

FAITH IN PREPARATION FOR THE RESURRECTION

Blessing Channel #23

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THE TORN CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE

Mark 15 :33 - 41

Sungrak Church Lord's Day Sermon
by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

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LETTER FROM WORLD BEREAN

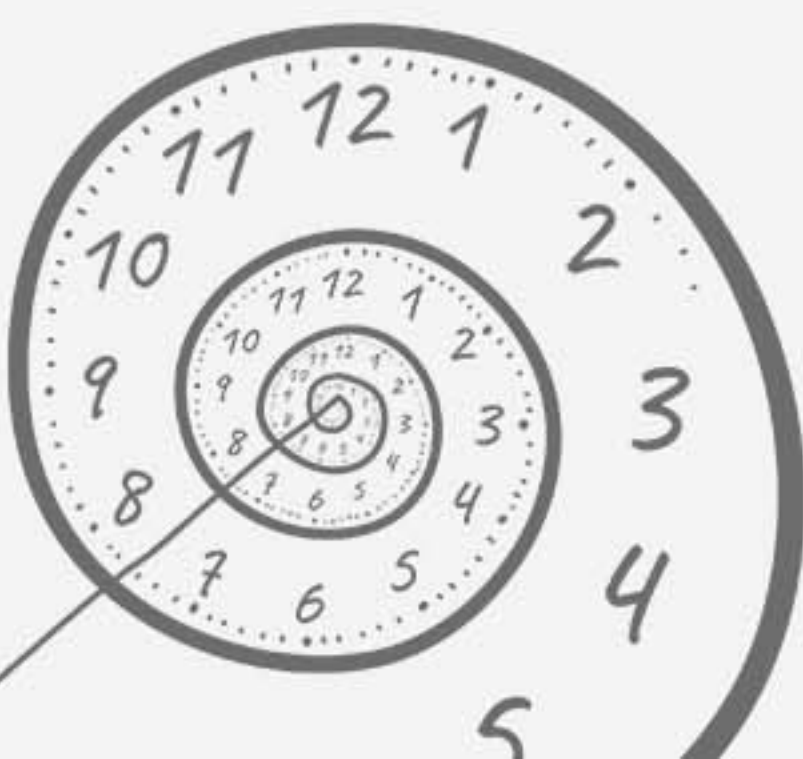
Uganda, Liberia, Mexico



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THE DESIRE FOR ETERNITY

"Following God's Word" Sermon Series



THE TORN CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE

Mark 15 :33 - 41

Sungrak Church Lord's Day Sermon

1

It might be impossible to express the grace that God gave us with human words.

We sometimes try to express His grace with **excessively simple sentences**, but there are times when we miss really important aspects.

For example, people say,

*“Believe in Jesus.
Jesus died on the cross,
so all your sins are forgiven.
You will go heaven.”*

If people listen to these words and start their church lives without adequately understanding about sin, they may easily overlook the **seriousness of sin**, and in some cases, **deliberately** commit sins.

To properly understand the value of forgiveness, people should first understand how serious **responsibility for sins** is. If not, they will not think about their entrusted responsibility and assume too easily that heaven's glory will be given to them. Because of this, they easily neglect their lives of faith. To clarify the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion - **our original condition was that we were cut off from God**, but it completely changed due to Him. We were enemies of God who could not approach Him. But the cursed barrier blocking us from God collapsed and **reconciliation between** God and us was achieved.

God personally testified to the spiritual reality when the curtain of Jerusalem's temple was torn from top to bottom and the division between the Most Holy Place and Holy Place disappeared at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross. Before reconciliation with God was complete, there was no one to hear people's repentance-no matter how much they repented. Therefore, mankind could not escape destruction. But **the chance for us to be forgiven** came by Jesus' death on the cross, and we are given the **right to lives of faith** that lead to heaven.

We can approach God through the perfect sacrifice of Christ, as He is the High Priest, and we are now **priests** who help Him. Like He forgives sins, we are partially entrusted with His duty to display the forgiveness of sins. For sure, we still have many faults.

