

WORLD MISSIONS

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” Mark 16:15

APRIL 2019

THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE *(John 17:21)*

New Year Directors' Conference Reports



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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

P. Moses Yoon (Chicago, USA)
UBF General Director

THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE

John 17:1-26

Key verse John 17:21, "...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."



Before Jesus died on the cross, he had the last supper with his disciples. During the supper, Jesus gave them his last teaching, the "Upper Room Discourse," which is recorded in John's gospel, from chapters 13 to 16. Now here, in chapter 17, Jesus prays. In the gospels, we find many accounts of Jesus praying. In particular, he always withdrew to a quiet place to pray after an important event, such as the feeding of the five thousand (Mt 14:22). We also find that Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer. Yet we are rarely told the details of what Jesus specifically prayed. Today's passage is probably the only account where we find the content of his prayer. Praying means offering one's earnest desire to God. When faced with having to die the very next day, what does Jesus pray for? What is the earnest desire revealed in his prayer? Through this passage, may God

help us to know Jesus' heart's desire for us.

I. Jesus' prayer for himself (1-5)

Look at verse 1. "After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: 'Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.'" After Jesus finished teaching his disciples, he looks toward heaven and prays. How does he begin his prayer? "Father." In a few hours, Jesus will be arrested, and after standing on trial, he will be crucified. Jesus knew that. It must have been painful for him knowing that he should end his life through such a cruel method of execution at the age of 33. Yet he does not blame God for that. At his most unbearable time of suffering, Jesus completely trusts in God and comes before him saying, "Father." Jesus never doubts God's love in any situation. "Father, the time has come." Since the beginning of his messianic life, Jesus has moved toward the hour - the hour of his death on the cross.

How does Jesus view his crucifixion? "Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you." Jesus prays that through his death on the cross he may be glorified. God the Son came into this world in the appearance of a man. Now he offers himself as an atoning sacrifice for the sin of the world. Yet that is not the end. He will defeat the power of death and rise again. Jesus, the greatest man, became the humblest man, and through the cruelest death, won the most glorious victory. It is in this way that Jesus reveals his glory. Through him being glorified Jesus also prays that God may be glorified. The eventual purpose of Jesus' life was to glorify God. God the Father was pleased with Jesus and granted him authority over all people. Therefore, Jesus can give eternal life to all those the Father has given him (2).

What is eternal life? Look at verse 3. "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Eternal life does not just mean living forever. Those who enter hell will also live there forever. Eternal life means knowing the only true God, and Jesus Christ. Here to "know" means to know personally with the heart, not just with the head. For this reason, those who know Jesus and, through Jesus, know God the Father, already have eternal life. I believe that even though we live in this world with our bodies which are restricted by time

and space, we already have eternal life. Do you believe that you have eternal life? Is it real to you? The moment we personally believe in Jesus we receive eternal life, and as we come to know him more deeply we come to enjoy it more abundantly. Jesus has come so that his people may have life, and have it to the full (Jn 10:10). May God help us each and every day to know Jesus more deeply, and enjoy his life more abundantly.

As we read in verse 1, Jesus prayed that he would glorify God through his death on the cross. Actually he also lived the life that glorified God. Look at verse 4. "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." Jesus glorified God on earth by completing the work the Father gave him to do. What was the work God gave Jesus?

First, it was to reveal God the Father to the world (6). God is spirit. He is invisible. We as sinners, cannot see the holy God. Therefore, in order to let us know him, God revealed himself through his creation, and through the Scriptures. Most importantly, he also revealed himself fully through his Son (Heb 1:1,2). All the words Jesus spoke were from God the Father. All the power Jesus had was from God the Father. The Bible says Jesus is the exact representation of God's being (Heb 1:3). Those who have seen Jesus have seen God the Father (Jn 14:10). Jesus came to reveal God to the world

The second work given to Jesus was, as the Messiah of the world, to save all men from their sins. Jesus came as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). In order to fulfill the will of God, he denied himself and offered himself as the Lamb of God. In this way, he redeemed from sin all who believe in him. Jesus came to save all men from their sins.

The third work Jesus completed was to raise the twelve disciples who would become the foundation of the church. Jesus wanted the gospel to be preached to the whole world through his disciples. He wanted all people to hear the gospel and be saved. For this purpose Jesus came to raise the Twelve.

Jesus devoted his whole life to completing the task God gave him to do. In completing his work, he was not swayed by the pressures of his generation. He did not quarrel or cry out but silently and patiently committed himself to God. On the cross, just before he breathed his last, he said, "It is finished." Jesus showed us the perfect example how

we should live. No matter what other people may say, we believe that the life committed to completing the task God gave us to do is the most precious. We do not have time to hesitate. Life is too short to waste. May God help us to do our best to complete the work God gave us to do.

II. Jesus' prayer for his disciples (6-19)

From verse 6, Jesus prays for his disciples. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word" (6). Here the words "those whom you gave me out of the world" refer to the Twelve (12). They were appointed by Jesus. Yet Jesus says that they are basically those God gave him out of the world. Jesus taught his disciples so that they would know God. It was because they belonged to God (9). We belong to God. God forms the spirit of man within him (Zec 12:1). The Bible students we serve are not those whom we just met at the campus. They are not our possession. They are God's possession.

Look at verse 10. "All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them." Jesus' words that "all I have is yours, and all you have is mine" are an amazing claim that Jesus is God. The Son and the Father are two separate persons. Yet they are one. This is a mysterious truth which is beyond understanding. Jesus received glory through the disciples - through their changed lives and their testimony that he is the Christ. Jesus receives glory through our changed lives and our testimony about him.

What then does Jesus specifically pray for the disciples?

First, "protect them by the power of your name." Look at verse 11. "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name - the name you gave me - so that they may be one as we are one." While Jesus was on earth he protected his disciples from the devil. Now as he is about to leave the world, he prays that the Holy Father would protect them. Look at verse 11b again. "...so that they may be one as we are one." Jesus prays that they may be one as the Father and the Son are one. What can we learn here? Becoming one or becoming divided is not a matter of personality or character. Division is what happens when we are not protected from the devil's attack. The devil causes believers to envy, hate, and quarrel. The devil causes believers to distrust each other and cools down our love for God. The devil causes the community to become divided and eventually collapse. We are vulnerable and we

need God's protection.

Another reason why the disciples need God's protection is that the world hates them. Look at verse 14. "I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world." Why are the disciples hated by the world? It is because they live by the word of God. When we live by the word of God we are persecuted in the world (2Ti 3:12). But we must know that we were called to suffer for doing good (1Pe 2:21). If we fear the world, it will ensnare us. We will be drawn to please the world and we will end up leaving God. Therefore, we must take a clear stance. Jesus does not pray that God may take them out of the world but that God will protect them from the evil one (15).

Second, "sanctify them by the truth." Look at verse 17. "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." What does it mean to "sanctify them"? It means to help the disciples not to follow the pattern of the world but to live holy lives before God. Further, it means to help them to offer themselves as living sacrifices to God (Ro 12:1). How can the disciples be sanctified? "Sanctify them by the truth." They can be sanctified by the truth. What is the truth? The truth is the word of God. In order to live holy lives before God, we must have the word of God.

Some people are zealous for God. They have a strong desire to do God's work. Yet they do not study the word diligently. They just want to serve God on their own terms. But when they do not have the word of God, many things go wrong. It is not good to have zeal without knowledge (Po 19:2). Also some people just want to pray all the time. That is not good either. If anyone turns a deaf ear to the word of God, the Bible says even his prayers will be detestable (Pr 28:9). Without the word of God it is impossible to live a holy life.

Why do many believers live nominal Christian lives? Why do people stop growing spiritually? Why do we not have joy and fruit in our lives of faith? There is only one answer, and that is, that we do not eat the word of God deliciously. The word of God gives us joy. It enables us to be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2Ti 3:17). As long as we keep learning the word of God we will not get old. Instead we will come to be full of the energy of youth. Personally, every morning I receive spiritual energy from three sources. First, from daily bread and personal prayer. Second, from memorizing Bible verses. Third, from having faith in God holding onto Mk 11:22, "have faith in God." The word of God gives us the strength and wisdom we need. The word

of God is the fountain of all joy, strength and wisdom. May God help us to study the word of God fervently and obey it so that our community will continue to be filled with spiritual energy and the wisdom of God.

III. Jesus' prayer for the believers (20-26)

From verse 20, Jesus prays for those who will believe in him through his disciples. Look at verse 21. "...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Jesus' prayer for all believers is not that they may lead comfortable lives or that they may be successful and famous in the world. Jesus prays for a totally different thing - that they may be one.

Now are we not sitting here together? On Sundays, do we not gather together for worship service? Do we not meet in the name of Christ? Does this mean that we are one? No. Jesus' prayer has a deeper meaning. It means that all of us may be one, just as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father. In mathematics, if A belongs to B, and B belongs to A, it means A is B.

The Father and the Son are two different persons but they are completely one. Each one of us is an independent individual. The characteristic of an individual is unique. Each individual is different. We all differ in our personalities and talents. We differ in character and appearance. There is nobody who is identical to another person in the world. We are also all self-centered. There is a story. One day, two pastors quarreled on the street. They quarreled a lot but could not agree. One pastor said, "OK, that's enough. Now you go your way! I will go the Lord's way!" Everyone thinks that he was right. How can we be one?

First, we can be one when we have the same life purpose. What is the ultimate purpose of our lives? It is to glorify God. He is the Creator. He is the living God. Our life came from him and will return to him. To praise him and worship him forever is the greatest purpose of our lives. One of the main reasons why believers are not one is that they live for their own glory and not for the glory of God. When we give up the desire to seek our own glory and start seeking God's glory we can be one.

Second, when we humble ourselves and serve each other we can be one. Jesus was one with the Father by humbly and absolutely obeying the Father. The Father was one with the Son by loving him and entrusting to him all judgment, so that all would honor the Son (Jn 5:22,23). When we humbly serve others we can be one. When someone

says to another person, "I want to serve you as your servant," will he say, "No, I don't like you. Go away"? The way to be one is to humbly serve others first, assuming the lower position while exalting others. But when we do that what usually comes to our minds? "Good for him but what about me? I lose, I sacrifice, I become lowly, no one acknowledges me... what do I get?" When that happens, what must we believe? We must believe that God knows everything. He sees everything and knows everything. If he knows all, that's it. Period! If God wants to give honor he can give it. He can give blessing and all kinds of grace to those he wants to give. When we believe that this is our God, we can lower ourselves and gladly serve others with humility. 1 Peter 5:5 says, "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" We believe that those who receive God's blessing are truly blessed. May we completely become one by humbly serving others.

Third, in order to be one we should acknowledge that we all are different. Imagine an orchestra. Everyone plays different instruments. If all the members played the violin, they would not make a beautiful harmony. If they all beat drums, they will quickly bore the audience. All the orchestra members follow the instruction of the conductor yet make a beautiful harmony by playing different instruments. Likewise, we differ in our characters and talents. Who is our conductor? Our Lord Jesus Christ! In a narrower concept, our conductor is the spiritual identity we all share together. Our identity is very simple: UBF. As our name means we are a campus mission community. And we accept the Bible as the word of the living God. We are not an organization like a business corporation. We are a community like a family. We believe that we have been called to obey Jesus' world mission command through laymen ministry. Under this clear spiritual identity, when we acknowledge our differences and co-work together we can become one.

