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Berean Webzine - Blessing Channel #37

Faith, a Relationship with the Lord



1 A Relationship with the Lord

(Romans 1:2-10)

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

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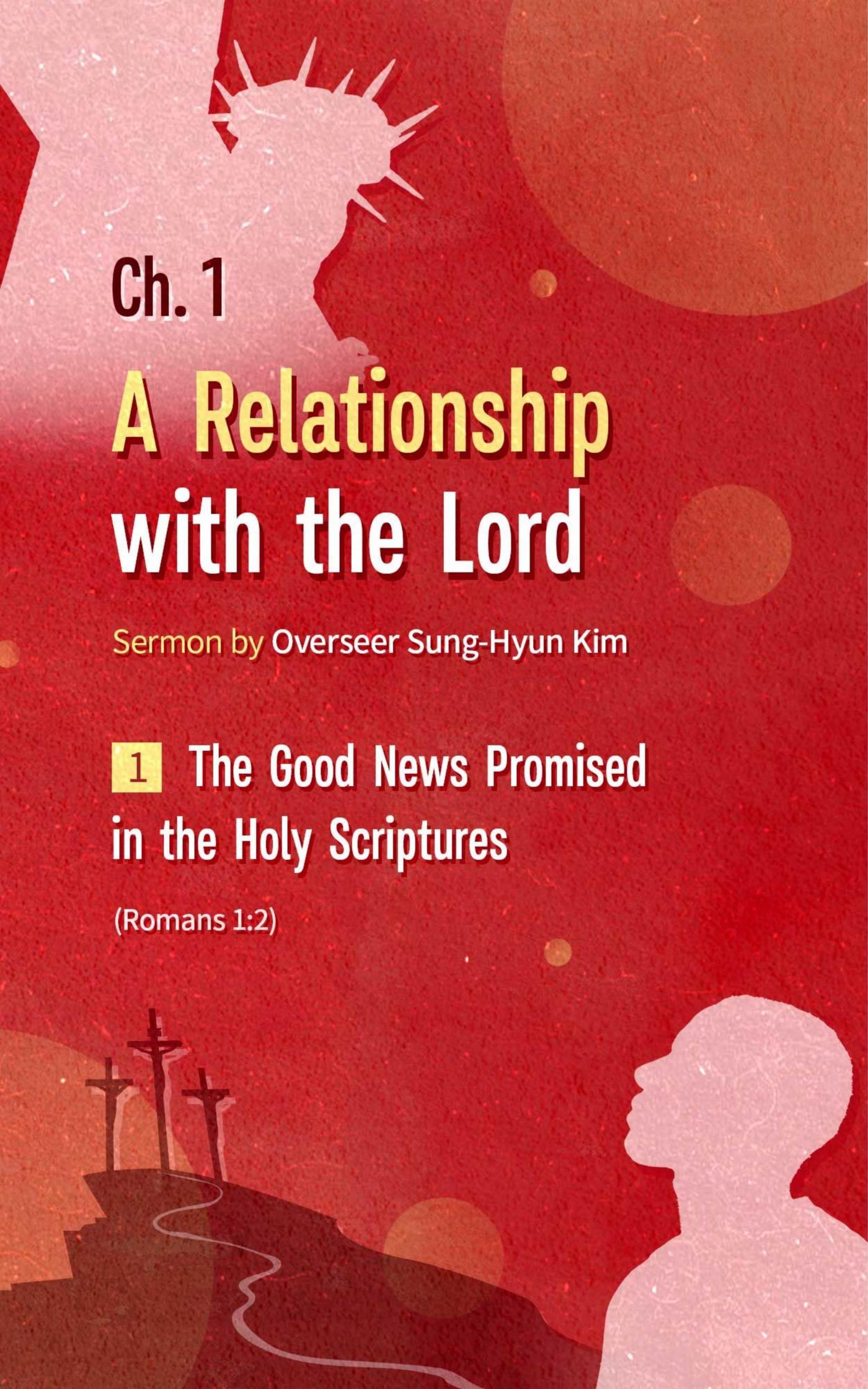
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in Following God's Word

Part 1, Chapter 24



Ch. 1

A Relationship with the Lord

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

1 The Good News Promised in the Holy Scriptures

(Romans 1:2)

“Wait—the gospel didn’t just start with the New Testament? You’re saying the Old Testament is actually packed with stories about it? That’s really confusing. I mean, if that’s true, why didn’t the Pharisees and scribes accept the gospel? They knew the Old Testament better than anyone. If it really explains the coming Messiah, how did they miss Jesus standing right in front of them? Doesn’t that mean the Old Testament is actually far from the gospel? Maybe we shouldn’t read it too much—it might even get in the way of understanding the gospel.”

Before addressing these questions, a fundamental issue must be considered: Did the Pharisees and scribes really know the Old Testament well? Did they approach the Word with sincere hearts? In reality, their highest value was not Scripture—it was rabbinic tradition. The countless rules they worked so hard to keep, taught to others, and used to judge and control others did not originate from Scripture itself. Instead, these were doctrines created by selectively taking parts of the Bible and twisting them to fit their own standards. This is precisely what the Lord condemned as the “tradition of men.”

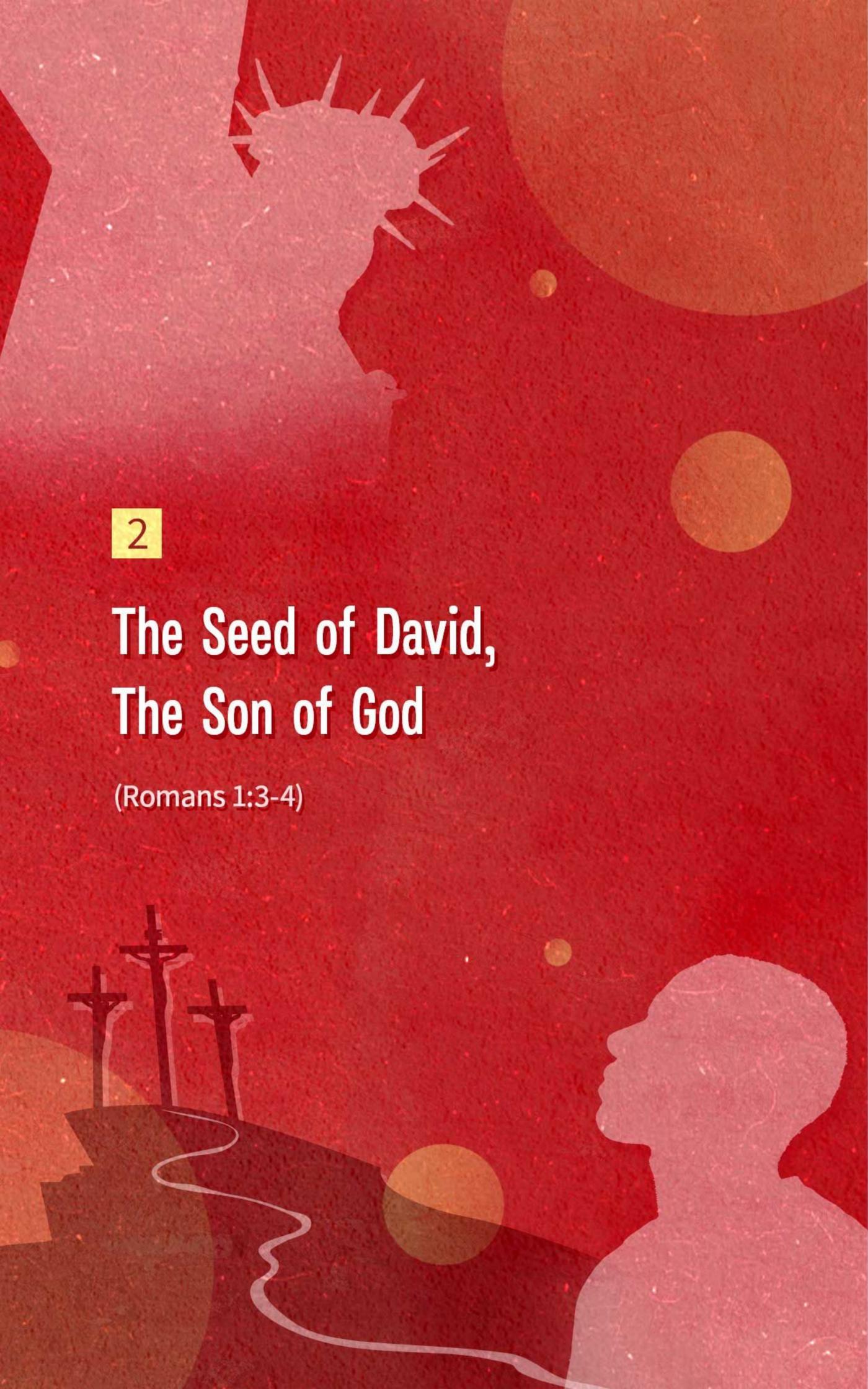
The tradition of men—by its very nature, it does not come from God. Therefore, there can be no gospel within it. No wonder that when the Pharisees and scribes encountered Jesus, they felt no warmth toward Him but instead hated Him. What filled their hearts was not the Word of God, but strict and harsh rules designed to rule over and control people. Under this system, people were crushed by a life that was miserable, sorrowful, and devoid of hope. Within this confined religious system, the most vital element was missing: communion with God.

If the Pharisees and scribes had truly honored the Scriptures, they would have recognized Jesus, even if only dimly. This is because the Scriptures consistently spoke—through countless prophecies—about the coming of the gospel, what the gospel would be, and who its central figure would be. Isaiah 53:5 declares, **“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”** Remarkably, these words were not written by disciples who witnessed Jesus Christ firsthand, but by the prophet Isaiah approximately seven hundred years before Jesus came.

When Paul preached the gospel, many Jews spoke against him, saying, **“This man is going against Moses,”** and, **“He speaks of things that aren’t even in the Scriptures.”** In response, Paul proclaimed the gospel all the more clearly—that it was something God had promised beforehand in the Scriptures through His prophets. And that gospel has now been delivered to us. For the sake of those so small and insignificant that they could disappear from the earth without anyone noticing, God has been running toward us since long ago to give us this gospel. No matter how enticing the world may appear, and no matter how frightening its threats may be, let us not turn away from the gospel. Let us remain in it to the very end and enjoy the happiness of God forever.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord’s Day Service on September 14, 2025*





2

The Seed of David, The Son of God

(Romans 1:3-4)

Suddenly, a violent storm broke out, and the night sea began to rage. The old man heard that several young men who had come from out of town had not returned from the water, and he rushed to the pier. His wife tried to stop him, but he insisted. He gathered people and launched a boat. They reached the spot where the young men's signal had gone silent. They swept the area again and again with a searchlight, circling the dark sea—but found nothing. The boat nearly capsized several times. About two hours passed. Then, at last, they saw heads barely above the surface of the water. Lifelines were thrown. Every one of them survived. A few days later, the young men said, **“Good thing you came out to check your traps that night. Guess we got lucky.”**

What goes through your mind when you hear this story, and how do you think the old man felt when he heard those words? What he did that night was not something he happened to do while already out at sea. From the very beginning, he went out to save them. He stepped into a storm-tossed night sea, despite his wife's objections, with that single purpose. Before boarding the boat, he made careful preparations. Out on the water, he struggled against dangers that threatened his own life and endured severe hardship. The young men were saved because of that sacrifice. And yet, they treated his sacrifice lightly, and even dismissed the very heart of the man who fought to keep them alive.

