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The Righteous Hand : Leading Us to Repentance





The Righteous Hand: Leading Us to Repentance

Sermon by **Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim**

- 1 The Wrath of God
- 2 God's Evidence Planted Within Man
- 3 God's Revelation Manifested by the Things That Are Made
- 4 Mankind Rejects God
- 5 Divine Abandonment

Testimony of Blessing

From China, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya

Silence and Abandonment, a Chance for Mercy | Fear, Yet Joy

Despair First | Now, Instead of Getting Angry, I Pray | Gratitude Amidst Persecution

How Could I Keep Such Hatred in My Heart? | The Hypocrisy of Trying to Look Good

The God to Be Feared

(Exodus 20:18-21)

in "Following God's Word", Chapter 71

The Lord of Judgment

in "Let Us Know Jesus", Chapter 8

The Righteous Hand: Leading Us to Repentance

Sermon by

Overseer **Sung-Hyun Kim**

1 The Wrath of God

(Romans 1:18)

“Honestly... I’ve been to quite a few churches, but why does the pastor here make me so uncomfortable? It’s not enough that he keeps going on about sin—now today he’s saying God is wrathful? I just don’t get it. Isn’t God supposed to be all about grace and love? That’s what he told us last time, right? He even had us memorize John 3:16: ‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.’ He kept emphasizing God’s love...and now suddenly God is wrathful? Shouldn’t God be patient and accepting of everything?”

Yes, this is true. As John 3:16 declares, God is indeed a God of love. Yet in the very same chapter, verse 36 says, **“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”** God pours out His love, but He also reveals His wrath. Speaking about God’s wrath has become deeply uncomfortable in our time. As a result, many contemporary churches rarely mention God’s wrath—and even more troubling, they do not teach that even Christians can face that wrath. The gospel has been reshaped into a sentimental gospel—a message focused on making people feel good.

The gospel that Scripture proclaims rests on the premise of God’s wrath. To grasp the true value of the gospel, we must first understand that God is a God of wrath—and recognize how terrifying that wrath is. The great flood that drowned humanity, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the annihilation of Pharaoh’s army, the fate of those who opposed Moses—through these events we see with absolute clarity that God does reveal His wrath. The New Testament bears witness to this as well. Ephesians 5:6 warns, **“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”**

We must not think of the wrath of God as if it were the anger of people. People's anger is always tainted by sin. People's anger loses its temper and spills out in uncontrolled emotion, but the wrath of God is completely righteous—always and entirely the righteous wrath. People's anger rises from greed, selfishness, and jealousy, but the wrath of God rises from His holiness. Because He is holy, He can be wrathful against sin; and because He is wrathful against sin, He is holy. So it is not strange at all that the God who is righteous and holy hates what is evil.

God's wrath is not revealed only on the last day. The wrath of God is continually being revealed even now, and it can break forth at any moment. At times it may seem as though countless wrongdoers never face His wrath. But God is not leaving their sin unattended. The wrath of God is being stored up. And when the bowl of wrath is full, God will act. God is perfect, and His wrath is just. Because of that wrath, the Son of God died upon the cross, and through His death we have been given the opportunity to repent. So let us acknowledge the wrath of God, and let us follow His plan.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on November 9, 2025*



2 God's Evidence Planted Within Man

(Romans 1:19)

“Wait, isn’t it totally unjust? If someone has never heard the Gospel, how can they be held accountable? They don’t know God’s laws; they have no concept of what righteousness or unrighteousness even is. To think they’d still have to face God’s wrath...it just feels so wrong. It’s hard to understand how a ‘just’ God could work in this way.” Some people raise these kinds of questions to defend those who do not believe. Listening to them, it can almost feel as if God abandons people in ignorance and darkness, only to unjustly reveal His wrath against them later on. However, a perfectly just reason underlies God’s wrath.

No one in this world can claim ignorance as an excuse for not knowing God. This is because God has inlaid the evidence within every human heart so that He may be known. Take the Philistines, for example. In the past, they captured the Ark of Covenant from Israel. Although they were Gentiles who knew nothing of the Law and pagans who had served other gods their entire lives, everything changed when disaster struck because of the Ark. They realized it was the God of Israel who had struck them with these plagues; therefore, they not only returned the Ark but also offered a guilt offering to appease God’s wrath. The evidence inlaid within them made them acknowledge God’s existence and His wrath.

This inward evidence is so powerful that it shines even when the physical senses are closed. The testimony of Helen Keller, who could neither see nor hear, truly illustrates this. When her teacher, Anne Sullivan, first tried to explain God to her—trapped as she was in pitch-black darkness and silence—Helen responded: **“I always knew He was there, but I didn’t know His name.”** Even before any knowledge reached her, her spirit had already sensed the Creator. Just as the Apostle Paul cried out to the people of Athens, “The One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you,” God is not far from each one of us.

People claim they do not know God, but it is not because they lack the ability to perceive Him. Rather, it is an intentional rejection of the light shining within them so that they may continue to enjoy sin; it is a way of pretending not to know God to justify a life led by their own desires. God has inlaid the knowledge of Himself within human nature not to condemn people, but so that they might grope for Him even in the darkness and reach salvation. The light has already come into people, but because they find sin to be sweet, they desperately block the light of truth—this is the essence of tragedy.

Now, it is time for us to offer an honest response before God. If the people of this world, with their faint understanding, can vaguely acknowledge God and fear His judgment, how much more should we respond—we who have received the clear love of the Cross and the Word of revelation? We are debtors to a love that we can never repay. Let us now lay down every excuse and doubt used to justify our sins, and respond with wholehearted faith to God's revelation, in which He has manifested Himself to us. Let us embrace the love that has constantly sent us signs for our salvation, and live a life that glorifies God—not out of fear, but with passionate gratitude and devotion.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on November 23, 2025



3 God's Revelation Manifested by the Things That Are Made

(Romans 1:20)

Imagine you are walking through a field and come across a stone and a strange object. If you were to ask, **“How did this get here?”** you might simply answer of the stone, **“It must have always been here,”** and that would be a perfectly acceptable response. But what about that strange object? It has a glass-covered face with numbers inscribed on it, and several hands revolve around a central axis at a steady pace. Upon opening the casing, you find countless parts intricately interlocking and moving together, fulfilling a specific purpose in perfect harmony. **“Hold on, this is different. It's obvious that someone made this deliberately!”** Anyone would naturally conclude that it was so.

Yet, here is the irony: regarding this universe and everything within it—which is millions of times more intricate and sophisticated than a watch—many people still claim that it all came into existence of itself. According to their logic, if one were to put soil into a box and wait for millions of years, a watch could appear of itself. Yet, no one would ever believe such a thing could happen. The very existence of all things in the universe clearly reveals that there exists a Mater Designer of infinite power. Nevertheless, people do not believe in Him. This is not for a lack of evidence, but because they deliberately choose not to believe.

The power of God, who created and manages all things, is both vast and intricate. Behold the mystery of a tiny seed becoming a massive tree, and the order of the stars that never stray from their orbits. Where does the immense volume of water that Niagara Falls pour out without ceasing come from? Every second, the sun burns four million tons of matter to provide the warmth and light necessary for our survival. Our hearts beat over 2.5 billion times throughout our lives, even without any effort on our part. All these things would be impossible were it not for the grace of an absolute God—or a Being worthy of the title of Creator. How, then, can mankind, the greatest beneficiary of it all, deny Him?

Upon those who reject this evidence to the very end, God's wrath will be revealed. God has provided sufficient evidence, both within man and through all of creation. If the Holy Spirit concludes, **"It is enough,"** there will be no further opportunity. Conversely, those who respond to God's evidence are different. Even those who have not yet heard the Gospel, if they long for the One who created all things and seek Him with a sincere heart, God will surely open the way of salvation for them. At the mention of the name of Jesus Christ, such a person will hear the voice of God calling out to them.

God has promised: **"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).** The countless evidences inscribed within all of creation demonstrate how earnestly God is working to save mankind. For those of us who have already received that love, the radiant sun and the cold raindrops no longer hold the same meaning they once did. In all these things, we can feel God's infinite power and His delicate love. When we live in this awareness, the souls around us will also be able to discover God through these wondrous evidences. Let us bow even more humbly before the glory of God that all creation proclaims, and let us lead lives of gratitude for all His grace.