If the essentials are the same, we should tolerate the differences of the non-essentials. Our true enemy is not within but without. If we conflict with our co-workers over trivial issues, we will get exhausted and have no remaining energy to fight our real enemy outside. We should co-work with one heart and mind to work for the glory of God. When we forgive and love first the person whom we feel most difficult to be one with, God will surely be pleased and bless us. May God help us to forgive each other, love one another, and build up a community of perfect unity.

What will happen when we become one? Look at verse

21b. "...so that the world may believe that you have sent me." The key message of the gospel we preach is God's love. People see whether we just preach God's word with our mouths or we actually practice our teaching in our lives. In the first century, the Christians were an absolute minority. Compared with the Roman Empire, they were a tiny group of people. The Roman Empire seemed to last forever. Yet it was conquered by Christianity. What power did Christianity have that it could conquer Rome? It was the power of love. Roman fathers just threw newborn babies away when they looked weak. The Christians took the abandoned babies and brought them up with love. The ethics of the Romans was not strong. Many husbands were not faithful and had mistresses. However, Christian husbands loved their wives and remained faithful. Christians dearly loved one another. The Romans saw this and said, "Look! How the Christians love! They are ready to die for each other!" What they saw was the love of Christ. Through the Christian community they came to know Jesus' love and believed him as Christ.

Evangelism cannot just be done with words. It also needs to be done with genuine love. If someone says, "I find this community is full of love that I cannot find elsewhere; I want to belong to this group," that is the most effective way of evangelism. People see and know how we live. If they find our community cold and indifferent to each other, who will want to stay with us? Do you want to remain in such a community? That kind of community has already failed as a church of Christ. I pray that we may truly forgive each other, love, and humbly serve each other. May God help us to love one another until other people say, "Look! How dearly UBF people love one another! They are ready to die for each other. I want to belong to them! I want to be loved by Christ!"

What did Jesus do for us to be one? Look at verse 22. "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:..." Jesus gave us the glory. What glory did he give us? The glory that we become the children of God. Therefore, becoming one means becoming one as the family and children of God. What is the eventual purpose of us becoming one as children of God? Look at verse 23. "I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." The words "I in them and you in me" mean that the Father, the Son and the children all become one. This is the ultimate purpose of God's salvation of the world. That is, all believers by becoming one with the Father and the Son participate in the utmost bliss and glory of God and enjoy him forever and ever. This community is a loving spiritual community

that abounds with God love.

In conclusion, what was Jesus' prayer for us? Still now Jesus is praying for us at the right hand of God. What is he praying for? For our comfortable lives and success in the world? I believe he is praying that all of us may be one, just as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in him. Becoming one with the love of Christ is the most important work of God that we have been given. Complete unity itself is our most powerful message to the world. In the coming year 2019, may God help us, as those who received God's redeeming love, to embrace each other, dearly love one another, and build up a loving spiritual community. Amen! and where we are going, who we are and much more.

Korea

■ Dec. 10-12, 2018 - Chung Poong



REPORT

2019 New Year Korea Staff Conference

Praise God that he blessed 2019 New Year Korea staff conference at Chung Poong Resort. Thank God for the clear and powerful messages by three messengers.

Message 1 by P. Moses Yoon. "That all of them may be one" (Jn 17). When we are one in Jesus, we can go to the whole world and bring them to Jesus.

Message 2 by Shep. Mark Gu, "Build the House of the Lord" (Haggai 1:1-15). The Lord rebuked the exiled Israelites for building their houses first. God said, first, "go to the mountain, cut the trees and build God's temple!" It is time to put God first, to raise disciples and go to preach the gospel to all nations.

Message 3 by Shep. David Nam, "When You Seek Me with All Your Heart" (Jeremiah 29:1-23). In exile, in hardships, we should cry out to the Lord, and seek first God with all our heart. The Lord will answer all our prayers and he will meet with us. He will save us from our exiles.

We also heard prayer topics for Canada national conference (by Dr. Henry Kim) on 6/28-7/1/2019 at Kingston, Ontario, for Dr. John Jun's Latin America CME from 1/23-3/6/2019, for Kiev leadership succession (by Dr. Peter Kim) and for 2019 EBSC (European Summer Bible conference) on 8/8-11 in Germany (In Him was life: Jn 1:4).

Seven pioneering staff shepherds shared their testimonies and presented prayer topics. Na Young Ho (Kwangju), Joshua Jung (Inje), Han Chung Shin (Kwangju 1.6), John Lee (Anam1), Joseph Roh (Woolsan), Abraham Cho (Sooncheon), Elijah Moon (Chongro 7).

Messengers



P. Moses Yoon



Mark Gu



David Nam



Africa

■ Dec. 14-16, 2018 - Ghana



REPORT

James Lee (Zimbabwe, Africa)
Africa UBF Coordinator

ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE

“All of Them may be One.” (Jn 17:21)



The New Year's conference for Africa was held on 14th~16th, Dec. 2018 at Hephzibah Christian Centre in Accra, Ghana. The title of the conference was "All of Them may be One." based on Jn 17:21. We give thanks and praises to God who blessed African Directors' New Year's Conference. We had a total of 42 attendants from USA(1), Korea(4), Egypt(1), Ethiopia(2), Ghana(4), Kenya(2), Nigeria(13), S.Africa(3), S.Sudan(2), Rwanda(1), Uganda(8) and Zimbabwe(1). Among them, there are 18 Korean missionaries and shepherds, and 24 native African leaders.

The three messengers were Msn. Joshua Suh (Jer 29), P. Moses Yoon(Jn 17) and Shep. Elia Peter (2Tim 4). P. Moses Yoon, UBF General Director, delivered the message, "That all of them may be one." We have learned Jesus' prayer that all of us become one, and the love of God enables us to have spiritual unity and we can go to the world to bring them to Jesus. Joshua Suh of South Africa delivered Jeremiah 29, "When You Seek Me with All Your Heart," The place of exiles is the place of God's disciplines and a new start. The exiles will be a place of blessing when they seek God with all their hearts. In exile, seeking God first with all our hearts, the Lord will meet with us and lead us into His blessing. Elia Peter of South Sudan delivered the message, "Preach the Gospel in Season and out of Season." (2Tim 4:1-8). Because of the civil war, famine and disease, it was not easy to preach the gospel. But in such situation, we

could see our leaders in S. Sudan who keep their head and teach the word of God continuously. We pray that we may keep our heads in all situations and preach the word of God in season and out of season. A special lecture was delivered by Shep. Elisha Kim of Namsan UBF, Korea. The title of his lecture was "What is History?" through the lens of the book of Esther and his lecture received well responses.

We can highlight that Native leadership is well-established in several countries especially in Nigeria, and all the GBS leaders were native leaders. They came to Ghana by bus crossing two countries for 13 hours. Three sisters from Makerere and three shepherds from Kyambogo of Uganda attended. While native leaders outnumbered Korean missionaries, the total number of regular Sunday Worship Service attendees in UBF Africa of 2018 is about 530 from 495 in 2017. We pray to reach 550-600 by 2019.

A big thanks to Msn. Truman & Maria Lee and Sarah Kim who hosted the conference and the great support of Namsan UBF center! We pray for brother Kingsley and sister Linda to grow as ancestors of faith in Ghana ministry. We give thanks to God for all the blessings we received through this conference. May God's kingdom come to 55 countries in Africa! Next year's African Directors' Conference will be held 13th (Fri) to 15th (Sun), Dec. 2019, in Cairo, Egypt.



MESSAGE 1

Elia Peter (South Sudan, Africa)

PREACH THE WORD

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Key Verse 2, "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction."



In today's passage, St Paul charged his disciple, Timothy to preach the Word. He urges Timothy to stand firm and to preach gospel continuously despite many difficulties. Let us learn how we can preach the Word in this passage. We also learn about St Paul's victorious life by his testimony.

I. Preach the word in season and out of season (1-5)

First of all, we must think why we should preach the Word. 2 Timothy 3:16a says "All Scripture is God-breathed." It means that the word of God is God's spirit. The word of God is the word of God's life. The word of God is the source of life for all people in the world and for all generations in all time. When Jesus was preaching the Word, the dead were raised, the sick were cured and the demon-possessed men were freed. If we want our people to be freed from the power of sins, we must preach the Word first of all. How should we preach the Word?

First, preach the Word in season and out of season. Look at verse 2 again. "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction." What does it mean that we must preach the Word "in season and out of season"? It means all the time. We are to be prepared whether

the time is positive or critical, whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether we are welcomed or unwelcomed. We must prepare to preach the Word always. We must prepare to preach the Word in all situations. We must be ready to preach the Word always. We have many excuses why we cannot preach the Word all the times. Mostly they say that they are too busy to preach the Word always. But they don't preach the Word because they don't have faith and shepherd mind. The Bible encourages us to be ready to preach the Word anytime. When we are ready to preach the Word anytime, God will use us all the time.

How can we be prepared to preach the Word in season and out of season? Firstly we must have broken shepherd heart toward our sheep. If we have broken shepherd heart, we eagerly want to help them until they accept Jesus through the Bible study. If we have broken shepherd heart, we can pray for them everyday. If we have broken shepherd heart, we are ready to teach them with the Word of God in season and out of season, no matter our situations.

Secondly we must have faithful heart. When we prepare the Bible study and message with all our hearts and with all our strength, we can be ready to teach them as excellent Bible teachers. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have....."

