

A Church Member Like Cain?

[Short Word Meditation (24)]

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3 well names, 3 lessons

Isaac had his servants dig three wells.

Their names were:

(1) "Esek" ("Contention"):

the shepherds of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's shepherds, claiming, "This well is ours."

(2) "Sitnah" ("Enmity"):

Isaac's servants dug another well, which the shepherds of Gerar also claimed as their own.

(3) "Rehoboth" ("Spacious"):

Isaac dug another well where they no longer quarreled.

The principles derived from these events are:

(1) We must guard against quarreling desires (James 4:1),

(2) We should not harbor enmity (Genesis 16:12; Ephesians 2:16),

(3) With an open heart, we should live in peace without quarreling anymore (2 Kings 4:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Romans 12:18).

Difficulties and crises in relationships that may arise one day, even in relationships with close friends ...

God saw everything that Laban did to Jacob.

God knew that Laban deceived Jacob and changed his wages ten times.

God communicated this fact to Jacob.

Jacob then called his wives Rachel and Leah to him in the field where he was tending his flocks outside the house (Genesis 31:4-12).

In close relationships, difficulties and crises that can arise are valuable opportunities to hear the voice of God and His word.

It's a chance to listen to His word and obey it with faith alongside a beloved spouse.

The rich look down on the poor, harass them and take them to court.

Among the rich who claim to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ,
there are people who discriminate against people
based only on their outward appearance and judge them with evil thoughts,
but they look down on the poor, harass them, and take them to court
(James 2:1, 4, 6).

A church member like Cain?

A person like Cain hates his younger brother
because his brother's actions are righteous
but his own actions are evil
(1 John 3:12).

People who followed Cain's evil path, ran to Balaam's wrong path for money, and rebelled against God like Korah ...

To those who are ungodly and abuse the grace of God to lead a dissolute life,
to those who claim that they do not know the Lord Jesus Christ, our only Master,
to those who have lost their reason, defile the flesh, ignore authority,
and curse glorious heavenly beings. Misfortune will come.
They followed the evil path of Cain, ran to the wrong path of Balaam for money,
and, like Korah, rebelled against God and are heading toward destruction
(Jude 1:4, 8, 11).

**We must build ourselves on our most holy faith
and pray in the Holy Spirit.**

We must pray in the Holy Spirit, building ourselves up on our most holy faith.
And we must keep ourselves in the love of God
and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring us to eternal life.
(Jude 1:20-21).

**Questions and words that the most cunning Satan
lets into the realm of our thoughts**

We must be very wary of the questions and words
that the most cunning Satan allows into our thinking (Genesis 3:1-5).
To do so, we must meditate on God's word day and night (Psalms 1:2).
If we think about the Word of God over and over again,
we will be able to discern the questions and words
that Satan brings into the realm of our thoughts and block them with faith.

May the Most High God be praised.

May the Most High God, who created the universe,
bless you and give you victory,
and may the Most High God be praised
(Genesis 14:19-20).

When we are trapped, He rescues us even through encounters with non-believers.

Why did Potiphar the Egyptian, the commander of Pharaoh's personal guard (Genesis 39:1), imprison Joseph in the prison where the king's prisoners are kept? (v. 20)

Clearly, Joseph was not a prisoner of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, but was merely a Hebrew servant of Potiphar.

Perhaps the reason was because the prison was inside Potiphar's house (40:3).

What is interesting is that some time later the cupbearer and baker of the king of Egypt sinned against the king of Egypt and were imprisoned in the house of Potiphar, the captain of the royal guard, in the same place where Joseph was imprisoned (vv. 1-3).

When Joseph was imprisoned, God eventually rescued him by having him interpret the dream of Pharaoh's cupbearer, who was also imprisoned (vv. 9-13, 31).

When we are trapped in the east, west, south, and north, salvation comes only from God (Jonah 2:9).

When we are trapped, God rescues us even through encounters with non-believers.

How to separate them?

Abram and his nephew Lot had so much property that they couldn't live together because the pastureland in that land (between Bethel and Ai) was not sufficient.

So Lot eventually left and went east to Sodom and Gomorrah, causing them to separate (Genesis 13:6-11).

Similarly, Jacob and Esau also had too much property to graze their livestock together in the land of Canaan, so Esau left that land and settled in the hill country of Seir, leading them to separate (36:6-8).

Reflecting on this fact, it seems that God, by granting abundance of possessions to either brothers or relatives, causes them to separate.

In other words, God even separates them through the blessings of material wealth.

It is much better to be loved by the warden in prison.

Joseph, who did evil things and tried not to commit sins because he feared God, ended up being wrongly accused and imprisoned as a result of resisting the temptation of a married woman. However, God was with Joseph and blessed him, allowing him to be loved by the jailer (Genesis 39:9, 12, 20-21).

It is far better to be loved by a warden in prison than to be loved by a married woman in her master's home.

Before and after rape?

David's son Amnon loved his beautiful half-sister Tamar very much, and because he was stronger than her, he attacked her and raped her. And then hated her with a hatred that was greater than the love he had with her (2 Samuel 13:1, 14-15).

Shechem, the son of Hamor, saw Jacob's daughter Dinah, whom Leah gave birth to and took her away and raped her. His heart was so drawn to Dinah that he loved her, comforted her with gentle words, and wanted to take her as his wife (Genesis 34:1-4).

The proverb goes, ‘A dog eats its vomit again, and a pig washes itself and then rolls around in the mud again.’

If we, who have been liberated from the filth of the world through the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, fall into it again and are conquered, the proverb ‘A dog eats its own vomit again, and a pig washes itself and then rolls around in the mud again’ is true for us (2 Peter 2:20, 22).

There must be some hesitation.

A person who says he lives in the light but still lives in darkness because he hates his brothers must have stumbling within him (1 John 2:9-10).

The false pastors

The way of truth is being slandered by the false pastors among us who follow sensuality and use greedy, made-up words to profit from us. They are inviting imminent destruction upon themselves (2 Peter 2:1-3).

They even lie and frame you to get you into trouble.

Potiphar's wife, who day after day tried to seduce Joseph by winking at him and inviting him to sleep with her, continued to insist even though Joseph consistently refused her advances. She once grabbed hold of Joseph's clothing and again said, "Come to bed with me."

However, when Joseph fled, leaving his garment in her hand, she falsely accused him of mocking her and attempting to assault her, leading to Joseph being imprisoned

(Genesis 39:7-20).

Fake love, driven by carnal desires, leads to deception and slander against the other person when rejected, ultimately causing one to fall into trouble.

A liar, an enemy of Christ

A liar is someone who denies that Jesus is the Christ.

An enemy of Christ is someone who says they do not know God the Father and the Son Jesus Christ

(1 John 2:22).

In the end, the Lord allows us to praise God

When Leah, who was not loved by her husband, gave birth to her fourth son, Judah, she said, “This time I will praise the Lord” (Genesis 29:35).

The Lord, the bridegroom, ultimately allows us, the bride, to praise God.

He will never let you go away empty-handed, but will bless you abundantly.

Although we will leave this world empty-handed (Ecclesiastes 5:15), at least while we are on this earth, even if people (even our loved ones) try to send us away empty-handed, God will help us through our trials. When he sees your hard work, he will never let you go away empty-handed, but will bless you abundantly (Ref.: Genesis 31:42-43).

God gives grace to humble people

We must humble ourselves before the mighty God,
serve one another with a humble heart and obey the elders.
God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble,
but in due time God will exalt the humble
(1 Peter 5:5-6).

The ungodly people

The ungodly people are lawless, workers of lawlessness, and fornicators, bringing imminent destruction upon themselves (2 Peter 2:1, 5-8).

We must clearly reject people by discerning Whom we should be wary of and whom we should not be with.

Potiphar's wife repeatedly tried to seduce Joseph, who was attractive and well-built, by winking at him and inviting him to sleep with her every day.

However, Joseph, who feared God, refused her advances, questioning how he could commit such wickedness and sin against God. He did not consent to lie with her or even be with her (Genesis 39:6-10).

A person who fears God and is wise discerns between those he should be cautious with and those he should not associate with. And he clearly refuses.

However, a foolish person cannot refuse and ends up falling into temptation (Ref.: Proverbs 7:5-23).

Are we blessed people if we suffer?

We who love life and want to live a blessed life are happy people if we do what is right, which is good, and if we suffer in the pursuit of peace (1 Peter 3:10, 14).

Orphans and widows

A clean and pure faith before God the Father
takes care of orphans and widows who are in difficult situations
(James 1:27).

What good is it to be beautiful if she is not truthful?

Rachel secretly stole her father Laban's household gods without telling her husband Jacob. She placed the household gods inside a camel's saddle and sat on them, claiming she couldn't get up to greet her father because she was menstruating, when Laban searched her tent and failed to find them. This was a lie she told to Laban (Genesis 31:32-35). In Jacob's eyes, Rachel, who was beautiful and graceful (29:17), not only deceived her father Laban but also deceived her husband Jacob. What good is it to be beautiful if she is not truthful?

Aggressively clingy woman?

What should I do with a woman who, the more I reject her (Genesis 39:8, 10), the more I approach her, flirts with her, and becomes aggressively obsessed with her? When Potiphar's wife grabbed Joseph's clothes and said, "Come to bed with me," Joseph shook off his clothes and ran outside, throwing them in her hands (v. 12).

We must boldly throw it away.

We must boldly throw away regulations
that are easily entangled and do not benefit us
(Ref.: Hebrews 13:9).