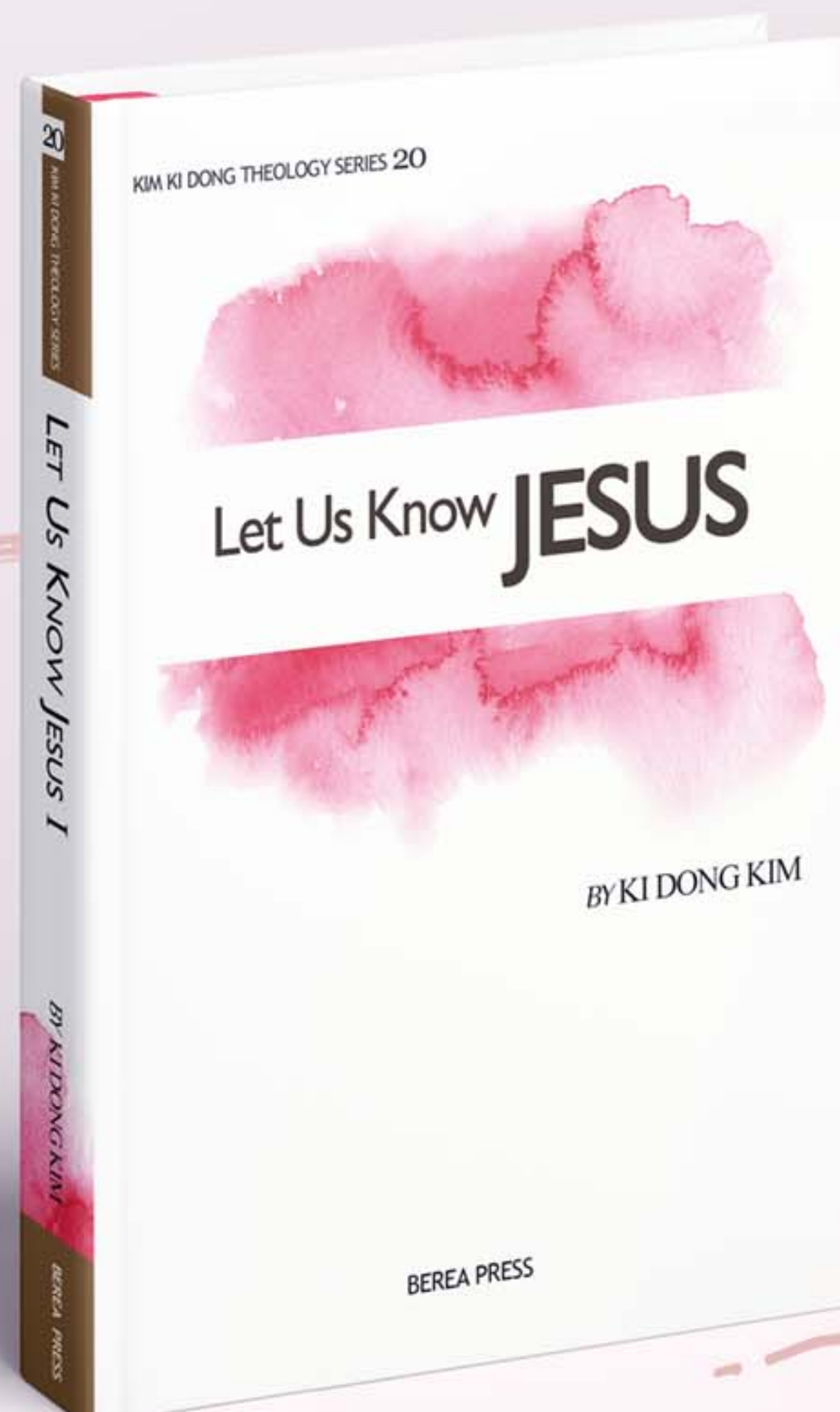
But God does not treat us as His enemy, and is **biased in our favor** and allows us to have a new chance. Accordingly, we do not need to conceal our faults or disguise ourselves with lies before God. When we repent, God gives us a new opportunity, and when we turn back, He helps with our transformation.

Israel under the Law failed to serve God. They refused to change, so God gave up His hope for them. He resumed the work they could not accomplish **through the Christian church**. He improved past limitations and entrusted to the church the ministry of blessing all nations. Therefore, let's realize that we are members of the church and participate in this glorious struggle as **the New Israel**. Let's no longer behave as God's enemies like we used to, but fulfill our responsibility as **spiritual priests**. Let's not repeat the mistakes of Israel, who failed to serve God, but offer ourselves to the calling of the New Israel.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE SON OF MAN

"Let Us Know Jesus" by Semuon

2



Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to you."

But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.

Luke 24:36-43

Jesus is a man who is God's Son. He is the Word who became flesh and came to the world. What does 'the Word became flesh' mean? The Word is God. Though God cannot be seen with our eyes, He is a Person who really exists. The Word became flesh. The Word was originally a spiritual being without flesh and bone. But because He became flesh, He has flesh and bone. Jesus said, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Lk 24:39).

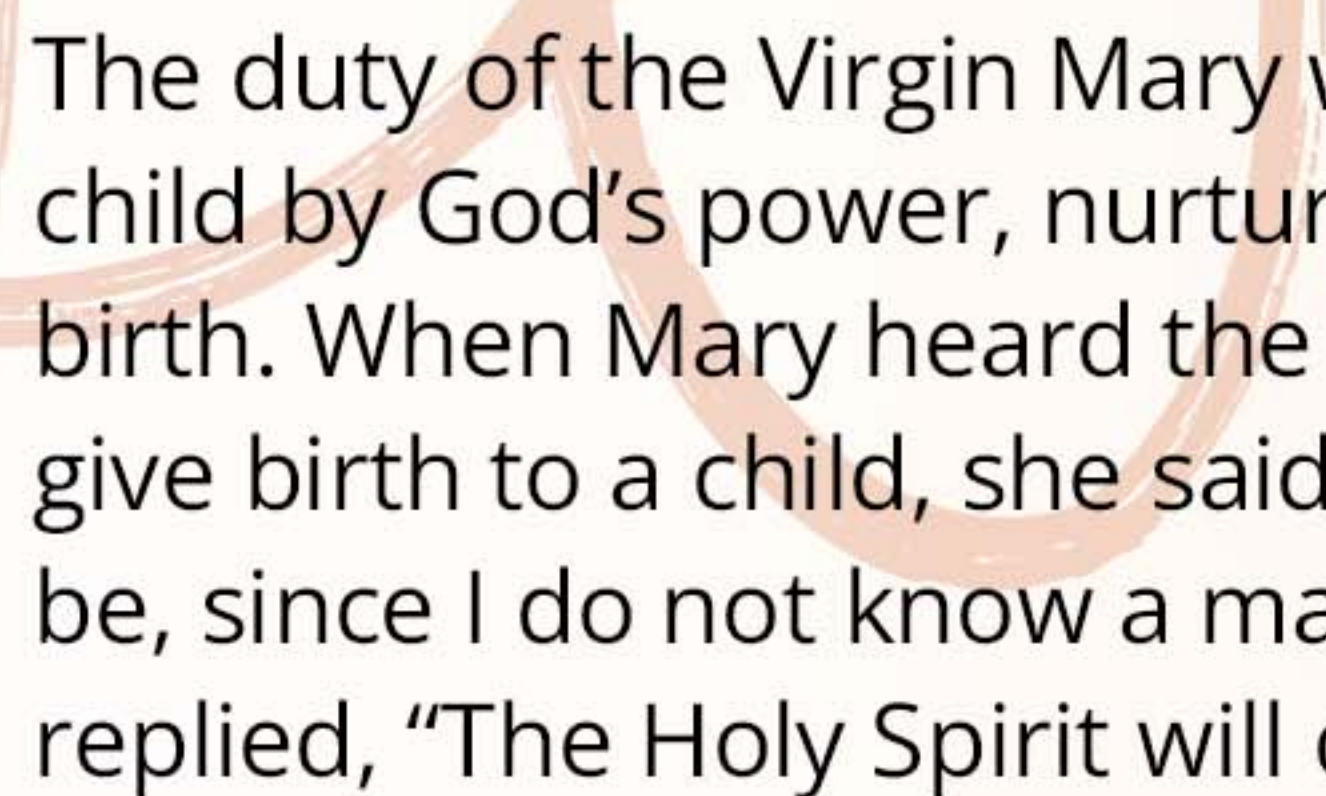
Jesus was born as a man by a woman's childbearing, having flesh and bones. He was originally a spiritual being who dwelt in God's bosom. He did not need to be born in a woman's body. He could have come down directly from heaven. But He was conceived in a woman's body, grew inside her, and was born to the world by childbearing. Jesus has both flesh and bones. He had flesh and bones when He died and resurrected, He had flesh and bones when He went to heaven.