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on November 30, 2025*



4 Mankind Rejects God

(Romans 1:21)

“I come to church for a boost of grace and strength, but all I hear is ‘repent’ or ‘God’s wrath.’ It’s exhausting. Life is hard enough—can’t I just hear something encouraging for once? I’m not skipping service or living a life of sin, so why am I being treated like I’m the problem? It’s just not fair.” Could this be your story, too? If so, it may be time to reflect on whether you have lost the sense of urgency that the Gospel demands. This is not simply a matter of weakness; it is a sign that the sinful nature of rejecting God is still at work within you.

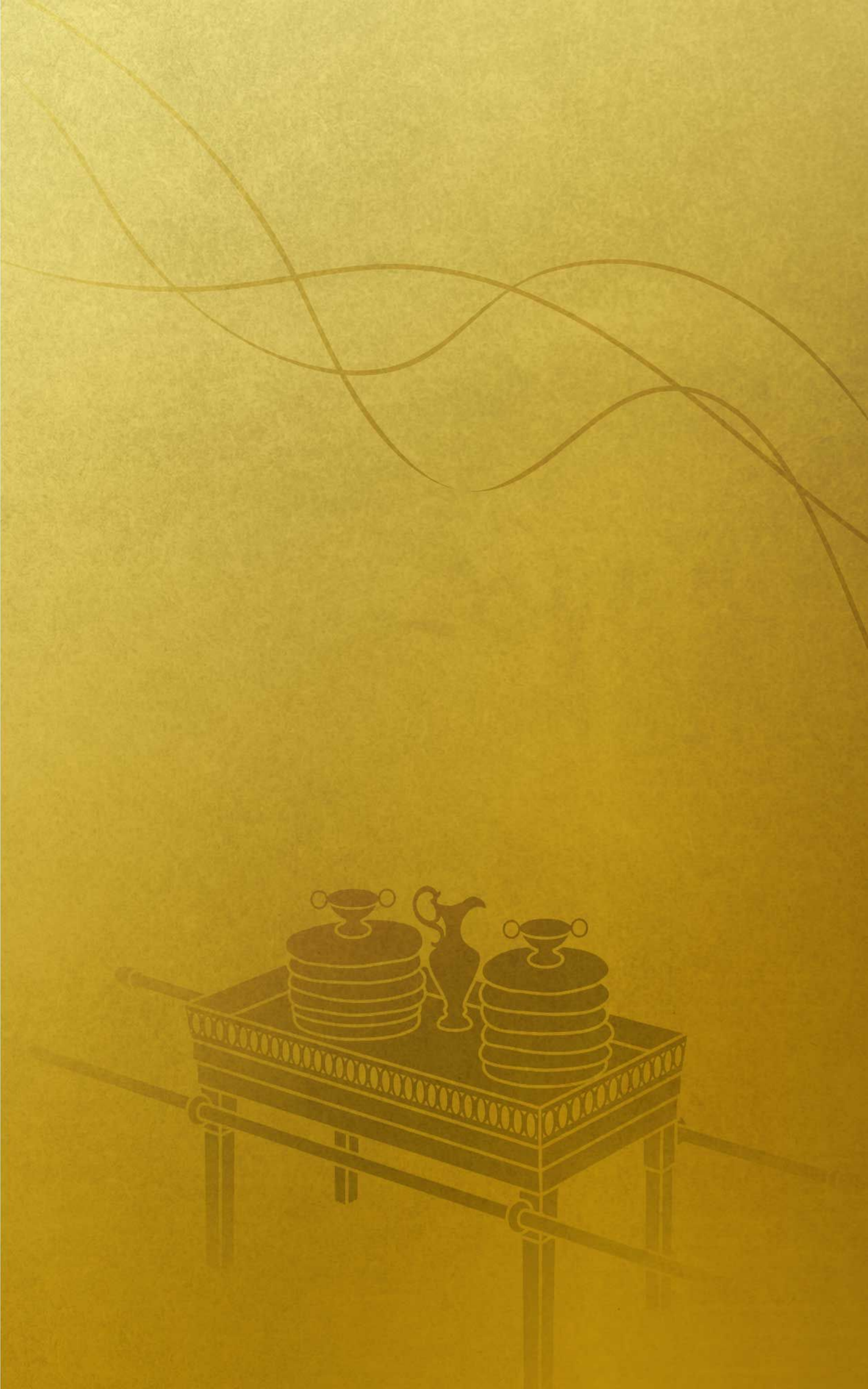
Rejecting God is revealed in an attitude that fails to glorify Him. Glorifying God is not a forced or reluctant act of exaltation; it is acknowledging the glory that He originally possesses. This is the duty that a creature must observe before the Creator, yet humanity seeks to reject this fundamental order. It was the same with Israel, who personally witnessed the presence of God’s glory in the tabernacle. They rebelled against God and ultimately caused His glory to depart from them. Yet, in the fullness of time, God manifested His glory to the world through His only begotten Son; still, people continued to reject Him—even those who claimed to have seen His glory.

Ingratitude and falling into futile thoughts are further evidence of rejecting God. Although people enjoy everything provided by Him, they persistently strive to deny Him. Consequently, there is no room for gratitude in their hearts; and without gratitude, the possibility of having faith becomes even more remote. To deny God is to deny the greatest reality in the universe. In such a state, no matter how much they seek the meaning of life or try to discover the value of all things, their consciousness is inevitably driven by the desires of the flesh. Sadly, even believers are being led astray by such falsehoods that oppose the truth.

These futile thoughts must be thoroughly dealt with from the very beginning of our life of faith. If we fail to do so and remain captivated by the false information of the world and the futile thoughts it produces, our hearts will become darkened. As a result, God's influence ceases to operate within us, and the power of sin grows increasingly stronger. This is not a problem that can be solved by an abundance of spiritual knowledge. When the heart is darkened, one loses the ability to see sin for what it truly is; instead, that very knowledge is used to craft elaborate self-justifications. Ultimately, spiritual darkness leads to perversity, manifesting evil deeds. In this grave situation, we must not ignore God's warnings and settle into a false sense of security.

While all creation faithfully observes the order established by God and reveals His glory, humanity alone refuses to glorify Him and persists in rejecting Him. This is why we cannot escape the wrath of God. Yet today, through the sacrifice of Christ, we have been spared from that divine wrath. Therefore, we must now strive to cast off our past ways of rejecting God. Let us glorify God in all things and be thankful for everything He has provided. Let us reject the futile thoughts of this world and think anew with the Truth. Let us not leave our hearts darkened through neglect; instead, let us fill our hearts with the Lord.

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim
Lord's Day Service on December 7, 2025



5 Divine Abandonment

(Romans 1:24-25)

“Isn’t God love? Surely, He will forgive everything in the end. I believe that no matter how I live, He will hold onto me until the very end.” Many people think this way, assuming that God will unconditionally help us, transcending even our own will. However, the Bible speaks differently: **“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts” (Romans 1:24).** God does not indefinitely tolerate those who deliberately refuse to acknowledge their wrongs and stubbornly persist in doing evil. The way He stops tolerating them is paradoxical: He grants the requests of those who reject Him, leaving them to remain under the power of sin exactly as they desire.

The expression “to give up” is a strikingly forceful and severe term. In the Bible, this term is used when someone is delivered up to judgment or cast into pits of darkness. When God withdraws His protective and restraining hand from a person, that individual is left to commit sin as they please. Consequently, they advance rapidly toward a state where judgment becomes inevitable. For instance, someone who harbors evil thoughts eventually reaches a stage where they cannot stop. A person who frequently deceives others will find that the habit takes root until they can no longer exercise self-control. Yet, because immediate punishment does not always follow, people often fall into the illusion that they are “fine”. That itself is a fearsome judgment; yet they do not even realize it.

