brought low (Ps. 116:6),
When I am greatly afflicted (v. 10),
When I found distress and sorrow (v. 3),
Then I called upon the name of the Lord,
“O Lord, I beseech You, save my life!” (v. 4)

God, who is gracious and righteous and compassionate (v. 5),
Inclines His ear to me (v. 2) and hears my voice and supplications (v. 1)
And protects me and rescues my soul from death (v. 8) and saves me (v. 6).
Also, He rescues my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling (v. 8).
As a result, my soul has returned to my rest (v. 7) by God’s grace.

Therefore,
I love the Lord (v. 1),
I shall call upon Him as long as I live (v. 2),
I shall walk before the Lord in the land of living (v. 9).

When we are in the pit of our lives

When we are in the pit of our lives,
From then on, the Lord exalts us gradually (Gen. ch. 39).

“I will call on him as long as I live”

In the midst of the life and death crisis, When I was in trouble and sorrow (Ps. 116:3, 8, 10),
When I was in great need (v. 6), When there were tears in my eyes, when my feet were stumbling (v. 8),
I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, save me!” (v. 4)
Then the Lord heard my voice and my cry for mercy (v. 1) and He saved me (v. 6).
The Lord delivered my soul from death, My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling (v. 8).
Also, the Lord gave me rest and He had been good to me (v. 7).
Therefore, I love the Lord (v. 1). I call on Him as long as I live (v. 2).
I proclaim who God is: “The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion” (v. 5).
I will walk before the Lord in the land of living (v. 9).
I believed, now I am believing, and I will continually believe the Lord (v. 10).
I want to repay the Lord for all His goodness to me (v. 12).
I want to call on the name of the Lord with thanksgiving (vv. 13, 17).
I commit myself in fulfilling my vows to the Lord (vv. 14, 18).
And I want to have precious death in the sight of the Lord (v. 15).

‘Am I in the place of God?’

Jacob said to his wife Rachel, “Am I in the place of God ...?” (Gen. 30:2),
Jacob’s son Joseph said to his older brothers, “am I in God’s place?” (50:19).

Great sorrow and grief that I desperately need

My heart needs great sorrow and unceasing grief (Rom. 9:1).
I hope I can wish that I myself is accursed, separated from Christ (v. 3),
My prayers to God is for the salvaiotn of my beloved ones (10:1).

Is there “The Lord Will Provide” in my life?

I received three lessons from Genesis 22:1-14:

1. I must obey God.
 - a. It is good to obey immediately.
 - b. I must obey God’s command by faith even though I don’t understand His commands.
 - c. I must remove wisely all the elements that interfere in obeying His commands.
 - d. Trust that there are blessings that God has prepared at the end of obedience.
 - e. Like this, obeying God is connected to “The Lord Will Provide”.

2. I must pass God’s test.
 - a. Although the purpose of Satan’s temptation is to destroy me, the purpose of God’s test is for my own good.
 - b. The reason why there is the test of faith is for God to test the level of my faith.
 - c. I must overcome the trial of faith by faith and pass His test.
 - d. When I pass God’s test by obedience, there is blessing of “The Lord Will Provide” at the end of the test.
 - e. Like this, God’s test is connected to “The Lord Will Provide”.

3. I must fear God.
 - a. Fearing God means living a God-centered and God-first life.
 - b. I must love God more who gave the gift of children rather than loving the gift that is the children.
 - c. It is my confession that I love God more than my children by immediately obeying God’s command and offering them to God by faith.
 - d. Like this, fearing God is connected to “The Lord Will Provide”.

We must serve with generous heart.

In order for the Lord's church to stand firm,

We must give up our own rights.

For the whole church's sake, in order to take care our church members,

Whatever right that we have and have enjoyed,

We should be able to transfer and to give up.

And we should serve one another as we imitate Jesus' humble mind (Phil. 2:5-8).

We must serve with generous heart (4:5).