Is that really the way a wife loves her husband?

As Abraham said, when God sent him away from his hometown
and led him to a wandering life, was it Sarah's way of loving Abraham to have Sarah call him her older
brother wherever he and his wife Sarah went? (Genesis 20:13)

Did Abraham really fear God or was he more afraid of people?

The reason Abraham did something he should not have done
to Abimelech, the king of Gerar, was because he thought
that because there was no one in Gerar who feared God,
people would covet his wife Sarah and kill him (Genesis 20:9-11).

The question that came to mind when meditating on these words is

- (1) Did Abraham really fear God or was he more afraid of people?
- (2) If Abraham truly believed in God's promise of the covenant given in Genesis 12:1-4,
shouldn't he have been confident that he would not die yet?
(Because he had not yet received Isaac as a gift from God)
- (3) Didn't Abraham think in advance and fear in advance
about future events that had not yet occurred?

Can we really accept with faith the words of pain in addition to the words of blessing?

"Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.
So shall your offspring be." Abraham believed the Lord,
and he credited it to him as righteousness.
Abraham, who believed in the God who promised, said,
'There is something you must know.
Your descendants will become aliens in a foreign land,
where they will be slaves and suffer for 400 years.
But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,
and afterward they will come out with great possessions.
You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.
In the fourth generation, your descendants will come back here,
for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure
and is not yet complete' (Genesis 15:5-6, 13-16).
Did Abraham also believe God's word that said,
if God had spoken words of blessing to us about our descendants,
and then said that our descendants would suffer for four generations,
could we accept His word about suffering alongside His word of blessing?

Is it true as God promised...?

Is it really true that, as God promised, Ishmael and his descendants
live like wild donkeys, hitting everyone and everyone hitting them?
Is it true that Ishmael and his descendants
are living in hostility and separate from their brothers?
(Ref.: Genesis 16:12)

Church service shouldn't be 'forced labor' ...

Is it really wise to act wisely when we feel threatened,
or to harass those we perceive as a threat with things like "forced labor"?
(Ref.: Exodus 1:9-11)

Church leaders are the ones who must report to God what they have done.

Church leaders are the ones who must report what they have done to God,
so they must be alert and take care of the souls of their believers,
not with a bitter heart but with joy.
Otherwise there is no benefit to us
(Hebrews 13:17).

It is our God who sits on the throne and the Lamb who brings salvation.

A vast multitude that no one could count, transcending nations,
tribes, and languages, stood before the throne and before the Lamb.
They were dressed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands,
crying out in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9-10).

We must listen!

I think we need to listen to what my father-in-law said to his son-in-law:

‘If you abuse my daughters or take women other than my daughters as your wives, remember that God is watching between you and me, even if I don’t know it’ (Genesis 31:50).

Even demonic spirits ...

Even demonic spirits perform miracles

(Revelation 16:14).

‘Please make that dream come true.’

Joseph was at least 37 years old [30 years old as prime minister (Genesis 41:46) + 7 years of plenty (verse 29) + ? year of famine = at least 37 years old] when his 10 older brothers came down to Egypt and bowed before him, bowing down to the ground before him (42:6).

Did Joseph think to himself that his brothers were bowing down to him just as he had dreamed of twice (vv. 5-10) when he was 17 years old (37:2)?

When his brothers, whom he had not seen in at least 20 years, came and bowed down before him, did Joseph really think that the two dreams he had 20 years ago were coming true?

Genesis 42:9a refers to this: “Joseph remembered the dream he had about them long ago”

I’m reminded of the first verse and chorus of the hymn "There’s a Dream That I Dream":

“There’s a dream that I dream, of my Savior divine, And I know that my dream will come true;

At the morn, in the night, comes the vision of light, With a promise eternally new.

O this wonderful dream is a secret of grace, And I would that this secret you knew;

For I dream that last I shall look on His face And I know that my dream will come true.”

‘I was so shocked when I heard that that I couldn’t answer.’

The younger brother who was specially loved by his father, the brothers who became resentful and jealous upon seeing that their father loved Joseph more than them, and especially Joseph, who made matters worse by dreaming twice and sharing these dreams with his brothers, were planning to kill Joseph and throw him into a pit to be devoured by wild animals (Genesis 37:3-11).

Eventually, they decided to sell him to Ishmaelite traders (v. 27), about 22 years before Joseph later revealed himself to them, saying, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" (45:3).

The Bible notes that upon hearing this, they were so astonished that they could not answer him (45:3).

In reality, about 22 years earlier when Joseph was 17 years old and had dreamed twice (37:7, 10), were his brothers not now coming before him, bowing down to the ground as Joseph had foreseen (43:26, 28; 44:14)?

When the Lord fulfills the dreams He has given us, we will be so astonished that we may be unable to speak, and we will not be able to refrain from bowing down in thanksgiving and worship before God.

We should not imitate that pastor’s faith.

If the word of God preached by a pastor is good, but the outcome of his actions is not good, we should not imitate the pastor's faith (Ref.: Hebrews 13:7).

For the price of His blood, we received forgiveness of our sins.

Joseph's brothers said to each other that they were being punished for what they had done to their brother Joseph.

When Joseph begged for his life, they did not listen even though they saw his suffering.

Therefore, they said to each other that they were now suffering like this (Genesis 42:21).

At that time, Reuben, the eldest brother, said,

“Did I not tell you not to sin against the child? But you did not listen.

Therefore, you have paid for his blood” (v. 22).

When Jesus cried out loud on the cross,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46),

God the Father turned away even though He saw and heard the suffering of His beloved and joyful Son.

Therefore, we are not to be troubled (Ref.: Isaiah 53:5).

We committed sins, but Jesus, who was sinless,

shed His blood and died on the cross,

and we received the forgiveness of our sins

by paying the price of His blood

(Colossians 1:14).

That would be a sin and the law would declare us criminals.

If we do not keep the greatest law, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” but rather treat people differently based on their outward appearance, we are committing a sin and the law will declare us criminals (James 2:8- 9).

He doesn't know where he is going.

Anyone who disobeys Jesus' commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39) and instead hates his brother, is still living in darkness. The darkness has blinded his eyes, so he does not know where he is going (1 John 2:11).

Even though we hate their clothes, we must have pity on them with a fearful heart.

We must pity those who doubt, save those who are in the fire and save them, and even hate their clothing as they are defiled by the lusts of the flesh. We must have pity on them with a fearful heart (Jude 1:22-23).

Therefore, we who were spiritually dead have come back to life and will live forever.

In particular, Joseph lived with his brothers in the land of Canaan for 17 years.

Then he separated with them unexpectedly (Genesis 39:2ff)

and lived apart for about 22 years.

When Jacob was 130 years old, he and Joseph reunited in Egypt (47:9)

and lived together for 17 years. Jacob died when he was 147 years old (v. 28).

In the end, Jacob died after living with Joseph,

whom he especially loved, for only 34 years.

Jesus died after living only 33 years on this earth.

Of those 33 years, he was with his disciples for only 3 years before he died.

Therefore, we who were spiritually dead

have come back to life and will live forever.

Therefore, we must humble ourselves before the Lord.

The Bible says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'

Therefore, we must humble ourselves before the Lord.

Then the Lord will exalt us

(James 4:6, 10).

**However, God had people kill His only Son Jesus Christ,
who had no sin on the cross.**

Even though Cain could not overcome sin and was controlled by sin,
killing his brother Abel, God said,
“Whoever kills Cain will be punished seven times over,”
and put a mark on Cain so that no one could kill him.

However, God had people kill His only Son, Jesus Christ,
who had no sin, on the cross.

Jesus Christ took upon ourselves our sins
and received punishment “sevenfold” on the cross.

Therefore, Jesus spoke seven words on the cross and died
to redeem us (forgiven our sins) and save us
(Genesis 4:7-8, 19; Isaiah 53:10-12; Romans 5:10;
2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 1:14).

Christ will not be put to shame when He comes again.

Those who always live in Christ as taught by the Holy Spirit
will not be put to shame when Christ comes again, but will see Him openly
(1 John 2:27-28).

He who lives according to the teachings of Christ ...

Those who live according to the teachings of Christ
serve God the Father and the Son Jesus Christ,
but those who get too ahead of themselves
and do not follow the teachings of Christ
and turn away from them cannot serve God
(2 John 1:9).

I must persevere and not give up on prayer.

Isaac married Rebekah at the age of 40, but Rebekah was barren.
So Isaac prayed to God, and after 20 years, God answered his prayer
and gave birth to twins Esau and Jacob when he was 60 years old
(Genesis 25:20-26).
I am taught that I must persevere in prayer and not give up.

To win in prayer ...

In order to win in prayer,
we must pray persistently and not give up on prayer
unless the Lord blesses us
(Genesis 32:24-26).

I pray ...

I pray that everything goes well for you
and that your body is healthy, just as your soul is healthy
(3 John 1:2).

A clean and pure believer

We must protect ourselves and become clean and pure believers
before God the Father, untainted by the world
(James 1:27).

We must not abandon our faith in the Lord until the end.

Even though we live in a place where Satan's throne is,
we must hold fast to the name of Jesus, become faithful witnesses of the Lord,
and do not abandon our faith in the Lord until the end, even if we have to be killed
(Revelation 2:13).

We must become people who do the Lord's will until the end.

We must hold fast what we have until the Lord comes again.
The Lord will give authority over all nations
to those who overcome in faith and do His will until the end
(Revelation 2:25-26).