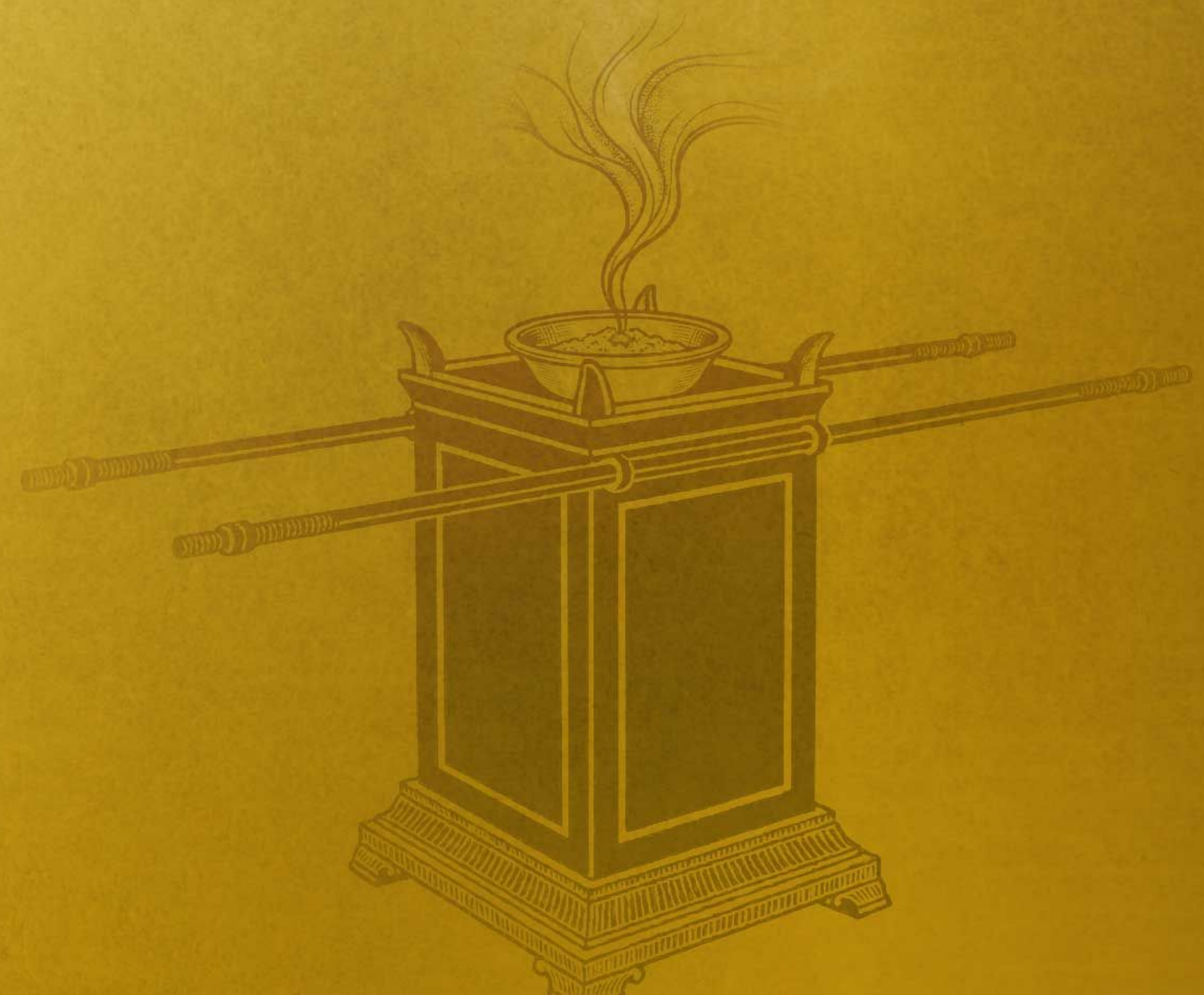
The problem lies within the heart. The heart is easily led by the lusts of the flesh; however, we must restrain these desires. When we fail to do so and allow the lusts of our hearts to manifest outwardly, uncleanness follows. Unfortunately, in many cases, we forsake the righteousness of God to follow the voice of our own hearts. This is the sin itself. Sin attacks the dignity of human beings. God created

us in His own image with the expectation that we would maintain the honor befitting that image. Yet, humans do not grieve over being defiled by sin. They tend to worry only about the unpleasant consequences that follow sin, rather than the sin itself.

“Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:25). A defining characteristic of modern humanism is the unrestrained accommodation of human desires. Humanistic ideologies are rapidly occupying the place where God's law should rightfully dwell. While people claim to respect human value, their emphasis on human rights has ironically turned injustice, immorality, and ungodliness into something commonplace. Although they speak of upholding human dignity, by rejecting the truth of God—the very source that preserves that dignity—they are, in fact, destroying humanity itself.

God's act of giving over those fallen into sin is not, in most cases, intended for their eternal abandonment. Even through such means, God desires for them to repent. Humanity has come into this world to repent; perhaps this is our final opportunity. By giving up those who persistently refuse to repent, God allows them to make a final choice: to choose God or to choose hell. **“The Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen!” (Romans 1:25).** It is not too late to return. Let us follow the truth of God rather than the lusts of our hearts. Let us remember God's grace and walk in the path where He leads us.

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





The Lord of Judgment

in “Let Us Know Jesus”,
Chapter 8

Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 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 5:19-23)

God is the righteous Judge. We must believe in Him, fear Him, revere Him, and honor Him. We must be careful with our actions in His presence. Though He is gracious and merciful, He is the Judge who does not accept unrighteousness.

Though God the Father is the Judge, He gave authority to judge over to the Son. The purpose was that the Son would do the same works as the Father, that the Son would be honored the same way the Father is honored, and the Son would give life to whoever He wishes to give it (just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life). The Son possesses all the works and authority of the Father, so whoever loves the Father will also love the Son.

God the Father and the Son are equal (Phil 2:6). If someone claims to love God but does not love Jesus, he does not love God. If someone claims to honor God but does not honor Jesus, he is not honoring God. And if someone claims to believe in God but does not believe in Jesus, he does not believe in God. The person who believes in God must also believe in Jesus.

Jews and Muslims say they believe in the One and Only God, but they do not believe in Jesus. They say they believe in God but reject Jesus. Their faith has nothing to do with the truth and does not conform to the Gospel. To serve the invisible God, you must serve Jesus Christ whom He sent. You must believe in Jesus Christ, trust in Him, and honor Him. The person who believes that Jesus Christ is equal with God must have the same attitude to Jesus Christ as he does to God.

Since God gave all authority to the Son, He created the universe for the Son. John 1:3 says, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." To put it another way, God created the universe for the Son's work. He first created the heaven of spirits, then created the darkness in it. This darkness refers to the universe.

God created the darkness to imprison the angels there until their judgment. These angels sinned against God. God also created man in the darkness, and placed him under it's authority to prepare for the day of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to judge the devil's works. All mankind and their environment were prepared for the day Christ comes to give judgment. The reason Christ came was to judge the devil's works.

We must remember that God's Son came as the Lord of Judgment. God sent His Son as the Lord of Judgment so that He would do God's work. God is the Judge. God's Son entered the darkness to judge the devil, glorify God's name in heaven, and give grace to mankind—all according to God's will.

Many Christians today lead faith lives for a while, but become corrupt and abandon their faith. This is because they do not know the truth. We must know God's will for certain as revealed in the Bible. Jude 6 says, "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day." God imprisoned in darkness the angels who

did not keep their proper domain until the day of judgment. Genesis 1:3 mentions God creating heaven and earth when He said, "Let there be light." Darkness was present even before heaven and earth were created.

When the time was fulfilled, the Lord of Judgment came to the earth. 2 Peter 2:4 says, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment." 1 John 3:8 says, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

1 Peter 1:18-20 states, "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." God's Son came into the world and shed His blood in these last times. But this was already planned before creation. God's Son came and shed His blood to destroy the devil's works.

Though the Son of God judged the devil, He treated mankind differently. Colossians 1:13-14 says, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Jesus came in these last times, judged the devil, delivered mankind from the darkness, and conveyed them into heaven.

We must understand how God's will is fulfilled. John 16:8-11 says, "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." There is something important to understand here. Christianity is in great confusion today because of the misunderstanding of why Jesus Christ came to the world. Theologians particularly misunderstand this. They

developed their theology using partial knowledge, and their theology brought great confusion to believers' faiths. God's Son came into the darkness where there is no light of God's word. There is no truth. He came because it was time to judge the devil.

Someone might say, "God could have judged the devil in heaven immediately after he sinned? Why did God come to the earth to judge him?" Angels serving God in heaven each possess their own will. Inside this will is an exclusive component. God created this will. If God judged the angel for using his own will, the responsibility for creating that personality goes back to God. This is why God did not judge the angel in heaven. He only wished to judge the devil for being a lawbreaker, so He imprisoned him in the darkness and sent His Son to judge Him.

God's Son is righteous. Only a righteous person can give judgment. The word 'righteousness' means 'being right'. If being right was the standard, not being right is being unlawful. Since Jesus alone is righteous, the person who stands on Jesus' side becomes justified whilst the person who falls away from Him becomes unrighteous.