Jesus' flesh and bones are fundamentally different from man's flesh and bones. Man's flesh and bones came from the dust. As for Jesus, the Word became flesh. The flesh that came from dust will decay and disappear, whilst the flesh and bones which came from spirit will never change. Man's flesh and Jesus' flesh are the same in the sense they are flesh and bones, yet their essences are completely different.

Man's flesh and bones are from the dust, but God breathed a spirit into him. Though the spirit is immaterial and cannot be seen with our eyes, it clearly exists. If man did not have a spirit, his mind (which is his person) will perish together with his flesh. The flesh will return to the dust. But because man has a spirit, his mind will live forever together with his spirit.

Mankind produces descendants when a man and woman meet and reproduce. The woman receives the seed from the man and conceives — just like a field. No matter how good the seed is — if there is no field, it cannot bear fruit. Likewise, if a man wants to have children, there must be a woman. Jesus Christ was also born by a woman's body. Since He was not born of man's seed, He is unrelated to man's lineage. When Jesus was born, Mary was still a virgin who did not know a man. A field produces a crop depending on what the farmer sows. If you sow beans, you will get beans. If you sow garlic, you will get garlic. Similarly, when a woman receives a seed from Mr. Park, she has a child named Park. If a woman receives a seed from Mr. Kim, she has a child named Kim.

People commonly say, "My mother gave me birth." A poet once wrote, 'My father gave me birth, but my mother raised me.' Strictly speaking, all humans come from their fathers. A woman's duty is to receive the seed from a man, nurture it, and give birth.



The duty of the Virgin Mary was to conceive a child by God's power, nurture it, and give birth. When Mary heard the news she would give birth to a child, she said, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Lk 1:34). The power of the Almighty God enabled a woman who never knew a man to conceive without trouble. Mary's body had conceived by God's power. She did not conceive by man's lineage, but the Word of God. The Word of God was conceived in a woman's body. If He was not, He could not be born as a man with flesh and bones. Man is conceived according to his lineage, having flesh and bones. In a similar way, the Word of God was conceived according to God's power. He was born as a man with flesh and bones.

Christ's flesh and bones felt pain, hunger and fatigue just like our own flesh. But our flesh and bones are essentially dust, whereas Christ's flesh and bones are essentially spirit. Christ's flesh does not decay but lives forever. Even when Jesus died and resurrected after three days, His flesh and blood did not decay. It remained the same. If He resurrected 3 years later—since He is the Word of God who became flesh—His body will not decay and will remain the same. Even if He resurrected 30 years later, His flesh and bones will not decay in the slightest.

When man dies, his flesh and bones will decay and disappear. Only his spirit will not decay. Mankind easily dismisses the spirit's presence because they cannot see it with their eyes. Man's most important component is his spirit. This is because his spirit does not decay but lives forever. When Jesus returns, our spirits will change into incorruptible flesh and bones. This is a spiritual body. The body we now have is not a spiritual body. It came from the dust and will someday return to the dust. The spirit will live forever. This eternal being will change into a body when Jesus returns. This is the resurrection.

The body coming from dust will grow old as time passes. Growing old means to 'wear away'. The spirit will never wear out. If a man passes away at the age of 80, he will not resurrect in an old man's body when the Lord comes. When we have spiritual bodies, there will be no distinctions between young and old. If a person lives and dies on earth without an arm, he will not have an armless body at the resurrection. Though the arm made of dust disappears, the spiritual arm does not disappear. Though the arm from dust decays and becomes dust, his spiritual structure remains the same.

We receive God's word for our spirits' sakes. Though Adam heard God's word which said, "for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die," he still ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

As a result, he died. What exactly died? After Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he lived about 900 years and bore children. Adam lost his right to receive the word and power of eternal life. A person can be punished in jail while he is still living in the flesh. But he has lost his citizenship. In the same way, the moment Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he lost all spiritual rights and only his flesh lived. We are saved today by Christ. This means that though our spirits once died, they live and start to show their function. We can now receive God's word and feed on the spiritual food supplied by God.

Man must eat his food to live. This is only helpful for his flesh. This is not helpful for his spirit at all. No matter how much our bodies eat their fill of food, the spirit cannot be satisfied. If the flesh does not eat food, it gets weak. If it eats food, it gains strength. In the same way, the spirit can be healthy like a fully fed person and become tired like a starving person.

Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Mt 4:4). Man needs God's word because he has a spirit. Even if you diligently read God's word and receive much of His grace, this will not satisfy your hunger. Despite how much of God's word you receive, if you do not eat your food, you will starve and die.

Food is nourishment for the flesh, while God's word is nourishment for the spirit. Since this is true, God's word is a command.