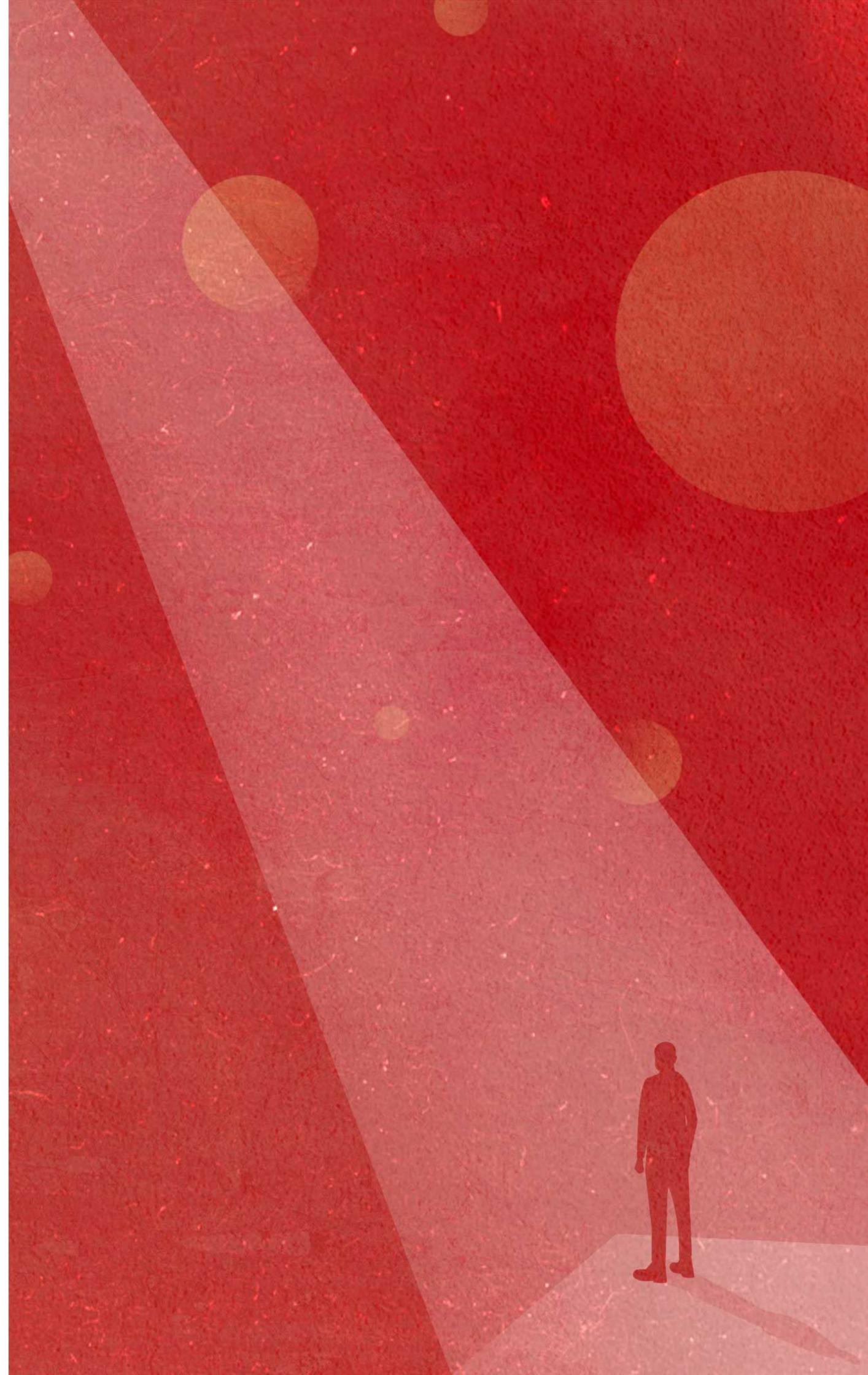
What is heartbreaking is that this kind of attitude is not unfamiliar even within our faith. **“Didn't the Son of God come into the world to humble Himself before God? And saving people—wasn't that just something He did along the way? It's not like He came here for us from the start, but still... I guess it worked out for us.”** Yet the One who is equal with God took on flesh and showed us grace. The One who knew no sin went as far as

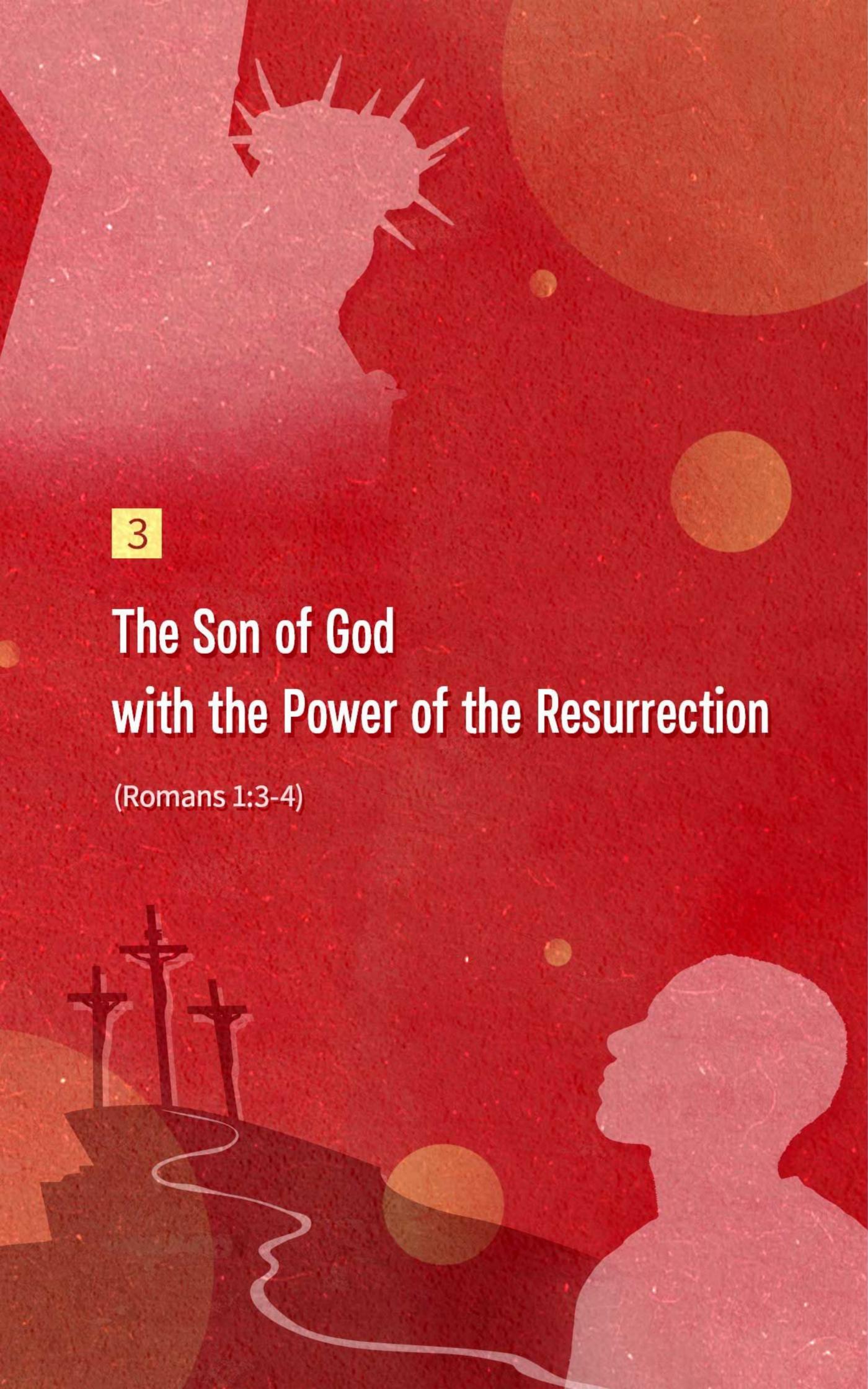
dying on the cross to bear our sins. If words like those come out of our mouths, can we honestly say that we truly know the gospel?

Why did Jesus come into this world? The answer is clear. He came to die for us. The One who is equal with God did not become man simply to humble Himself before God. He became man in order to save us. Our salvation was not an accidental byproduct of His incarnation; it was the very purpose God had planned from eternity. He came to give us the life of God, to rescue us from sorrow and despair, from the snare of curse and death. Even if it meant bringing about a permanent change from which there would be no turning back, He came with one resolve—to save us.

When the One who is God became man through the line of David, in accordance with prophecy, His becoming the Son of God was clearly proclaimed in history. This was the exact fulfillment of the plan God had promised through the prophets. Our salvation is not an accident; it is the fruit produced by God's love. Let us not take this love lightly. Let us discover who we are within this confession: **"The Son of God came for me."** We must not become people who push Christ away simply because life in this world feels hard. Moved by the love of the One who gave up everything and came for us, let us receive Him with our whole being.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on September 21, 2025*





3

The Son of God with the Power of the Resurrection

(Romans 1:3-4)

“God’s love? Honestly, I don’t really know. God is up there, high in heaven, and I’m down here on the ground, struggling through life every single day. Does God really know the pain of my life? And even if He knows—does He truly care?” Many people think this way. But here is a truth that completely shatters that doubt. The Son of God laid aside all the glory He had enjoyed from eternity and became a man. God becoming man was not a temporary gesture—it was an irreversible, complete transformation. Is God’s love abstract? No. Because of that love, God Himself came all the way down to this very place—the ground we are standing on right now.

Why would the One who was originally equal with God choose to come to this earth at all? He stripped Himself of every divine privilege and glory and humbled Himself to the position of a Son who obeyed even to the point of death. This was not a formal or symbolic gesture. He grew weary as we do, felt hunger as we do, and suffered pain as we do. More than that, He saw the sorrow, the heaviness, and the deep disappointments of human life. He saw the countless lies woven along the road of life, and He knew how fragile and tragic human existence is—an existence that cannot survive apart from the grace of God. Have you been doubting such a God until now? He knows our lives more deeply than we know them ourselves.