“Is anything too difficult for the LORD?”

Abraham knew that he was nearly 100 years old and his body was practically dead,
and that his wife Sarah was too old to give birth (Romans 4:19).

Abraham's wife Sarah was too old to have children,
and Abraham was as good as dead when he was old (Hebrews 11:11-12).
So when God said, “I will surely return to you around this time next year,
and Sarah your wife will have a son,”

Sarah, who was listening at the entrance of the tent behind her,
laughed to herself and said, “I am old and my husband is old,
so how can I have a child?” she muttered.

Then God said to Abraham:

“Why is Sarah laughing and muttering,
'How can I have a son, now that I am old?'

Is anything too difficult for the Lord?”

I will return to you next year at an appointed time,
and Sarah will have a son” (Genesis 18:13-14).

Sarah became pregnant by faith,
knowing that God was faithful when He promised
(Hebrews 11:11).

Even if I die, I want to see the face of my beloved Lord in person.

His father, Jacob, who especially loved Joseph more than his other sons and made him a richly decorated long robe (Genesis 37:3), saw Joseph's richly decorated long robe soaked in goat's blood (vv. 23, 31). Joseph, thinking that he must have been torn to death by a wild beast, wept bitterly and mourned the death of his son for a long time (vv. 33-34).

All his children comforted him, but to no avail.

He continued to weep over his son's death, saying,

"I will mourn and go to my son in the other world" (v. 35).

However, after about 22 years [Joseph was 17 years old at this time (v. 2), and when he was 30 years old, he became governor of Egypt (41:46)

+ 7 years of plenty (verse 29) + 2 years of famine (45 :6)

= He was 39 years old (39 years - 17 years = 22 years)]

Jacob came down to Egypt and saw Joseph, whom he especially loved, in person.

At that time, Jacob said to Joseph:

“My eyes have clearly seen that you are still alive,
and now I have no choice but to die” (46:30).

He lived for about 22 years, thinking that his beloved son was dead.

Then, when he saw his living face, he said, "I have no regrets even if he died."

As I meditated on these words, two thoughts came to my mind:

- (1) Who is the loved one I really want to see before I die?
- (2) Even if I die, I want to see the face of my beloved Lord in person.

“I cannot, but God can!”

“I cannot, but God can!”

This mindset is very important.

Pharaoh, king of Egypt, said to Joseph,

“I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it.

But I heard that you are good at interpreting dreams.”

Joseph replied,

“I cannot, but God will tell you the meaning of the dream.”

(Genesis 41:15-16).

As I meditate on these words,

I am reminded of Joseph's response when the cupbearer and the baker of the king, each having had a different dream on the same night, said,

"We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them."

Joseph's reply was, "Do not interpretations belong to God?" (40:8)

Reflecting on these words together,

we can see that Joseph had a firm belief

that while he himself could not interpret the dreams, God certainly could.

We receive a lesson that we should live our faith

with the attitude of faith like Joseph's, saying, "I cannot, but God can!"

If we still have thoughts like "I can do it" or "I think I can handle it"

and are trying to solve our problems

and move forward relying on our own strength and abilities,

then we need to realize that we are not yet fully relying on God alone.

My relationship with my husband comes first, not my relationship with my father.

Jacob said to his wives, Rachel and Leah, about his father-in-law,
"Your father's attitude towards me is not the same as it used to be. ...
Your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times. ..."
(Genesis 31:5, 7).

How could Jacob say that about his father-in-law in front of his wives?

And what did Rachel and Leah think when they heard Jacob's words?

If a husband says to his wife about her father-in-law,

'Your father deceived me,' how will the wife take that?

Will she believe her husband or will she defend her father in front of him?

My relationship with my husband comes first, not my relationship with my father.

The term that comes to mind is "출가외인":

"출가(出家)" means 'leaving the house', and "외인(外人)" means 'outsider'.

Therefore, it signifies 'leaving the house to become an outsider'

or 'an outsider who has left the house'.

A married woman leaves her parents and becomes one body with her husband (2:24).

As husbands, you must understand your wife well and live together.

As husbands, you must understand your wife well and live together.

Her wife is a more fragile vessel and must be known
and cherished as a companion who will share the eternal life
she gives through her grace.

This is so that your prayer life will not be interrupted

(1 Peter 3:7).

A woman who is not loved by her husband searches for God in the midst of heartache and thirsts for her husband's love.

Leah, who was not loved by her husband Jacob, was enabled by God to have a child, and when she gave birth to her firstborn son, Reuben, she said, "The Lord saw that I was afflicted, and gave me a son; now my husband will love me." When she became pregnant again and gave birth to her son Simeon, she said, "The Lord has heard that I am unloved and has given me this son." When she became pregnant again and gave birth to Levi, she said, "Now he will feel attached to me, because I have borne him three sons" (Genesis 29:31-34).

In this way, a woman who does not receive love from her husband searches for God in the midst of heartache and thirsts for her husband's love. Her God sees that she is not loved by her husband, and he also knows because he has been told that she is not loved by her husband.

Even if she doesn't receive love from her husband ...

God saw that Leah was not loved by her husband Jacob, so He enabled her to have a child. But Rachel, beloved by her husband, had no children of her own (Genesis 29:31). It is far better to be loved by God without being loved by her husband than to be loved by her husband without being loved by God.

What does it feel like for a woman who cannot give birth to a child who wants to have a son even if it means giving a concubine to her husband?

It is reminiscent of the feelings of a woman who, unable to bear children herself, gave her Egyptian servant Hagar to her husband Abram as a concubine so that they might sleep together, resulting in Hagar conceiving and bearing Ishmael (Genesis 16). Similarly, Rachel, who had no children (29:31), also gave her servant Bilhah to her husband Jacob as a concubine so that she might bear children, resulting in Dan and Naphtali being born to her (30:1-8). Reflecting on the sentiments of a woman who, unable to bear children herself, even gave her servant to her husband as a concubine in hopes of bearing a son.

Can I marry my daughter off to the man who raped her?

After hearing that his daughter Dinah had been raped, her father Jacob remained silent until his sons returned home from tending the sheep. However, before the sons returned, Shechem's father Hamor (with Shechem) came and told Jacob that he had done a wicked thing that Shechem should not have done. That's enough to make Jacob's sons come home from the field and listen to it. Then Hamor said to Jacob, "My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please let him marry her." Shechem also said to Dinah's father Jacob and her brothers, "Grant me this favor, and I will give you whatever you ask. Make the marriage price and gift as high as you like, and I'll pay whatever you ask me. Just give me the girl as my wife" (Genesis 34:6-12). How and why could Jacob remain silent upon hearing that his daughter had been raped? How could he keep silent? How much did Shechem love Dinah, who had been raped, that he wanted to receive her as his wife so eagerly, to the extent that Dinah's father Jacob and her brothers were willing to grant whatever was demanded? Can a man who raped my daughter be allowed to marry my daughter?

**I know for sure that the Lord,
who knows all my circumstances, will always protect me.**

We have the love of God the Father
and the protection of Jesus Christ (Jude 1:1).
So, we have no choice but to praise God
with faith in the refrain of the hymn,
“I Know not Why God’s Wondrous Grace,” which reads: “
But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed Unto Him against that day.”

**I pray that the writings of my hand and the meditations of my heart
will be acceptable before the Lord (Psalms 19:14)**

I pray that the writings of my hand
and the meditations of my heart will be accepted before the Lord
(Psalms 19:14):
‘Lord, may the reflections of my brief meditation on your word
be impressed upon the hearts of those who seek the spiritual essence of God’s word
rather than merely the transmission of many written reflections.’

‘If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.’

When Father Jacob saw the coat stained with blood
that belonged to his dearly loved son Joseph,
whom he had acquired in his old age (Genesis 37:3),
he wept bitterly and mourned
for his son's presumed death for a long time (vv. 31-35).
To prevent starving amid a severe famine (41:54, 57; 42:2),
he sent his ten brothers to Egypt to buy grain,
but he did not send his son Benjamin with them.
The reason was his fear that something might happen to Benjamin (42:4).
The hearts of parents who have already lost a child
can be sufficiently fearful of losing another child.
However, when Jacob later sent his sons to Egypt a second time,
he sent Benjamin with them, saying,
‘If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved’ (43:14).

‘I was once dead, but now I live forever and have the keys of death and Hades.’

Jesus laid his right hand on the apostle John,
who had fallen at his feet and looked like a dead man
when he saw him, and said to him:
“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.
I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!
And I hold the keys of death and Hades
(Revelation 1:17-18).

A gift of generous love and forgiveness seeking?

Jacob sent to greet his brother Esau and convey his greetings.

After praying earnestly to God all night,

he prepared gifts to send to his brother Esau.

He divided the many animals into several herds

and entrusted them to his servants.

After saying, "Go ahead with the field,"

he gave the following instructions to the servant who went first:

"When my brother Esau meets you and asks you,

'Who is your master and where are you going?

Whose are these animals that are before you?' you will tell him,

'These are your servant Jacob's, a gift to his master Esau.'

Your master Jacob is also coming behind you."

Jacob also gave the same instructions to the second and third groups of people,

as well as to all the droves that followed them:

"When you meet Esau, say the same thing to him,

and say, 'Your servant Jacob is right behind us.'"

Jacob did this because he thought that by sending gifts ahead

and thus softening his brother's feelings,

Esau would forgive him when they met

(Genesis 32:4-20).