This command is eternal life (Jn 12:50). Man's spirit must be sustained by God's command. Though God's command gives suffering to your flesh, it gives your spirit wisdom to gain life.

We must receive God's word as spiritual food for the sake of our spirits. We must receive it as the command of eternal life. When we do this - though there is no visible trace in the flesh - it will be shown at the resurrection how each person planned to promote their spirits. To slow the aging of their bodies, people put expensive makeup on their faces, eat healthy foods and do other things. They do not spare their efforts. However, no matter how much you improve and polish your flesh, it will grow old. On the other hand, all plans to promote your spirit will not vanish one bit. It will be shown clearly at the resurrection. Therefore, we must receive God's word and treat it as food, and receive God's command and treat it as wisdom.

Though the woman who gave birth to Jesus was standing next to Him, Jesus asked, "Who is My mother?" Jesus has no relation to man's lineage. If you do not possess faith according to God's will—even if you are the mother who bore Jesus—you cannot have a relationship with God. Furthermore, though we received God's word and heard His command,

they are valueless if they do not affect our spirits. We must regard God's word as food giving life to our spirits. We must regard God's command as wisdom and power given to our spirits. When we do this, our spirits will change to a more glorious body at the resurrection.

Even unbelievers have spirits. They will resurrect and have incorruptible bodies. While they dwelt on the earth, they rejected spiritual food and disdained the principle which makes their spirits live. They never lived for their spirits and never trained for them. When their spirits change into incorruptible bodies, their bodily senses will be restored and enter eternal punishment. Believers will gain the resurrection of life, and unbelievers will gain the resurrection of judgment (Jn 5:29).

At the resurrection, our spirits will change into spiritual bodies. Our bodies will finally reach a level like Jesus' body. When Jesus returns, we will take these bodies and enter heaven with Him. We will live there forever. Our spirits will change into spiritual bodies. For our spirits' sake, we must eat spiritual food and receive God's command. His command is filled with wisdom. Those who do this will discover God's word taking effect at the resurrection and discover themselves going into heaven with ease. On the other hand, unbelievers will discover their spirits arriving at the resurrection of judgment. They will weep and struggle. If they

are not born again and do not promote their spirits while they are in flesh and blood, they will never get another chance.

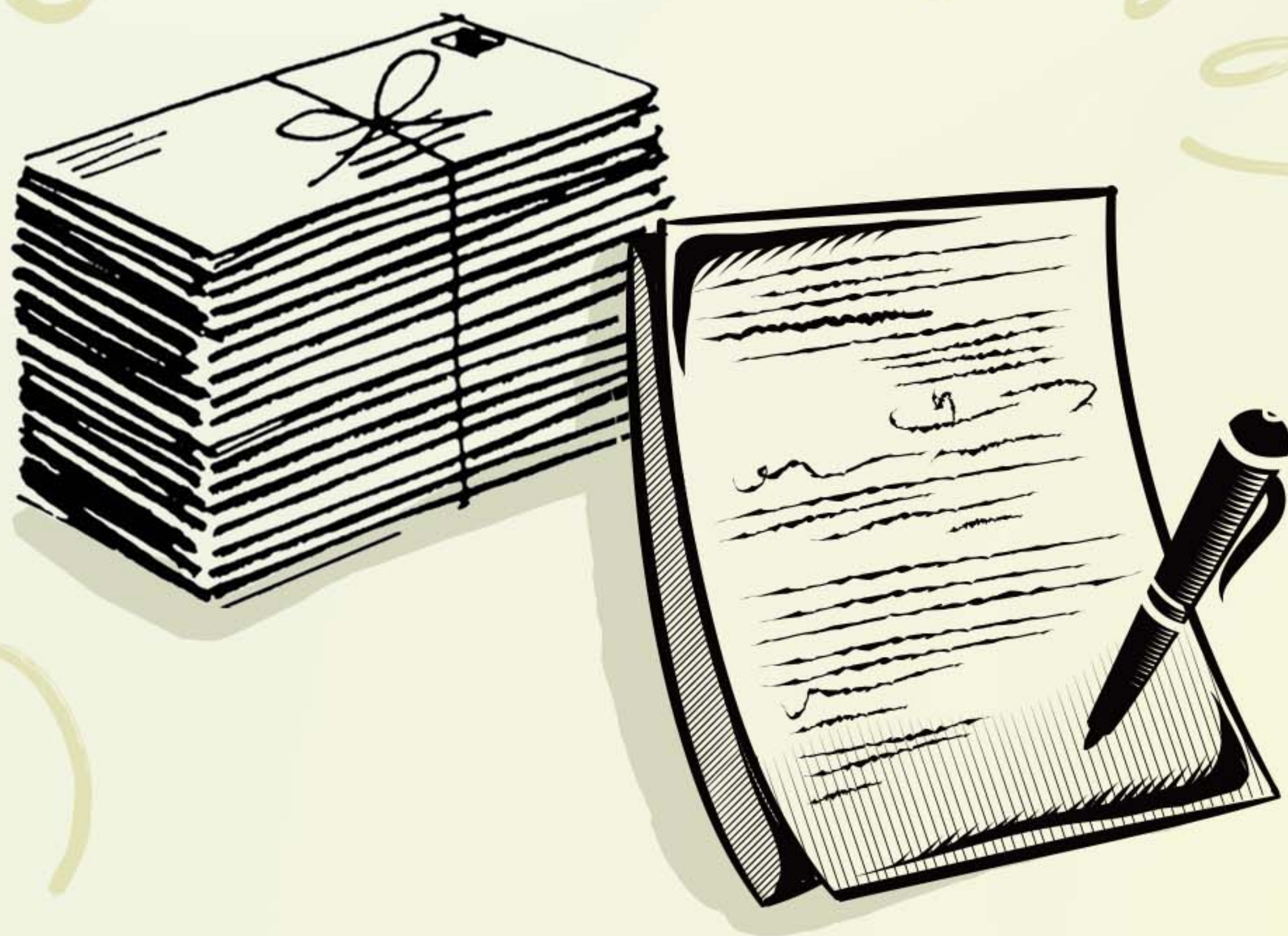
The bodies we have now are a kind of promise and pledge, showing us our spirits will change into visible beings at the resurrection. Because we have flesh and bones, our senses are alive. When we resurrect and have flesh and bones again, we will maintain our senses. It will be no different from our bodily senses now. The only difference is that the resurrected body will be a spiritual body, while our body now is a corruptible body. The moment we lay down our corruptible bodies and resurrect into spiritual ones, we will see the evidence that we lived by God's word taking effect.