When we face with such a great difficulty ...

When we face with such a great difficulty

Not only do we not have ability to handle it but we may not know what to do.

At that time, we should look only to the Lord.

And we must trust Him (2 Chron. 20:12, 20).

"glorify God in your body"

The Bible says, "glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:20).

The reason is because our body is not our own, but we have been bought with a price.

The reason is because our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in us, whom we have from God (vv. 19-20).

Therefore, we must flee immorality (v. 18).

This is because our body is not for immorality, but for the Lord (v. 13).

This is because our bodies are members of Christ and not the members of a prostitute (v. 15).

"Be careful"

If we don't be careful

Then we will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

Then the Lord's anger will burn against us,

And we will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving us.

(Deut. 11:16-17)

"You do not want to leave too, do you?"

"From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (Jn. 6:66-69)

1. When many of the disciples left Jesus and no longer followed Him,
I wonder how was Jesus' heart?
2. When Jesus said to His 12 disciples "You do not want to leave too, do you?",
I wonder how was Jesus' heart?
3. When we meditate on Peter's reply "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life",
I want to ask a question, 'Are you looking for a new church because of the Lord's Word of eternal life or because of fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ?'

"Peace be with you!"

When we close the door of our hearts
Because we are afraid of people,
And be alone by cutting off all the channels with those people,
The Lord comes near to us and speaks to us saying,
"Peace be with you!"
(Jn. 20:19, 21)

A wide door of service but a lot of adversity?

Although the Lord opened the door of effective service for us
If we go through that wide door
There will be many adversities
Due to many people who oppose us.
(1 Cor. 16:9).

Sometimes we fall ...

Although sometimes we fall we will not be hurled headlong
Because the Lord is the One who holds our hands (Ps. 37:17, 24).
Even though we fall seven times, we rise again (Prov. 24:16).
The reason is because God raises us up again.

We must express the overflowing love in our hearts

We need to let our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ know
That we have the overflowing love in our hearts.
One of the ways is to express our much affliction and anguish of our hearts
Through writings with many tears. (2 Cor. 2:4)

Because there is overflowing love ...

The reason why I have many tears
In much affliction and anguish of heart is
Because “the love which I have especially for you.” (2 Cor. 2:4)

Abundant grace, abundant good deed?

We must have an abundance for every good deed
With all grace abound to us.
(2 Cor. 9:8)

The more it overflows ...

The more the hardships overflow
The more comfort overflows as well.
(2 Cor. 1:5)

**'Although your end increased greatly,
But your later end should be decreased more greatly.'**

The reason why we like Job 8:7 –

“Though your beginning was insignificant, Yet your end will increase greatly”

Is because this word of God gives us hope.

For example, when a restaurant owner opens a restaurant

He holds onto that Bible verse and prays to God

Because I am sure he is hoping and longing

For the Lord to bless his restaurant business to be successful later

Even though the beginning of the business is insignificant.

But the problem is after the business has grown greatly.

In other words, big problem is that

The business owner doesn't have clear biblical purpose

Why the business should grow greatly.

Therefore, there is danger that the business owner may become proud and greedy.

At that time, I think, even though his end increased greatly,

his later end should be decreased more greatly.'

Only then he will look upon and rely on Almighty and powerful God.

“How languishing is your heart”

As Father God looks at us, His children,

He says, “How languishing is your heart” (Ezek. 16:30).

The reason is because Father God knows

That we are committing sins because we are weak.

What kinds of sins are we committing against God now?

A hot-tempered man and one easily angered

The Bible says,

“Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man,
do not associate with one easily angered”
(Prov. 22:24).

The reason is because

We may learn his ways and get ourselves ensnared (v. 25).

But what if that hot-tempered person and one easily angered
Is our spouses and our parents?
What should we do?

Who is better?

A poor man, who has discernment, who sees through him is better than
A rich man who is wise in his own eyes (Prov. 28:11).