Jacob hoped for Esau's generous love (v. 5) and forgiveness (v. 20).

These are words of wisdom from Proverbs:

"A secret gift calms anger..." (Proverbs 21:14),

"Gifts open doors; they give access to the great" (18:16),

"Many seek favors from a ruler;

everyone is the friend of a person who gives gifts" (19:6).

“You have forsaken your first love.”

The Lord knows our deeds, our hard work, and our perseverance.

Moreover, the Lord knows that we do not tolerate evil people

and that we test those who claim to be apostles but are not, and we have found them false.

The Lord also knows that we have endured hardships for the sake of His name and have not grown weary.

Yet the Lord has one thing against us: "You have forsaken your first love."

Therefore, we must reflect on where we have gone astray, repent, and do the things we did at first

(Revelation 2:1-5).

‘You will become like God’

The most cunning Satan is deceiving us to disobey God's commandments by whispering to us,

'You will be like God' (Ref.: Genesis 3:1-5).

**If you are so shocked,
not only can you not speak, but you can't believe it.**

When Joseph's brothers heard him say, "I am Joseph..."

they were too stunned to respond (Genesis 45:3).

But when they told their father Jacob, "Joseph is still alive! He is ruler of all Egypt!"

Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them (v. 26).

Being too stunned not only renders one speechless but also incredulous.

Truly incredulous and astonishing is the fact that Jesus,

who died on the cross, rose again after three days (1 Corinthians 15:4).

"In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet ...

the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" (v. 52).

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

Seeing the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,

who had each had a dream but had no one to interpret them,

Joseph noticed that they looked sad.

So, he asked them, "Why are your faces so sad today?" (Genesis 40:5-8)

Hannah was also deeply troubled and prayed in her heart (1 Samuel 1:15, 18).

Amnon was deeply in love with his half-sister Tamar

and became so distressed over her that he made himself ill (2 Samuel 13:1-4).

Nehemiah, upon hearing about the condition of Jerusalem,

was also deeply troubled in his heart when he appeared before King Artaxerxes.

The king noticed Nehemiah's sadness and asked him,

"Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill?"

This can be nothing but sadness of heart" (Nehemiah 1:2-3, 2:1-2).

Our hearts may be so troubled that we cannot be at peace and may sigh deeply (Psalms 55:2).

Moreover, our vision may grow weak with grief,

and our bodies and souls may grow weak (31:9).

Anxiety in the heart weighs it down (Proverbs 15:13),

and a crushed spirit dries up the bones (17:22).

Furthermore, unrelieved sorrow can make our hearts sick (Jeremiah 8:18).

However, we must remember that the Lord does not afflict or grieve us willingly

(Lamentations 3:33). Even though the Lord may cause us distress,

His great love leads Him to have compassion on us (v. 32).

To us who are troubled today,

the Lord says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1).

When our hearts are filled with anxiety,

may the grace of trusting in the Lord bring joy to our souls (Psalms 94:19).

Like Noah

I hope that, like Noah, he will be a person
who brings comfort to those who toil and work hard
in the land cursed by God
(Genesis 5:29).

God's faithful love and grace in preserving life in astonishing ways

God elevated Joseph from slavery in Egypt (Genesis 39)
to the position of prime minister (Ch. 41), granting him every privilege (45:13).
This was for the purpose of ensuring Joseph's ability to care for his father Jacob (45:11)
and to preserve the lives of his brothers and their descendants from famine (v. 7),
brought about by severe drought (43:1).
We witness God's faithful love and grace
in preserving life in astonishing ways (v. 7).

Anyone whose name is not written in the book of life ...

Anyone whose name is not written in the book of life
will be thrown into the lake of fire,
where they will be tormented day and night continuously
(Revelation 20:10, 15).

We must stop loving knowing that everything will pass away.

We must not love this world or the things of the world,
knowing that everything in the world will pass away,
including the lust of the flesh, the greed of the eyes, and the pride in life.
Rather, we must become people who do God's will and live forever
(1 John 2:15-17).

When everyone is wasting away from poverty ...

As the famine became more severe and there was no food throughout the land,
and the people of Egypt and Canaan were wasting away from hunger,
Joseph's father Jacob and Joseph's brothers, who lived in the best land in Egypt,
did not suffer from starvation due to the food provided by Joseph (Genesis 47:11-13).
Rather, the Israelites lived in the land of Goshen in Egypt,
amassed wealth, prospered, and had many children (v. 27).
When everyone is wasting away from poverty,
God provides His children with what they need and makes them rich.

We must try to see the Lord coming again.

As we wait for the day when the Lord returns,
we must strive to live a blameless and clean life before God
so that we can see Him with a peaceful heart
(2 Peter 3:14).

Cain became a wandering wanderer, never seeing the Lord again.

Cain's punishment for killing his brother Abel
because he could not overcome sin and was controlled by sin
was that the Lord cast him out and he became a wandering wanderer,
never seeing the Lord again
(Genesis 4:7-8, 14).

When sinless Jesus was nailed to the cross to bear all our sins,
to forgive us, and to save us,
He experienced forsakenness by God the Father.
He cried out in a loud voice,
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
(Matthew 27:46).

"God is with you in all that you do."

Even non-believers in Jesus should be able to say to us Christians,
"God is with you in all that you do"
(Ref.: Genesis 21:22).

The sentiment of being willing to receive even a curse instead.

In the process of obeying his mother Rebekah's instructions,
Jacob, the second son, says to her: "My brother Esau is a hairy man,
but I have smooth skin. What if my father touches me?
I would appear to be tricking him
and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing."

Listen to Rebekah's response:

"My son, let the curse fall on me. Just go and get them for me"
(Genesis 27:11-13).

Rebekah was willing to bear
even a curse on behalf of her beloved second son, Jacob.
This reminds me of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross,
which symbolizes the tree of curse in my place
(Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13).

It's a thought that one could worry even more.

Esau married two Hittite women,
which caused great distress to his parents, Isaac and Rebekah
(Genesis 26:30-31).

While one might worry due to having unbelieving daughters-in-law or sons-in-law,
there's also a thought that one could worry even more
because of having Christian daughters-in-law or sons-in-law
who somehow don't seem to follow Jesus faithfully.

I hope that Victory Presbyterian Church will become even stronger!

I pray that the Lord will firmly establish
His Victory Presbyterian Church on Christ, the rock!
(Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 10:4).

May the Lord raise more Christ-centered visionary leaders!

I hope and pray that the Lord raise more Christ-centered visionary leaders
for the kingdom of God! (Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 13:1-5)

**I hope that Victory Presbyterian Church
becomes more thankful to God!**

I hope that Victory Presbyterian Church will be more thankful to God
as we truly understand God's grace more and more
as we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ over and over again!
(Colossians 1:6)

A suitable helper

A woman is a suitable helper for her husband
(Genesis 2:18, 20).

We should not love money.

Knowing that the love of money is the root of all evil,
we must not love money and be content with what we have
(Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:10).

Fear?

Fear can cause us to deny our words and lie
(Genesis 18:15).

There is no safe place for a fearful heart.

Thinking that Zoar would be safe, Lot, after obtaining permission from the angels, fled to the small town of Zoar instead of running to the mountains, unlike his wife. However, fearing to stay in Zoar after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot left with his two daughters and went up to the mountains, where they lived in a cave (Genesis 19:17-22, 30).

In such fearful hearts, there is no safe place.

A person who puts into practice the word of God that he has heard

He who has the perfect, liberating law of Christ written on his heart and keeps it will be blessed in what he does (James 1:25).

The daughter you sent away?

Parents should no longer try to forcefully take away their daughters whom they sent away from their sons-in-law (Genesis 31:31).

**Because the devil prowls around like a roaring lion
looking for someone to devour ...**

Our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion
looking for someone to devour, so we must stay alert,
be completely vigilant, and stand firm in faith to resist the devil
(1 Peter 5:8-9).

We must overcome the devil.

We must stand firm in the Word of God
and overcome the devil
(1 John 2:14).

If you have extreme jealousy and selfish desires in your heart ...

If you have extreme jealousy and selfish desires in our hearts,
we should not open our mouths and boast.
If we open our mouths to boast, we will lie against the truth
(James 3:14).

We must keep our hearts minds alert.

We must keep our hearts and minds alert and eagerly wait for the grace that Jesus Christ will give us when he returns (1 Peter 1:13).

To whom is her heart directed?

Comparing the hearts with which Leah, the older sister, named her sons Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah (Genesis 29:32-35), and the hearts with which Rachel, the younger sister, named her sons Dan and Naphtali through her servant Bilhah (30:3-8), it seems that Leah's heart was filled with a deep longing for her husband Jacob's love, and when she bore her fourth son Judah, she praised God. On the other hand, Rachel's heart seemed to be filled with the acknowledgment of God's understanding of her distress and hearing her cry for help, as well as the satisfaction of winning in the intense competition with her sister Leah. Leah's heart was directed toward her husband Jacob, while Rachel's heart seemed to be directed toward her envious older sister Leah. However, it appears that God's heart was inclined toward both women.

As if he were a judge of the law

We are followers of the law, but we slander and judge our brothers as if we were judges of the law. That is, slandering the law and judging the law (James 4:11).

Just as a small spark burns a large forest ...

Just as a small spark can set a large forest on fire,
the tongue, which is only a small part of our body,
can cause great damage if used incorrectly
(James 3:5).

If we are not in love ...

God is love.
But if we are not loving, we do not know God
(1 John 4:8, 16).