For the sake of our spirits (which will resurrect into spiritual bodies), we must receive God's word. This is why we study the Bible closely. The Bible is the book containing God's word. Though the world has many books, there is no book like the Bible which so accurately understands human nature. Worldly writings claim to understand mankind, but they only drive mankind to license and corruption. The Bible accurately understands man's situation and clearly instructs them about what they need. We must fully receive God's word, so that when the Lord comes again, our spirits can resurrect into spiritual bodies.

LETTER FROM WORLD BEREAN

Uganda, Liberia, Mexico

3



UGANDA

Nsubuga

I have received my books. Thank you so much my friend and God bless you with all the work of your hands. We are so happy for your donation.

Keep it up and Let the Lord bless the work of your hands in the name of Jesus Christ.

I have served the books to the children as I had to do and took my responsibility to encourage them to look and think about Jesus Christ and the Lord. Let the God's mercy belong to the Sungrak Church and it's partners. Dear God I request you to be on our side all the time and bless the Sungrak Church in the name of Jesus Christ I pray amen.

LIBERIA

Justin

Well what I learned when I study the book (Know Jesus and Suppress Deceiving Spirits), is that the devil is not just the father of lies and murderer. He's also the sinner from the beginning. Long before the creation of the universe & the devil betrayed God his own will. Another thing I got to understand is that the devil is the father of SIN! SIN- is anything we do or say against God will. The devil is the first to commit all the sins in this world & nothing good can ever come from the devil. Man can never benefit anything from him and another thing nothing from the devil last forever it always fade away. (Like here in Africa people go to some Evil woman or man for quick powers and riches I sometimes the evil man or woman can even ask them to do some rituals stuff like killing and then they get Riches but they don't enjoy it because the devil give nothing free in this world he can give you all the money but in return he take your soul with him and then you become his slave. The same way he tempted Eve, he implanted a hope in her that she could be like God by eating the forbidden fruit.)

What the devil do usually do he encouraged, comfort & assurance. so man can never benefit anything good from the devil. Only the truth can liberate mankind from the devil by knowing Jesus Christ he the way the truth and the light. Jesus Christ is the only legal way by which we can break out from the devil.

When I firstly started reading the books a changed my life a lot and I got baptize and now i feel like a new person and I understand how the devil works now. At first like last month i was going through depression when u sent me the books i decided to read it, it changed my life im so happy and grateful to the church and im happy to be in the Lord Jesus Christ. Right Now im in the Usher Department in My church and want to work for the lord.

Of course its not easy on me right now but I believe God got me. I'm out of college no money to pay my fees too much problems in my life but I give God the praise he the God of Gods and KING of kings I believe he will help me. I want to ask the Church to please keep I'm in their prayers I'm going through a lot in my life.

MEXICO

Isaac

I am a missionary pastor of a small congregation in a rural indigenous area of Tabasco, Mexico.

We need some brochures; we are in an area that is full of idolatry and sorcery. We are a missionary ministry in Tabasco Mexico.

We are an evangelistic and missionary ministry, we do not depend economically on any organization or denomination, but only by faith and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen, I have been praying for these encounter and open doors. You are part of that response and I rejoice in the word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for sharing the teachings of Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim, I will probably learn even more about our Lord Jesus Christ and his Word to be more effective and productive in my own life, as well as that of those who listen to us. We rejoice in being able to receive these teachings, we receive them with joy.

I will be praying for you and for your pastor and for all this work that you have set out to do. At your service with pleasure.

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

Soy pastor misionero de una pequeña congregación en una zona rural indígena de Tabasco, México. Necesitamos igual folletos, estamos en una localidad que es una zona de mucha idolatría y hechicería. Somos un ministerio misionero en Tabasco México. Somos un ministerio evangelístico y misionero, no dependemos económicamente de ninguna organización ni denominación, sino solo por fe y la gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Amen he estado orando mucho por estos contactos y estas puertas abiertas y ustedes son parte de esa respuesta y me gozo en la palabra de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

Gracias por compartir las enseñanzas del Obispo Sung Hyun Kim, seguramente aprenderé aún mas de nuestro Señor Jesucristo y de su Palabra para ser más efectiva y productiva mi propia vida, así como la de los que nos oyeren. Nos gozamos con poder recibir estas enseñanzas las recibimos con gozo. Estaré orando por ustedes y por su pastor y por toda esta labor que se han

Good morning from Tabasco, Mexico, we send you a warm greeting that your lives continue in unity and full of the Holy Spirit impacting lives around the world.

I am very happy that you are doing this work, I will be waiting to receive the book and share with the brothers and people that we are evangelizing about Jesus Christ.

The brothers of the missions are happy and motivated. We feel rejoiced, honored, and privileged to receive such incalculable value to bless us and help us in the missionary work in this rural area that needs it so much.

I am also giving them bible studies through the content of these books that are being of great use and benefit to our ministry and to the brothers. We are glad of your support; we pray to God for these doors to continue in the missionary work reaching souls for Christ in this area.

Muy buenos días aquí en Tabasco, México, les enviamos un cordial saludo que sus vidas sigan en unidad y llenas del Espíritu Santo impactando vidas al rededor del mundo.