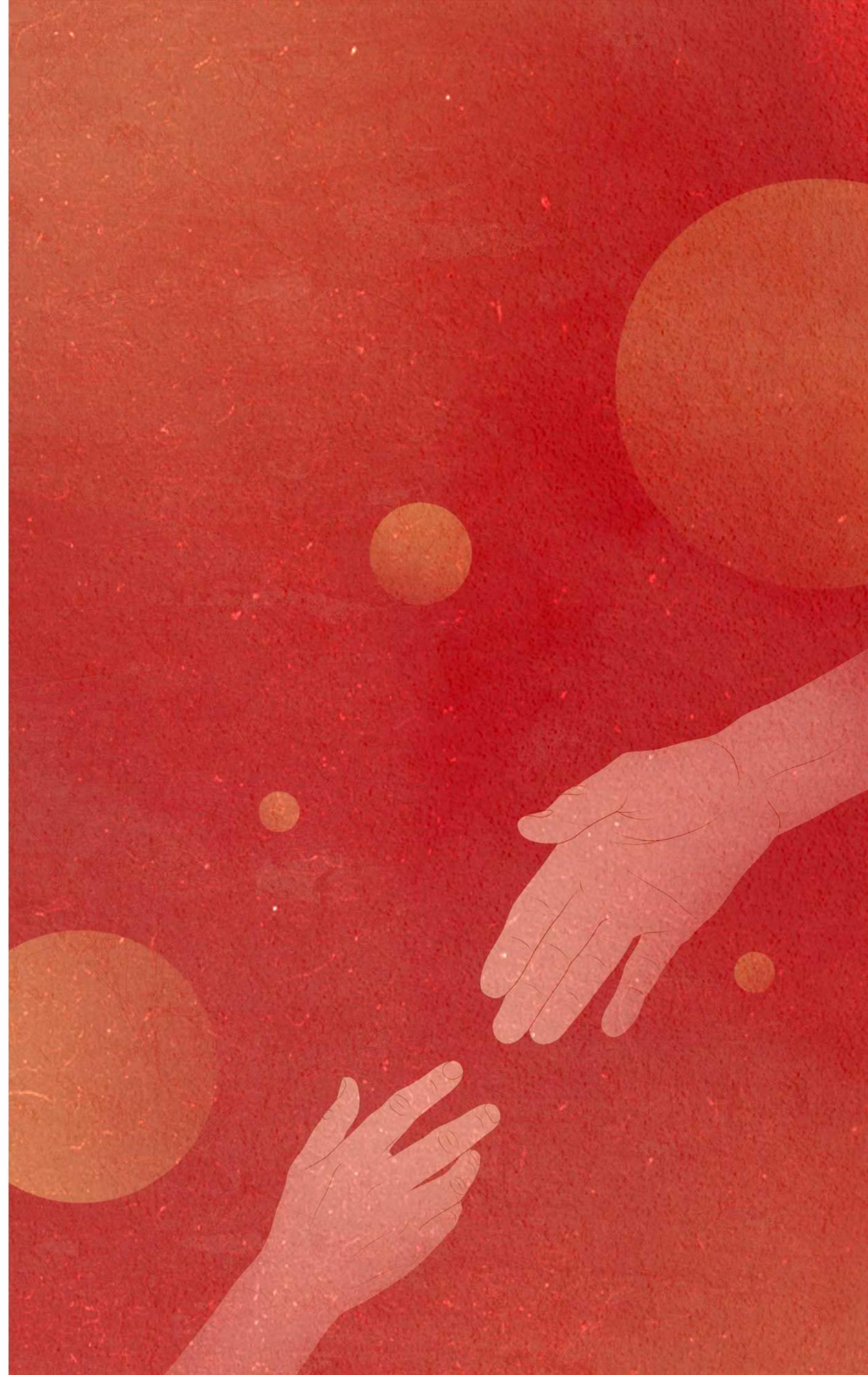
“Even so, how can we believe that this is really true?” That is an understandable question. Yet here is the decisive evidence: the resurrection. The power to conquer death belongs to God alone. Only the One who creates life can pass through death and overcome it. Though people nailed Jesus to the cross and put Him to death, He rose again on the third day. At that point, all doubt is put to rest. He truly is the Son of God. He truly is the One who can deal with our sin. He truly is the One who can give us eternal life.

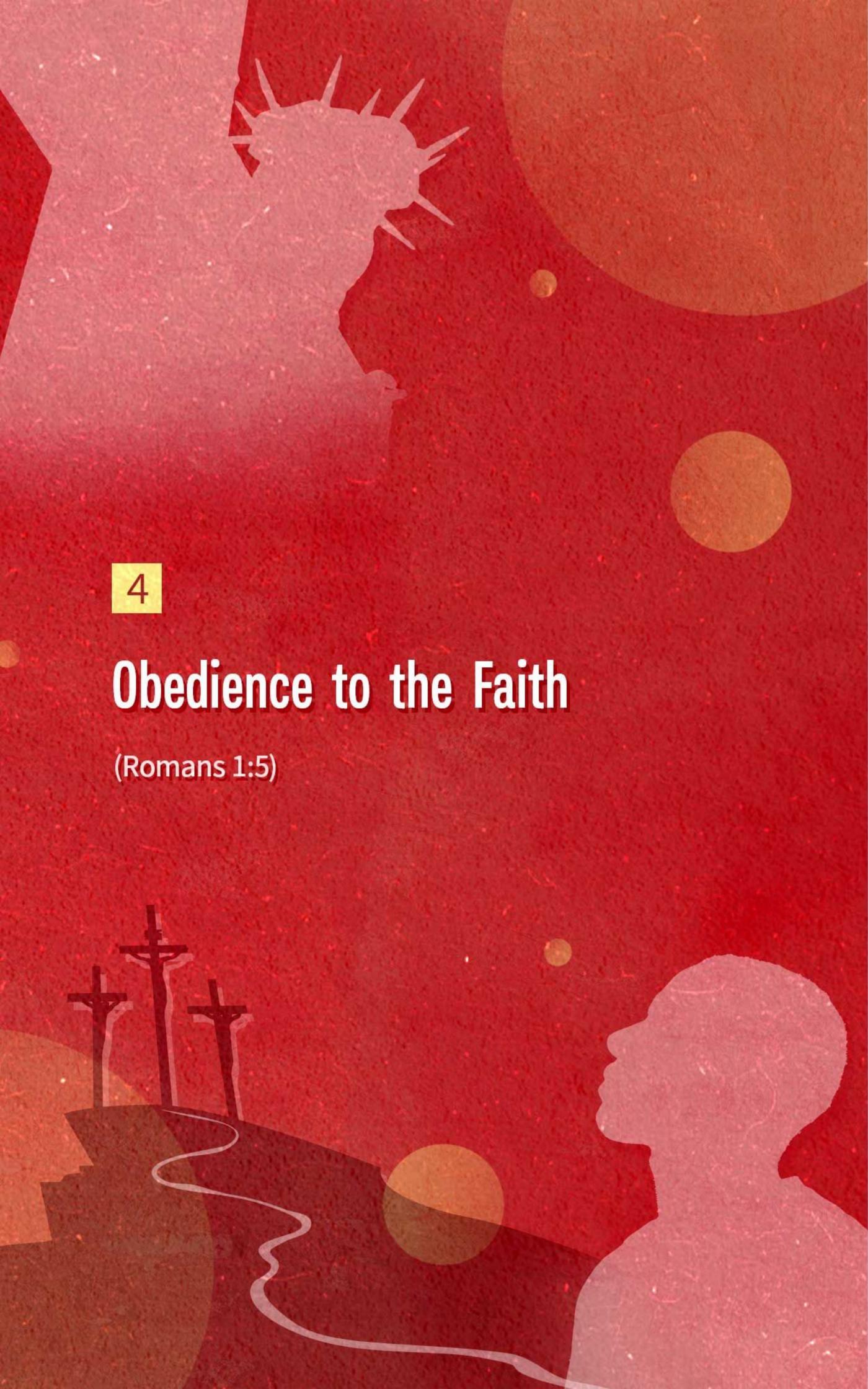
The resurrection is the conclusive and utmost evidence that Jesus Christ is God.

What is even more astonishing is that although the Son of God became man, He never ceased to be God. There was a time when He slept deeply on a boat tossed by waves, utterly exhausted like any ordinary person after a long day of ministry. Yet when He commanded the storm, **“Be still!”** the sea became calm. When He was nailed to the cross, bleeding in unbearable agony, He still spoke to the criminal beside Him and said, **“Today you will be with Me in Paradise,”** granting eternal life in the midst of suffering. Because He is fully human, He understands every pain of our lives; and because He is fully God, He is able to save us from every one of those pains.

To the question, **“What does God have to do with me?”** God has given this answer: **the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus**—He is the Savior who offered Himself as a sacrificial offering to save us from sin. **Christ**—He is the great High Priest who resolved the problem of sin once and for all through a single sacrifice. **Our Lord**—He is the King who guards us forever and leads us into His eternal kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ is not One who looks upon our lives with indifference. Do not say, **“Still, I don’t think this applies to me.”** God became man for you. He died for you. He rose again for you. This is the gospel.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord’s Day Service on September 28, 2025*





4

Obedience to the Faith

(Romans 1:5)

“Isn’t it true that if I believe in Jesus, I’m already saved? I think putting too much emphasis on obedience sounds a bit legalistic. Sure, living an obedient life would be great, but obedience isn’t really tied to salvation, right? I’m satisfied just knowing that I’m saved. I don’t want the burden of having to do more in my faith life.” Many believers think this way. However, such thinking does not show what true faith is. Through the gospel, what God has given us is not merely the grace of redemption. Regardless of how great or small our abilities are, He has called each of us and sent us to do His work.