Who is more?

Although the number of true disciples should be increasing (Acts 6:1, 7),
It seems like the number of carnal church members
Who is almost like unbelievers is increasing (Rom. 8:5, 8).

Who did more offering?

Regarding who did more offering,

It seems to us that a rich Christian who gave their offering out of their wealth.

But in God's perspective,

Those who gave all they have to live on in their poverty did more offering. (Lk. 21:1-4)

Who can be against us?

“who can be against us?”

Since God is for us! (Rom. 8:31)

“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?”

Since God justified us! (v. 33)

“Who is he that condemns?”

Since Jesus Christ, who died – more than that, who was raised to life –

Is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us! (v. 34)

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” (v. 35)

“... anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v. 39)

Who comforts those in any trouble?

It's not that we are comforting those in any trouble

But it is God who comfort them through us

As He comforts us in all our troubles.

(2 Cor. 1:3-4)

Who is the true God?

Although God is speaking to the Christians who are hesitating between God and Money
And who loves and serve two masters to choose between the two,
We are not answering Him a word.
Now we are in a cowardly silence.
No matter how many times we call on the name of Money”
There is no voice and no one answers.
Our idol Money is also silent.
But those Christians who rely on God pray to God and receive answer from Him.
Who is the true God? (Mt. 6:24; 1 Kgs. 18:21, 26, 29, 36-37).

“which of them was considered to be greatest”

One of the causes of contention in the church community is “which of them was considered to be greatest”
(Lk. 22:24).

It is important who we meet.

Saul, who tried to take those who belonged to the Way as prisoners to Jerusalem
Met the resurrected Jesus and was taken as a prisoner of Jesus and commissioned
So that he transferred to Paul who suffered for the sake of the name of Jesus (Acts ch. 9).

It is important who we meet.
We must meet Jesus, be transformed,
Meet Jesus’ people and be built.

Who to obey?

The Holy Spirit-filled Christians know that
They must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

To whom it is better to be exalted?

It is much better for Mordecai to be exalted by God, the King of kings
Rather than Haman to be exalted by King Ahasuerus.
(Esth. 3:1, 12-15; ch. 6; 8:2; 9:4; 10:2-3)

Whose deed should we focus on and live a Christian life?

It is very dangerous to live a Christian life by focusing on ourselves.
The reason is because
When we look at our good deeds,
Then we will depend on our own self-righteousness rather than God's righteousness,
And when we look at our evil deeds,
Then we will not depend on Jesus who shed the blood and died on the cross
But will be driven by guilt because of our unrighteousness.
Therefore, we must focus on what Jesus Christ did on the cross and live our Christian lives.
(As I was reading Romans 9:11)

"only when their eye is on you"?

We must not “do it, not only when their eye is on you and to with their favor”
But “with sincerity of heart” (Col. 3:22).

We need to open and close our eyes.

We need to open our eyes to the Lord,
And close our eyes to the world.
(Cf. 2 Kgs. 6:17-18).

We need to humble the pride of our hearts.

The reason why we don't return for the benefit we received
Is because our hearts are proud.
We need to humble the pride of our hearts.
(2 Chron. 32:25-26)

"as was His custom"

Jesus, "as was His custom" (Lk. 4:16)
Read (v. 16), taught (v. 31),
Went to a secluded place (v. 42) and prayed (5:16),
Preached the gospel (4:18, 43, 44).

There is no need to envy the income of the wicked.

"... The income of the wicked, punishment." (Prov. 10:16).

The more the income, the more the wicked commit sins?
Therefore, the increasing of the wicked's income
Is not a material blessing but a curse?

The "capable men"

The "capable men"
Fear God, trustworthy men
Who hate dishonest gain.
(Exod. 19:21).

“we will be able to comfort”

“God of all comfort,
Who comforts us all our affliction
So that we will be able to comfort
Those who are in any affliction.
(2 Cor. 1:3-4).