Estoy muy contento de que puedan hacer esa labor, estaré en esperando los libros y compartir con los hermanos y personas que estamos evangelizando de Jesucristo.

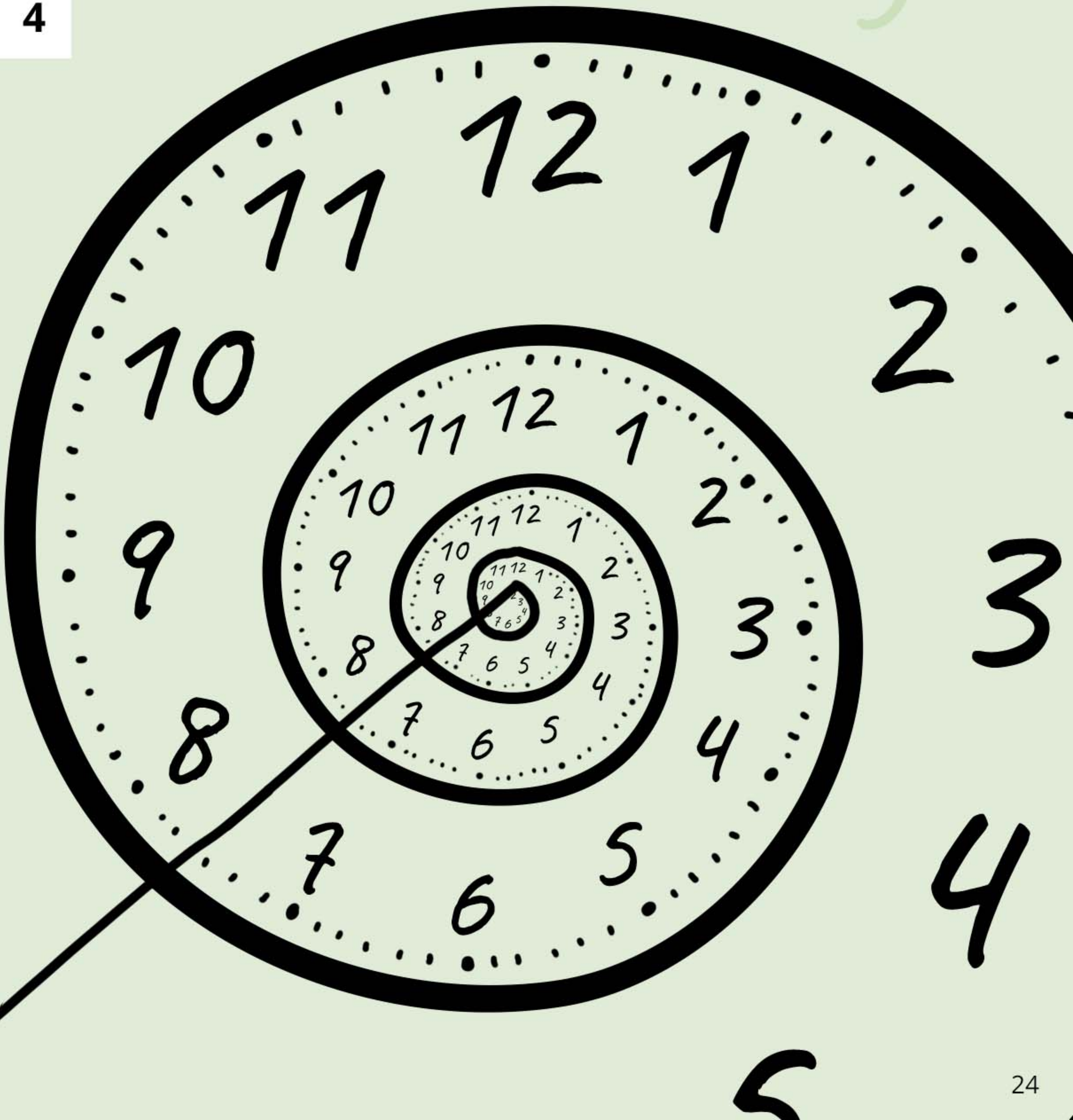
Los hermanos de las misiones están contentos y motivados. Nos sentimos muy contentos, honrados y privilegiados de recibir tan incalculable valor para bendecirnos y ayudarnos en la obra misionera en esta zona rural que tanto nos hace falta. Estos libros también estoy dándoles estudios mediante el contenido de estos libros que están siendo de gran utilidad y provecho a nuestro ministerio y a los hermanos.

Nos alegra su apoyo, le oramos a Dios por estas puertas para continuar en la obra misionera alcanzando almas para Cristo en esta zona.

THE DESIRE FOR ETERNITY

“Following God’s Word” Sermon Series

4



He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Ecc 3:11

I came to meet God at Sungrak Church. It was in 1992 that I first met God and sometime later, I went to China where I worked as a missionary. And since returning to Korea I have been serving in the church. Whenever I am asked to introduce myself, I always say, "I have met God".

When I was working as a salary man, my manager called me. He called me because, when I first introduced myself as a new recruit, I said, "I met God in August 1992" and he had been thinking about what I said and wanted to ask me what I meant by "meeting God". I got to hear about his background and found out that he had been a Methodist ever since he was young. He was in his mid-fifties at the time so he had been leading a faith life for more than fifty years and yet for him it was strange that I said I met God.

So, I told him, "In the past, I didn't know God, and at one point in time I was on the side of those who resisted against God". However, through the course of various events, God made me realize that I was a sinner.

And when I knelt down before Him and confessed, "God, if you are really living, I need your help", He truly met with me. The words promised in the Bible were not just old stories; I experienced those words being fulfilled upon me. Originally, I was a man with a hardened heart, who could not trust the words of others that easily. But since I had received the testimony, it was not about me saying, "I've learned about the God that someone told me about" nor saying, "I believe in God". What I had experienced was not just about believing in God; I had actually met God. I experienced Him.