In every country, there is a national constitution. The constitution is the righteousness of the country. The most righteous thing in a country is its law. If the people of a country live by the law, they are righteous. If they break the law, they are unrighteous. Let us take an example. If you see criminals on the streets making a bad scene, and no one tries to stop them, bystanders will give a sigh, saying, "Is there no law in this country!" But if righteous judgment was actually applied, these criminals would be locked up and condemned by the law. So even though the law seems dead when criminals do foul things, the law is always alive. In the same way, the Righteous One is not dead but eternally living. In the end, righteousness has victory. When Jesus came to the earth, the devil (who is the authority of death) killed Jesus. But Jesus is the Righteous One, so God saved Him. It was revealed that

the devil was a lawbreaker.

Because the wages of sin is death, all sinners must die. Those who are sinners by the Law are ruled by the authority of death. The authority of death cannot kill someone without sin. All mankind are sinners, yet Jesus alone is the Righteous One. Jesus said, "Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more" (Jn 16:10). Jesus is the only Person you can find who is righteous. Though the lawbreaker killed Him, He lives eternally. His resurrection showed He was righteous. Jesus' resurrection was the resurrection of the righteous. This was not waking up from fainting, but the resurrection of the righteous. Death could not overcome His resurrection. His resurrection is eternal.

Jesus rose and ascended to heaven. There is no longer a righteous person on this earth. Righteousness itself ascended to heaven. This is why only He can judge. The devil killing the sinless One was a challenge against Righteousness, that is, a challenge against God. By Jesus' resurrection, the devil was condemned and judged. This is why Jesus said, "Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged" (Jn 16:11).

The devil is called various things: 'the power of darkness', 'the prince of the power of the air' and 'the ruler of this world'. In Genesis chapter 1, God said, "Let there be light." This shows us darkness was already present. The devil was imprisoned in darkness before the light appeared. This is why he is called 'the power of darkness'. On God's second day of creation, He divided the waters above and the waters below, creating 'the air'. The devil was then called 'the prince of the power of the air'. When mankind appeared, the devil deceived Adam and seized control of the world. This is why he is called 'the ruler of this world'.

The truth about judgment was that the ruler of this world was

was judged. The word 'judgment' is mentioned countlessly in the Bible, but the target of judgment is the ruler of this world (the devil). God's Son came into the world for the sake of judgment. God the Father entrusted all authority to judge to the Son. The Son gives judgment on the Father's behalf, and the target of judgment is the devil. The purpose of God's Son coming to the world was to judge the devil.

Why are human beings judged? Because they belong to the devil. Who belongs to the devil? 1 John 3:8 says, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning." The target of God's judgment was originally the devil, not mankind. Jesus came into the world to judge the devil, not mankind. It was only the case that when Jesus judged the devil, those who belonged to him were judged with him. Who belongs to the devil? Those who commit sin.

The purpose of God's Son coming to the earth was to judge the devil. God's purpose will be fulfilled one hundred percent. In other words, He who came to judge the devil will judge him perfectly. The devil, his subordinate demons, and all humans belonging to him will be punished. A sinner can never be regarded as righteous nor survive. The devil who sinned from the beginning, sinners who belong to him and the demons will be one hundred percent punished.

On the other hand, the Righteous One will be one hundred percent victorious. The devil killed the Son of God. But because He is righteous, God raised Him from the dead, took Him to heaven, and placed Him at God's right hand. When the angel became corrupt in heaven, God's name was blasphemed. So the Son of God came into the world, judged the angel who blasphemed God's name, and sat down at God's right hand. In doing this, He personally bore God's name (which is God's glory). Therefore, the final part of the Lord's prayer says, "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever." Through Jesus' resurrection, He gave eternal glory to the Father.

God's purpose was His will to judge the devil. It was also His purpose and will to glorify His own name. The former was fulfilled on earth, while the latter was fulfilled in heaven. God's will to save mankind was not His purpose but His grace. Because judgment was God's purpose, not only will the devil be judged one hundred percent, but the devil's subordinates and humans belonging to him will be judged one hundred percent. Jesus said, "Of sin, because they do not believe in Me" (Jn 16:9). If a person does not believe in Jesus, they will perish one hundred percent. Jesus also said, "Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more" (Jn 16:10). God's righteousness and glorious name are eternally in heaven because Jesus resurrected and sat down at the right hand of God's throne. He eternally glorified God. God's will was already fulfilled in heaven and fulfilled on earth.

Man's salvation was not God's purpose. Once Christ's work to judge the devil was fulfilled, God gave His grace to mankind as a gift. For example, if a person goes to his friend's house, going to his friend's house is the purpose. The gift the person purchases on the way is merely a gift. In the same way, Christ destroying the devil's works on earth, and Him giving glory to God's name in heaven, was the purpose. God's will was completely fulfilled in heaven and on earth. God then gave His grace to mankind.

If mankind's salvation was God's purpose, mankind would have been saved one hundred percent. But this was not the case. During the flood of Noah's time, the whole world was destroyed by water. Only 8 people were saved. God gave His grace to them and said, "Make yourself an ark." If they did not make an ark, they would have perished with the rest of the world. They escaped perishment because God gave His grace and they built the ark.

While the rest of mankind perished, only 8 people were saved. If

saving mankind was God's objective, not one person would have perished. They would have all been saved. Saving mankind was not His purpose, but His grace. Only those who receive God's grace will be saved. Being raised in a believing household does not mean you are saved. Two people will be sleeping in one bed; one will be taken and the other left behind. A family will be eating together at home; some will be taken and some will be left behind. Two siblings will be born from the same parents; one will be taken and the other will be left behind.

In all human history, no more than 0.01% of humanity has been saved. If saving mankind was God's purpose, God would have used every means possible to save mankind. No person on earth would perish. Saving mankind was not God's purpose, but His grace. Whoever rejects God's grace will perish.

Jesus said, "Of sin, because they do not believe in Me" (Jn 16:9). If you do not believe that Jesus is the Righteous God, you belong to the devil. Since God will destroy the devil, those who do not believe in Jesus will be completely destroyed with him. Those who do not believe have already been judged (Jn 3:18). Punishment in hell awaits them. The judgment that still remains is the giving of rewards and punishments for believers in Jesus. Judgment has already been given to those who do not believe in Jesus. There is still a chance to believe before your life ends. When it does, there will be no more opportunity.

We must know about sin, righteousness and judgment. Judgment refers to judging the devil. This was God's purpose. Righteousness refers to God's eternal righteousness through Jesus, who resurrected and ascended to heaven. This is God's clear purpose. Whether to believe or not believe in His grace is a decision each individual must make.

The theology of today's Christian Church is Redemptive theology. Unfortunately, the Christian Church is trapped in what it created and

cannot come out. If human redemption was God's purpose, would not the all-loving God redeem humanity one hundred percent? Why did God completely destroy mankind in the flood and save only 8 people? Man's redemption is not God's purpose but His grace. Whoever receives His grace will be saved, but whoever does not receive God's grace will perish.

Because people found it difficult to accept these things, they created the doctrine of predestination. Predestination claims that those people who perish were destined to perish from eternity past, while those who are saved were destined for salvation from eternity past. It also claims that when God created each person, He decided in advance, "This one will perish," and "this one will be saved." Yet what about those who believe in Jesus but later fall away to the world? Predestination argues such people were not chosen from the beginning. Then why do churches receive offerings from those who are not chosen? Why do they build facilities with these offerings? Are there not many who attend church and give offerings for a while, but later fall away?

Mankind's salvation was not God's purpose, but His grace. As John 16:9-11 shows, judgment refers to judgment on the devil, and righteousness refers to God's righteousness. When we say that not believing in Jesus is sin, it means God gives His grace to those who believe. We must respect God's judgment. God is the Judge. If you want to escape God's judgment, you must receive His grace. Lord! Please give Your grace to my family and I!

*in "Let Us Know Jesus",
Chapter 8 "The Lord of Judgment"*

Three Testimony of Blessing

From China, Malawi,
Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya



“Silence and Abandonment, a Chance for Mercy”

The sermons you have been sending to me are so powerful, including this one. I am increasing and growing in my spiritual life. From the time you started sending sermons like this, I am not the same; I have been transformed and have increased in knowledge about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection—even my position in the spirit as a born-again Christian.

In the past, I was striving so much, trying to be righteous through my own efforts (self-righteousness), which is really impossible unless I invite Christ into me. Your sermons have truly shed more light on the spiritual life. This one, in particular, has opened my spiritual eyes, and now I know that God is love, and He also loves Jesus more than anyone in His creation.

In this sermon, I learned that I am not forsaken or abandoned forever. Instead, I see that God’s “abandonment” (His silence) is actually giving me a chance to choose: either to belong to the world or to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe in His birth, death, resurrection, and His ascension into heaven, and I know that He will come again on the Day of Judgment.