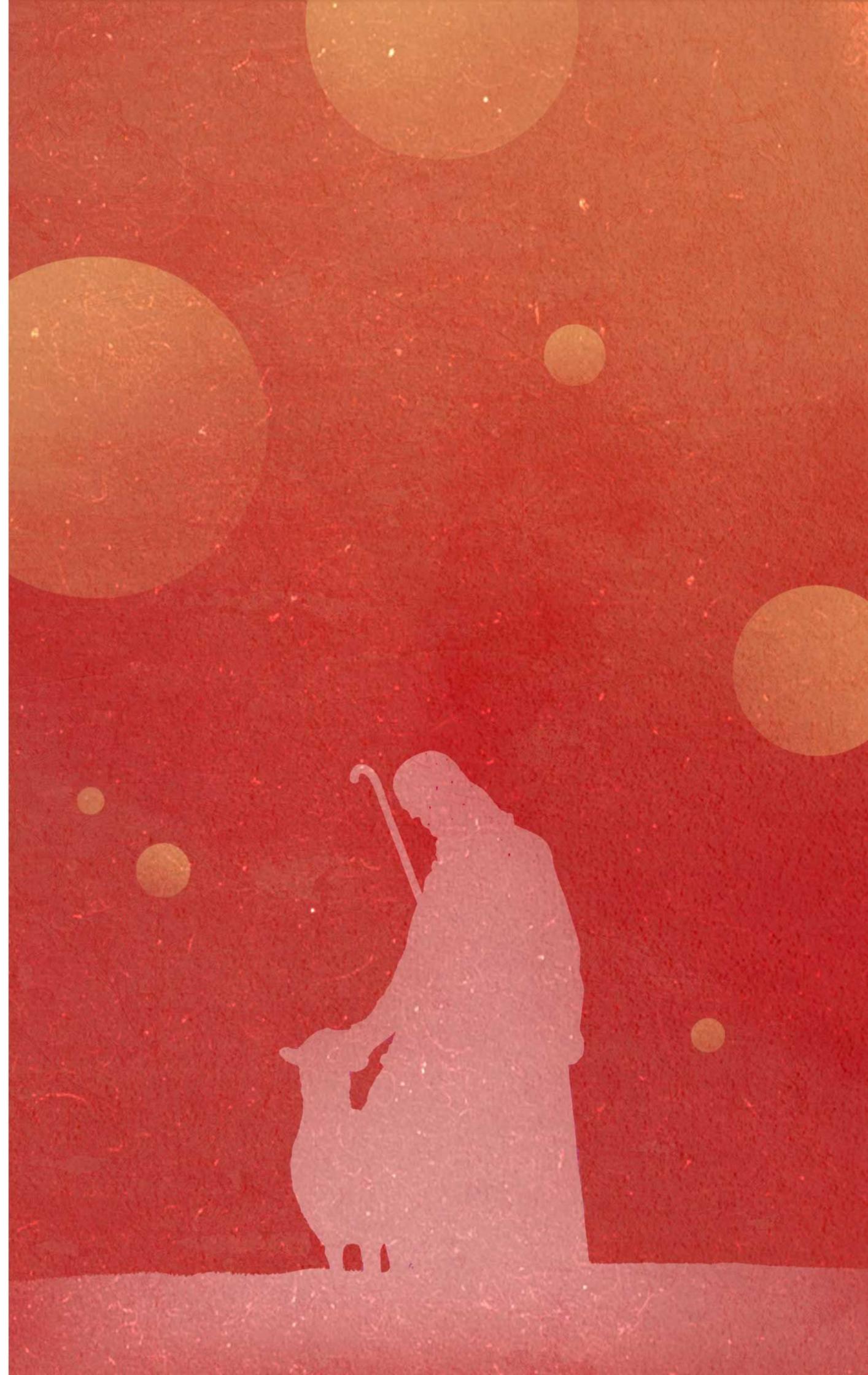
Having received both conversion and vocation through the gospel, we must have a faith that obeys—the obedience that comes from faith. Those who have truly received the grace of redemption will never regard obedience as a mere option. We often say that someone has been “saved,” but in other words, it means “to lead them to believe and obey.” This obedience of faith has been passed down through the apostles, through Paul, and through countless believers—and finally, it has been delivered to us through the overseer of the church. Now, we too have the responsibility to pass on this “obedience of faith” to the next generation.

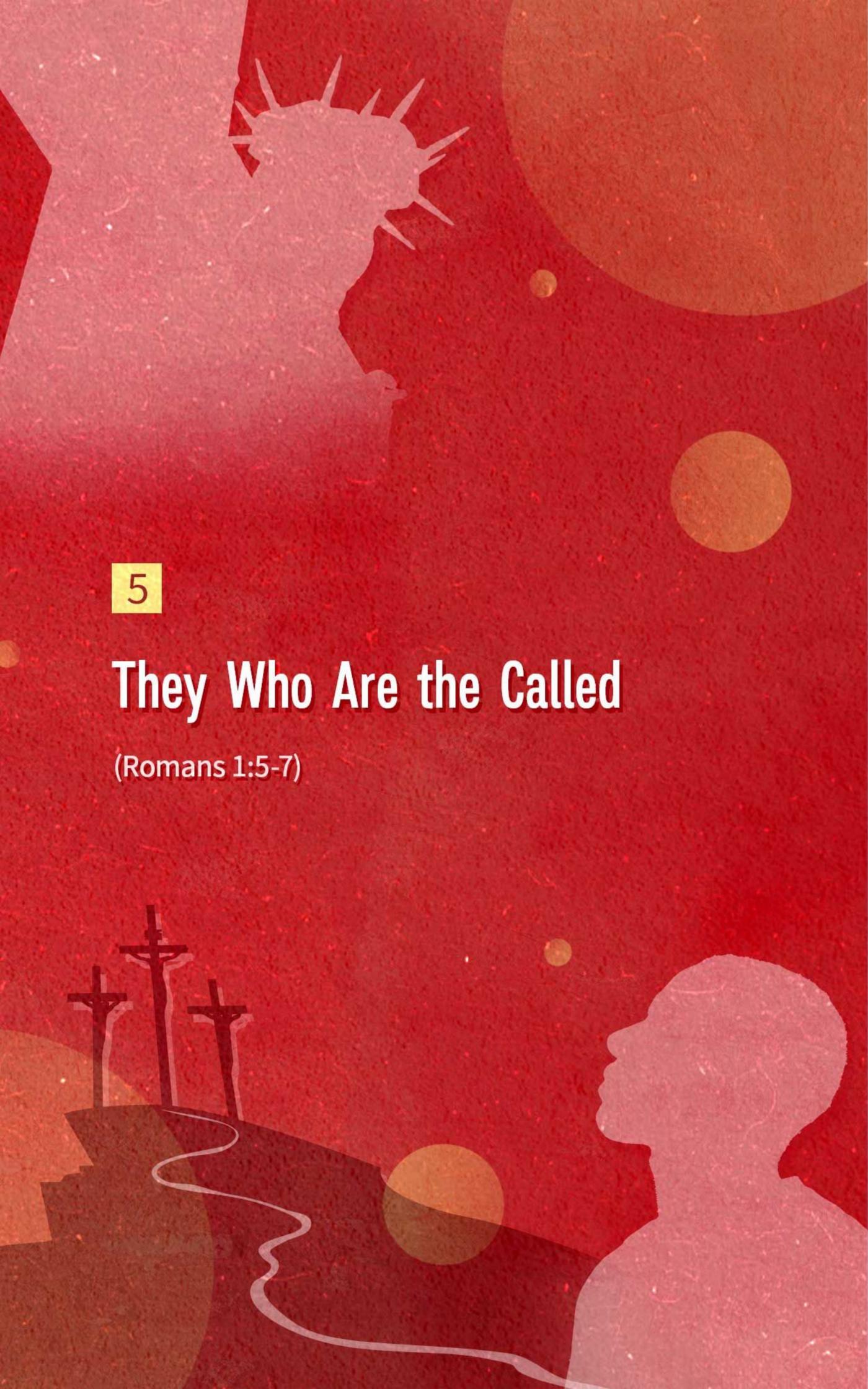
Unfortunately, many Christians have received a distorted and corrupted gospel—and they, in turn, are preaching the same. The gospel they preach takes the sweetness but throws away the responsibility that comes with it. Their lives say, “**I have received grace, but I won’t follow.**” They talk about obedience persuasively, yet their lives are stained with disobedience. This is because they were never truly redeemed in the first place. Anyone can talk about faith. But unless it is proven through one’s life, it remains nothing more than a theory. In the truest sense, being “saved” is equal to having “obedience to the faith.”

But why should we obey? Because the One who gives grace is the Lord who rules over all things. To be redeemed is to enter into a relationship of obedience to Him. Yet some say, **“I only obey the Lord. Don’t tell me to obey the shepherd.”** But this is a contradiction in itself. The Lord commanded, **“Teach them to observe all things that I commanded you!”** and **“Feed My sheep!”** and the Holy Spirit has made the overseer to shepherd the flock. You say you are guided by the Lord, yet you ignore the order of the church and reject the guidance of the overseer? In the end, such a person simply follows their own thoughts and feelings.

Having received the grace of redemption, we are those who are called through the obedience of faith. Though we were completely unworthy, we have been rescued from the dominion and punishment of sin. Now, belonging to Jesus, we are under His protection and care and have become new creations by receiving His life. Therefore, instead of exalting ourselves, we must humble ourselves completely and become a new class of people in character. Even though we have received grace, the nature of a sinner does not disappear overnight; thus, we must obey all the more in humility. If we truly acknowledge that the gospel we have received is the perfect gospel, let us prove it through the obedience of faith. And let us fulfill the ministry of the church—to lead others into obedience to the faith.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord’s Day Service on October 5, 2025*





5

They Who Are the Called

(Romans 1:5-7)

“I know I’m supposed to live for the glory of God...but honestly, I’m ashamed. I have nothing to show for it. If anything, I feel like I’m getting in the way of His glory. Maybe quitting what I’m doing right now would actually help. I mean, God probably regrets giving me this work in the first place. Things would probably run smoother without me around, don’t you think? Pastor, I know you’re called by God to do this work. But me? I was just filling in until someone more qualified came along. I’m not even sure I belong here. It feels like I’m just ruining God’s work, and that thought tears me apart.”

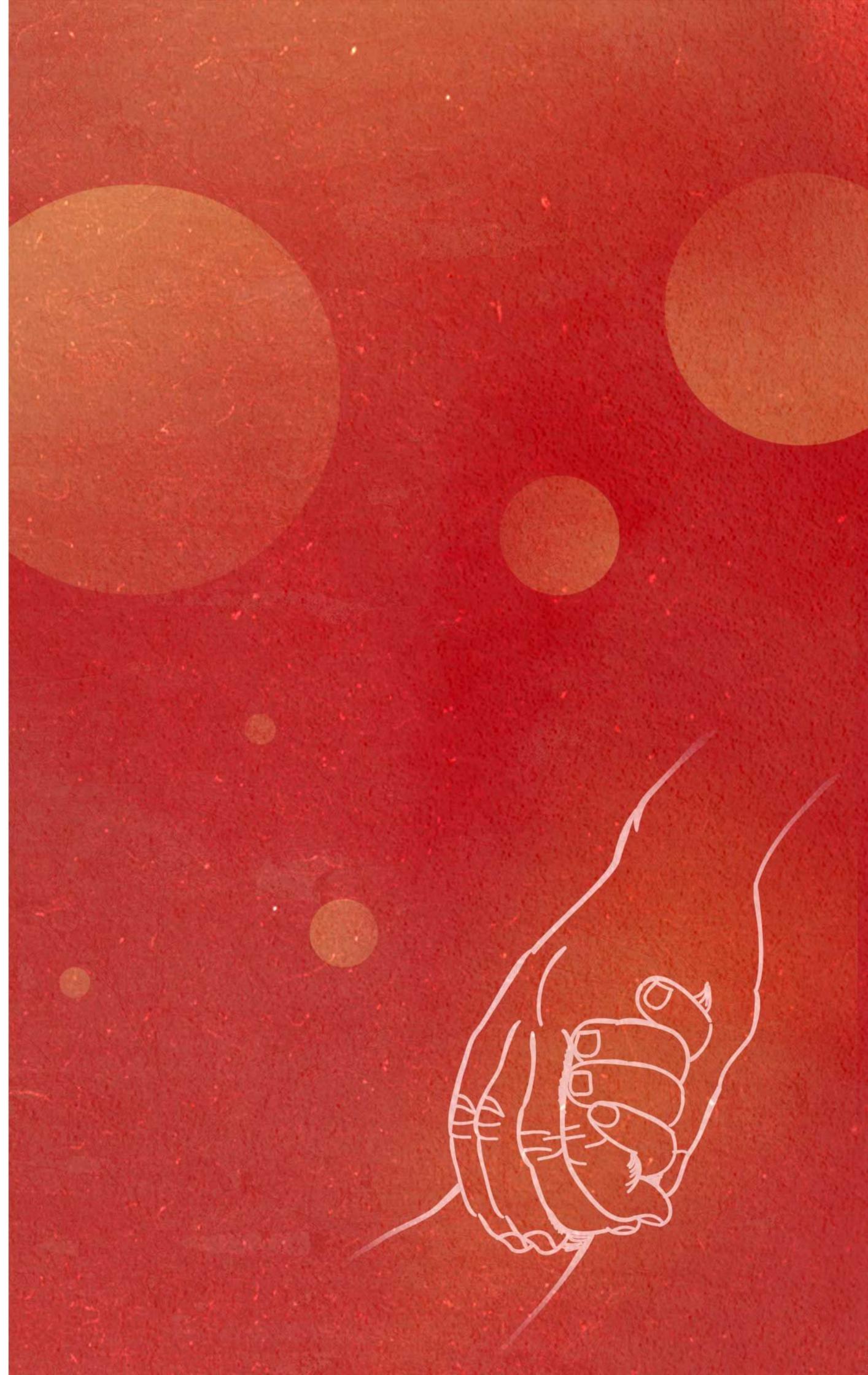
God’s calling is irrevocable. He never fails—and neither will those called according to His purpose. Even in the darkest circumstances, all things work together for good. God’s calling has never been about our position or ability—it is part of His great work to glorify His name. Every small act of obedience by those who once lived in bondage under the devil’s power, every step that overcomes selfish desire, reveals God’s goodness and lovingkindness to the entire universe. These moments are precious in His sight. Therefore, He will never give up on those He has called according to His purpose.