Even if we sin ...

Even if we sin, there is a righteous Jesus Christ
who defends us before God the Father.
He became the propitiation for our sins
(1 John 2:1-2).

If we have tasted the love of the Lord ...

If we have tasted the love of the Lord,
we will live like newborn babies,
longing for the pure milk of the Word
and abandoning all evil thoughts, deception,
hypocrisy, envy, and all manner of slander
(1 Peter 2:1-3).

If we say we live in God ...

If we say we live in God, we must live just as Jesus did
(1 John 2:6).

If we say we know God but do not keep His commandments ...

If we say we know God but do not keep His commandments,
we are liars and the truth is not in us
(1 John 2:4).

What if the Lord tests us to see if there is truth among us?

Just as Joseph tested the words of his brothers to see if there was truth among them,
what if the Lord, who is the head of the church, tests our words to see if there is truth among us ...?
(Ref.: Genesis 42:16)

If we are keeping God's commandments and doing what is pleasing to Him ...

If we are now keeping God's commandments
and doing what is pleasing to Him,
our conscience will not condemn us,
and whatever we ask boldly before God, we will receive
(1 John 3:21-22).

If God's word and truth are in us ...

If God's word and truth are in us,
we recognize that we sin and there is sin in us,
and we confess our sins to God.
The reason is because we believe that God is faithful and just
and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all iniquity
(1 John 1:9).

A person whose words and heart are different?

In words, it seems like he loves and adores his family,
but in reality, his heart seems to love and adore his family god
(Genesis 31:26-30).

If you say you believe in words but don't do anything ...

You may say you only believe in words.
But if you do not put in action, it is of no use,
and you cannot be saved with such faith
(James 2:14).

What good are those words if you just express your regret in words?

If you see a poor brother and only express your pity on him
without actually giving him what he needs,
what good are those words?
(James 2:15-16)

**After carefully looking at the outcome of the actions
of the leaders who delivered the word ...**

We must remember the leaders who spread the word of God,
pay attention to the consequences of their actions, and imitate their faith
(Hebrews 13:7).

I hope you receive the blessings of the Word.

I want to be a person who blesses others.
I pray that the Lord allows many people to receive
the blessing of the Word through me
(Ref.: Genesis 12:2, 3).

They must listen well and obey them.

The believers must listen carefully to church leaders and obey them.
Otherwise, it will not benefit them
(Hebrews 13:17).

**God didn't stop them.
The reason is because it was God the Father's will.**

When Father Abraham was tested,
he did not withhold his only son, but offered him in faith.
Then, an angel of God called out,
"Abraham, Abraham," preventing him from harming his son Isaac
and ensuring no harm came to him
(Genesis 22:11-12; Hebrews 11:17).

However, God the Father did not spare His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
but gave Him up for us all, allowing Roman soldiers to crucify Jesus
and even letting one soldier pierce Jesus' side with a spear
(Romans 8:32; John 19:18, 23, 34).

God the Father did not stop these soldiers.
Instead, He willed for His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
to be crushed and suffer affliction
(Isaiah 53:10).

It was God's will that Jesus Christ be wounded
and endure pain to become the atoning sacrifice for sins
(Isaiah 53:10).

**Is it okay for a daughter-in-law to get angry
at her mother-in-law and scold her?**

Should a son-in-law be able to get angry at his father-in-law and scold him?
(Ref.: Genesis 31:36)

Shouldn't her daughter-in-law get angry and rebuke her mother-in-law?

To the point where people think the words of destruction are a joke.

Isn't the world we live in now so full of sin as Sodom and Gomorrah that we consider God's words of destruction as a joke?

(Ref.: Genesis 18: 13-14)

Well-regarded by everyone.

The wise advice of a wise person is well-regarded by everyone

(Ref.: Genesis 41:37).

We may successfully carry out all our tasks.

When the famine became more severe,
and there was no food in the land causing people to grow weak from hunger,
Joseph not only sold grain to the Egyptians
in exchange for their money, livestock, and land,
but he also provided them with food in return for their becoming Pharaoh's slaves.
They had no choice but to sell their land and become servants of Pharaoh
because of the severe famine (Genesis 47:14-25).
Joseph, who was intelligent and wise (41:33),
successfully carried out all his duties (39:2).
I pray that God will grant us wisdom and understanding
so that, when various aspects of our lives become more challenging,
we may successfully carry out all our tasks.

We will sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.

By faith, the saints who achieve the final victory
will sing the song of God's servant Moses and the song of the Lamb:
"Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are Your ways, King of the nations.
Who will not fear You, Lord, and bring glory to Your name?
For You alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship before You,
for Your righteous acts have been revealed"
(Revelation 15:2-4).

The Lord risks his life to ensure our safety and takes responsibility for us.

One of Jacob's sons, Judah, realizing that they needed to go down to Egypt for a second time to buy food due to the severe famine, had to take his youngest brother Benjamin with him. He said to his father Jacob, "Send the boy with me, and we will leave immediately. Then we and our children will not die. I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him" (Genesis 43:1-5, 8-9). In actuality, Judah pledged his own life to ensure Benjamin's safety and to take responsibility for him. He even offered to become a servant to the Egyptian governor, Joseph, in Benjamin's place, thus allowing Benjamin to stay in Egypt. Then, he earnestly pleaded with Joseph, "So please, allow this boy (Benjamin) to go back with his brothers" (44:32-33). When reflecting on these words, I am reminded of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who, out of His own accord, laid down His life on the cross for us (1 John 3:16), saving us from death caused by our sins (Ephesians 2:1). I am reminded of how our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself to ensure our safety and to take responsibility for us.

When we are very afraid, it is time to pray to God.

Despite about 20 years passing,

Jacob was still greatly afraid

when his brother Esau approached him with 400 men.

He feared for himself, his wives, and his children.

It was at this moment that Jacob prayed to God.

He clung to the promise of his ancestors' God and prayed:

"O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac,

LORD, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives,

and I will make you prosper,' I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness
you have shown your servant" (Genesis 32:9-10).

He also prayed with a heart of gratitude for the grace God had already shown him:

"I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness
you have shown your servant" (v. 10).

"I crossed the Jordan with only my staff, but now I have become two camps."

And he prayed fervently to be delivered from the hand of his brother Esau.

As he concluded his prayer, he once again clung to the word of the Lord in faith,
saying: "You said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants
like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted'" (vv. 6-12).

The time to pray to God is when you are greatly afraid.

Remembering the grace already bestowed by God,
one should pray in faith, clinging to the word of God:

"I will surely make you prosper" (v. 12).

Being set free from a worthless lifestyle

We have been set free from a worthless lifestyle
by the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and spot
(1 Peter 1:18-19).

What kind of injustice is there?

What kind of injustice can there be in a younger sister
who is jealous of her older sister and fiercely competes with her?
(Ref.: Genesis 30:1, 6, 8)

Above all, we must love one another passionately.

Realizing that the end of the world is near,
we must come to our senses, pray with restraint,
and above all, love one another passionately.
While loving, we must cover many sins with zeal
and treat each other well without complaining
(1 Peter 4:7-9).

Realizing what we need is also a grace.

When we face various tests,
we realize that the trials of faith require patience,
but at the same time, we also seem to realize that we need wisdom
(James 1:2-5).

We should not marry our children based on material or wealth.

Hamor had intended to marry his son Shechem to Jacob's daughter Dinah
in order to gain possession of all of Jacob's livestock and property.
However, as a result, he and his son, along with all the other inhabitants, were killed,
and Jacob's sons seized all the livestock, cattle, donkeys, and everything else in the town,
as well as the women and children and everything in the houses (Genesis 34:23, 27-29).
We should not marry off our children for the sake of material possessions or wealth.
Material possessions can disappear in an instant, even if we are abundant now.

He is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Anyone who denies that Jesus Christ came as a man
is a deceiver and an antichrist.
(2 John 1:7).

We must not allow ourselves ...

We must not allow ourselves to be deceived
(1 John 3:7).

We overcome the world by faith.

God's children who believe that Jesus is the Son of God
overcome the world by faith
(1 John 5:4-5).

Christians who obey by faith worship God wherever they go.

Abraham, who received the word of the covenant promise
from the covenant God and obeyed God's command in faith,
leaving Haran and being led to the land of Shechem where the Canaanites lived,
built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him.
After leaving that place, he pitched his tent between Bethel and Ai,
and there also he built an altar and worshipped God (Genesis 12:1-8).
Christians who are led by the word of God's promise and obeys in faith
are the ones who worship God wherever they go.

We must obey in faith.

God, who said to Abraham,

"Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home,
and go to a land that I am going to show you"

(Genesis 12:1),

also said to him, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love,
and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on
one of the mountains that I will show you" (22:2).

Abraham, who obeyed God's instructions and left Haran
with his wife Sarah and nephew Lot at the age of 75 (12:4-5),
took his beloved son Isaac, whom he had at the age of 100 (21:5),
the next morning.

He saddled his donkey, prepared the wood for the offering,
and took two of his servants with him,
setting out for the place God had commanded (22:3).

We also must, like Abraham, obey when God commands us to go
to the place He will show us in faith
(Hebrews 11:8).

Furthermore, like Abraham, when we are tested,
we should be willing to offer up our beloved children in faith,
believing that God is able even to raise the dead (vv. 17, 19).

It is also a sin not to marry our children in faith.