May God continue giving you more revelations and blessings, in Jesus’ Mighty name. Amen.

Pastor C. B. Malawi
January 6, 2026

“Fear, Yet Joy”

The recent sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim, “The Wrath of God,” was deeply shaking. It left me trembling with a holy fear, yet at the same time, my spirit was filled with a peace and joy that is hard to put into words.

Before this message, I think many of us saw the Gospel as just a “good news”—a conceptual message that saves us from a miserable fate. It is so easy to say, “God is love, God is kind, so He doesn’t get angry.” Even though the Old Testament is full of warnings, we kept God’s wrath at a distance and stayed only within the comfort of His love. But through this sermon, I deeply realized that God truly does not tolerate sin. He will surely pour out His wrath according to His plan.

No human effort can solve the problem of sin or escape God’s wrath. This is why the Gospel is such good news: because God sent His Son, Jesus. Only when we are “in Jesus” are we safe. Only when God sees the blood of Christ does His judgment pass over us. His wrath is simply His justice; it is the fair response to sin. Condemnation and punishment—that is God’s wrath.

Yet, many people still live in a state of self-satisfaction. They think, “I believe in Jesus, I’m saved. I have even received the Holy Spirit, so I have nothing to worry about.” In this way, many are living under this deep delusion. This is a darkness from the enemy. People are caught in a global web of greed and don’t even realize they are under a curse. Even in the church, many are just looking for their own comfort.

Our overseer has witnessed people being one way on the outside and another on the inside since he was young. Having gone through the pain of the church division, he saw how the very souls he raised

turned against their shepherd and despised authority. They treated God’s wrath as if it were nothing. If they had truly known that His judgment could fall at any time, they would never have dared to challenge the authority God placed over them. The Old Testament stories are warnings for us. Even now, God is simply waiting for the measure of evil to be full before He acts. Realizing this made me tremble; it was so overwhelming that it took my breath away.

Through our first overseer, we learned about the spiritual world and our own miserable state. But over time, we grew proud and forgot where we started. Now, our current overseer is reshaping us, showing us how deceptive and wicked our human nature can be. Even after coming to Jesus, our old nature can resurface at any time. We were so busy enjoying the feast of grace that we forgot to fear His justice. This sermon was like a loud bell waking up my soul. Without this warning, I would still be deceiving myself with religious comfort.

The Bible constantly speaks to us about the path we must walk. If we don’t understand God’s wrath, we can’t truly value His Word. It makes sense that the Overseer couldn’t find many hymns about this today. Modern religion has completely covered it up. People live in a fog of confusion and depression, yet they falsely believe they are fine within the Gospel. But God sees everything with His piercing eyes. As the Word says, we will have to answer for every single word we speak on the Day of Judgment.

We have received the Holy Spirit and are united with Jesus; we are members of His Body. God has sent the overseer to us, which means that to oppose him is to oppose God Himself. To grieve the shepherd is to grieve God. God is merciful and gives us time to change, but He will act when sin goes too far. This is a very serious thought. We have seen what happens to those who attacked the church—they eventually fall away or perish.

We are one with Jesus; we are His Body. God sent the Overseer to us, so to oppose him is to oppose God. To grieve the shepherd is to grieve God. While God is merciful and gives us time to repent, He will eventually intervene when sin goes too far. This is a very serious thought. We have seen what happened to those who attacked the church—they eventually fell away or perished.

This sermon made me cry out for mercy, like the writers of the Psalms. We often focus only on the “good things” and ignore the warnings. But God is holy. I am so thankful that through the church and our shepherd, God is peeling away the evil in our hearts. While we are still in this body, we have the chance to get closer to Him. When we let go of our pride and deny ourselves, He is the loving God who holds and helps us.

I am so moved that the Overseer will continue this message for a few weeks. We were once children of wrath, held by the enemy, but through Jesus, we can stand before God. We must hold onto Him tightly. The Bible teaches us to endure through trials, for in time, He will wipe away every tear.

Lord, please help me. Let every word from the Overseer be a guide and a warning for my soul. He loves us like a mother and a father, giving everything so that not one soul is lost. I see now that even within His wrath, there is His great love. I hope we all stay hidden in Jesus and follow His lead with truly humble hearts.

*Evangelist OOO from China
November 25, 2025*

“ Despair First ”

Happy New Year 2026. I am glad that God has enabled us to receive a new year, healthy and blessed eternally.

Through the word, I’ve learned that despair is like surrender towards God, which is an expression of faith in God alone—not trusting our own strength, but His. The Bible teaches that without faith, it’s impossible to please God, and therefore, as believers, we ought to have faith in God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The entire Bible is an act of faith in God, and we receive by faith. All that we believe is just like that woman who had the issue of blood for 12 years. She expressed faith by touching the tip of Jesus’ garment and she received healing. Such faith serves as our admonition, and we ought to emulate it.

Having this faith in despair is a total commitment towards what God can do in our lives and the good plans He has for us, knowing in the mind that God can do it without any shadow of doubt. For example, in my case, I still have faith and believe God will do a miracle this year—something I’ve been trusting in God for. I’m sincerely in despair and believe in the doings of the Lord. He’s able to do abundantly and exceedingly beyond what I may ask.

Thank you so much for the sermons; they keep me going every week, and I’m grateful for that. My faith is intact and strong. Stay blessed. I love you all.

Brother S. B. Kenya

January 6, 2026

(This letter was written based on our call.)

“ Now, Instead of Getting Angry, I Pray ”

This sermon is refreshing, especially to me. It gives me peace in the love and joy of the Lord. Surely, I repent at the thought of the ignorance that comes with one who may not understand the Heart of the Father.

I used to have a servant mentality when it came to my faith life. I believe I had the wrong understanding of the nature of God. A servant works for a wage and has the mentality that the more you work, the more you earn—and when you make mistakes, you are to have a cut in your wages. That was my mentality. I would beat myself up when I made mistakes, and I would feel very much deserving of good things if I did good deeds. It was an unending cycle of humanism. If I prayed long or evangelized a lot, I would feel an entitlement spirit well up in me. I would literally expect good things for my hard work. It's funny now how wrong that is in all aspects, but back in the day, all my emotions would well up, believing that God would reward me based on my own merits. When I fell on hard times, I would equally think, “I have to pray more, do more,” and the like.

Now, I am maturing and understand that I am a child of God. I don't do my Father's business for a wage; I don't try to manipulate God with religious activities. I am not a servant trying to please my master with half-hearted work driven by greed—I expect nothing. When I preach or pray for people, it gives me joy. I am about my Father's business, not for a wage. I go beyond a servant's effort; I enjoy doing a lot for the Father's business because it is ours, since I am a joint-heir with Christ.

Since I am transplanted in Jesus, I have access to God the Father who cares for me and provides regardless of my shortcomings. The goodness of God has made me always repent of my self-righteousness, which is clearly filthy.

I used to be someone without wisdom when dealing with God's people. If I found people who came to church and didn't partake in the work of God, I would get angry deep inside. I realized I was trying to do the Holy Spirit's work. I now simply understand that, truly, the church is full of sinners who received grace. Instead of getting angry, I pray. I know the Heart of the Father desires all mankind to be saved.

I no longer look at people's good or bad; I look to Jesus and repent. My faith life is now about mirroring my life and depending on God and His Word. Whatever I do must be subject to the Holy Spirit, and the results are not up to me; I am merely a vessel. Bless God!!!

Pastor L.C. Zimbabwe

December 9, 2025



“Gratitude Amidst Persecution”

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am currently serving in Nigeria. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the book “Let Us Know Jesus,” which I received through a member of our church in Abuja. Through its pages, I have been blessed with profound grace and a much deeper understanding of our Lord. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing these words with us. I know it is no small task to send books across the world, and I am truly moved by the love you have shown for the people of Nigeria.

Currently, our ministry consists of six churches and approximately 200 pastors. Because the number of books we received was limited, we have been rotating them among ourselves to share the grace. One pastor mentioned that he read the book three times to keep its message in his heart, yet he felt so much regret when it was finally time to pass it on to the next person. We hold a gathering on the last day of every month, and if it is possible to send more copies, I would dearly love to distribute them to the other pastors during our meeting.