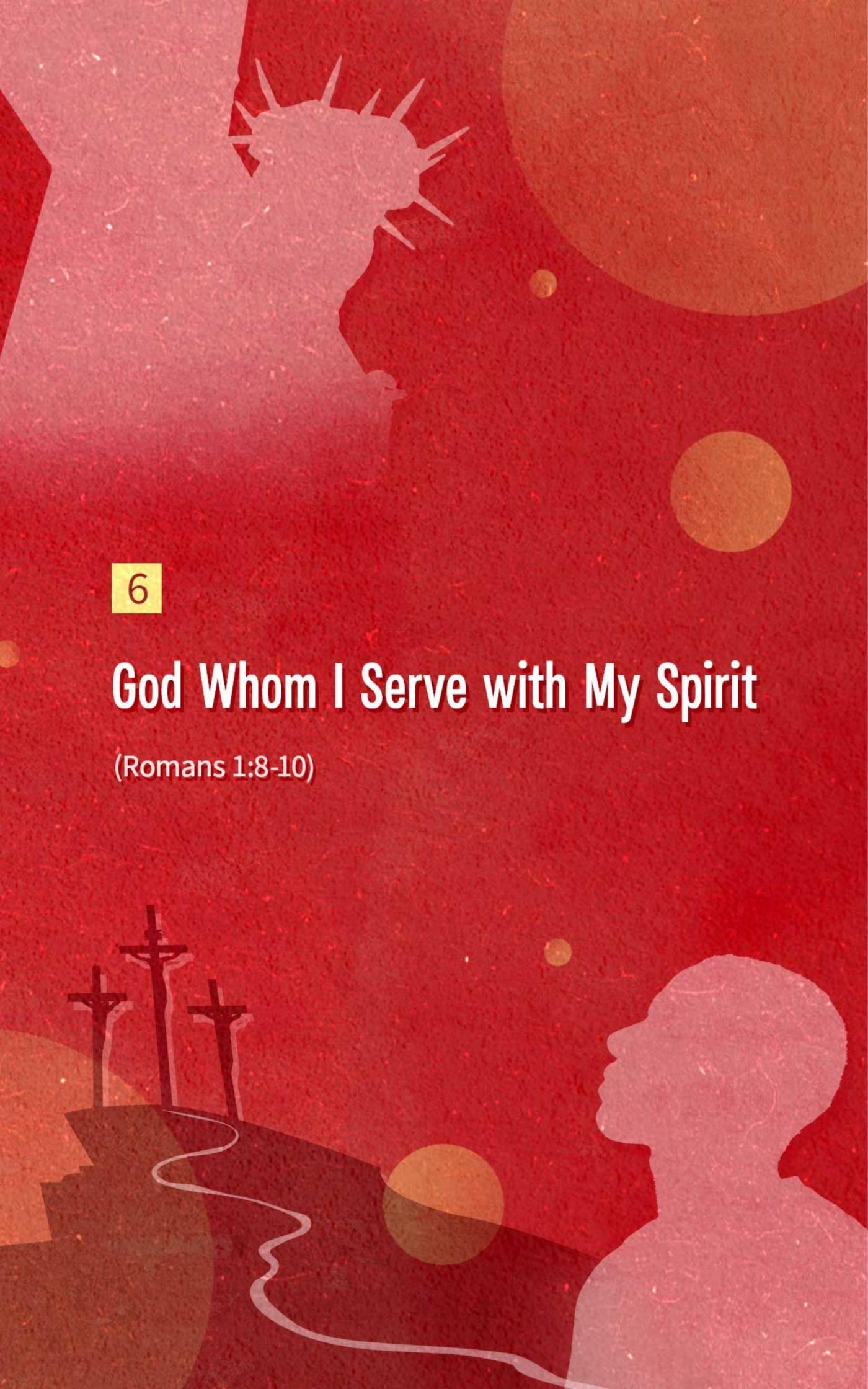
God has called us because we are His beloved. While worldly love always comes with conditions, God’s love does not. Scripture reveals this love—a compassion and lovingkindness the world has never truly known. What sets this love apart from worldly love is that it bears responsibility and acts upon it. People may feel pity for someone yet keep their distance from suffering. But not God. He searches out the very root of the pain and resolves it, bringing relief to those who are broken. We do not deserve to be His beloved, yet through Christ, God has opened the way for us to receive His love.

So who are we who have received such wondrous love and an irrevocable calling? We are not merely churchgoers—we are set apart, called to be saints. “Saint” is a glorious title, specially reserved for those who live for God’s glory. Despite our weaknesses, through this calling, we have received a royal priesthood to participate in God’s redemptive work. Each of us has been entrusted with the precious work of dealing with sin and leading souls to salvation. This calling was given to us not because of our merit, but purely by grace. Therefore, let us not hide because of weakness, but embrace who we are—set apart to exalt the name of Christ.

Those who are beloved of God and called to be saints receive a blessing—grace and peace. Through this blessing, we persevere in this world and press on toward eternal victory. But do you still wonder, **“Would God really call someone like me?”** That very longing in your heart—the desire to believe in Jesus, to turn from sin, to love the Lord, and to pursue holiness—that is evidence that God is already working within you. His calling is never in vain. Whatever you are facing right now, be faithful where God has called you. We are the most joyful souls in the universe—the ones God will never, ever abandon.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord’s Day Service on October 12, 2025*





6

God Whom I Serve with My Spirit

(Romans 1:8-10)

“Well, while I’m studying Romans, I should finally get salvation straight—the steps, the process, the method. Since Romans is about the gospel, I can learn what I need for evangelism systematically, right? Plus, it’ll help me grasp the principles of Christian living. This time I’m really mastering it once and for all.” In the life of faith, understanding the principles of faith is indeed important. Yet there is something even more—something truly more—important. It is our relationship with God. Without a personal fellowship with Him, no amount of study can lead to a true understanding of the gospel.

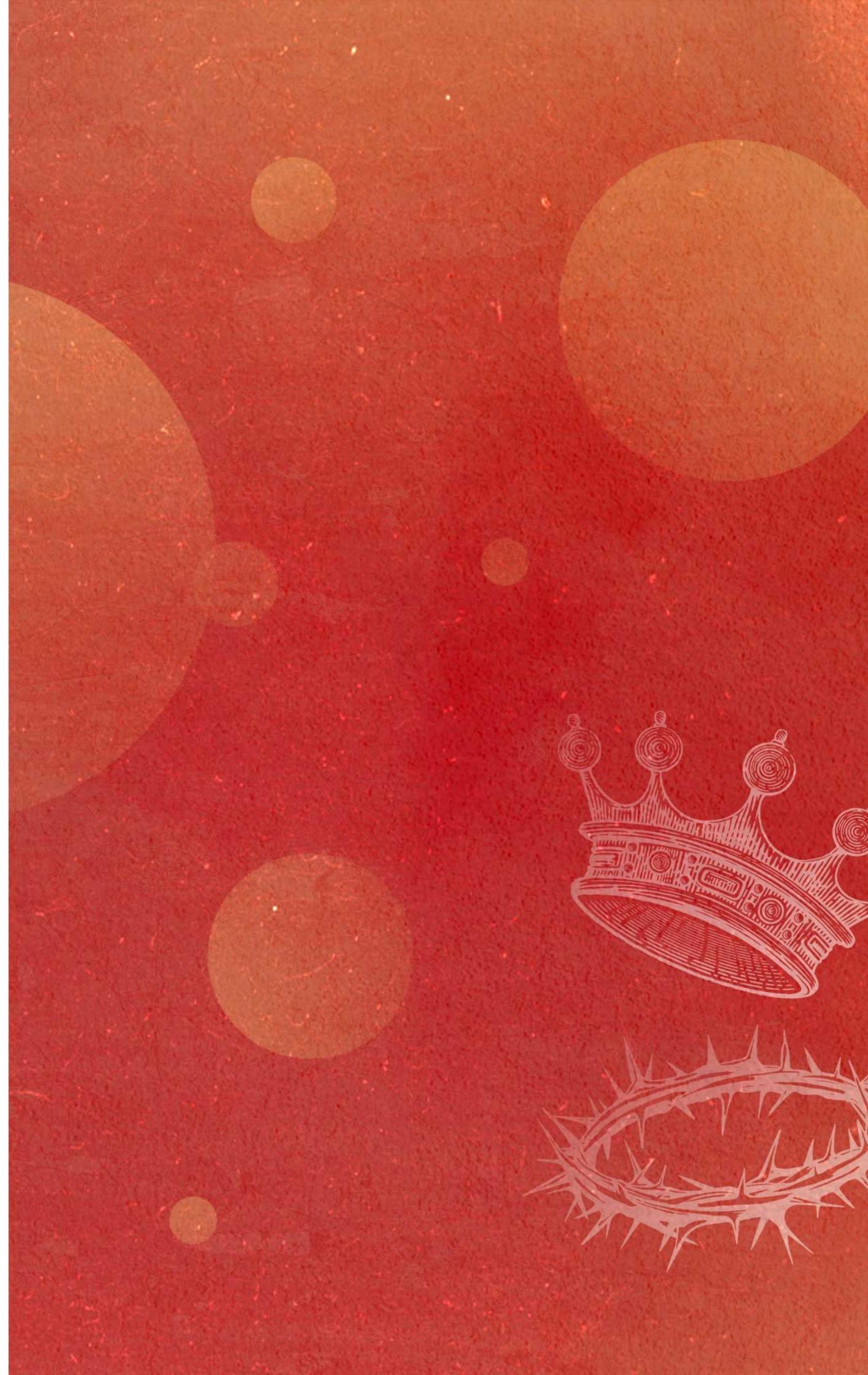
Everyone lives by certain principles that drive their life. The same is true in serving God. Some pursue their own righteousness. Even when God’s work is at risk, they place greater priority on preserving their own sense of righteousness. Others serve out of fear of rejection. Some seek honor, while others chase power to lord it over others. Yet what God seeks is a sincere mind that desires to please Him. Paul was the very one who bore such a pure motive. He desired to offer his life to God—and he held on to that motive to the very end.