Second, correct. Why do we teach them the Word? It is because we want to help them to correct their wrong and sinful life through the Bible study. We must help them to find the way of truth and life through the Bible study. There is the power in the Word. Hebrew 4:12 says "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." We should make personal struggle before God so that we may be corrected and trained by his Word. When the Word of God grows in power within us, we are systematically equipped by the power of God for every good work

Third, rebuke. When we preach the Word to our sheep, we must rebuke their sins until they repent. When we rebuke them, we rebuke with the Word. Then the Holy

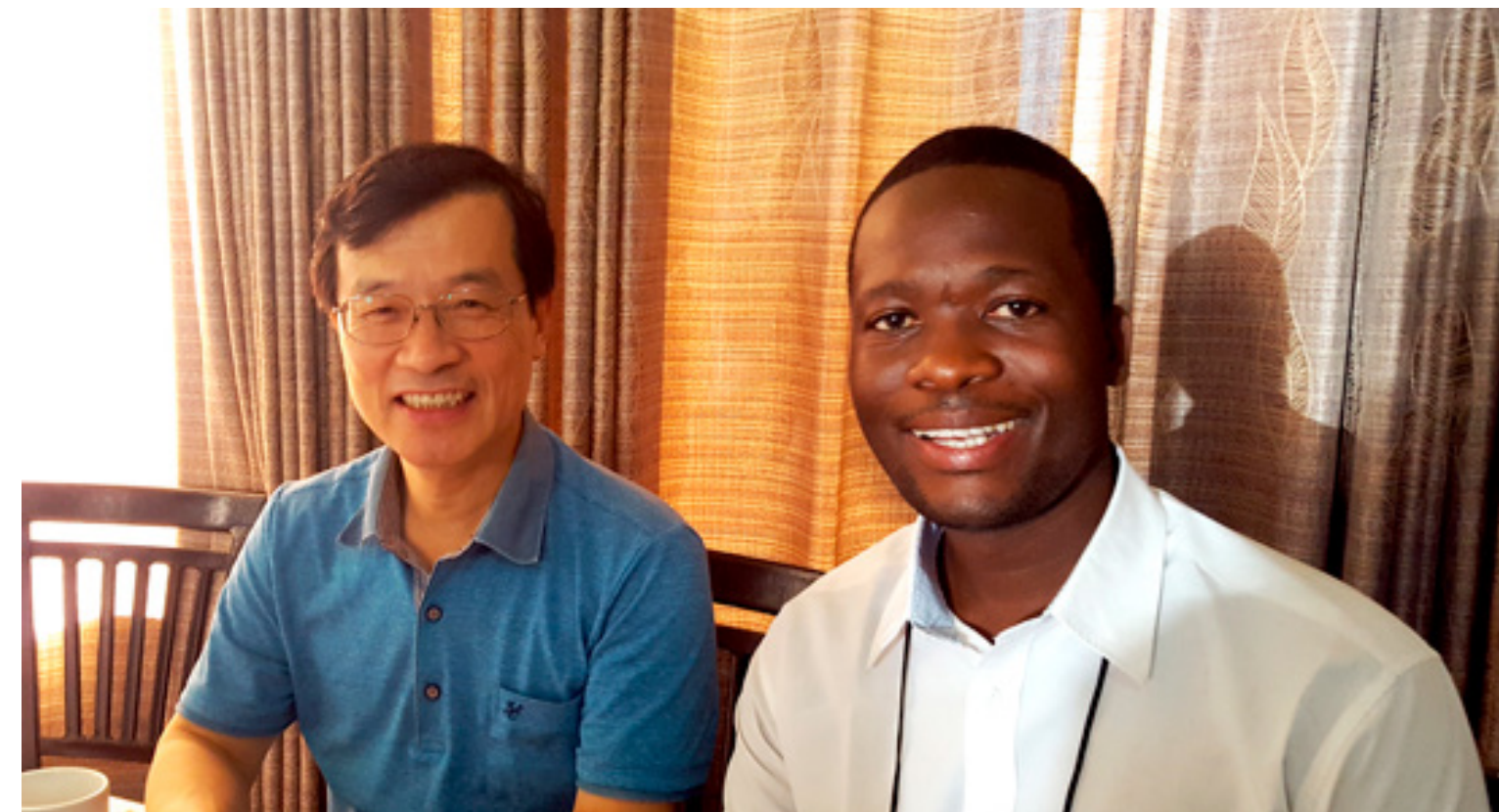
Spirit moves their hearts to repent their sins. We should do this with great patience and careful instructions through prayers. Many people are afraid to rebuke others because they don't want any trouble. But spiritual rebuking with the Word is the way of salvation for them. This is the reason why John the Baptist severely rebuked them for their sins before they met Jesus.

Fourth, encourage. When they accept spiritual rebuking and repent their sins, we must encourage them with the Word until they live good life as the children of God. We must not encourage them with human words or worldly pleasures. We must encourage them with the Word of God so that they can live Godly life. We must encourage them to know Jesus' grace of forgiveness. We must encourage them to have faith in Jesus. We must encourage them to have vision for the mission. We must always struggle how to encourage them spiritually.

Sixth, with great patience. When we feed sheep with the Word of God, we need great patience. As we experience, many sheep don't interest spiritual training and they don't want to repent. As we experience, it takes much time that a sheep is changed into a spiritual leader. From time to time we despair when our sheep are not changed for a long time. From time to time we want to give up whenever many sheep run away from the Bible study. But we must

remember how much God was patient with his people. We must have great patience when we preach the Word to our sheep.

At my teenage I don't have any desire and interest in going to church. I became criminal and master mind of group of young thieves. I was expert in making a plan for stealing. I collected some teenagers around me and taught them how to become successful thieves. Under my supervision, they carried out many stealing operations successfully. I became slave of sin and Satan. My life direction and purpose was to become professional robber. In 2003 I entered college of Medicine at Upper Nile University in Khartoum. As a fresh student, my sister shepherdess Rose Peter invited me to the UBF Bible conference and the Bible study. I was not interested in studying the Bible at first. However, my sister constantly invited me without giving up. God touched my heart through her persistence to invite me and I started one to one Bible study in Khartoum UBF center. During the Bible study, I received the word of God in Luke 15:20. "So he got up and went to his father. 'But while he was still alone way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him". Through the word of God, I felt the deep compassion of God on a useless criminal like me. God's love and grace was amazing. I decided to repent my sins and struggle to leave the criminal life through the Word



of God. UBF shepherds always encouraged me not to forget God's love, grace and compassion despite many hardship and poor situation. I struggled to grow as a faithful disciple of Jesus through the faithful Bible study and testimony writing every week. Thank be to God for transforming me from criminal person to shepherd through his living Word. Look at verses 3-4. "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." These days there are many of false teachers in Africa who tempt people who are ignorant, poor and suffered due to civil wars. They teach the false teaching what their itching ears want to hear and they will turn their ears from the truth and turn aside to myths. In such situations what we should do? Verse 5 says. "But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and discharge all duties of your ministry." Keep your head means to be serious and watchful. If we keep our head in all situations and endure

hardship and preach gospel continuously by faith, God will give us strength and spiritual insight by his grace through Holy Spirit, to enable us to overcome false teachers that deceive our young believers and to bring them back to the truth way of salvation in Christ Jesus.

II. Fight a good fight (6-8)

Paul's life is an example to endure hardship and to preach the gospel. He said in verses 6-8. "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me in that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." He poured out all his life to Jesus as a drink offering. His life was offering itself which offered to Jesus and his mission. Even when Paul was waiting for his martyrdom, there was no hint of sorrow or fear in him. Rather, he was joyful. Though he knew that he would die soon, he was so happy because he

completed his mission as a victor and as a racer who completed the race. He did not forget that this world is in warfare, and he was a soldier of Christ. He fought against the sinful nature in him. He fought against Satan who tempted him to live an easy-going life. He also regarded himself as a racer who pressed on toward the goal. He ran to win the prize for which God had called him for heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Php 3:14) Our Christian life is the life of soldiers of Christ who must fight against the sin of the world and Satan. St. Paul was a victor who fought the good fight. We must be good soldiers of Christ who win victory over the world and complete the world mission. St. Paul was so happy because he knew that there would be the crown of righteousness for him from the Lord Jesus in the kingdom of heaven. If we are follow in Jesus' steps through obeying our world mission in great patience and faith, one day we will receive the crown of righteousness.

I was not interested to preach the word after I moved to South Sudan. It was because my business was top prior-

ity in my life. And I was thinking that the time would be not good to preach the word before I settle down with my economic situation. I was thinking that I am still young and I have to prepare for my future first. After I finished intensive medical training successfully, I applied for examination of Britain Royal Fellowship. Unfortunately I failed the examination. I wrote a project to provide a low cost medical service to poor people. Also the project failed. I tried various ways for success; still I failed in them all. I was so depressed and lost hope in my academic, career and personal life. The sense of failure controlled my life. I couldn't have any hope in my future life. Nevertheless, I worked harder for my Pharmacy business. However, all my worldly efforts seemed in vain.

In 2016 Northern Africa conference in Juba, God's Word convicted me again through preparing the message as a messenger. And also his servant missionary Andrew Kim and Dr. Oyor Moses rebuked me my laziness and selfishness during the time. I repented my laziness and selfness, not to participate in the campus mission faithfully. I decided to change my direction by putting God's ministry to top priority instead of my business. Since then I began to write Bible testimony every week without failure. I also visited Juba University, Upper Nile University and Catholic university for fishing sheep every day. Through my struggling with the full of God's spirit, I could meet with some sheep God led. Not only that but also God blesses my Pharmacy business so that I can support our ministry independently.

Since South Sudan was independent from Sudan which is the Muslim nation 6 years ago, we have been suffering beyond description because of the civil war. Many people were killed because of the civil war as well as famine and diseases with severe shortage of food and medicines. Many people are trying to leave our nation because of the suffering. We must be struggling to survive everyday in the situation. In the situation, to preach the Word in our campus is so hard. But today's passage commands us to preach the Word in season and out of season. We must preach the Word in any situation and any time because they need the Word of life. I learn that our people need the Word of life more than others. I believe that our people need to have the faith in Jesus and in his Kingdom through the Bible study more than others. In this time, I accept the Word again deeply, "Preach the Word." I praise God who bless me to live a Bible teacher in South Sudan. Let us pray to evangelize the entire Africa by preaching the Word in season and out of season. Amen!



MESSAGE 2

Joshua Suh (South Africa, Africa)

YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME WHEN YOU SEEK ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Jeremiah 29:1-23

Key Verse 29:13, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."



Welcome all of you to the 2019 Africa New Year's conference! I am blessed to have this opportunity to share and fellowship around God's Word with you in this conference. I have been always a junior missionary among our missionaries in Africa, and I am still feeling the same though I have been 21 years in my mission field. I never missed to attend this New Year Conference since 1999 when I joined for the first time. Though the number of our missionaries attending the conference

has significantly decreased while the number of our local shepherds has increased. This brings me mixed feelings of happiness and sadness or precisely longing, a longing to miss the missionaries with whom I used to meet once a year or at least once every two years. But I am now happy to see their spiritual descendants and the fruit of their hard working, particularly from Nigerian ministry who became the spiritual leaders in their places.

Today's passage is very relevant to our stories, a story

of our mission in Africa. Though our stories are not fully developed yet, through the lens of Jeremiah 29 it gives us a glimpse of how our stories will end. I pray that God may teach us to understand His ways, His plans, and His ultimate purposes through this passage.

Look at verses 1. This verse describes the recipients of Jeremiah's letter. They are the surviving elders, priests, prophets and all other people carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. The phrase "surviving elders" shows us that there had been more elders but few survived from Babylonian's brutal attack and trip into captivity. Ironically the surviving elders most probably heard Jeremiah's prophesy concerning their captivity, but they did not listen to him. Even in exile the surviving elders continued to look to false prophets who told them that the exile would soon end.

Look at verse 2. It tells us that Jeremiah's letter was sent immediately after king Jehoiachin, queen mother, court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, craftsmen and the artisans were taken into exile to Babylon. So his letter is like something that gives the newly-arrived exiles a direction. Indeed this was not the first time that they were taken into captivity. This happened 3 times, which are mentioned in details in the Book of 2 Kings.