I also want to express my sincere thanks to the Sungrak Church. I was deeply moved to hear that you remembered and mentioned the difficult situation we are facing here in Nigeria. I recently visited my hometown, Mangu, in Jos, Plateau State. There, I saw so many of our brothers and sisters who have become internally displaced, losing their homes simply because they are Christians. My heart broke, and I could not stop my tears. Even my own mother has had to flee to my uncle’s house for safety. While Abuja, where I serve, is relatively safer, I once faced a terrifying moment where I was captured by extremists and thrown into a pit to be killed. By God’s grace, security personnel found me just in time, and my life was spared.

In the midst of such trials, the fact that the Sungrak Church remembered our suffering and spoke of us has brought me immense comfort and courage. Knowing that we are not forgotten gives us the strength to endure. Thank you once again, Sungrak Church, for keeping us in your hearts and prayers.

*Pastor J.M. Nigeria
November 21, 2025*

“ How Could I Keep Such Hatred in My Heart? ”

Through the Word you shared, I have deeply realized how precious the life I now possess is, all because of Jesus Christ.

In the past, I used to think that humans and animals were not all that different. I thought we were just a bit smarter, but in the end, every living thing faced the same “end” called death. The world often speaks of reincarnation—the idea that if you don’t do good in this life, you’ll go to hell or be reborn as a beast, and conversely, even an animal could be reborn as a human if it lived well.

While I was soaked in these thoughts, I didn’t value my own life. I thought even if this life was painful, I could just do some decent things, die, and then have another chance in the next life. But in my heart, I wondered, “What is the point of such a life?” How is it any different from a game character dying and just starting a new game? What hope is there in a repetitive cycle of rebirth?

I thank God for giving us eternal life and for letting us know the truth. I have learned that I am fundamentally different from animals; this is a distinction God made from the very beginning when He created mankind. God has raised our status so high that all of creation can be used for the benefit of humans. I will cherish this identity.

Furthermore, I can possess everything that belongs to God. The only condition is to know Him. This isn't just knowing about Him intellectually; it is actually experiencing and fully understanding His abundant grace and loving-kindness. The only way is to know Jesus Christ, to devote myself entirely to a life of faith, and to surrender my whole self to the Lord.

People in this world can be so cold. When I go to a public office to get

something done, the officials often dismiss me with a cold “I don’t know” or won’t even look me in the eye, as if I owe them something. But God accepted me—someone who was ignored by the world. I used to be ignorant and did things that displeased Him, yet He gave me chance after chance. This overflowing grace is something no one in this world can imitate.

And yet, I was so harsh toward others. When someone cut me off rudely while driving, I hated them so much that I wished for their death and poured out curses I can’t even repeat. Even in daily life, if someone caused me the slightest loss, my heart was filled with hatred. Lord, please forgive me. I lived selfishly, thinking only of my physical comfort, failing to see how great the things You have given me truly are. I repent.

Jesus, thank You for giving me eternal life and the opportunity to enjoy everything that belongs to the Heavenly Father. I lived hating others even while enjoying Your grace, forgetting it every moment. That was not the heart of one who loves souls. Jesus, pour a heart of compassion into me. When I see the faults of others, help me not to hate the person, but to understand first that their soul has not yet met God and therefore cannot help but produce evil.

I repent before You with tears. Forgive me for seeking only my own comfort, for failing to pity other souls, and for piling up resentment. From now on, I will live manifesting Your grace through my life. I will share with many others all the beauty You have given—eternal happiness, unchanging truth, abundant kindness, and the power to perform miracles. Father, give me a heart of compassion like Yours. Help me to love my neighbor as myself, and I pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will lead me closer to You every moment. I entrust my entire life to You!

*Sister 000 from China
December 30, 2025*

“The Hypocrisy of Trying to Look Good”

Reflecting on the Word, I have realized that having true faith means, above all, thorough repentance. Only those who have reached a point of utter despair regarding this world can truly repent. Only those who know that money or social status can never bring true satisfaction can enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

For a long time, it broke my heart to see so many souls falling away from the church, and I never understood why. Now, I finally see it. Although they tasted heavenly gifts, received the Holy Spirit, and even experienced healing and the casting out of demons, they remained only at the level of “tasting” those gifts. They never reached a point of despairing toward the world.

True repentance is confessing before God: “I am a sinner who did not know God; I am a meritless sinner, and I need only God’s salvation.” There must be a firm decision to turn away from the world, recognizing that this world is under a curse and that we cannot overcome the god of this world on our own. Only God can save us.

In the early days of my faith, I used to think that my reason or my own merits were the source of my belief. However, through my studies, I’ve realized that faith is not earned through human logic or effort—it is a gift from God. Repentance is like the “switch” that allows God to pour faith into us. Without repentance, no matter how diligently one attends church or performs good deeds, it is merely “superficial faith,” and one cannot enter heaven. How pitiable it is to live as a believer in appearance only, yet never truly be saved.

Only those who truly repent will have their hearts opened by God to confess Jesus as their Savior and receive the blessing of eternal life. Entering heaven by believing in Jesus is both easy and difficult. It is easy

because all you must do is truly repent, but it is difficult because you must completely lay yourself down, bury your old self, and rely entirely on God.

Because I have this flesh, and the devil constantly targets it—tempting me to crave the world and distance myself from God—repentance is a lifelong task. Therefore, I must remain awake and disciplined, continually turning back to God. The idea of “once saved, always saved” is nothing but a scheme of the devil. Repentance is the essential process of breaking ties with the enemy, rebuilding our relationship with God, and ultimately receiving the gift of faith to enter eternity.

Furthermore, I have deeply realized that “faith” is not about how much I read the Bible, pray, or give offerings. It is about utterly despairing of the world and fully following the guidance of the Shepherd. My mother loves me not because I am outstanding, but simply because I am her child. Likewise, God loves me and the Shepherd cares for me not because I do things well or because I am perfect, but because I am in Jesus Christ.

I will no longer try to “look good” before God. That is merely pride disguised as humility, and it only hinders a sincere fellowship with Him. “Faith is a relationship”—this Word is the way of life that rescued me from hypocrisy. Hallelujah!

I desire to possess true faith and to be one who constantly repents and turns to God throughout my life. Until the day the Lord calls me, let me be one who follows His guidance and sweetly accepts His rebuke and instruction! Amen!

*Evangelist OOO from China
December 28, 2025*



The God to be Feared

(Exodus 20:18-21)

in “Following God’s Word”, Chapter 71

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” And Moses said to the people, “Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.” So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. (Exodus 20:18-21)

Are there many gods in this world, or is there only one? Indeed, there are many gods. The real question is this: “Which god will we draw near to?” and “With which god will we make a covenant?”

Among you, some may have already decided to live a life of faith, while others have not yet made that choice. There might also be some who have decided but haven’t yet “sealed the deal.” To seal the deal means to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. However, before you sign such a contract, you must carefully examine what kind of god He is. Just as you would look over the terms and conditions before signing an insurance policy, you must know who this God is and what He promises before making a covenant with Him. You must also understand what His nature is truly like.

Among the many gods in this world, He is truly one of a kind. He has great power—He is almighty. He transcends time and space to help us, and not only us, but our descendants as well. Furthermore, His nature is truly good. For example, think of our traditional harvest: after cutting the rice and binding the sheaves, you might accidentally leave a couple behind. What would you usually do? You’d go back and pick them up, wouldn’t you? But what did this god say? He said, “Do not go back for them. Leave them there.” It doesn’t seem to make sense,

does it? Why would He want to waste them? He said it because He wanted the orphans, the widows, and the strangers—those who have no means to support themselves—to have something to eat. This shows how warm His heart is and how detailed His care can be. To be with such a god is truly a wonderful thing.

And what is he now saying to us? It is this: “Be with me forever.” Yes, he is calling us to be with him forever. In ancient times, the Israelites thought to themselves, “If we are to be with this god, then we must carefully do what he commands.” They asked, “Then what will you command us to do?” At that time, this god called Moses and said, “Come up here. I will tell you what you must keep so that I may be with you.” This god summoned Moses to the mountain. But he did not call Moses alone—he also called the elders, the representatives of the people, so they could all hear it together.

Now, what was that scene like? Imagine a mountain—Mount Sinai. It is covered in thick, dark clouds. Thunder rolls and lightning flashes without ceasing. “Boom! Crash!” The thunder never stops. My words might not do it justice, so think back to your childhood. Do you remember being startled by a violent thunderstorm? Just when you thought the thunder couldn't get any louder, an even greater crash would shake the ground, startling you again and again. Now, imagine that happening continuously. Then, the sound of a trumpet begins to echo from the mountain. From the midst of it all, God Himself begins to speak. His voice resonates. The people, standing at a distance, heard that sound—and it was terrifying.