If anyone asks me about my wife, I would be able to talk all day about her. Because I've met her. "What food does your wife like? What is her personality like? When does she get angry? What makes her happy?" I can answer all of those questions. But if a person was trying to obtain a permanent residency to live in the US for example, and conspired with someone to pretend they were partners, they might be able to memorize answers so they could answer questions like, "What is your partner's hobby? Where did you two first meet?" And at the interview, they may be able to answer the questions that last for 20 minutes or so, but they wouldn't be able to talk any longer than that. Furthermore, their misconduct could become uncovered. However, when we meet God, we don't need to memorize anything or learn about anything to talk about it.

Of course, to know more about God we do need to learn but what is fundamental is that we have met God.

So, in Jesus' name I bless you all to meet God. Once you know God, nobody will need to tell you, "You must know God! Know God!" Once you meet Him, no one needs to tell you to know God. Because you yourself have met Him and experienced Him. You know who your child is don't you? You don't need anyone else's testimony about that. In the same way, I hope you will be able to meet God.

In the Scripture that we read, it says "He has put eternity in their hearts". Eternity. We need to read the word eternity so that it feels real to us. Eternity! Eternity has the meaning of endless and long. In other words, there is no end. And the Bible says that God has put into man's heart the desire for eternity.

As we got up this morning, countless thoughts went through our minds. We also had desires that passed through our hearts. Thoughts continuously go through our minds. And when we think about it, our mind (heart) is inseparable from our bodies. Our body and mind are stuck together. When there was no food in my stomach, the thought in my mind was, "I want to eat something". When my body felt cold, I thought, "I want to get warm". Likewise, the mind and body are always together.

As I mentioned about feeling cold before, what happens once you warm up your body after feeling cold? Do you still have the thought of wanting to be warm? The moment your body is warmed up, that thought of "I want to be warm" disappears.

To give an example, when I was in the army I was at the GOP (observation post) in Yeon-Cheon. And during winter we were on sentry duty looking toward the 38th parallel. One team would be on duty from 6pm to midnight and then the next team from midnight to 6am. And during those six hours, we had to stand guard moving from one post to another. The wind was icy cold and the wind chill temperature dropped to -25 degrees Celsius. But we had to stand guard without any heaters and only wearing a thick jacket. When climbing the mountains, we would sweat. But when on guard duty, the sweat dries up. And as the wind blows when there's moisture on our bodies, it feels even colder. In that freezing cold, we had to stand for an hour and our bodies shivered the whole time. So, we tried to move around if possible.

As soon as we returned from guard duty, we jumped into the bath. And I realized something then. For the past six hours, my earnest wish was to have a warm bath. I was missing the warm water. But as soon as I got in the shower and turned on the hot water, that earnest wish disappeared in less than one minute.

The thought of it completely disappeared. After that, I didn't even think about wanting to be warm. That's when I realized that this body of ours is so easy to please. It is very easy to please.

Also, you become very hungry while on duty. Red bean buns might be very common here, but they are really delicious if you eat them after finishing your duties in the army. So, I'm thinking, "I want to eat red bean buns with milk quickly". But what happens the moment you eat them? The thought of it completely disappears. It's truly amazing.

In that way, our hearts are so easy to please because it is all connected with our body. What our bodies desire is not something eternal. Our bodies want simple things that make the body feel comfortable. And the body is so easily satisfied. But then that satisfaction doesn't last very long either. After I took a nice warm shower and ate that sweet bread I went to sleep. But the next day when I was on duty again, that desire to be warm surged into my heart all over again. And such desires will repeatedly arise 365 days a year. That is the desire of the flesh. That is the heart of the flesh. That is what we desire as those who have a body. There's nothing wrong with it. It is absolutely normal that one has such desires if he has a body.

Since our minds and hearts are connected to our bodies in such a way,

those things that our hearts desire and want may be acquired quite quickly and be satisfied easily. But there is a strange truth behind all this. It is very strange. And it is that we have in our hearts the desire for eternity. We desire eternity. Not something that will satisfy us for a short time but something eternal. We want to have joy but what kind of joy? We want everlasting joy. That is a desire we have in our hearts. What about happiness? Everyone wants to be happy forever. Same for love. Do you want to be loved? Do you want to be loved? What kind of love do you want? One that lasts for 10 years? Nobody would think to himself, "I want to be loved for 10 years only". Even if a person might have 50 years to live, he is not going to think, "I want to be loved for 50 years". He would want to be loved for eternity. Nobody wants to be happy for only 50 years. Everyone wants happiness to last forever.

Is this a desire that arises from our bodies? Is it from our bodies that this desire comes? The desires of our flesh are very easy to be satisfied; it doesn't want something eternal. All that it desires is warm water, bread, having rest, lying down and so on. But there is clearly the desire for eternity in our hearts. We may not need to say, "Please give me eternal love. Give me eternal joy. Give me eternal happiness", but everyone desires to have them. Therefore, people feel distressed when these do not last forever.

There might be a man and a woman who love each other dearly. But let's say that one of them changed their heart. When that happens, the other person cannot easily give up on him or her. Why? What did they promise? They promised for their love to last forever. So, the other person cannot accept the fact that he or she has changed their heart so easily. They could become so obsessed with that person that they even take extreme measures saying, "If your love for me is not going to last forever, I won't let you give that love to anybody else". This is the struggle and desperation of those that are hurt and disappointed after longing for something eternal.

So why do people long for eternity? Is there a desire in our bodies that longs for eternity or not? There is none in our bodies. The body is flesh. So then from where within us does this desire for eternity come? It is because there is an eternal being within ourselves. We have an eternal existence within us which is why we long for eternal happiness and eternal joy. Because of that eternal existence, we desire to receive eternal love. Though we may always be disappointed by what we see because that love is not eternal, there is a longing cry in the deepest part of our hearts that says, "Please love me forever".