Satan continually assailed Paul with opponents. They were fleshly, self-centered, selfish, jealous, and full of hatred. They opposed him, sowed division, accused and slandered him, struck him, and made threats. Yet Paul never abandoned his pure motive. It was because his relationship with God was firm and unshakable. His conviction was this: “I exist for the Lord who called me!” To him, even his very life and existence belonged to the Lord. Because he clearly knew this relationship with God, Paul considered it only right to become a servant of the Lord who gave Himself for all humanity.

People often say, “**If I don’t do it, someone else will.**” But Paul was different. He regarded the Lord’s work as his own. If the gospel was to be preached to the ends of the earth, he believed he must be the one to bear that work. He prayed unceasingly for the churches far away and longed for the chance to visit them, so that they might stand firm and grow strong in God’s love. He was the first to open his heart to them and approached them with sincerity. If his motives had been fleshly, in such a hostile age, he would never have chosen such a harsh and perilous road.

Paul, too, once served according to the flesh, just like other Jews. He believed that keeping the regulations of the Law in the flesh was the way to serve God. But within the gospel, he became one who served God with his spirit. For him, what mattered now—more than the righteous cause he once upheld—was his personal relationship with God. To know the heart of God and to offer his life willingly for what pleases Him—this became his true act of service to God. The very God whom Paul served is the God we serve today. We, too, are in the gospel. Now, with our spirit, with our sincerity, let us serve God.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord’s Day Service on October 19, 2025*



Ch. 2

God's Promise

in Christ's Healings and Holy Signs

Part 2, Chapter 1 "God's Promise"

Apart from complete atheists, almost everyone believes God exists. But they do not think of Him as a personal being. They think of Him more as a conceptual being, similar to man's mind. People who think of God this way, think faith is a kind of mental concentration. They think signs coming from faith is the result of mental focus. We must completely abandon seeing God as a conceptual being and seeing faith as a mental training. We should bow before the living God. If we do not, though we can still regard miracles as coincidence and luck, we will never receive God's continuous grace—no matter how much we call on Him.

We do not use faith to simply see signs that will disappear a moment later. We want to be led by the living God our whole lives. It is a misunderstanding to think man's sincere deeds can impress God. If we want to experience God working with us, we must please Him. This is only possible when we obey His promises.

God is living. We should clearly show our attitude to the Living One. God examines our every action and inspects our faith in Him. The Bible teaches humans what attitude they need to meet with God. This is not taught in man's wisdom, and this is not religious knowledge. This is God's revealed covenant. This covenant was decided in Jesus Christ before creation. None of these eternal words can be abolished or changed.

Matthew 24:35 says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." If a person does away with the words of this covenant, we can only conclude he wants to give up on eternal life. Therefore, Jesus said, "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:19).

God does recognize any human method which departs from His covenant. God sent His only begotten Son to keep His covenant with mankind and had Him die on the cross. God not only fulfilled His covenant this way, but He made it eternal. Anyone who does not abide in His covenant has nothing to do with Him, whilst those who abide in His covenant become His children.

The Bible reveals all of Christ's promises and His Gospel. These were given to Christians (who became God's children). If Christians obey the Gospel, also known as God's promise, they will receive much grace and power. For those who obey God's promise, their obedience itself is their answer. If we gain faith without God's revelation, this is superstition and mere foolishness. It is no different from idol worship. We gain faith, trust in it, and use it because it contains God's promise. This is how we are perfectly and truly blessed in the presence of the living God.

We must believe in God precisely. If we want to believe in Him, we must believe in the One He sent—Jesus Christ. Anyone who does not believe Jesus Christ cannot know God, and God cannot recognize their faith. Man can never see or believe God by his own wisdom and knowledge. But God sent Jesus Christ to the earth so that they can decide about God and believe in Him with their reason. Jesus is a man, but the work He did was clearly God's work. He did not seek His own glory but gave His life solely for the glory of God the Father. God was glorified only through His Son. So the person who believes Jesus is God's Son believes in God who sent Him, and the person who does not believe Jesus does not believe in God who sent Him. This is the faith we must prepare for.

...that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him (John 5:23).

Acknowledge that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God." Repeat this several dozen times. Continue doing this until your sureness stands firm. Keep repeating it until you feel like you find a great treasure. When your faith stands firm, the first thing you must do is stand before Him and repent. Faith gives you the power and qualifications to repent.

You cannot enter the door of glory without repentance. You should not be ashamed of repentance. Repentance is the way to gain life. It is the great decision to return to life. Repentance does not happen like an ordinary decision. Those without faith will never repent and cannot do so. They rather complain about repenting and criticize it.

Those who love to repent mystically experience their life being saved from hell. Whoever wants to live must repent. No one can see the Lord or receive His abundant promises without repentance. Even if God shined His grace in their eyes, their hands could not reach it—as if blocked by thick glass. Repentance is the best method to accept the kingdom. It is the supreme way to belong to it. Those who perish have nothing to do with repentance. They actually see it as an inconvenience. They even reject and persecute it.

Some people are despised by their families and driven from their homes because of repentance. Others are martyred and suffer inexpressible pain because of it. Those who repent can taste joy and glory, but those who do not repent cannot be nurtured by God and do not try to do so. Without repentance, faith is without promise and life. Only repentance makes a person enter the door opened by Jesus Christ.

*...and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:
"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;*

*‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight’” (Matt 3:2-3).*

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt 4:17).

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:37-39).

Does anyone want to repent? If so, they must first confess they are sinners. All mankind is under sin. Each person was born in sin. People have the desire to sin and commit it because they are sinners. Even those who keep the command not to commit adultery and abstain are sinners. Being born in the world and born in the state of forgetting God is sin. Sinners have lost God. For them, there is no God. Is anyone who is born in the world born in the state of knowing God? Therefore, everyone is a sinner. Even if it is a baby born in a Christian family—they cannot know God unless someone preaches so that they know Him.

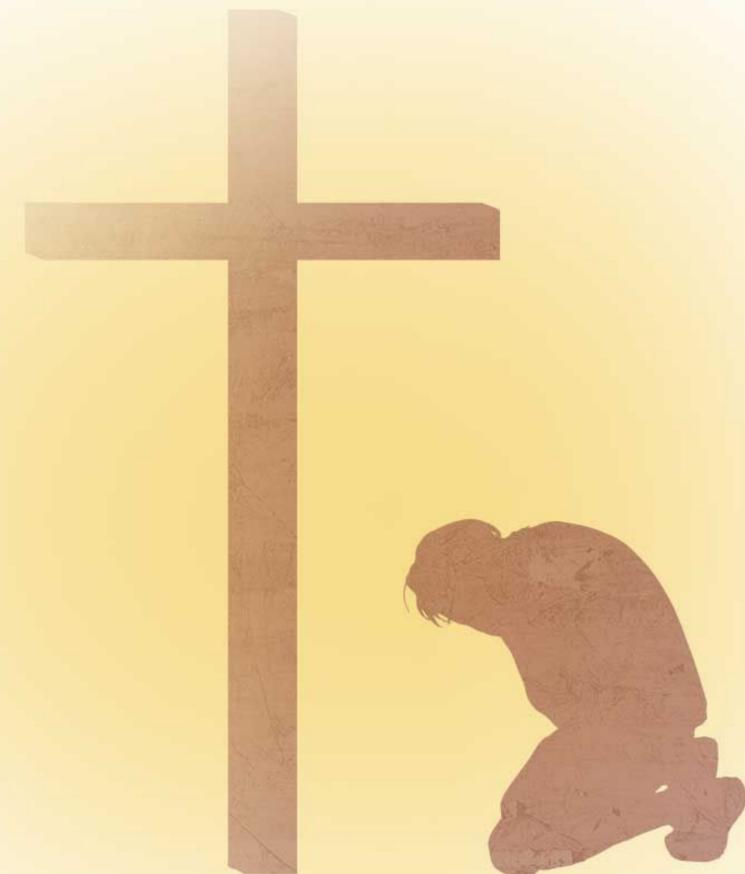
‘Original sin’ refers to the state when mankind is eternally separated from God. It is when a person has no place for God in their lives. If anyone spends their life in a state of ignorance toward God, they will eternally perish, they cannot go through the door opened by Christ, and they will eternally suffer in the darkness of hell.

Let’s repent! This is the Gospel of God’s great grace which He promised us. Is it not obvious we are ignorant of God? Those who are ignorant of God are called “sinners.” It is therefore clear that we should

ignorant of God are called “sinners.” It is therefore clear that we should confess, “I am a sinner.” If a person cannot confess this, that person is proud, he is determined to stay separated from God, and volunteers to enter the fire prepared for people who will perish.

Though you became a Christian many years ago, you must not let time fly. You must think deeply about what kind of sinner you were. Only then will you understand the value in being a Christian. Such a person is a true Christian. Though people regularly regret the wrong they do, they do not try to understand how they were saved from sin. Many people recognize what Jesus Christ did only as a doctrine. Our salvation can be experienced. Confession should come from a person’s experience. To gain this experienced faith, you must know why you are a sinner.

*in Christ’s Healing and Holy Signs
Part 2, Chapter 1 “God’s Promise”*



Ch. 3

Tetimony of Blessing

From China, Nigeria, Uganda,
Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone



“Five Years and Seven Months of Endurance—And Victory”

I read your letter with tears of gratitude. Reflecting on how Overseer endured accusations, false charges, and countless investigations for five years and seven months under the slander of the divisive faction, I deeply realize that those years of suffering and endurance were a sacrifice offered for the Lord’s church. Even while repeatedly going to police stations, the prosecutor’s office, and the courts—bearing humiliation and injustice—he, along with his wife and his whole family, quietly devoted themselves for the sake of the church. I thank God for comforting all those tears through His righteous judgment.

The Supreme Court’s ruling—“Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim, completely acquitted!”—is the moment in which our God of justice declared, even through the court of this world, that he is God’s faithful servant. This is not merely a legal victory but a spiritual victory that reveals how the devil’s schemes were destroyed and God’s will was fulfilled.