The first deportation occurred during the reign of Jehoiakim around 605 B.C. A total of ten thousand were taken into captivity including Daniel. About 8 years later, this second deportation occurred. The third and final deportation occurred 587 B.C. when the temple and Jerusalem were completely destroyed. Jeremiah's letter was sent just after 2nd deportation but before the complete destruction of Jerusalem.

During this time of trouble the people of Judah and their leaders became more and more divided. This division was both religious and political. It had inside and outside issues. But the main issues that divided the nation was whether they should surrender themselves to Babylon or revolt against it by seeking help from Egypt and the neighbouring smaller countries. Most of the exiles listened to false prophets

concerning their return, and those were still in Judah also listened to false prophets that they had escaped judgment and nothing further was coming. Under the influence of false prophets the exiles were becoming hesitant to make any effort to accept their situation. They never intended to settle down for a long stay in Babylon. For this reason the Lord gave clear direction through Jeremiah's letter both to the exiles and to the people remained in Jerusalem.

Look at verse 4. "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:" Verse 4 starts with Jeremiah telling the people that this message is coming directly from God. Because there were many false prophets, Jeremiah makes it clear that the content of his letter is the word of God. He calls God as the LORD Almighty and the God of Israel. Our English version uses "LORD" in all capital letters to denote God's name, "Yahweh or Jehovah". Jehovah our God is Eternal God, the Creator, and All powerful God, who controls all history and the universe including the captor of Judah, the Babylon and its king, Nebuchadnezzar.

That is why in verse 4 God says, "to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon". God says, it was not

Nebuchadnezzar, but was the LORD who carried them into exile to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar was an instrument that the Lord chose in order to bring divine judgment upon His unrepentant people. So they were in Babylon according to God's sovereign will. It was not a result of their bad decision or bad luck. It was designed by God.

Why did God then carry them into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon? It was because of their sins and disobediences. They abandoned and turned away from the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel. In chapters 27 and 28, Jeremiah warned the people of Judah several times about God's imminent judgment and to submit themselves to Babylon. Despite of his efforts, they rejected his advice. As a consequence, the country was devastated, and many of them were taken into exile. God used Babylon as His agent of judgment against Israel for their sins of idolatry and rebellion against Him. In chapter 29, Jeremiah continues with the same message. He sent this letter to give them a clear direction how to live as the exiles in Babylon.

For the newly-arrived Jewish exiles Babylon was the place where they did not want to be. It was the place of misery. It was the place of judgment. But God says it differently.



It was God who carried them into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Therefore Babylon is not a place of punishment, but a place of discipline. It is a place that they can start afresh. It is a place where they can meet the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel again in a strange land.

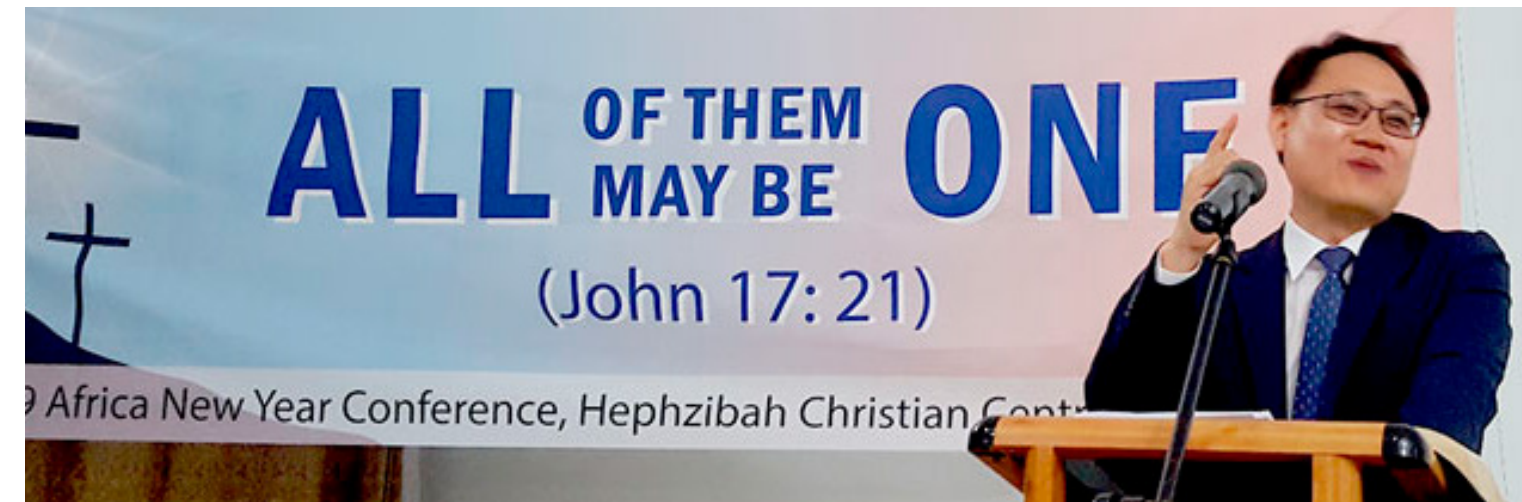
Have you been in a place or in a situation where you don't



want to be? Or put it differently, what place have you been to that you would never want to go back? For me I can say that I do not want to go back into the military though I cherish those years I spent. Probably you have similar experiences like mine. What I learned from verse 2 is that it is God who leads and puts us in the places where we are living. The place where you are living, is the place where you can meet your God. I know how much some of our missionaries are physically suffering from in their mission fields due to poor infrastructure, shortage of provisions or even petrol. Though the place you are living and serving God's mission is not comfortable nor pleasant, that is a place where you can develop deeper relation with the Lord Almighty, the God of yours, the God of our mission church UBF. I pray that God may strengthen and encourage each of us daily and moment by moment to overcome our life challenges and all adverse situations.

What did God then tell the people to do while in exile in Babylon? Look at verses 5-6. "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease." The exiled people of Judah were pulled away from the land where they were born, where the temple of God was located, and the land was called as the Promised Land. They were forced to relocate a thousand miles away from their homes, to a very strange land where everything worked and functioned differently. Probably they experienced dislocation, like everything is out of joint and nothing really works the way it is supposed to. Probably they were fearful, suffering from terrible depression because they could not accept their situation. False prophets were promising empty hope of a quick return. So they never considered their stay in Babylon as their permanent stay. They hesitated to do anything permanent.

But God's direction was different. God was telling that they would not return to their own land in any short time. They should settle down in the exiled land by building houses, planting gardens and eating what they would produce. God did not want them to remain in despair by dwelling on their past sins and failures. God did not want them to hold false hope of a quit return. Instead of complaining about their situation as the captives, God wants them to do something positive. God wants them to overcome their situation by making the best of it. God wants them to live there not as the losers or fugitives, but as God's representatives. God wants them to be the good examples in the exiled land. Most of all. God wants them to learn that the way they live



in adverse circumstances, will prove their faith in God.

Secondly, God wants them to marry and have sons and daughters, and to find wives for their sons and give their daughters in marriage. The instruction of "finding wives for their sons and giving their daughters in marriage" tells us that the exiles would be in Babylon for at least two generations. That is 70 years according to verse 10. This means that the generation that went into exile would not return home. They would perish in the exiled land.

Probably this instruction would be very embarrassing for the exiles. Especially those who were mistaken that there still was hope of immediate return. But God plainly says that they should not hold false hope of a quit return. Instead they had to focus on the future generation that they would experience restoration in the land. This requires them of faith and hope in God.

People tend to focus on the things that has instant benefits. They are not much keen to a long-term investment. We are also reluctant to or sometimes show no interest in something that related to future generations. It also applies to me. I do not spend times for the long investments such as building houses, or even hesitant to plant a tree.

Couple of years ago msn Daniel Rhee in South Africa shared a message about sower and reaper. He said we cannot be the only reapers tasting the fruits of someone's labour. We must also be the sowers expecting that in future someone will taste the fruits of our sweats. He emphasized that we must learn to have pleasures both as sowers and reapers. The seeds we sow now will be reaped in the next generations.

One thing that is sure to prepare for the next generation, is the disciple-making ministry. Raising the disciples of Jesus requires us times and patience. It does not happen in a day. It requires almost entire our lives. It is a very long-term, life-time investment. But this is what we should focus on. To prepare for the future generation, and to raise the disciples of Jesus, we should first increase our members.

God says through Jeremiahs, "increase in number there; do not decrease"(6b). In fact many had died from famine, others died by the sword. Those who remained in Jerusalem were the poorest people. Most people were taken into exiles. So the exiled must multiply, and not die out.

Soon some of our missionaries will retire along with our senior shepherds. We must not decrease in number, but increase bringing more and more souls to our Lord Jesus, and raising them as the disciples of Jesus.

We do not choose the mission field or the nation we were born. We were sent by God to this beautiful continent, Africa to serve African souls. I know I am more blessed that I serve the mission in one of the best countries in Africa. I often felt sorry for other missionaries when I heard their sufferings and challenges in different regions in Africa. But now I am convinced that wherever our God leads us, the place where we are residing must be our permanent stay until the next generation who will enjoy God's blessings, is prepared. If there were already sowers before us, we will enjoy some fruits of harvest. If we should be the sowers, then we should plant the seeds for the generations to come. I pray that let us increase in number, particularly raising the disciples of Jesus.

Like their ancestors in Egypt, who grew very numerous

amidst all their afflictions and bondage, God has a plan to use Babylon as an incubator to raise them as a nation. So they have to grow and increase in number until the Lord releases them. Likewise, in the place where we are now, we should endure and prepare for the next generations, so that the place where we are in, will turn into a place of blessing, place where we can prove our faith in God. I pray that God may strengthen and empower us, especially those who are in adverse situation that we can have a sense of permanent stay, pleasures as sowers and leapers, and not to decrease, but to increase and grow.

Thirdly, God commands them to seek the peace and prosperity of their oppressor. Let's read verse 7 together. "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Why should they seek and pray for the peace and prosperity of their enemies? It is not because Babylon deserve it, but because of the exiled. That is the way God could bless His people in there. For Judah, the Babylonians were the worst of all the enemies. Nobody would actually think about praying for Babylon and its peace. Instead, one would pray for its destruction.

In original Hebrew version, word shalom() is used 3 times in verse 7. It is translated as "peace" or "prosperity", but shalom goes beyond the absence of conflict. It includes whole, welfare and blessing. For the Jews praying for shalom was only directed to their fellow Jews. They never thought of praying for enemies' shalom. However, ironically peace comes through peace and prosperity of their enemies.

Therefore, they have to pray for Babylon becoming the place of shalom. In verses 1 to 4, Babylon is depicted as a place of exile, of suffering, of banishment and humiliation for Judah. But in verse 5 to 9, Babylon changes the status and becomes the place of Lord's blessings. When the exiled pray for the Babylon, it becomes the place in which the exiled experience all the blessings associated with life in the Promised Land again.