And what was the content of that voice? It was what you know well: the Ten Commandments. God said, “If you want to be with Me, keep these commandments.” So if we want to live in fellowship with this god, we must keep them.

Now, the Ten Commandments. First: “You shall have no other gods before Me.” In other words, worship only Him. Can you worship God while worshiping other gods? No, you cannot. Second: “You shall not make idols or bow down to them.” Why? Because God has His own glory and likeness. But if people make their own figures and worship them—like a bear, or a tiger—they are treating God as equal to those animals. To treat God like a beast? That must not be done. Third: “You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.” Do not use His name carelessly. Fourth: “Remember the holy day and keep it.” Today, when we keep the Lord's Day, we are keeping the holy day. This is the day God set apart as holy. It is a blessed day. God promised to bless this day. So when you keep the holy day, this God will surely bless you greatly.

Fifth: “Honor your father and mother.” What if someone dishonors their parents—drinking, acting violently, or even striking them? In those days, what did God command? Even if it was their own son, He said, “Put him to death.” Can you imagine doing that? If a son acts violently, most mothers would hide it and try to protect him, even if he ends up at the police station. But God commanded Israel, “Stone him to death.” And who was to throw the first stone? According to God's law, it was the parents themselves. Why so? Because if such behavior was left unchecked, it would spread in society. If someone does not honor their parents, how can they honor God? Parents were the ones who taught their children how to serve God. If they refused to listen, they would gradually stop serving God over time. This is why God gave such a command. You may think, “Isn't that too severe?” But the point is clear: honor your parents. And then came the rest of the commandments: “Do not murder,” “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not steal,” and “Do not covet your neighbor's possessions—whether

his wife, his ox, or his house.” It means this: do not be greedy. Do not set your desire on what is not yours, do not keep wanting it, and do not keep holding it in your heart.

After hearing all of this, how did the Israelites respond? They were terrified. Remember the scene I described—the mountain shrouded in darkness and thick clouds, lightning flashing, thunder rumbling, the trumpet sounding, and then that voice resounding. It wasn't spoken gently or softly; it was a voice of overwhelming, terrifying power. So, how did the people react? They cried out, “Please, do not let us hear God's voice directly anymore! It is too frightening. From now on, Moses, you listen to Him for us. You tell us what He says, and we will receive your words as the very word of God. But we simply cannot bear to hear Him ourselves.” From that point on, God did not speak directly to all the people, but only to Moses. And God was actually pleased with their request. Why? He said, “It is good that you fear Me so greatly. Because of that fear, you are willing to accept the words I speak through Moses as My own. This is right. I want you to always keep this kind of heart—this humility and this reverence for Me” (Deuteronomy 5:28–29). Only then did God continue to give them further instructions.

But after hearing these commandments, did the people actually keep God's Word with that same fear in their hearts? Did they remain obedient? No, they did not. In fact, they broke the covenant almost as soon as they had made it. Moses had gone back to God for forty days to learn how to build the Tabernacle—the tent where God would dwell among them—and to receive instructions about sacrifices. But because he didn't return for forty days, the people began to say, “Moses must be dead. This is taking too long! Let's just

worship the God who brought us out of Egypt in our own way.” So, what did they do? They fashioned a golden calf. They danced around it and cried out the name of their God. But whose name did they call? It wasn't the name of some random false god. They called Him by the very name Moses had given them—the LORD (Yahweh). “The LORD! The LORD!” they shouted. They truly believed they were serving the same God who had saved them. Yet, they were doing the very thing the LORD had strictly forbidden—making and worshiping an image. They even pointed at the idol and called it “God.” Despite promising to follow Moses as God's messenger, they dismissed him, saying, “He's dead,” and began to worship however they pleased. They had fallen into corruption so quickly, right in the presence of this fearful God.

If we look at this in human terms, it is exactly like a couple getting engaged, only for the fiancé to be caught cheating on the very eve of the wedding. They had made a covenant, but even before it could truly begin, they had already shattered it. Now, would you continue a contract with someone like that? Since they broke it, you could just end it right there, couldn't you? And would you still go through with a marriage to such a person? Even if you were engaged, you would call off the wedding. However, though this God is indeed a fearful God, He is also the God who faithfully keeps His promises. It would have been perfectly right for Him to wipe them out, yet He bestowed them grace instead. He forgave them. He gave them another chance. In this world, people might say, “I forgive you,” but they often don't give a second chance. But this God forgives and gives another opportunity—all so that He may still be with them. So, this stern and fearful God is also the God who pours out compassion. We must understand both of these truths about Him.

Today, we often tend to think too lightly of the God we are trying to

draw near to. To put it simply, we treat Him as if He were “easy to handle.” Why? Because His mercy is so abundant and His compassion is so overflowing, people take that grace for granted and act carelessly. In everyday speech, we have a saying: “When you treat someone too well, they start taking advantage of you.” That’s exactly the problem. God wants to be good to us, and it would be wonderful if we responded by humbling ourselves, showing respect, and remaining reverent. But instead, people take His kindness for granted and overstep. This is human nature. Children are the same. When parents are generous, children often take advantage of that kindness and act disrespectfully. If a child responds with gratitude and even greater humility when treated well, that is a rare and mature child. But most will just push the boundaries.

There is a famous saying about this: “If you show someone kindness once, it’s a favor. If you show it twice, it’s still a favor. But by the third time, they think it’s their right.” I know someone who once worked at a social welfare foundation of a large company. At that time, the foundation gave one percent of its profit to welfare institutions. They no longer do it because they were badly taken advantage of. To distribute the funds, they had to review applications. Orphanages, homes for the elderly, and facilities for the disabled would submit requests like, “We need this much. We will use it for this purpose.” Then the foundation would evaluate and provide the requested funds. On one occasion, an institution applied for two vans. The foundation gave them the two vans. That should have been enough, and gratitude should have followed. But a few months later, that same institution came all the way to the head office in Seoul to protest. They made a scene. Why? They protested, saying, “What good are vans without fuel? Give us money for fuel! Without it, how can we operate these vans?”

I myself studied social welfare in college, and many of my classmates went on to work as social workers. One of them told me similar stories. In their district office, assistance is provided monthly to those in need. But sometimes conditions change—say, a family member who could provide support appeared. So the monthly allowance for one man was reduced by several hundred dollars. What happened? Normally, since it was given as charity, one would say, “Thank you. I am grateful for what I have received so far,” even if the amount was reduced. But instead, he came with a knife, threatening the social worker. “Why did you cut it? You reduced it, didn’t you?” Sadly, there are even news reports of such threats leading to murder. So when people continually receive kindness, at some point, they begin to treat it as their right. That is the problem.

God desires to pour out His love on us, but people are not prepared to receive it rightly. They take His grace for granted and treat the One who gives it as if He were small and insignificant. They do not realize how much God is despised. Sometimes when I am driving, I see signs on buildings that say, “God is...” What do they usually say? Many of you have seen it. “God is love” or, “God loves you.” Yes, “God loves you.” But whenever I see those words, I feel a deep sadness. Why? Because most who read them respond, “I don’t need that love.” They say, “I don’t need it. I’d rather go to hell.” Even when we share the gospel and say, “God loves you,” people answer, “I don’t need that love. I’ll just go to hell.” They treat God’s love as if it were cheap and worthless.

But to say, “God loves you,” strictly speaking, is not the best way. God has His own plan. He has His own honor, and He has His own work to accomplish. When we approach Him, it should be with the desire to share in the happiness He has, even in part. We do not

come to Him as if demanding, “Give me what you owe me.”

So whom does God love? There is someone whom God declared He loves. Who is it? Only one person has ever received that declaration directly from God. Two thousand years ago, when Jesus was baptized and came up out of the water, God spoke to Him. At that time, many people were being baptized—a baptism of repentance, a confession that said, “I am a sinner.” So when Jesus was baptized and came up, people must have thought, “Ah, He is a sinner too. He is just like us.” But God did not remain silent. He did not want His Son to be misunderstood or treated that way. So He spoke, “This is My beloved Son.” The word “Son” here means “Heir.” An heir—“All that I possess belongs to him.” Then what does God possess? The wealth and glory of this world? That is nothing. What God possesses are the things that can satisfy God Himself. And He gives all of these to Him. So, does money satisfy God? What is it that satisfies Him? It is glory, authority, and power beyond anything we can imagine. All of this, He promised the Son—to Jesus. So He said, “This is My beloved Son.” Now, if a son does not listen, it is not pleasing, even if we still love him. It causes sorrow. Yet God also declared, “This is the One in whom I am well pleased.” In other words, “He listens well to My word. He is the One who pleases Me.” The only one whom God Himself personally testified of saying, “I love Him,” is Jesus alone.