Abraham entrusted the task
of seeking a wife for his son Isaac to his oldest servant,
who managed his household possessions.
He instructed the servant,
"Swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth,
that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites,
among whom I am living, but will go to my country and my own relatives
and get a wife for my son Isaac"

(Genesis 24:1-4).

Abraham emphasized to his relatives in his homeland
that Isaac must not be taken back there under any circumstances.
The reason for this was Abraham's firm belief in the word of God's promise:
"The Lord, the God of heaven,
who brought me out of my father's household and my native land
and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying,
'To your offspring I will give this land'" (v. 7).

Parents should marry their children in faith in God's promise.
Not acting in faith in marriage of one's children is also a sin
(Romans 14:23).

If you obey God's will with faith, we will go through difficult “times of famine” without lacking anything.

Joseph informed his brothers and their families, who had come down from Canaan to Egypt, saying, "Since all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians, you and your families will settle in the land of Goshen" (Genesis 46:34).

Then Joseph went to Pharaoh and reported, "My father and brothers, with their flocks and herds and everything they own, have come from the land of Canaan and are now in Goshen" (47:1).

As a result, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you, and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen.

If you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock" (vv. 5-6). Therefore, Joseph settled his father and brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, in Rameses (a specific district within the region of Goshen, according to the internet), as Pharaoh had commanded (v. 11).

Joseph also provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food according to the number of their dependents (v. 12).

"Since settling in the fertile land of Goshen required special permission from Pharaoh, Joseph advised Jacob with some wisdom. Foreigners from Palestine were always viewed with suspicion by the Egyptians, making it difficult to settle in the border regions.

However, because Egyptians despised shepherds,
it was even less likely that Pharaoh would arrange for them to settle inland.
Therefore, Joseph advised his family
to emphasize their occupation as shepherds,
ensuring that Pharaoh would have no choice
but to grant them permission to settle in Goshen.
Jacob's ability to lead his entire family to Goshen
was solely due to his obedience to God's predestination.
Because of this faith, the Israelites were able to endure
the difficult time of famine without lacking anything
and received the blessing of becoming as numerous
as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.
Since God is with us, when we obey His will in faith,
we will face no lack even in difficult "times of famine."
In doing so, we can confess,
"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want"
(Psalms 23:1).

We must obey God's commands without delay in faith ...

God commanded Noah to build an ark,
and in faith, Noah, having been warned by God about things not yet seen,
built the ark promptly and without hesitation out of reverence for God
and according to His instructions (Genesis 6:14-16, 22; Hebrews 11:7).
While Noah was building the ark, God patiently waited (1 Peter 3:20).
As a result, during the flood, Noah's family of eight was saved (v. 20).
Thus, Noah condemned the world for its sin
and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith
(Hebrews 11:7).

We are protected by the power of God through faith.

We are protected by God's power through faith
to obtain salvation prepared to be revealed in the end times
(1 Peter 1:5).

Through the prayer of faith

Through the prayer of faith, the sick person will not only be raised by the Lord,
but even if he has sinned, he will be forgiven
(James 5:15).

Without faith, we cannot wait patiently for God's time.

Joseph was unjustly accused and imprisoned,
where he served the chief cupbearer and the chief baker of the king of Egypt.
After they had been in custody for some time,
both officials had dreams on the same night.
God enabled Joseph to interpret their dreams:
the chief cupbearer was restored to his position, but he forgot about Joseph.
Two full years later, Pharaoh had a dream,
prompting the cupbearer to remember Joseph and speak of him to Pharaoh.
Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream,
and ultimately, he became the governor of Egypt
(Genesis 39:6-41:41).

At the age of 17, Joseph (37:2) was hated by his brothers (vv. 4-5, 8),
sold as a slave to Egypt (vv. 28, 36), falsely accused, and imprisoned
for a considerable amount of time (40:4).

Finally, at the age of 30, he became the governor of Egypt (41:46).

After 13 years, Joseph rose to this position.

Without faith, we cannot endure and wait for God's timing.

God exalts His faithful servants at the right time

and in His own way to fulfill His purpose of salvation (45:5, 7).

It will definitely happen. Amen.

The God who exists now, who was before, and who will come will come on clouds.

Everyone will see Him, even those who pierced Him.

And all the nations of the world will mourn because of Him.

It will definitely happen. Amen!

(Revelation 1:4, 7).

Things that will definitely happen soon

God sent his angel to his servant John

and gave him a revelation of things that must soon take place,

and John testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ,

to what he had seen (Revelation 1:1-2).

We must remember what we have received and heard, keep it, and repent.

The Lord knows our deeds.

Perhaps the Lord is now telling us,

“You have the name of being alive,

but in reality, you are as good as dead,”

and “Your actions are not perfect before God.”

According to the word of the Lord,

we must remember what we have received and heard, keep it, and repent.

If we do not come to our senses, the Lord will come like a thief

(Revelation 3:1-3).

“Ben-oni” (Man of Sorrow)

At Ephrath, a little short of Bethlehem,
Jacob's wife Rachel, after suffering greatly from a difficult birth,
gave birth to a son and died.
She named him Ben-oni. The name's meaning is "Son of Sorrow."
But his father Jacob called his son “Benjamin.”
The name means “son of the right hand”
(Genesis 35:16-18).
When meditating on this passage,
I thought of Isaiah 53:3: "a man of sorrows."
I also recalled John 11:35: "Jesus wept."
I believe that Jesus is truly God's man of sorrows ("Ben-oni").
By experiencing sorrow and suffering (Isaiah 53:3),
Jesus has brought us joy (Isaiah 34:10; John 17:13) and healing (Isaiah 53:5).

Unchanging God

Our God is as unchanging as a moving shadow
(James 1:17).

Satan makes us to see things we shouldn't see.

Satan, the most cunning of all, makes us to see things we shouldn't see
(Genesis 3:1, 6).

God delights in blessing

May God Almighty bless you and make your descendants fruitful and numerous, so that you become the ancestor of many nations.

May He give the blessing promised to Abraham to you and your descendants, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live, the land God gave to Abraham" (Genesis 28:3-4).

After receiving this blessing from his father Isaac, Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. Along the way, he stopped for the night and, using a stone for a pillow, he lay down to sleep. In his dream, he heard the word of God (vv. 10-13):

"I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of your father Isaac.

I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth,

and they will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south.

All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land.

I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (vv. 11-15).

It is interesting to compare the blessing Jacob received from his father Isaac with the blessing from God in heaven.

Isaac blessed Jacob, saying, "May God Almighty bless you and make your descendants fruitful and numerous ...

May you take possession of the land where you now live, the land God gave to Abraham."

It is as if God confirmed these words when He spoke to Jacob,

saying, "I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth,

and they will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south ..."

In this way, God not only listened to the blessing spoken by Jacob's father Isaac but also appeared to Jacob directly, promising to bless him in accordance with that blessing.

Therefore, we too should bless our children in the name of Jesus.

The Lord will hear our prayers of blessing and will directly bless our children.

Furthermore, God blessed Jacob with a promise that Isaac had not specifically mentioned:

"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring" (v. 14).

This blessing echoes the promise God made to Jacob's grandfather Abraham:

"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (12:3).

In this way, God not only fulfilled Isaac's prayer of blessing for Jacob

but also extended Abraham's blessing to Jacob.

Thus, the blessings of Abraham and Jacob are also our blessings in the Lord.

Those who serve ...

Those who serve must labor with the power of grace given by God

(1 Peter 4:11, 1 Corinthians 15:10).

**It is not something to be ashamed of,
but rather something to be thankful for.**

There is no shame in realizing what we lack through trials of faith.

Rather, the reason it is something to be thankful for is

because it is an opportunity to seek God who does not scold but gives generously

(James 1:2-5).

A son who does not understand his parents' hearts?

Esau, who had already married two Hittite women (Genesis 26:34), knew that his father Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him to Mesopotamia and commanded him not to marry a Canaanite woman, and that Jacob obeyed his parents' command.

So, Esau went to Ishmael, Abraham's son, and married Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth, in addition to his existing wives (28:6-9).

From these words, we can see that Esau learned four things:

- (1) Father Isaac blessed his younger brother Jacob and sent him to Mesopotamia;
- (2) Father Isaac commanded Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman;
- (3) Jacob obeyed his parents' command and went to Mesopotamia;
- (4) His father Isaac did not like Canaanite women.

But strangely enough, it seems there was one thing Esau didn't know.

That one thing was that his two wives brought grief to his parents (26:35), especially his mother Rebekah who said to her husband Isaac,

“I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth” that is, his two wives (27:46).

To put it in modern terms,

it seems that the oldest son was unaware of the conflict between his mother and his wife.

Another thing that Esau did not know was

that her mother Rebekah had let her younger brother Jacob

take away the blessing of his father Isaac that he was entitled to (vv. 1-36).

In other words, it seems that Esau did not know that Jacob's mastermind was his mother Rebekah.

I think Esau didn't really understand his parents' hearts,

especially his mother's heart.

Esau seems to have been ignorant of how his choice

to marry foreign women had bring grief to his parents

and made the life of his mother Rebekah especially miserable.

In this way, I think the term “Being childless is having good fortune” can be applied

to a child who cannot understand his parents' heart at all.

It was because the parents could not let their child go by faith.

A son-in-law's fear regarding his wife in relation to his father-in-law and mother-in-law, or a daughter-in-law's fear that her mother-in-law is overly interfering in her relationship with her husband, making their marriage difficult, stems from the fact that the parents could not let their child go by faith (Ref.: Genesis 31:31).