The new beginning is also possible. Nevertheless, there is a condition for this: the exiles have to forget about their false hope through false prophecy as mentioned in verses 8-9. Most of all, they have to change their attitude and accept their new reality. They must use the time of exile as a time of reflection about their own sins and disobedience. Most of all, they have to accept God plans there in Babylon. Let's read verse 11 together. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Many



often misunderstand this verse that God has a plan for me that is good, so clearly this suffering I'm going through will end soon and then my prosperity will begin.

I also had the same expectation when I was given this verse. After long year of study and passing board exams to become an attorney, I expected that I would soon become financially independent. But I struggled and often frustrated. One day when I was down, my wife msn Jackie gave me this verse. This verse indeed gave me encouragement and I expected that soon my challenges would be gone. But later I was retrenched and had to run a law firm in my house. It lasted for about 10 years. Though some years I made decent profits, the income was not what I expected. After such long endurance, last year God opened a new door for me that the Embassy hired me.

Through this long process I have learned of true blessings. It was not related to financial things. Rather it is related to the relationship with my God. If I were busy with heavy workload, I would not have such a time to study and meditate the word of God. If there were no challenges in my life, I would not go deeper in my prayers. I have learned how to

seek and find the Lord with all my hearts.

For the exiles, the time when they would return home was the main concern. But God's main concern was not a time when they would return home. The ultimate purpose of exiling His people is not to bring them back home, but to lead them to establish right relationship with Him.

Look at verses 12-14. Let's read them all together: "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

Here "You will call upon me and come and pray to me" means not just crying out in their distress, or out of sufferings due to their sins. Instead, it is a sincere return in their personal prayer and worship of Him. Here 'seeking and finding' shows a complete return to spiritual faithfulness. God expected them to be refined by going through God's judgment, and be changed into the kind of people who will conform to His plans for their hope and future. God is not simply "erasing" all their past sins. Instead, by exiling them into Babylon, God wants to bring them back to Him. He wants to full commit themselves to God and obey to and walk in His words through the refining furnace of Babylon. We know 'to be blessed' does not necessarily mean that we merely avoid the sufferings, challenges, or God's punishment. Sometimes to experience true blessing, we have to go through them. In such process we are refined. We are purified, and be able to have a right relationship with our God. And to have right relationship with our God we have

seek the Lord with all our hearts. When we search Him with all our heart, he will be found. When we call upon Him and come and pray to Him, our God the Almighty always listens to our prayers. But we must remember that seeking God with all our hearts will not always result in fixes for life's problems. It does not always guarantee that you will be prosperous and successful in this world, particularly in finance. Instead, by seeking God with all our hearts we find God's bigger picture in our life. We find Him, His ways, His plans, His love and His purpose in our lives. Such spiritual blessings are guaranteed.

In conclusion, our stories in Africa will continue. We will experience the same sufferings, challenges, and sometimes failures. But we know God's plan for us. We know what we have do: we have to seek our God with all our heart. We have to pray to our God who listens to our prayers. Let us not decrease in number. Let us grow and increase in number raising the disciples of Jesus. Let us strive to attain the spiritual maturity. By doing so let us prepare for the next generations.

We will suffer in the process. We will be challenged and sometimes we will be worn out or even fail. But the outcome is not that important. What is important is to have God in our lives. Our God is the source of spiritual blessings and prosperities in our life, and the life to come. Ultimately, we have all the same hope and a future. That is to inherit the Kingdom of God living with Him in eternity. I pray that God may continue to encourage our missionaries and shepherds in 2019 that we all work hard for the works of God's salvation and the disciple-making ministries in each African countries. Amen!



M.E.

■ Dec. 21-23, 2018 - Cyprus



REPORT

IT WAS AS IF WE WERE IN HEAVEN

The Middle East New Year conference was held on Dec. 21-23, 2018, at Larnaca, Cyprus, which was Barnabas's hometown. We gathered to listen to God's word and shared a very warming fellowship of love with missionaries who have been faithfully serving the Lord. The missionaries to the Middle East have house churches for security reasons and they are isolated regionally and are often very lonely, so they have a lot of struggles. Through conferences like this, they are able to meet each other and have the opportunity to be encouraged.

The first message was delivered by Pastor Teddy from the U.S. on Matthew 22:34-40: "The greatest commandment of Jesus." The message can be summarized in the following way: Jesus taught that the motives of a man's heart, the mind-set, that is, basic heart attitude is very important. The mindset which God wants is love for God and love for one's neighbor. All of God's commands hang on the love of God that is revealed through our love of our neighbors. Even though we may obey God's law to the letter, if our action does not include God's love, then it is not from God. The motive and purpose for all the words and commands God has given us is love. Our motive and purpose for keeping any commandment of God must also all come from our love for God. With every year that goes by, we must become more like Jesus and love God more and love our neighbors more.

The second message was delivered by Sh. Young Chan Oh, the Korea UBF Middle-East coordinator on Deuteronomy 6:4-9, titled, "Love God." God said to the Israelites who entered the land of Canaan that he alone was their God and commanded them to love him with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their strength. Through this

message, the M.E. missionaries made a decision to know him and love him with all their hearts. The essence of faith is in loving God. To love God means to love his word. All the attendees set a spiritual direction to know God, to know his word, and have a loving relationship with him.

The night of the second day consisted of special songs and a special show by 2nd gens. Thanks to them, there was a heightened sense of the atmosphere of Christmas. In particular, M. Paul and Lydia's children, Lydia, Paul and Pauline joined this conference. They made a 30-minute movie about students who are lost and under pressure of school studies and intoxicated by drinking, temptation of games and adulterous materials. The movie showed the process of discovering the meaning of joy in Christmas in a very modern and creative way. We were amazed at the movie, their creativity and talent. When we help each other to discover and fan into flame our unique gifts, our 2nd gens will be able to excel and exceed the work of their parents.

The third message was delivered by P. Moses Yoon, titled: "They may also become one" based on John 17. Missionary Y delivered the closing message on 1Jn 4:7-21. He said that we should love others first as those who have received God's love first. He teaches the Bible to a young taxi driver from Uganda who came to Dubai with a dream. One day he took a day off and served him saying, "You serve so many people as a taxi driver. Today I will serve you as your driver." His humble serving and love moved the brother's heart.

It was a short 4-day conference but it was as if we were in heaven, surrounded by the truth of God's word and overflowing with fellowship and love for one another. We give thanks and praise to God for all the grace he has given us.

MESSAGE 1

Teddy Hembekides (Triton, USA)

THE MINDSET OF CHRIST

Matthew 22:34-40

Key Verse 22:37-39, Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"



Before we get to our key verse, let me tell you how this conversation came about. As always, these people were trying to trap Jesus to find a reason to kill him. They had tried to trap him with a question about taxes (if you remember) and so Jesus gave them a brilliant answer. [Give to Caesar what

is Caesar's and to God what is God's, he had said to them.] After this as you also know, the Sadducees, who didn't believe in anything they couldn't see or touch also tried to trap him with one of their intellectual arguments. They told a terribly sorrowful story about a widowed woman who ended up marrying 7 brothers, after each brother died leaving her to marry the next brother in line. Then they asked him: "Whose wife she would be at the resurrection?" Of course it was a ridiculous story designed to mock the resurrection and afterlife, the things they didn't believe. Jesus simply gave these avowed enemies of his a kinder-garden level Bible study which goes something like this: (22:29-32) "You think too much with your head and not enough with your heart and so you have no way to act on faith. With the things of God, you need to use faith of the heart, for if God can create life, what makes you think he can't recreate it or even raise it up from the dead?" It amazes me how Jesus always stood as a shepherd and Bible teacher— without fear or anger or hatred in his heart— even among his hateful enemies who wanted to kill him! His answers to them are brilliant and full of wisdom. But that's not our focus here! Actually our focus today is on his MINDSET— the very FOUNDATION upon which he stood. It's that MINDSET and FOUNDATION that shaped everything in his life— it shaped his actions— his words; it even shaped the very way he felt and thought. That's what I want us to consider today.

When I was asked to share a short message at this conference, I thought a lot about what word I can share to encourage each other. Our General Director is going to give us the word of God for this year's Ministry direction. But what else can encourage us in our situation? So I thought, like Jesus, we're all called as Bible teachers and shepherds to different places in the Middle East, and to other parts of the world. This is our primary calling when we first came to know Jesus as our Messiah. We studied the word of God, and soon realized that we too are called to teach Bible— especially the gospel of our Lord Jesus to young people, to shepherd them, raising them as his disciples. But WHEREVER we have gone out into the world, there have

always been enemies of Jesus and of the gospel, whether in the Middle East or in Korea or America, even though the enemies usually take on different forms and shapes— and they bring on all kinds of different threats. And if it's one thing we all know very well, it's easy to become afraid of them. But it doesn't start out that way. In other words, we don't start out fearing them. But in time, as we observe the hostility— maybe not necessarily against us but perhaps against others— and when we observe the hatred they hold for the Lord and his gospel, somehow— fear begins to slowly grow inside until it becomes a serious problem.

So, I think we all know how easy it is to fear them. Not only fear them, we know it's also easy to grow to hate them too. It's easy to avoid them, and it's so easy to make excuses to not even associate with them because we say they're God's enemies. But Jesus never did that! He didn't fear them! He didn't hate them! He didn't avoid them! And he certainly didn't DISASSOCIATE himself from them! Instead, he related to them and interacted with them even when he knew that they would eventually crucify him. And he was not alone in doing this. In other words, we can't say that Jesus did this because oh, he was Jesus! Well, Paul and Stephen and Barnabas and Silas and others did the same thing— as did so many early Christians. These days we're studying the book of Acts at Triton, and even though we have studied Acts many times before, I find that I have missed so much. Our forefathers of faith had many problems. They really had as many problems among themselves as we do, if not more! But let me just say that I take great comfort to know that! It's not that I take comfort that they had as many problems in the church and among each other as we ourselves do in our day and time. But I do take great comfort in the fact that, as a church, with all our problems. We're NORMAL! BUT here's what I'm trying to say in all this: As I study Acts, whatever problems our ancestors had to resolve among themselves [and of course they did resolve them in prayer and the word of God, and the intervention of the Holy Spirit], they didn't seem to have much problem in their dealings with the enemies of Christ. In other words, they didn't fear them! They didn't hate them! They didn't avoid them! And they certainly didn't cut themselves off from them! Somehow they were like Jesus in that way! They were able to live among the enemy and to embrace them even when at times the cost was high! It amazes me that while they struggled with one another here and there about small things, at the same time, they had that kind of glorious MINDSET when they dealt with the enemies of Christ and of the gospel. What then was it about them that helped them conquer their fears and their hatreds and such in such a way as to continue to share the

word of life with the enemy just as Christ and his apostles did?