You say God loves you? But does that mean God simply loves us as we are—sinning day after day? Let me be clear: God’s love is not without conditions. There is a specific condition for His love. So, why does He love us? To understand the reason, we must first look at how Jesus Himself was treated by God.

Think about Jesus, the One who truly received God’s love, the One

whom God Himself acknowledged. Would it not seem fitting that He should live happily, be taken straight to Heaven without tasting death, and enjoy God’s love forever? But that was not the way. Instead, He was slandered, struck on the cheek, beaten with fists, mocked, and kicked. Then He was put on trial. People spat on Him and said, “You blasphemed! You made Yourself God!” And afterward, He was scourged—His whole body beaten again and again. And all of this was done under the law, carried out legally. When Jesus was scourged, it was actually Pilate who ordered it, trying to spare His life. Why? Because the crowd demanded that He be crucified. And crucifixion meant certain death—slow, agonizing death, bleeding little by little over the course of three or four days. But when Pilate, a Roman, looked at Him, he could see there was no guilt in Him. What crime was it, after all, to say He was the Son of God? To the Romans, to the Gentiles, it was nothing. So in an attempt to save Him, and to calm the fury of the people, Pilate had Him scourged. Scourging was the most severe punishment short of crucifixion. But if the beating went too far, it could kill a man. So it was inflicted only to the extent that it would not kill. So, after this, Jesus’ face was torn open, His body covered with wounds, swollen beyond recognition. Pilate then brought Him out before the people. “Look, here is the man you wanted to kill. You can hardly recognize Him now. Isn’t this enough?” But how did the people respond? “No! If you let Him live, you are no friend of Caesar! He claimed to be the king of Israel. If you release Him, you are opposing the true king!” At that, Pilate realized that letting Jesus go would cause an uprising, a riot. So he washed his hands before the crowd and said, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. You see to it.” And then he handed Him over to be crucified. As a result, while others might suffer either crucifixion or scourging—one or the other—He endured both. You may ask, “Didn’t God say He loved Him? Didn’t He say He was well pleased with Him?”

Yet all of this was under God's control. From a human point of view, one might cry, "God, if You are alive, why this? Why such a curse? Are You truly there or not?" But every part of it was in God's hands. Every suffering, even death itself, is under His control.

Though God seemed to stand by in silence, He is Almighty. After Jesus died, the next day was the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the day God rested after creating the heavens and the earth, and people also rested on that day. And on that Sabbath, it seemed as though God truly did nothing—He rested. But the very next day was the Lord's Day, the day after the Sabbath—this very day we gather on. On that morning, God went to work. How did He work? He raised Jesus from the dead. That was when God acted. In doing so, God overturned the judgment. It was as if a lower court had declared, "Guilty!"—but then the highest court reversed it, saying, "Not guilty!" When the judgment was changed to "Not guilty," those who had condemned and killed the innocent One became the guilty ones instead. At that moment, the world was judged. It had already been judged.

But what did I say earlier about God? We always speak of "love, love," but who is He originally? He is a fearful God—an awesome and terrifying God. Then why did He let Jesus die in such a way, though He had no sin of His own? It was to place the full penalty of mankind's sin upon the Son. We were the ones destined for hell, the ones who deserved punishment. But the Son of God bore all the punishment in our place, so that we would not have to bear it ourselves. Otherwise, Jesus would have suffered in vain. Can the God who is greater than heaven and earth suffer punishment for no reason? That would be meaningless, like a wasted death. But with God, there is no wasted death. It was His will. And He gave the full merit of it to us. So He made everyone who receives it live.

Yes, God is indeed a God to be feared. But now, because we have received the merit of Jesus, He no longer comes to us as the fearful God. Instead, with the very love He has for His Son, He now loves us. So we have already received the blood of Jesus that was shed—completely. This is what it means when we say we "eat His flesh" and "drink His blood." To eat His flesh and drink His blood is to receive the merit of His torn body and poured-out blood. Therefore, to believe in Jesus is to eat His flesh and drink His blood. And this blood is God's blood. It does not disappear, as if digested and gone. Once you drink this blood, it remains in your spirit forever. For we are eternal beings, His blood remains in us eternally. So when God looks at us, what does He see within us? The blood of Jesus. And whose blood is that? The blood of the Son. And the blood of the Son is the blood of God Himself. That is why He loves us, because the blood of His beloved Son is in us.

Think about this. Let me give you an example. Suppose I have only one son—my precious little boy. Then one day a man, driving recklessly while drunk, strikes my son with his car. My child is left dying, and the drunk driver himself is also injured. As a parent, how would I feel? I would be filled with rage, wanting to kill him. Who drives drunk in broad daylight? And now my innocent son is in this state. My son falls into a brain-dead condition. His heart is still beating, but his brain is gone. Meanwhile, the drunk driver can only live if he receives a blood transfusion. But his blood type is extremely rare—RH negative. No donor can be found. Then it turns out my five-year-old son has the same blood type. My son is dying, but his blood and even his heart could save this man. What should I do? Should I give them, or should I refuse? He is my enemy—the one who caused my son's death. Every part of me would say, "No, never!" But suppose this father is unimaginably generous and warm-hearted.

He says, “My son is already dying; let me donate his blood and his heart.” He gives them. Now, how will this father treat the man who receives his son’s blood and heart? Will he hate him or will he love him? He will love him. But imagine this: during the surgery, the man suddenly opens his eyes. Just as they are about to transfuse the son’s blood into him, he wakes and says, “What is this? That man’s blood? That child’s blood? I don’t want it!” And he throws it away. The blood splatters everywhere. What then? It is horrifying. I offered the love of my son, but he rejects it and throws it away. Then what happens to the love I was about to pour out on him? It turns into anger. That love turns into fury. And if possible, at that very moment, I could kill him on the spot.

We are those who have been sustained by the blood of God’s Son. Whether you accept it or not, two thousand years ago God caused His Son to shed His blood and pay the full price for our sins. Therefore, we must receive this with thanksgiving. And when we do, we receive the love of God. But some reject this and say, “Where is God? If I sinned, then I should go to hell. Why should I rely on someone else’s merit? I don’t need it!” They throw it away. When that happens, will God still love them? No. His great love, His deep affection, turns into wrath. Imagine, not a man, but God Himself becoming angry. That is why the Scripture says, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Even when an earthly president with power grows angry, people tremble. Even when a father grows angry, his son fears. Then what will it be when God Himself is angry? Truly, God is the One to be feared. Before you receive the love of God, you must first know who He is. In truth, we human beings are nothing before Him. Even if we were crushed like ants underfoot, it would amount to nothing. Yet

such insignificant creatures have received the amazing love of God. He has poured out His love on us. But if we despise it, we will face God as He truly is. He is a fearful God. Therefore, even though we have received His love, we must remember how fearful He is in His very nature, and come before Him humbly, lowering ourselves in awe.

And you must not despise what He gives. Instead, have the heart to receive everything from Him. For He is not only a fearful God—He is the One who seeks our good, the One who gives life, the One who gives freedom. Therefore, whatever He gives, you may receive. Whatever He commands, you may obey.

Even in the church, there is a command that many find burdensome: the tithe—giving one-tenth of our income. Do you think God demands it because He lacks money? Certainly not. Let me say clearly: God does not need money. What He is looking for is whether we obey or not. To Him, the money amounts to nothing. But for us, it matters. A tenth of our possessions is significant to us. If a person can offer that to God, it shows they truly know and believe who He is. But if someone says with their lips that they believe, yet cannot do it, then honestly, they do not believe. He is the One who is greater than the heavens, the One who gives eternal life, and yet we cannot offer Him a tenth? The real question is this: Do I believe in God, or do I not?

If you truly want to meet God, then obey His words as fully and actively as you can. Follow what He is doing. Then you will meet Him sooner. And the sooner you meet Him, the sooner the happiness and joy He gives will fill your life. This God, though fearful, has poured out His love in His Son. He is no longer the fearful God to us, but the

loving God who loves us with the very love He has for His Son. So I urge you—not to meet Him as the fearful God, but to meet Him as the God of love, our Father. In the name of Jesus, I bless you.

Father God, though You are so great and fearful, You sent Your Son so that we might receive Your love in Him. We thank You for this. Fill our hearts, which have received such great love, with Your happiness and joy. And help us to receive whatever You command and whatever You give. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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