We come to church to meet God and know God through Jesus Christ all because we want to gain that which is everlasting. If you are seeking something that will satisfy you

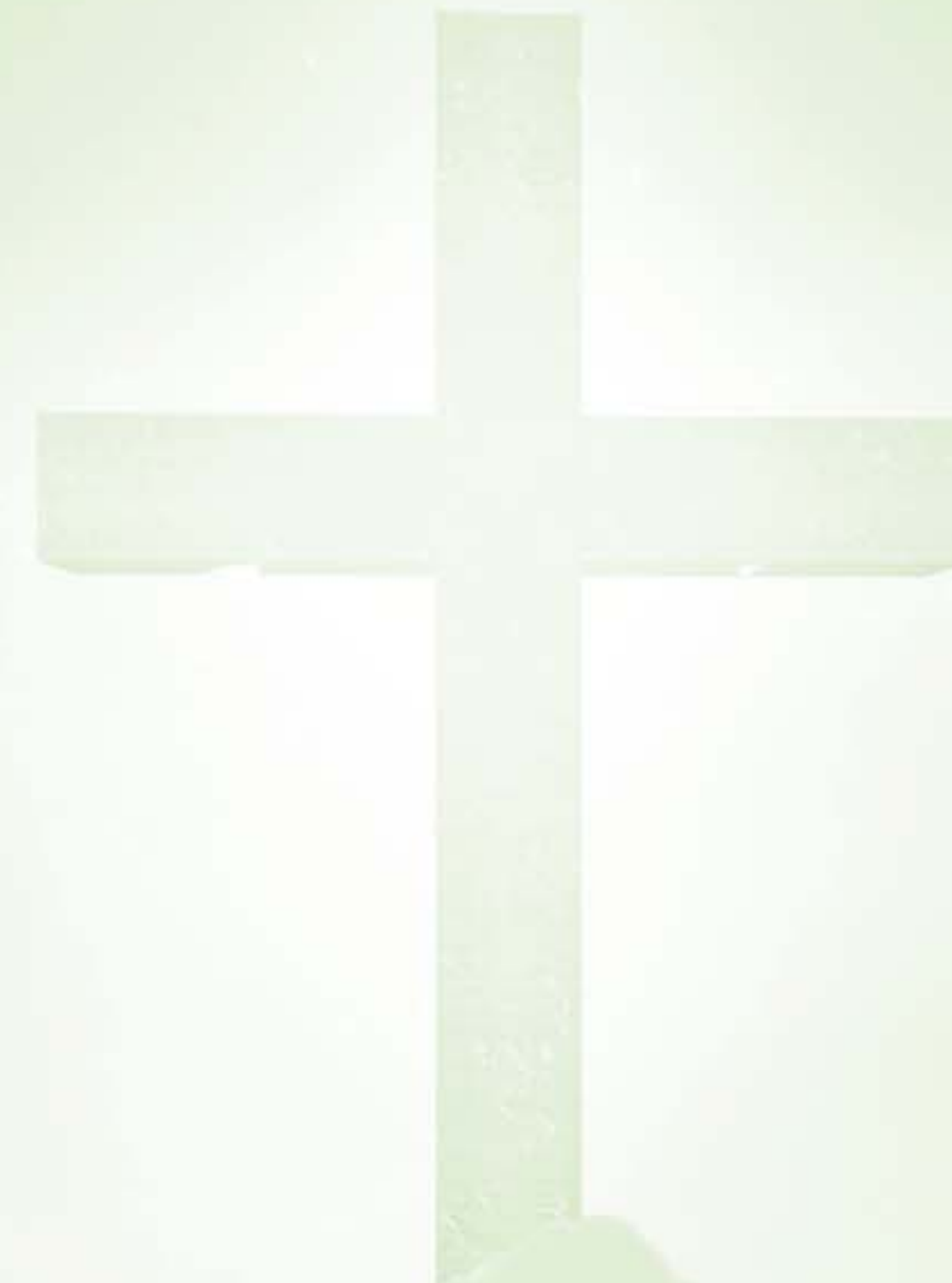
temporarily, you may be able to find that even outside of the church. At the same time, you may receive true comfort in your hearts by being here too. But is that comfort everlasting? If it is short-lived, then such comfort can be given to you from elsewhere in the world. However, that is short-lived and doesn't last forever. But what you can receive at church, that is, what God can give you is everlasting.

Even after having faith in Jesus, many people still seek things which are temporary and short-lived. Some of you may have heard evangelists say something like this to you: "Believe in Jesus and your business will grow. Believe in Jesus and you'll have good health. Believe in Jesus and everything will prosper. Believe in Jesus and your children will find a good job". Let's say that someone's child did get into a good job. Though he seems to have been successful by getting that job now, later down the road, it may turn out not to be a good thing for him. So, from that, people may have been happy for a short time but later feel disappointed. People in our country are greatly disappointed nowadays. At one time, everyone was very happy. But now they are feeling disappointed. Such joy doesn't last. The world cannot give what is everlasting.

However, God is He who can give eternal joy. This is evident in the history of mankind. Christians who believe in Jesus in the present time believe in the promise that God gave four thousand years ago,

and also experience that promise being fulfilled to them. And we find out that it was not just four thousand years but in the eternity past that God had His will and He allows us to experience that. Moreover, we can continue to receive those promises which are everlasting from God.

So, everyone, since you came to church, don't try to be satisfied with ephemeral and short-lived things that you might acquire from this world. You may be able to find them in the church too so that you receive comfort at church, joy and happiness. However, what is far more important than that is that we receive what is eternal - eternal joy, eternal happiness, eternal blessings, and eternal health. May you receive these things, I bless you in Jesus' name.



Pastor Ki-Taek Lee
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