How would a child feel knowing the reason why his parents favor one child over another?

When we see Rebekah taking the best clothes of her oldest son Esau, whom her husband Isaac loved, and dressing her younger son Jacob, it makes me to wonder if there were three reasons why she loved Jacob more than Esau:

- (1) Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed the meat that Esau, an accomplished hunter, brought him.
- (2) Jacob was a quiet man who preferred to stay at home.
- (3) Esau's marriage to two Hittite women caused Rebekah great distress, making her life miserable (Genesis 25:27-28; 26:34-35; 27:15, 46).

How would a child feel knowing the reason why his parents favor one child over another?

A man who cannot leave his parents

A man who cannot leave his parents may join his wife and the two may become one flesh, but they cannot become one heart (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31).

The life of the parent and the life of the child are bound together as one.

Jacob, believing that Joseph, the son born to him by his beloved Rachel, had been torn apart by a wild animal (Genesis 37:3; 44:28), said that if anything were to happen to Rachel's other son, Benjamin, it would bring his gray head down to the grave in sorrow (42:38; Ref.: 44:29). This illustrates how deeply Jacob's life was bound up with the life of his son Benjamin (44:30). So, Judah, Jacob's son, said to the Egyptian governor (Joseph), "When we return to our father, if the boy is not with us, and our father sees that the boy is not there, he will die. We will be responsible for bringing our gray-haired father down to the grave in sorrow ... How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I could not bear to see the misery that would come upon my father" (vv. 30-31, 34). As I meditate on this passage, I recall saying to my daughter a few years ago, 'I lost my first baby, Charis, who died in my arms. If I were to lose you too, I don't think I could go on living.' The verse about the life of the parent and the life of the child being bound together as one (v. 30) resonates deeply with me.

**The life of a parent is bound together
with the life of their beloved child. How do you think a parent
would feel if that child dies before them?**

After hearing everything that had happened from nine of his ten sons who had returned home, and seeing the money pouches that were in their sacks, Jacob was afraid.

He said to his sons, "You are causing me to lose my children!

Joseph is gone, Simeon is gone, and now you want to take Benjamin.

Everything is against me!"

Then Reuben, the eldest, said to his father Jacob,

"You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring Benjamin back to you.

Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back."

But Jacob replied, "My son will not go down there with you.

He said, "His brother is dead and he is the only one left.

If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking,

you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow"

(Genesis 42:35-38).

Jacob's heart was troubled because nine of his sons

had caused him to lose Joseph and Simeon,

and he couldn't bear the thought of losing Benjamin as well.

This was why he refused to let them take Benjamin to Egypt.

He feared that losing Benjamin would bring him down to the grave in sorrow,

because Jacob's life was bound up with Benjamin's life (44:30).

When the life of a parent is bound together with the life of their beloved child,

how do you think a parent would feel if that child dies before them?

The marital relationship must not be defiled.

We must honor marriage and keep the marital relationship pure.

God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers

(Hebrews 13:4).

A rich brother ...

A rich brother must keep in mind
that he will disappear like a flower in the field
and rejoice when God humbles him

(James 1:10).

We must say clearly ...

We must simply say clearly yes when you mean yes,
and no when you mean no

(James 5:12).

We have to endure it until your anger is relieved.

No matter how much murderous jealousy or hatred we have in our hearts,
we should not vent our anger on it because it can actually be put into action.

We must endure it until our anger is relieved

(Ref.: Genesis 27:41-42, 44).

“A quick-tempered person stirs up strife,
but a person who is slow to anger puts an end to a quarrel”

(Proverbs 15:18).

“A wise person is one who rarely gets angry.

But a hot-tempered person only shows his own foolishness” (14:29).

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his heart
is better than he who takes a city” (16:32).

“For a man’s wisdom is to be slow to anger,
and it is his glory to forgive a transgression” (19:11).

“Do not be discouraged, but take courage, remembering Jesus,
who himself endured such hatred from sinners”

(Hebrews 12:3).

Disobedient Adam and Jonah

Just as Adam, who disobeyed God's word,
hid among the trees in the Garden of Eden to avoid God,
Jonah, who disobeyed God's word,
fled to Tarshish to avoid God
(Genesis 3:8; Jonah 1:3).

Parents trying to get their children married with impure motives?

It seems that Shechem loved Jacob's daughter Dinah and wanted to marry her, but Shechem's father Hamor wanted his son Shechem to marry Jacob's daughter Dinah because he wanted to make all of Jacob's animals and property his own (Genesis 34:3, 8, 19, 23).

What if the parents' motivation for marrying their child is driven by possessiveness and is based on the material or property of the in-laws? And what if that child wants to get married even though he or she is aware of his or her parents' motivations? If our future in-laws knew all of this, would they still let their children get married? If our future in-laws had the same motivation, they would do the same, right?

A wise person who knows how to store up.

A wise person does not squander but stores up when life is abundant (Ref.: Genesis 41:33-34)

Like the Philadelphia church ...

Like the Philadelphia church, our church must keep the Lord's word and not betray Him even though we have little ability (Revelation 3:8).

The feeling of living in constant deprivation?

The feeling of being deprived due to jealousy and intense competition with her younger sister Rachel seemed to be in Leah's heart.

So, when Leah pleaded with Rachel,

"Please give me some of your son's mandrakes that he found,"

Leah said, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband?"

Now you want to take my son's mandrakes too?"

(Genesis 30:1-15)

Feeling deprived due to jealousy and intense competition

among siblings in the household might prompt one to seek compensation from God (v. 18).

Could also feel like being taken away?

Esau accused his younger brother Jacob of taking away his birthright and blessing

(Genesis 27:36).

Similarly, Laban's sons, Jacob's cousins, accused Jacob

of taking away all their father's wealth and making himself rich (31:1).

Perhaps when we receive blessings from God,

our siblings or cousins might feel like we are taking what belongs to them.

It seems like we're living however we want to. Haha.

Esau, who was covered with reddish hair all over his body like a hairy garment (Genesis 25:25), returned to "Seir," which means "hairy" (33:16).

Jacob, who preferred to stay at home because he was quiet (25:27),

went to "Succoth," which means "shelters," and built a house there to live (33:17).

It seems like we're living however we want to. Haha.

Rather than receiving grace from people ...

It is much better to receive grace (love) from God
than to receive it from people
(Genesis 39:4, 21).

A person does not have the love of God the Father.

If a person loves everything in the world,
such as the lust of the flesh, the greed of the eyes, and the pride in life,
that the person does not have the love of God the Father
(1 John 2:15-16).

We should not fear people, but fear God.

While the Egyptians feared the Israelites,
who prospered more the more they were mistreated,
the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah feared God
(Exodus 1:12, 15, 17,).

We should not fear people, but fear God.

So, rather than listening to people's commands and acting on them,
we must listen to and obey God's word.

We should not discriminate against people based solely on their outward appearance.

As believers in our Lord Jesus Christ,
we must not judge people with evil thoughts
by discriminating against them based solely on their outward appearance
(James 2:1-4).

The human tongue

The human tongue is like fire, like a world full of evil.
It is indeed an uncontrollable evil and full of deadly poison.
No one can tame the tongue
(James 3:6-8).

If love is not perfected among us ...

If love is not perfected among us, we cannot face the day of judgment with pride,
and we have no choice but to be afraid as we think about what we will be punished for.
A person who is afraid is evidence that love has not yet been perfected
(1 John 4:17-18).

Love is ...

Love is living according to God the Father's commandments,
and God the Father's commandment is to love one another
(2 John 1:6).

What does it mean to marry off your beloved daughter?

Sending a beloved daughter off to be married
means respecting her decision
and allowing her to follow the path she has chosen
(Ref.: Genesis 24:55-59).

Murderous hatred?

Esau, unaware that his mother was the mastermind,
thought his brother Jacob had deceived him and stolen the blessing meant for him.
After being deceived by Jacob a second time,
Esau hated Jacob and resolved in his heart to kill him
once their father had passed away (Genesis 27:35-36, 41).
Thinking of Esau, who harbored such murderous hatred,
reminds me of Cain, who killed his brother Abel (4:8).
The Bible says, "Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one
and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him?
Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ...
Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him"
(1 John 3:12, 15).

We who love life and want a happy life ...

We who love life and want a happy life
must turn away from evil,
do good deeds, and pursue peace,
and must not speak evil or lie
(1 Peter 3:10-11).

Life and death are in God's hands!

Jesus rose from the tomb after three days
(Matthew 17:23; Luke 18:33).

Similarly, Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, attacked the city with swords
and killed all the males three days after Hamor, his son Shechem,
and all the men of their city were still in pain from being circumcised
(Genesis 34:24-25).

How can we know what will happen in three days?

Life and death are in God's hands!

Couldn't it have been because we were at a crossroads between life and death?

When they initially went down to Egypt to buy grain and returned,

Reuben said to his father Jacob,

"You may kill my two sons if I do not bring Benjamin back to you.

Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back."

But Jacob replied, "My son shall not go down with you ..."

(Genesis 42:37-38).

Judah then said to his father Jacob,

"If we had not delayed, we could have gone to Egypt and returned twice by now."

"Send the boy (Benjamin) with me, and we will go at once.

That way, we and you and our children will live and not die."

"I will guarantee his safety with my life. I will take full responsibility for him.

If I do not bring him back and set him before you,

I will bear the blame before you all my life."

When Judah said this (43:8-10),

Jacob said, "If it must be so, then do this ...