Of course, we have many answers, and they're probably right. You might say that they loved Jesus more than their own lives and it's true. He might say they deeply knew Jesus' grace and that's also true. She might say that they were obedient to Jesus' world mission command, and that's true too. But although all this is good, still it doesn't seem to be enough to shake off the fears and hatred and bitterness that Satan throws upon our hearts when the enemies of the cross make their attacks on us personally, or on our family or friends, or on the church body. When Satan attacks through enemies of Christ, usually it's a powerful blow that shakes us to the core. And every time it happens, it leaves a little residue of fear and of hate and of anger and of bitterness (and such) that festers and grows in the background until one day we find that we're just totally paralyzed to do

nothing except just to maintain our own feeble faith before the hostile enemy. So, how did the ancestors do it when the enemy was as powerful and deadly as he is wherever we are today in every country and mission field? I think to answer this question we have to go back to our passage and examine what's on Jesus' heart— that is, we have to examine Jesus' mindset at the moment he was being set upon by the enemy trying to trap him and kill him. And that's the MINDSET that the disciples learned and passed on to our ancestors.

As we said before, Jesus was beset by his enemies. Look at verses 34-36. "Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together." This looks like a renewed effort at trapping him. Like a boxing match where there's a left jab then a right jab and then another left jab. Verse 35 goes on to say that "One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:" It seems as if after

discussing it among themselves, they settled on a confident one among them— one who was an expert in matters of the law who probably assured them that he had a tricky question Jesus couldn't possibly answer, or even if he did have an answer, his answer would surely be controversial enough! So, if you'd look at verse 36 he says to Jesus: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" The question seems innocent enough. And the man himself sounds sincere enough. But it's all devious! I don't want to spend too much time explaining why that is so, because it's not our focus. Our focus, thankfully, is only on the answer Jesus gave him. THAT WAS AT THE HEART OF OUR LORD— HIS MINDSET— what we want to focus, because all the answers are there. But it's necessary at least to briefly explain why the question is devious. Besides the Ten Commandments, the Jews had hundreds of laws, perhaps as many as 613 LAWS by one historian's account. Some religious leaders distinguished between



what they considered “MAJOR” laws and others to be “MINOR” laws, and deemed some laws to be more binding than other laws. While other religious authorities taught that ALL LAWS— one and all— were the same and therefore equally binding— and that it was dangerous and heretical to make any distinction between one law and another. Maybe now you can understand how an answer to this man’s question might provoke controversy among the different groups. We know very well how Jesus answered, but what does it mean to us that he answered that way?

Before we talk about the answer Jesus gave, and to be fair, this very trap question itself is a remarkably brilliant question— ingenious in its design for whoever designed it. Of course, most people don’t think so! We think it’s easy simply but that’s only because we have 2000 years of Christian history behind an answer we know very well. But in reality, who on earth can answer this kind of an impossibly difficult question? What do you think you could? What is the greatest of commandments? Suppose we ask Matthew? He’s is a simple man of faith and he’s content with what God has given him. He has a godly wife who loves him and whom he loves. He has a good job that puts enough food on the table, it pays the bills and there’s enough for the kids’ school. Matthew’s church family is small and sacrificial; and they take good care of each other AS WELL AS each other’s sheep. But Matthew has a long time pain of heart— an anguish! His teenage son is rebellious and never listens to Matthew. What do you think the foremost GREATEST COMMANDMENT that’s on Matthew’s heart? I’d say probably, “Children, obey your parents in everything.” (Colossians 3:20;



Exodus 20:12) Alright, what about Elizabeth? She’s really a devoted woman of faith and prayer. She too has a wonderful church family that loves her and even helps her take care of her children and her sheep whenever her husband is away. Because of Elizabeth’s holy influence, her college age children live a holy life even though they grew up in an unholy environment. But Elizabeth has a deep anguish and pain of heart! Her husband’s lustful heart wanders away so often. So, what do you think might be the greatest commandment on Elizabeth’s list? I would say, surely: “You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14) Here’s something funny. Some people never study the Bible, never even open a Bible, never live by the teaching of the Bible, never even CARE what the Bible says or doesn’t say. But somehow if their son or daughter should ever do or say anything disrespectful to them, they quickly say to them: “You must honor your father and mother.” How is it that suddenly to them this commandment has become the greatest commandment? Do you understand such people, because I don’t!!

So what is the point of all this? The man’s question wasn’t easy to answer at all. And who can correctly answer a question like this! The truth is this: As many as there are commandments in the Bible, so also are there opinions as to which of them is the greatest. Why? Because as many as there are commandments in the Bible, so also are there selfish and self centered motives in the human heart to consider one commandment greater or lesser than the other. In other words, it is within our human nature to focus all the Bible teachings on whatever serves our own best interest FIRST and FOREMOST— on that which first serves our own benefit and welfare. Most people look out for what is best for them, even if they have to use the Bible to serve their own purpose. Churches do this too at times, using the word of God and God’s holy commands to settle their own petty controversies and to serve their own purposes. The result is usually BROKEN LOVE RELATIONSHIPS, DIVISION and FACTIONS and DISUNITY; and I’m sorry to also say that sometimes we’re guilty of this as well. But here’s the truth. If we could learn Jesus’ MINDSET, learn to look to God’s best interest as Jesus did, there would be no such things among us. That’s why Jesus is our exemplar— our paradigm— He’s the one whose heart always looked to God’s honor and God’s glory in everything! And this brings us to what we have been talking about from the start. It brings us to what’s on Jesus’ heart— his MINDSET! That beautiful heart and MINDSET that was always able to stand as a shepherd and Bible teacher even among the most vicious of enemies, even those who wanted to kill him; not only that, but Jesus did so without fear or anger or even a shred of hate in his heart! How is that possible? Look at

his answer! There we see the foundation and source of all that’s not selfish, all that’s not self-seeking, all that’s not self-glorifying, and we see what it really means to be completely selfless to God!

Finally then, we look at his answer to this most difficult of questions. Look at verses 37-40. Without hesitation Jesus, answered like this: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Jesus said. Imagine that! If this was common knowledge, the Pharisee wouldn’t have bothered to ask a question like this. But in all likelihood, it wasn’t on his list of top commandments. That’s not a hard conclusion to reach. If the human heart apart from Christ is hopelessly selfish, then loving God wasn’t first on his heart. But, Jesus didn’t stop with this commandment. He went on. “And the second is like it.” “The second,” meaning that there is a second greatest commandment that ranks on the top together with that first one. “The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Wow! Still Jesus didn’t stop there either. He ended it all with a bombshell. “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” In other words, One is the greatest; the second is equally great like the first; they are both equal in greatness; but that’s not all. The entire set of commandments, and every word of God that has ever been spoken by the living God directly or indirectly depend on one fulfilling these two commandments! And, therefore, unless one loves God not partially, nor symbolically— but completely— selflessly— sacrificially— willingly— joyfully— with all one’s whole being, mind, body, and soul, and with all one’s strength— he or she is breaking one and all commandments. More than that! Unless one who loves God completely also loves his neighbor in the same way, as he selflessly willingly joyfully loves himself, he or she is also breaking one and all commandments.

What was Jesus saying? What was he teaching? I think THE FIRST THING he was teaching is that loving God with our whole being is the FIRST AND FOREMOST PRIORITY AND PRIVILEGE we have as his children. It is stated as a commandment, but in essence it is the greatest privilege we have to love God completely with our whole being. We shouldn’t have to be commanded to love God as the priority of our lives. Loving God completely should flow naturally out of our whole being. I believe THE SECOND THING Jesus was teaching is that loving God completely with our whole being is ESSENTIAL TO FULFILLING GOD’S PURPOSE IN OUR LIVES. In other words, unless I love God completely with my whole being, I won’t be able to do what God wants me to do as his servant during my

lifetime. THE THIRD THING Jesus was teaching is that loving our neighbor is also A PRIORITY AND A PRIVILEGE FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD created in God’s image to reflect God’s glory. In other words, God commands that his children display glory of his image toward one another— the greatest of which is love. And this too need not be a command either, for as children who love their Father in fullness, it is the deepest desire of our heart to also reflect his glory expressed in love. And THE FOURTH THING Jesus was teaching is that loving our neighbor is also ESSENTIAL TO FULFILLING THE PURPOSE for which God created us, which is to bless others as we have been blessed by God! In other words, unless I love my neighbor as I myself have been loved, how can I actively share in that amazing grace and mercy that was so freely given to me to share with all sinners— of whom I am the worst! In another gospel this Pharisee is quoted as responding to Jesus like this: “Well said, teacher,” “You are right” (Mark 12:32) But this man was as much in the dark as any person who hasn’t met Christ. What Jesus was teaching couldn’t have possible made any sense to him at all. He was like all other self righteous people who think they’re fulfilling God’s laws in all perfection just because they can recite verses and mumble prayers.

So what did Jesus mean when he said LOVE GOD COMPLETELY, and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF? And who could possibly do such a thing among us wretched human beings? No one can! And that’s the truth! Jesus wasn’t only teaching the Pharisee a Biblical truth— He was challenging him to take a good hard look at himself— at his own heart— so that he might recognize how impossible it is for anyone to love God or fellow man so completely! That’s precisely why God sent His Son the Christ (41-46) who alone, through his life, through his ministry, through his sacrifice— fulfilled the Law and the Prophets in their entirety— loving God utterly and completely as required by the Law and the Prophets— and loving his fellow man in the same way which perfectly reflected the glory of God and honored God’s purpose in man’s life. Jesus sacrificed himself selflessly— willingly— joyfully— completely— and he did so in perfect love for God and in perfect love for you and me— his neighbors— even while we were his enemies (Romans 5:10). And it was only through that sacrifice and through the promise of a new birth, and that of a new life and the gift of the Holy Spirit— only through those things, that you and I are now able to live out the FULLNESS of these two greatest commandments in our own lives. It’s only through Jesus’ living in us as we also live in him that we’re able to love God and our neighbor— especially the one we consider as an enemy. That’s how our ancestors

lived and overcame! Because that's the mindset of Christ, the foundation upon which Christ sacrificed everything to restore to you and to me that same MINDSET as his own.

And that's what God intended for you and me from the start. He intended for us to experience that MINDSET—and by exercising it—to also experience the victory that comes with it. And what victory is that? It's the victory of loving God so completely in Christ now that serving him is always a priority above everything else in my life. It is also the victory of loving my neighbor so completely in Christ as well that I'm now ready to sacrifice my feelings, my honor, my comfort, and whatever else it takes just for the privilege of reflecting Christ's love to my neighbor, even if they reject it. My greater victory is when I reflect Christ's love as a priority in my life. I believe that MINDSET is victory! It's the MINDSET founded upon loving God and neighbor with the power to keep away all fear or hatred or anger or bitterness or whatever else the devil throw at us by Christ's enemies. It was our Lord's MINDSET that triumphed. Our ancestors learned that foundational MINDSET of loving God and neighbor and they too triumphed amidst their vicious enemies.