The covenant of God never changes. The promise He gave to Abraham—“All nations on earth will be blessed through you”—was fulfilled in Jesus Christ and is now continually being fulfilled through the Church. The devil tried to destroy Israel and the descendants of David, but he failed. Today he attacks the Church of Jesus Christ—but the Church will never fall. The work of God never stops, and every hardship ultimately works together for good.

I believe this with all my heart: “The gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Church,” and “God can do all things, and no one can thwart His purpose.” This confession of faith of Overseer has given me great courage and strength. I earnestly pray that the promise—“All nations on earth will be blessed through you”—will also be fulfilled in my own life.

Immanuel!

*Evangelist J. from China
November 7, 2025*

“Though Our Nation’s Situation Remains Difficult”

I am spending each day with gratitude in the grace of God. My wife and children are also doing well under the Lord’s care. Though the national situation is still challenging, we are choosing to look beyond the circumstances and move forward in faith.

A gathering will be held soon, and all preparations are proceeding well by God’s grace. I plan to share the books you sent during the meeting. I am confident that these books will become precious instruments to nourish many spiritually and strengthen their faith.

Our children are also growing well in the Lord. Our daughter will soon turn eight, and our son is five. Our daughter loves singing praises, and recently she sang a song called “Your Presence.” Listening to her voice deeply touched my heart. I am thankful to see God’s glory revealed even through the lips of little children.

There is nothing more precious than knowing God and serving Him. Within this, there is a joy and happiness that the world cannot compare to. Living in God’s presence and being able to serve His work is such a great grace, and I confess this once again with gratitude.

To serve God and to know Him more—this is the greatest happiness in life. All of this is truly by God’s grace alone.

May the great blessings and grace of God overflow upon you.

*Pastor A. from Nigeria
September 11, 2025*

“There May be Disadvantages in Your Children’s University Admission”

The only reason I can firmly keep my faith and calling in any circumstance is the unceasing nurture I have received from my mother church.

A few days ago, officials from the local religious authorities came again and threatened me, saying things like, “Do not believe in such vain things... Otherwise, your children may face disadvantages in entering university or in fulfilling military service. You must not gather people or organize them...”

Yet their words had no effect on me. Instead, deep in my heart, I had this conviction: “If God allows, I will receive a reward; if God does not allow, then they can do nothing.” They even went to some of the key coworkers in the church and tried to threaten them in the same way.

Although they hold power to restrict my freedom and oppress my rights, within me there is the One who is greater than all creation. I feel the Lord leading me through all these circumstances—drawing me closer to Him without ceasing, making me long for the eternal future, and transforming me into a vessel that resembles Him more, a vessel pleasing to the Lord.

I am deeply grateful to the mother church for guarding me and guiding me with the heart of a mother. This love of God always gives me courage to press on and removes fear from me, even in the midst of a bloody, war-like reality.

*Pastor M. from China
July 23, 2025*

“These Precious Gifts Flowing from Sungrak Church”

I pray that the grace and peace of our Lord may abound in you.

God is helping us, and every step we take is within His guidance. Although there are many challenges in the world, there is no need for compromise. It is our greatest mission to stand firm, to praise God for His salvation, and to live for it. God has commanded us to proclaim this glorious gospel to the ends of the earth. No challenge can ever bring us down.

We are deeply grateful that we can share the Word and the books you have sent. Those who have received these books are deeply moved. Through the Word they are finding comfort and strength. These precious gifts that have flowed from Sungrak Church are not merely books, but instruments of God through which the gospel is being proclaimed. Those who receive them rejoice greatly, and light is being revealed in their lives. This is not the work of man, but God’s marvelous work.

The gospel is spreading from one region to another. As these materials are shared in churches and gatherings, the Word comes alive—changing hearts and transforming lives. All glory be to God.

This path is a path of sacrifice. It is not an easy road, but Jesus Christ is glorified through sacrifice. This cannot be accomplished by human strength alone. It is a work that extends beyond a single generation. Therefore, we have made our decision: not to give up, but to press on to the end. We walk by faith, growing in maturity as we hold fast to hope in Christ.

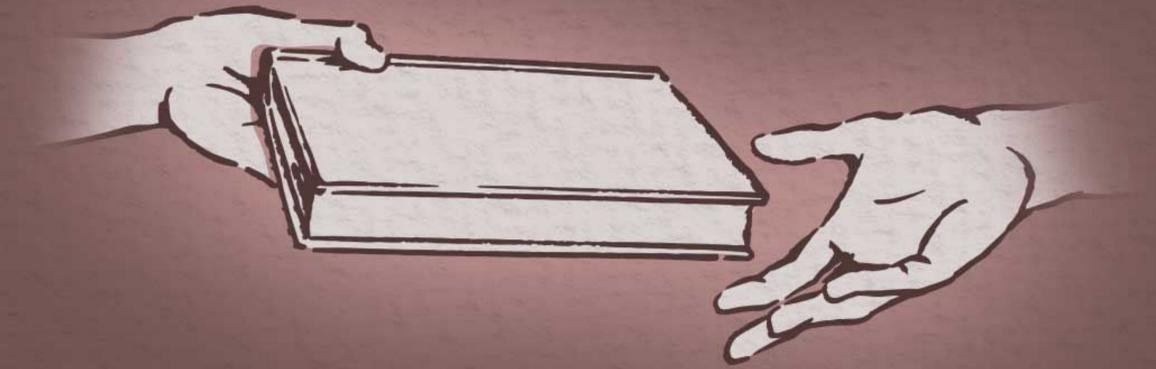
Every act of service for the gospel is never in vain. All the labor offered with our whole lives becomes a living sacrifice that is pleasing to God. We give thanks that the books and the gift of the Word from Sungrak Church have reached Nigeria. Through them, countless people are encountering the gospel and experiencing true joy.

At every moment, we are deeply moved as we witness the living work of God. All of this belongs not to man, but solely to God. We earnestly pray that we may obey God in step with His work and faithfully carry out this ministry to the end.

*Pastor D. from Nigeria
September 11, 2025*



“Please send them on CD”



I give my deep thanks for the books you have sent. These books are truly essential for pastors and have brought a great and positive impact to their lives. They strongly challenge and inspire the leaders. Some did not even realize that they were blessed, but through these books they have clearly come to know it. So I continue encouraging them to keep reading.

The books sent from Sungrak Church are spreading to many regions and being delivered well. Those who are reading them are leaders from different areas, and great changes are taking place in their lives. These books bring spiritual inspiration and renew their lives—they are truly precious.

There was even an amazing testimony through these books. There was a woman who had been under the oppression of the powers of darkness and could barely move, almost as if walking only with one leg. After she read the book “Let Us Know Jesus and Resist the Devil,” she began to pray and praise in faith. Then the paralysis from her feet up to her waist was released, and she was set free. She had been suffering in pain for three months, but now she can walk, speak, and even testify. God has healed this woman.

Through these books, people are receiving freedom not only spiritually, but also in both body and spirit. The Word resources from Sungrak Church are establishing many churches, and I am confident that as we join hands in ministry, God will accomplish something special. These teachings are also becoming a strong barrier against the doctrines of false prophets. In times where much false teaching spreads, God is raising people to stand boldly, reject lies, and return to the truth through the Word.

I am continuously visiting centers in different regions to personally distribute the books. I also want to deliver them to leaders on distant

islands, but transportation is difficult and because the books are so valuable here that I am concerned they might end up being bought and sold. For this reason, I hope to deliver them by hand from one person to another. Please pray that God will provide for this need.

I also hope to receive sermons in video format. Accessing YouTube is difficult here, and many areas have poor internet environments. So compressed video (mp4) or audio (mp3) files containing the sermons would be a great help. If possible, I would be grateful to receive them in CD or cassette form as well, so that leaders can watch the messages directly, learn, and be trained.

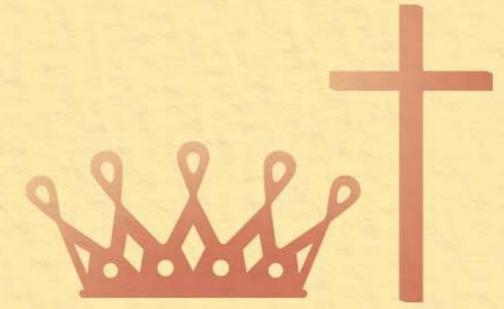
Even the opportunity to receive these books is a great blessing. I know it costs much to send these parcels, yet I sincerely thank you for continuing to send books. The way is opening, and leaders are publicly sharing testimonies and becoming one body. Through the Word, leaders' hearts are being strengthened, and churches are becoming united.

All these connections are the work of God. Because God commanded it, we have been connected in this way and are being used together for the gospel. The books and materials you have sent are not just paper—they are God's instruments that are transforming the lives of many souls.

I express my sincere gratitude, and I hope we will continue to communicate and strengthen one another. All glory be to God.

*Pastor D. in Uganda
September 6, 2025*

“Leaving Ancestors for a White Religion”



While I was meditating on the truth that "Jesus is God," it naturally made me think of the book of Hebrews. It made me think of how Jesus is unveiled as one who cannot be compared to human beings like Moses, angels and even other spirits. This is like the icing on the cake: "Jesus is God."

The religion of Islam is slowly making strides because they have the financial backing, and because many people are superstitious, there have been abuses from cultic churches. I believe all this stems from the fact that people move away from the headship of Jesus Christ as Lord. Governments try by all means to equate all religions in importance, especially African Traditional Religion which is sacred and considered to have been pivotal in the independence of Africans from colonial powers; the use of mediums is even used by some churches. Some use these powers they get from the demonic to gather crowds and perform miracles and prophecies, but at the end a whole lot of damage is done to innocent people.

Indeed, there are aspects of Jesus' public life that are an oxymoron like a suffering messiah, so some people shun Christianity and say you are worshipping white people's religion and abandoning our ancestors. Some Muslims are on the offensive to convert Christians to Islam. What I personally felt in my heart is that Jesus Christ will be Lord if we acknowledge His Lordship. In as much as many churches are oscillating between being dogmatic and superstitious, those who acknowledge the finished works of Christ and yield to The Holy Spirit will lead a productive faith life. There are many things of this world that are competing with the Headship of Jesus like the world system, the flesh, the devil and his demons, but I choose to yield to Christ.

Economies that are not doing well sometimes have turned churches into Christian motivational speaking places where every Lord's Day there are teachings of how to make money, how to live well on this earth. Such messages are very popular here. Some say they are tired of boring churches that just speak about Jesus and people are not as rich as those who are not attending church.

I believe that even a person who is sent can forget the headship of the sender Jesus Christ, so I always endeavor to move away from pride, lest I become tempted to please the church members and grieve God, The Holy Spirit. Real poverty, I believe, is when I am unable to do what I want to do, not that I must compete with others. I often minister in areas that prohibit cameras and pictures; sometimes I feel bad because you want others to see your work and then I remember the one who is the Head already sees. Even when I minister in places that people refrain from going that are considered ungodly, I tell the people: "Just look at Jesus, The Head. If you look at me, you may be better or worse, but look to Jesus and you'll repent."