Take your brother also and go to the man at once..." (vv. 11-14).

Why did Jacob's heart change?

Certainly, he had said, "His brother is dead, and he is the only one left.

If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking,

you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow" (42:38).

How then could Jacob say, "If I am bereaved, I am bereaved" (43:14)?

Wasn't it because the famine in the land of Canaan, where he and his family lived,

was so severe and the food they had brought from Egypt had all run out,

putting the entire family on the brink of starvation?

They were at a crossroads:

either send his sons back to Egypt with Benjamin to buy more grain

or face the prospect of everyone starving to death.

Should they split up?

Relatives should not fight with each other because of material wealth.
Perhaps one of the ways is to separate from one another
(Genesis 13:8).

What are the criteria for choosing a place when you split up?

When Abram and his nephew Lot parted ways
because their herdsmen were quarreling due to the abundance of their livestock,
Lot chose the Jordan Valley, which looked like the Garden of Eden and the fertile land of Egypt.
So, Abram stayed in the land of Canaan.
The basis for Lot's choice was that he saw the whole area of the Jordan Valley
was well watered, like the land of Zoar.
However, Lot did not realize that the people of Sodom
were extremely wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord,
as this was before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.
He simply chose the well-watered Jordan Valley for his abundant livestock
(Genesis 13:10-13).

When relatives part ways due to disputes over abundant material wealth,
the criteria for choosing a place should go beyond the ability to sustain that wealth.
More important is whether the people of that place are wicked or righteous,
whether they are greatly sinning against God or obeying Him.

I hope we should not quarrel with each other.

Father Abraham's shepherds quarreled with his nephew Lot's shepherds because of too many livestock (Genesis 13:6-7),
and son Isaac's servants quarreled with Gerar shepherds over the wells (26:20).
We should not quarrel with our relatives.
And we should not quarrel with those who do not believe in Jesus.

We must use the gifts to serve one another.

We must use the gifts God has given us
to serve one another like good stewards
(1 Peter 4:10).

As teachers, we ...

As teachers, we must become perfect people
who do not make mistakes in our words
(James 3:1-2).

Even if good is returned with evil ...

Even though Joseph's brothers repaid him with evil for good (Genesis 44:4),
God turned their evil into good, allowing Joseph to save the lives of many people (50:19).
“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,
to those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

We must imitate people who do good things.

In the church, like Demetrius,
we must imitate people who are praised by everyone,
receive good evidence of the truth, and do good works
(3 John 1:11-12).

Because we have fellowship with God the Father and Jesus the Son under the guidance of the Holy Spirit ...

Our joy must be full
because we have fellowship with God the Father and Jesus the Son
under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit (1 John 1:3-4).

**We must remember that the Holy Spirit loves us
even to the point of jealousy.**

If we live as friends with the world, satisfying our desires and greed for pleasure,
we must remember that the Holy Spirit who dwells in us loves us even to the point of jealousy
(James 4:1- 5).

The teachings of the Holy Spirit are true and without lies.

The teachings of the Holy Spirit are true and without lies.
Therefore, we must always live in Christ as the Holy Spirit teaches
(1 John 2:27).

A mature believer?

When a mature believer goes through trials of faith,
he realizes his shortcomings and asks God
who gives generously in faith, without any doubt.
However, a believer whose faith is immature has doubts
(James 1:4-6).

The mature believers

Complete and mature believers who endure to the end
and lack nothing even in the midst of trials of faith
will eventually overcome the test, be recognized, and receive the crown of life
that God has promised to those who love him
(James 1:2-4, 12).

**It seems that without mature spiritual discernment,
we have no choice but to fall for Satan's deception.**

When Jacob deceived his father Isaac,
Isaac repeatedly checked to make sure Jacob was indeed his beloved firstborn son, Esau:

- (1) "My son, who are you?" (Genesis 27:18)
- (2) "My son, how did you find it so quickly?" (v. 20)
- (3) "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." (v. 21)
- (4) "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." (v. 22)
- (5) "Are you really my son Esau?" (v. 24)
- (6) "Come here, my son, and kiss me." (v. 26)
- (7) "So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said ..." (v. 27).

Despite all these attempts, Isaac could not discern the truth and blessed Jacob, thinking he was Esau (vv. 23, 28-29). No matter how much we try to confirm, without a mature spiritual discernment, we can fall for Satan's deceptions.

We must not live a life of friendship with the world.

We must stay away from the world and stay close to God.

We must obey God and resist the devil.

We must never submit to the devil with a proud heart

and live a life of friendship with the world,

led by the warring pleasures, desires, and greed within us

(James 4:1-2, 6-8).

He allowed us to escape the destructive lusts of the world and participate in the divine nature.

Not only has Christ by divine power given us everything pertaining to life and godliness,

but he has also given us very precious and important promises,

by which we may escape the destructive passions of the world

and participate in the divine nature

(Peter 2 1:3-4).

It's normal for the world to not know us.

It's normal for the world to not know us.

The reason is because we are children of God the Father

and they do not know God the Father

(1 John 3:1).

Even if the world hates us, God's children ...

The reason we are not surprised when the world hates us, God's children,
is because God the Father gives us great love
(1 John 3:1, 13).

Worldly, lustful, devilish wisdom ...

Worldly, lustful, and devilish wisdom lies against the truth
because it boasts of bitter jealousy and selfish desires.
Therefore, there is confusion and all kinds of evil
(James 3:14-16).

A desire to be cherished

As a wife, isn't it natural to want to be cherished by your husband?
(Genesis 30:20)

Those who deceive will be deceived.

Jacob, who listened to his mother Rebekah and did as she instructed to deceive his father Isaac, ultimately stole the blessing that should have gone to his brother Esau (Genesis 27:1-36).

Following his mother's instructions, he went to her brother Laban (v. 43) and worked for seven more years to marry his beloved Rachel.

However, he was deceived by his uncle Laban (29:14-25).

The deceiver was deceived.

"We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming" (Ephesians 4:14).

The speed of deceivers seems to be this frightening.

When Esau heard his father Isaac say, "I am now old and don't know the day of my death. So take your bow and go out to the field to hunt some wild game for me.

Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die," he went out to hunt.

Since Esau was a skilled hunter, it probably didn't take him long to hunt.

However, by the time he returned from hunting,

Jacob had already deceived their father, received the blessing, and left Isaac's presence (Genesis 25:27; 27:2-4, 30).

The Bible says, "After Isaac finished blessing him, and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting" (v. 30).

"Had scarcely left ... when his brother Esau came in ..." What an incredible timing!

In this race against time, the team of Rebekah and her younger son Jacob beat Esau.

The speed of deceivers can indeed be frightening.

In order to love each other passionately with a pure heart and sincerity...

In order to love one another passionately with a pure heart and sincerity,
we must purify our own souls by obeying the eternally living word of God's truth
(1 Peter 1:22-23).

We may say that we are rich and need nothing, but ...

We may say that we are rich and need nothing,
but perhaps the Lord is telling us,
“You do not know that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked”
(Revelation 3:17).

Aren't we making ourselves enemies of God?

We, who were enemies of God, have been reconciled to God
through the death on the cross of Jesus Christ, God's Son,
but aren't we becoming enemies of God
by becoming friends with the world?
(James 4:4; Romans 5:10)

I hope that Victory Presbyterian Church will fight with assurance in victory!

I hope and pray that Victory Presbyterian Church
lives a militant life of faith with the assurance of victory
based on the assurance of God's love,
knowing that through our loving God, we are more than conquerors!
(Romans 8:35-39, 1 Corinthians 10:13)

Saints standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion

The saints who stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion
are people who have kept themselves pure and have not defiled themselves,
and they follow the Lamb wherever he goes.
They do not lie and are blameless
(Revelation 14:1-5).

Family members deceiving each other and being deceived ...

Jacob, who deceived his brother Esau, was deceived by his uncle Laban several times
and then deceived his uncle Laban as well (Genesis 27:36; 31:7, 20).
I think that Satan, the deceiver, likes family members deceiving each other and being deceived.
We may be facing a crisis of honesty.

As partakers of the divine nature, we ...

As partakers of the divine nature,
we must strive more diligently to add to our faith virtue,
to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, to temperance perseverance,
to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly affection love
(2 Peter 1:4-7).

The victor of faith

The victor of faith will not be harmed by the second death,
but rather will eat of the fruit of the tree of life in God's paradise
(Revelation 2:7, 11).

If we trust and entrust ...

If we trust and entrust, we should not interfere
(reference: Genesis 39:4, 6).

We believers must live a good life among non-believers.

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Then those who accuse us of doing evil
will see our good works and glorify God
on the day of their repentance
(1 Peter 2:12).

If we don't do it, that is sin.

If we know that we ought to do good and do not do it,
that is sin (James 4:17).

We should cry when we feel like crying.

Joseph felt heartbroken when he saw his younger brother Benjamin.

So, he quickly ran outside and looked for a place to cry,
then went into his own room and cried bitterly.

He appears to have been unable to control his emotions
(Genesis 43:30-31).

Why did he do that? I think the reason may be

that Benjamin was Joseph's only younger brother and the offspring of his same mother, Rachel.

And the reason is because I think they met after 22 years

[separation at the age of 17 (37:2) + becoming prime minister of Egypt at the age of 30 (41:46)
+ 7 years of plenty (v. 47) + 2 years of famine (45: 11)].

Useless faith?

Faith without action is dead and useless
(James 2:17, 20).