How can I love my neighbor, the enemy in such a way as not to hate him or to fear him, even when he is hostile and caused me such terrible harm, even when he still causes me harm? Perhaps even if my neighbor is my enemy, he is still my Father's lost child, and I need not fear, hate nor shun him. Consider what he's been missing all his life, that which I have an abundance of already. And the abundance I have is not because I deserve it, but it was an abundance that was given me by God's grace and mercy. So, what I have in abundance, and what my neighbor is missing, is the love of a Father he doesn't know about since he is an orphan, orphaned and estranged by the common enemy who had once done the same thing to me. In other words, my neighbor and I aren't all that different. I am just privileged. So my privilege now is I need to reflect the love he doesn't know of—the love of a father he isn't aware of, so that he might come to the saving grace of a loving Father. The Bible teaches us that "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." (1 John 4:18)

God in his great wisdom has called us to serve his purpose in this world, as Bible teachers and shepherds to a troubled world. He has sent us to countries everywhere, even to places where enemies of Christ and of the gospel are openly hostile, and in other places they are subtle and shrewd like a snake in the bush. But wherever we are, the real enemy is the same regardless of how he manifests

himself. However the neighbor the Lord wants us to love, though he may seem as our enemy, is a lost child of God, used and abused by the real enemy. He or she is still the neighbor we Christians are called to love as we love ourselves, by a loving God whom we love with all our being. Let's love God and each other as well as that hostile neighbor as we continue to serve God's purpose in all our mission fields. Amen.

MESSAGE 2

Young Chan Oh (Jeongneung, Korea)

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Key Verse 6:4,5, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."



An expert in the law tested Jesus with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Then Jesus gave him the answer based on Deuteronomy 6:5. "Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'All

the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40). Deuteronomy 6:4,5 are the Bible passages they are the core of all commandments and they are the words the Jews are proud of. God gave them the Ten Commandments. And Chapter 6 is the word in which our God teaches who God is and how he wants them to love him. I think that today's passage is God's word which is desperately needed to by all Christians and all

our missionaries in the Middle-East. What fills our hearts? What should we love with all our hearts. This time, let's check our hearts and from now on, may our Lord fill our hearts with this word and help us to love him only with all our hearts.

I. Love the Lord with all your heart (1-5)

Let's look at verse 1. "These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess," Israelites are about to enter into Canaan, the Promised Land. What should they do there? They should obey the commands, decrees, and the laws of the Lord. Firstly, the commands are Mitzvah and commandment, that is, the Ten Commandments which God gave them in Chapter 5. The Ten Commandments are the central part of the Old Testament and of the New Testament. Our members in Jeong-reung Center used to read the Ten Commandments before we read the Sunday worship passage. Through that, we come to the origin of the Christianity, confront with the strongest challenge and receive the most powerful message. Sometimes I thought, even though I did not deliver the message well, the Ten Commandments would cover it up. Secondly, decrees are regulatory laws and custom. Thirdly, laws are Mishpat, that is, trial or judgment, which means that our God sets up justice with his words. They should obey these commands, decrees, and the laws of the Lord without fail in the Promised Land.

Then what is the purpose of this obedience? Let's look at verse 2. "so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life."

First, to let them fear the Lord from generation to generation. What will they learn while they are keeping all the commands, decrees, and the laws of the Lord? They will learn the fear of the Lord. They will experience that our God is dreadful. The living God will bless to those who live according to his word and give a severe punishment to those who

do not obey his command. They will fear the living God through this experience. There was a study comparing two family members for 200 years in the United States. The study revealed a huge difference between two families. The godly family of Jonathan Edward had 1,394 descendants. Then, this included 1 U.S. Vice-President, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 65 professors, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers and 100 missionaries and pastors. This same study examined a family of Max Jukes, the ungodly. Max had 540 descendants. Max's descendants included: 7 murderers, 60 habitual thieves, 50 women of notorious debauchery, 130 convicted criminals, and 310 paupers (very poor people). Those who sentenced to death were 109, and one third of the descendants suffered mental sickness and more than half of them were illiterates and they walked the way of criminals related with drug and alcohol addiction. This study teaches us how important it is to have faith in God and fear the Lord from generation to generation. This study teaches us that we must learn to fear the Lord.

Secondly, to let them keep all his decrees and commands Why the Lord gave them his words? Why he gave them the Ten Commandments? It is to keep and practice them in their daily lives. To keep and practice means, "Do something with great caution, be carried out carefully." The Lord told in Genesis 18:19, "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." The purpose of his choosing the family of Abraham is to practice his words cautiously and carefully by his descendants. Israelites was the only people who received God's word. Therefore, they should be proud of it, but more than that, they should obey his word carefully and cautiously. Not only so, but also they should keep his word precious in their heart. That is their great mission. We, spiritual Israelites, also were succeeded this mission, so we should obey his word, cherish it and carry over it to the next generation.

Thirdly, to let them enjoy long life, go well and increase greatly The family like that of Jonathan Edward living according to his word will enjoy long life and prosper. Let's look at verse 3. "Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you." What is the result of the obedience to his word? They will be blessed continuously without stopping. Naturally, they will be prosperous day by day. We personally want to go well. We want the ministry

of our center to be prosperous. Then, what should we do? We should hear his word, obey and practice it. If we live according to his word, surely, we will enjoy long life, go well and increase greatly.

Our Lord emphasized the importance of obedience to his word and practicing it in verses 1-3. Then who is our God? Deuteronomy 6:4, especially, is his word which declares who is our God in the whole Bible. It is called as "Shema" passage (the Shema, It is the classic Hebrew confession of faith, describing who God is and what our duty is towards him.) because it begins with Shema. This passage describes our God very well. Let's look at verse 4. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." In Hebrew, "Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad" Our God is 'LORD', that is, our Lord. And our Lord is the only One. He is one. The word 'one' was used in one body in Genesis 2:24. "they become one flesh." "One" meant one body with masculine gender and feminine gender at the same time. Likewise, here says the One God is the holy Trinity, as one of the plural concepts, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By the way, the Jews understand our God as the one Father God. Because of this misinterpretation, they have not been believed the Trinity God, that is, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our Lord is the one and only God.

Verse 4 says, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one." What does it mean "one" here? This means that the Lord God is "the only one who can give all things." In God there is everything we need. "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2: 3) The Lord our God only is the One who can give us everything in him unsparingly. The LORD our God is able to give us even his Son if we want. He is the one and only God our Lord in all the universe. Therefore, we must never follow or serve the gods of the land when we enter the Promised land where milk and honey flows. They are not gods that can give us everything. They are Idols, superstition, fakes or imitations. It was proved through 10 plagues in Exodus. The gods of Egypt are fake, and they are cruel gods that take away everything. The sun god "Ra" exploited Israel's labor force. Molech took away sons. Baal and Ashtoreth said that they will give rain, and they did not give rain, but instigate people to sexual immorality, and took away our righteousness and holiness. Are they gods? No! The One who can give us all we need is the Lord our God only. What if we love this God? What happens if we simply depend on our God like a baby and live in love with him? Of course, he will give us all the more. So he tells us.

Let's look at 6:5. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart

and with all your soul and with all your strength." The word 'love' means "to like, be devoted to." It is natural to love him because the Lord our God is the one who can give us everything we need. But if you look at the situation at that time, it would be a bit weird to like gods. The Canaanite gods are objects of fear. They are cursing gods if they are not served well. But our Lord God is the one who loves us first. He was the one who heard the sufferings of Israelites in Egypt and first came and liberated them from their sufferings. In the wilderness he gave water when they were thirsty, and he had been fed them with manna and quails for 40 years. It is very natural to love this Lord. Therefore, our God commands you to love him with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength, and with all our resources. The word 'all' means 'mol-ppang' in Korean, and 'all-in' in English. He tells us to focus on serving one God only, so that our hearts would not be scattered.

We do not invest in stocks, but the basic principle of investing in funds is "diversification by security." Because through the dispersed investment, the loss can be recovered from

B, C or D, even if one suffers serious damage from A stock investment. But our God is the only one who can give us everything, so Verse 4 commands us to do "mol-ppang, all-in". Romans 11:36 says, "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." And James 1:17 tells, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows," because everything comes out of the LORD God and all goes back to him. That is why we must prevent our minds from being dispersed, and we should love the Lord our God only with doing all in (mol-ppang) our resources. In the word of 'love', includes dedication and loyalty to the Lord our God. There is only one God, whom we should devote and be loyal to with all our hearts. Therefore, if we seek his kingdom and his righteousness, and God will give us everything we need. And this command, Love the lord your God with all," warns that Israelites may not love our God, and their heart could be dispersed. In reality, when they entered the land of Canaan, many gentile gods, Baal, Ashtoreth, Molech, awaited them. Baal is a indigenous god in the land who



rains to make good farming. What if it does not rain for a long time? Naturally, they may rely on Baal instead of their only God Jehovah. They may lose their heart to Baal, to Ashtoreth, or to Molech. Then their God will be left only one-fifth in their hearts, and gradually he will be pushed to the bottom, and eventually they will leave God. Actually, in the time of King Ahab, Baal seemed to be the only god who gave rain in the northern Israel. Because of this historical fact, he gave them this warning word.

We can discover how difficult it is for us to love our God wholeheartedly with all our might through the historical books in the Bible. The Kings, for example, Solomon, Asa, Jehoshaphat, and Hezekiah, once loved the Lord with all their mind, heart and strength. But when they were in the top position at the crucial moments of decision, their mind began to split. When Solomon was young with such a simple heart like a baby, he asked God to learn and rely on God. But when he was old he relied on his own experience, and he did not learn from God or ask him. We shepherds have to ask him and learn from the Lord God until we die. We always should ask and learn from the Holy Spirit to know his word more deeply. But when we stop learning and rely on our own experience, it is the beginning of a downfall. As we know, because of the iniquity of Solomon, Judas ruined in 586 BC.

Solomon told the truth based on these historical facts. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Above all else, guard your heart all the more. This means to preserve our hearts above all, and to prevent from dispersing our hearts, we should rely on God only and ask and learn from him all the more. We should focus on God only more and more everyday. Aging is not the perfection of life. In the middle age, moreover, we should study God's word more diligently with all our hearts, we must ask and learn from God. It is because our God gives life and because he gives his word and all wisdom we need day by day. Therefore, we should love the Lord our God only through preventing from scattering our hearts and through keeping our hearts all through our lives and forever more.

Then, what distracts our mind? What is taking away our hearts? Is it our workplace or business? Is it the number of disciple-making? Is it Sunday worship number? Is it money? Is it the success of our children? If we are distracted by these things and our mind goes astray, we will gradually leave the Lord and will become wretched missionaries or miserable disciples. We will be like the chaff that is blown away in the wind, as shown in Psalm 1: 4. Therefore,

we must love the Lord our God only, who gives all that we need, our Lord God who saved our lives, and the Lord our God, who is always abiding with us. This is the way of life. It is the way of happy disciples.