I am grateful that even today the one who suffered greatly and was scourged for me is the Head of all principalities and powers. This truth can put any person who is in agony to rest in assurance of the love of a great God who gave Himself up for all mankind to be free if we accept Him. He saves, heals, and gave us authority and power to drive out demons. Glory to God!!

*Pastor C. from Zimbabwe
November 7, 2025*

“From Sierra Leone”

Today I had the pleasure of sharing spiritual books to Solemn Evangelical Assembly Youths in Western Rural District, Sierra Leone. With support from Sungrak Church, the youths were enriched with spiritual life-changing books such as: Let Us Know Jesus, Let Us Know the Holy Spirit, and Know Jesus and Resist the Devil, etc.

In Sierra Leone, youths represent about 45% of the country's population. Yet, many don't know Jesus and some are living miserable life (such as drug abuse, violence, disbelief, depression, etc). By engaging youths in the church, we believe they can serve out there as ambassadors to preach the Good News and transform lives by winning souls for Christ and with the books supplied serving as a basement of their knowledge and ground in Christ.

Before supplying the books, we engage youths on three 3 important matters (humanity, life transformation, Christ's Salvation) to broaden their knowledge and confidence to go out as followers of Christ to preach the Gospel. Our theme for the engagement was "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth — Ecclesiastes 12:1".

It is very important as Christians in this crucial time to ensure that we dedicate ourselves to serving Christ. A special thank you to the Sungrak Church for this wonderful opportunity for us here in Sierra Leone, Africa. We look forward to collaborating with you on this wonderful journey ensuring that we win more souls for Christ, transform more lives, and strengthen more Christians in Jesus Name, Amen.

*Brother A. from Sierra Leone
September 4, 2025*



Ch. 4

A New Relationship

in *Following God's Word*

Part 1, Chapter 24

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces. “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:1-12, NKJV)

Our lives are full of different relationships: parents and children, bosses and employees, or brothers and sisters. These relationships bring us our greatest happiness, but they are also the reason we feel sad or upset.

The irony is that we are often hurt most by the people we love the most. We love our children deeply. But when was the time we felt most upset in our life? It was probably because of our children. And how much do we love our spouses? Yet, the very people who upset us the most are often our own husbands and wives. From a child’s perspective, they dearly love their mom and dad, but they

also feel hurt and painful because of them. Even after receiving grace and feeling full of joy at church, many of us lose that joy as soon as we get home. Because of family conflicts or arguments, we fall back into sadness without even a moment to enjoy that peace. Some people find the weight of these relationships so hard to bear that they even have suicidal thoughts. Others develop illnesses from all that stress. I heard a doctor say that most cancer patients experienced extreme stress about four or five years before their diagnosis. As I've counseled people, I found this to be very true. For example, a wife might suffer terribly because of her husband. In that case, who develops cancer? It is often not the husband who drinks and causes trouble, but the wife who suffers through it. She holds all that pain and sorrow in her heart until it finally becomes a disease.

In this way, relationships can make us happy, sad, or even lead us to despair. But we came to church and met God. After we meet Him, a change begins in all of those relationships. It isn't just that we met God; by meeting Him, amazing changes take place in our relationships with everyone else. Before, when we met people, we mostly wanted to receive love and be understood by them. But after meeting Jesus Christ, we don't have those expectations as much. Instead, just as I was a sinner who needed God, I begin to understand that others are also sinners. You realize, "Just as I am desperate for love, that person is also in need of love." Even with our parents—we are used to only receiving from them, aren't we? But parents also need our sympathy. They need love, too. Even the senior officer who used to give me a hard time needs love. He is a sinner, too. That is how I can truly understand them.

However, even if we are usually understanding, we find that we

don't have the capacity to be that way when we are personally struggling. Because we are going through such a hard time, we lose the strength to even be rational. But in those moments, God teaches us something, and it can bring an amazing change to our relationships. I would like to share a personal testimony of mine regarding this.

I got married right after I graduated from university. I met Jesus during my final years of college and decided to marry shortly after graduation. I had a girlfriend whom I had been dating for a long time. We decided to marry quickly because we believed it would benefit our faith and help us stay focused on our life at church. So we were in the middle of preparing for our wedding, but just a few months before the big day, a conflict broke out. As is often the case, it started over something small. But as we kept arguing back and forth, it grew into something much bigger because we had no room in our hearts. When we argued in person, I could try to stay calm, and sometimes just holding her hand would melt the tension. If I could see her face and smile, the issue would be easily resolved. But the problem was when we spoke over the phone. Back then, we didn't have mobile phones; everyone just had a single landline at home.

It was late at night. We were talking when an argument broke out, and it became much more serious than I expected. It wasn't about something small; we were discussing our future, but we couldn't agree. Eventually, we started saying harsh words to each other. I was so upset that I thought, "How can you say that to me?" and I just started saying whatever came to my mind. That made it even more painful. I knew I was doing the wrong thing the moment I said it, but I was so angry that the words just came out. I

was upset at myself, but then she responded with even harsher words. Everything got worse and worse. In the end, she was so angry that she just hung up the phone. It was already past 11 p.m., and since the phone was in her parents' room, I couldn't call her back. Even though we both argued, I was sure it was all her fault. We were talking about our life together, and I thought, "If she acts like this, how can we ever live together?" I was angry, but at the same time, I hated myself. I felt so worried about the future that all the strength left my body. My heart was so heavy that I didn't even have the energy to move. It was as if all the life had been drained out of me.

What should we do at a time like that? We should pray, right? But sometimes, we don't even have the strength to pray. When our hearts are completely empty, the words just won't come out. If someone had told me then, "Just pray," it would have made me angry. Because I simply had no strength to pray. In those moments, I should be able to call out, "Father God!" But I didn't even have the courage to call His name. My heart was so weak. I couldn't say a single word to Him because I hated myself so much and the situation felt so hopeless.

But there is something I am thankful for. God has given us a wonderful gift, and that is speaking in tongues. With tongues, we don't have to think about what to say. It is a prayer of the spirit that people cannot understand. It is our flesh helping our spirit speak to God about our deepest secrets. So, I began to pray in tongues. This is a gift God gives to those who receive the Holy Spirit. Even though I didn't understand what I was saying, I kept praying so that my spirit could talk to God. At first, my prayer had no strength because I was so disheartened. My prayer was a mere whisper. But

as I continued, it began to grow stronger. After about ten minutes, strength returned to my heart, and I was finally able to pray in words, saying, "Father God, please help me!"

While I was praying, "Please help me!" the words from Matthew chapter 7 suddenly flashed through my mind. I remembered it says, "Do not judge." The verse just came to me. So, I opened my Bible to that chapter. "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged." I accepted those words. I thought, "That's right. Who am I to judge her? I will be judged in the same way." So, I made up my mind not to judge and confessed this to God.

Still, a part of my heart was full of worry and anxiety. So I prayed again. "If I don't judge her, she will just stay the way she is. If she continues to act like that after we get married, what will I do? I don't have the confidence to keep accepting that kind of attitude." Then I kept reading further down. In the same chapter, it says, "Ask! Seek! Knock!" The Lord told us that if we want something, we should ask for it. Seek and knock, and we will receive it.

We often make the mistake of thinking that if we want something to change, we must tell the person or force them to do it. But in many cases, it doesn't work that way. You may try to change your children by talking to them, but it doesn't always work. In fact, it might even push them away. But God's way is different. He teaches us that if we truly want someone to change, we must pray. So I prayed, "God, please change my girlfriend! Change her to be more sound and whole." After that, my heart felt even stronger, and I felt a new sense of courage.

I believed that God would change her, but what was I supposed to

do? How should I act when I meet her? Should I tell her that I prayed for her? What should I do?

As I kept reading further down, I saw it written: “Treat others as you want to be treated.” I realized, “Ah, that’s it! God wants me to treat others first the way I want to be treated. That is the essence of the Law and the Prophets! This is exactly what God wants to say to us sinners!” Then I thought to myself, “So, how do I want to be treated?” At that moment, I knew exactly what I wanted. I wanted my girlfriend to call me right away and say, “I’m sorry.” But who should be the one to do that first? Since the Word said to treat others as I want to be treated, I thought, “I have to be the one. I need to have the courage.” When I was ready to fight, I had no courage, but once I decided to apologize first, I felt brave. I told myself, “Even if her parents answer the phone, I will ask to speak with her.” Just as I finished my prayer and picked up the phone to call her, it rang.

I was going to call and say, “I’m sorry. It was my fault.” But at the exact moment I reached for the phone, it rang, and my heart began to pound. I thought, “Could it be?” I picked up the receiver and put it to my ear. Before I could even say, “Hello?” do you know what I heard? “I’m sorry. It was my fault.” My heart stopped. Those were the exact words I was about to say. Every single word was identical to what I had prepared in my heart.

It was such an amazing experience. This happened not long after I started my life of faith, and it gave me tremendous courage and confidence. I realized, “God’s Word is so delicate and faithful, and His promises are so clear!” When I obeyed what God taught me, I received a result that was even better than what I had hoped

for. After hearing her say those words, I replied, “No, I’m the one who is sorry.” I was so moved that I believe I cried. I wasn’t just crying because I was happy to hear her apology; I wept because I was so overcome with joy that God had heard my prayer and was truly with me.

If it had been just the two of us in that relationship, it would have ended a long time ago. But at every moment of crisis, God intervened and guided us, making our relationship beautiful. I had been dating her for seven years, starting from before I became a believer. It was through her evangelism that I met Jesus, and we got married right after graduation. We have been together ever since, and it has now been about 20 years since we got married.

People in the world say that the joy of a relationship disappears quickly once the initial excitement is gone. But that is only the story of those who do not know God. For those of us who know Him, loving and truly knowing another person is a source of great joy. Through that person, we can experience God’s love and the comfort He gives us because He is involved in every one of our relationships. We can experience true care, deep affection, and genuine forgiveness. By now, we may know each other’s weaknesses very well. However, through a person who embraces even those weaknesses, we can truly understand the love of God.

Because God has intervened in our lives this way, all the relationships around us are made new. It is the same with our children and even with our supervisors at work. In God, everything is new. Every relationship becomes a new relationship, because the nature of our relationship with God itself is now something entirely new.

When you meet God here at church, it is not just about having a religion. Instead, you are starting a new relationship with the living, Almighty God—the One who is Life—whom you have never known before. Within that relationship, you will also find that your relationships with everyone else are made new. I pray in the name of Jesus that you will fully experience God’s happiness and joy through these new relationships.

Father God, thank You for sending us Your Son Jesus Christ through whom we can meet You face to face and share our love. Also thank You, for in Jesus Christ all of our relationships with other people in this world have become beautiful and wonderful relationships unlike before. Help everyone here to get to enjoy such joyful and happy relationships! In Jesus’ name. Amen!

Pastor Ki-Taek Lee
The Director of Sungrak Mission Center