Everyone admits that mission in the Middle East is very difficult. Usually, people would follow their parents' religion around 80%. In the Middle East, however, almost 100% of them follow their parents'. How hard are you to serve in this place? Abraham, the ancestor of Middle East missionaries, shows us that situation clearly. He began his mission with the vision of a great nation by God's calling through Genesis 12: 2. But the reality he faced was full of problems, that is, drought, famine, no land, no children. Abraham's heart also was shaken. He even lied to survive. Because of Lot, his nephew, he had to engage himself in a dangerous war at the risk of his life. After that, he met our God. "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."(Genesis 15:1) He met the God who is his very great reward and his shield. Our God told him when his heart was sulking over the child problem. "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."(Genesis 15:5) Our Lord gave him Isaac after 25 years' of his struggle. Then after 17 years, the Lord asked him to sacrifice Isaac, and when he offered his son to the Lord by resurrection faith, our God helped him to experience the God, Jehovah-jireh. Through this incident he became fully afraid of Jehovah, filled with Jehovah only in his heart, and satisfied with the only God Jehovah. Psalm 65:4 says, "We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple." This meant

that he was fully satisfied with the beauty of the temple of God, that is, the goodness of God. He experienced fully the beauty of God, that is, the grace of God. His grandson Jacob has spent rough years, but he had experienced the God more than his ancestor Abraham, and confidently told his children when he blessed them, "blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills." He had suffered so much, however, because of that, he came to know our God in his heart all the more. Even at the point of his death, Jacob relied on his head one top of his cane, worshiped God and placed himself in the arms of our glorious God.

Do you know how wonderful the only God that we serve? The current president of Korea is Moon jae-in. Recently, I had the opportunity to enter the Blue House because of my son who served there during the period of his military service. I had the expectation that I would meet the president. Actually I went to the front of his office. Unfortunately, the door was firmly closed. Nobody met me. I could not see his face either. Our God is much greater and more glorious than the president, nevertheless, he comes first even if I do not find him. He had been looking for a sinful person like me and saved me, and even this time he is always with me and has fellowship with me in my life. This wonderful One is my Lord and my only God. How could I not love this Lord? The only purpose of our life and of our missionary life is this, to come to know God, to have fellowship with him, to satisfy with him only and to love him with all our might. So from now on I want to repent of dispersing my mind again, I will love the Lord our God only with all my heart and with

all my soul and with all my strength, I will do mol-ppang, all in my power to love my God.

II. Teach your children with all your heart (6-9).
"Shema fever" is blowing in South Korea these days. There are many people who use Harvuta, the Jewish style junior education. Harvuta is a way of teaching each other in pairs. It is like the one-to-one study, and to teach and learn through heated discussions with each other. They say that those who educated by this style, have been kept the Noble Prize to themselves. I have read the book with the title, "Parents, make your children disciples!" written by Professor Hyun Yong Soo. I was deeply impressed that the Jewish people poured everything out into their children's education. And he talked about merits and demerits of the education in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, the Jews focused on vertical education, that is, the disciple making of their children, so they failed in the world mission ministry. And the church in the New Testament, they weighted by horizontal disciple-making, that is, the world mission. as the result, the churches could not make disciples of the children.

His argument is that we should not merely focus on one side only, but we need to fuse both sides and make disciples wisely. In other words, we should try to cultivate vertical disciple-making at home, and the church should work to nurture horizontal disciple-making. In the meantime, he had placed the center of gravity in the vertical disciple training, that is, the training the child disciples. He asserted that it is quite possible to execute the world mission ministry through the disciple-making of our children.

Our meeting is now filled with second generation college students. If only we teach them well, our faith will be succeeded. In this respect, it is important to study the Jewish people who have the know-how to train their children as disciples. The Jews already have been trained their children thousands of years and have many know-hows. The passages that contains their know-hows are the verses 6-9 which we want to learn. I pray that we may learn how to train our children and Jesus' disciples through this passage. Our God says in Verse 5, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Then what should we do specifically in our daily life? Jesus said at John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commands." We should practice his word in our daily life. If so, how can we keep the word in our lives?

Firstly, take the commandments to your hearts. Let's look at verse 6. "These commandments that I give you today are



to be on your hearts.” The correct translation of this word with English Standard Version is, “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.” What should be in our heart? If we love the Lord, his word should be in our heart. Through the expression of John Ch 15, the word must be in our heart and we should live in it. Then we will bear much fruit. Otherwise, we will be thrown out like dry branches, and people will gather them together and burn them. Therefore, there must be the word in our hearts, and in the hearts of our sheep and our children. The BBL translation says: “Keep these words, which I say to you this day, deep in your hearts.” There must be words in the bottom of our hearts. Koreans have translated this into the phrase, “You must engrave this word in your heart.” We must always inscribe the word on the tablets of our hearts so that the word always consist in our hearts.

I met Jesus through Matthew 6:33, so I used to say this passage to young men in our center. As the result, this word stayed in the hearts of my children and 2nd gens in our center. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” I remind them of one annual key verse repeatedly. If there is no word in our heart, other things in this world will be filled with and deceived by Satan. Therefore, we should fight the struggle of initiative so that the word would place in our hearts deeply and be engraved there.

Secondly, teach the word diligently Let’s look at verse 7, “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” If we teach the word diligently according to the direction of the Bible, there is a time when you will face a backward wind. Our children would say, “Stop, that’s enough!” and they do not listen to us. There is a book with the title, “Getting Back at their Parents” by Professor Seongsu Jeon in Korea. Mothers living at Gangnam District have taken all means for their children’s success and sent their son to Seoul National University, but after that, they are being revenged. If we teach our children with unwise faith eagerness, we may have a backlash of our children’s leaving the church. How should we teach to prevent this from happening? Verse 7 says, “Impress them on your children.” The Bible recommends us to teach them so that they could be impressed. Teach them so that they would receive a deep impression with calm resounding in their heart. The original language is Shanana, that means to inscribe sharply in the heart. What should parents do to teach like this? The teacher himself should sharpen the word. He should grind and polish until the word would be

prepared sharply. Even though it is the same word repeatedly studied, but we must teach it to be fresh and new to be heard without being fed up. Then the children will be impressed and the word will remain in their hearts. What parents should do to teach like this all the time? We need to study the word. We should prepare the word to be fresh and to become deeply moving words.

Thirdly, tie the words on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Look at verse 8, “Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.” The Jews tie the words on their wrists, and they also bound them according to the command. They always pray with binding them. There is a scroll of four words in a small box. They are Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, Deuteronomy 11: 13-21, Exodus 13: 1-10, Exodus 11: 11-16. But we can apply the word to our daily life, because we don’t want to tie them to the wrists and foreheads like Jews. Hands are a part of working. When you work, it means to work based on the word. Forehead is the most important part of all body organs and it means to fill the word at the center of our thought and live according to the word by faith. Do not work without thought, always make the word as the center of our life, and the forehead should command to work according to the word all the time.

Lastly, Our God recommends us to write the words. Let’s look at verse 9, “Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” It must be recorded so that the word would be remained. The Jews put the word attached in a case to the doorpost of a house and they call it “Mezuzah”, and they touch when they come in and go out. They would write the word in the village entrance and let them see the word. It is important that the word should be engraved in our heart, but it also is crucial keeping it in a place where you can see it repeatedly. One of the greatness of Admiral Yi Soon-Shin is in that point which he left his record. Korean historical records became world cultural heritages because they were written. Likewise we should write God’s word. Write it diligently in the bathroom and the kitchen, on the desk and dining table.

While I was meditating on the word today, I had been thought about what we did in our center over the past few years. Each family of our center had been held prayer meetings at home for the past few years. Every family gathered at 9 to 10 am every day to share daily bread testimony and food or to read Proverbs. When they did so, their children were alive and growing into the hosts of our church. And when their children prayed, their fathers also were alive and working well at their working place. And we held the prais-

ing prayer meeting on every Saturday at 6 o’clock, and the praising meeting was led by elementary school students, junior high school students, high school students, and college students. Through three years’ of this meeting, they were trained spiritually and they became excellent praising leaders. And myself also was changed and I have been prepared for the Sunday message all through a week from this year. On Monday, I meditated on next Sunday passage, and thought again and again to receive message from within my heart. When I prepared and delivered the message like this, the word became more and more powerful and I also became very happy. My center members wrote the reflection 100% on the spot right after the worship service had finished. When they are writing their reflections, we serve them roasted corn and quite hymns. Then it will become a weekly conference. After sharing reflections, we talked friendly and ate lunch. After a short rest, leaders studied next week Bible passage until 5 pm. When we helped them in this way with God’s word, the Lord has graciously accomplished Verses 10-11, “the Lord your God brings you into the...houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide,” In reality, he gave us a beautiful church recently. And he also gave a house to each family. Not only that, even though we did not labor, he sent us church workers. This year, five people increased in the number of our worship service. Moreover, they are leaders. So I can confidently say that when the word of the Lord gains power, it works powerfully and leads to a fruitful ministry. Therefore, I want our missionaries to be happy through internal struggle with God’s word rather than through outward result. If our God gives us the joy of grinding and polishing his word, then our God will give grace in our church, at home and in our heart. Amen.

This is our conclusion. Do you love your God with all your heart? Did you happen to put your heart in other place? In 2019, may our God help us to know him and to struggle to find this one God only. When we are enriched in knowing our God, and when we are filled with the goodness of our God, naturally, the work of the Spirit will take place. I pray that you would live with the joy of loving one God for one year. And when we meet together next year, I hope that we may become more energetic with satisfaction and happiness of knowing our God. Hallelujah! Amen.

Europe

■ Dec. 27-28, 2018 - Romania



REPORT

James Kang (Bulgaria, Europe)
Europe Coordinator

BE ONE

John 17:21, "That all of them may be one."



Praise God for blessing the conference through the Word of life and graceful fellowship in the Holy Spirit. We thank Jesus, who obeyed God until he died on the cross. We thank Jesus for his forgiveness of our sins through giving his life on the cross. Praise Jesus who gives eternal life to all believers in Him.

The 2019 EDC was held during 26-29 Dec. in Romania. The title was That all of them may be one (John17:21). The program consisted in (1) Report on Romanian mission (msn. John Jung) (2) Annual Report on European mission (3) Opening message (Koinonia 1John1, by Reiner Schauwienold) (4) GBS (4 lessons, John 17, 1John2-4 (5) 2019 ESBC presentation/Vision Camp (by msn. Elijah Park/Jacob Lee) (6) New year's message ("That all of them may be one" John 17, by P. Moses Yoon) (7) Reflection writing and sharing (8) Foot washing (5-min. message by shep. Volker Keller) (9) Closing message ("Faith is the victory" 1John5, by msn. James Kang) (10) Campus visit. In this conference 112 brothers and sisters attended in total. The conference venue was beautiful and the food was very good.

First: God blessed us with 3 messages, through which He gave the clear direction of our spiritual life for the New Year. The message of P. Moses Yoon was very clear for our spiritual direction; that all of them may be one. P. Moses Yoon emphasized, that the most important work of God is

to be one in Jesus. Even now he is praying for us with same prayer topic. The opening message was full of grace. We learned that we have to repent for our sins to complete the koinonia. We learned through the closing message that faith in Jesus is our victory in the world.

Second: The conference was centered in Bible studies and koinonia. We had 4 GBS in total. Bible studying of the integrity of 1John helped us understand deeply the New Year's message with That all of them may be one(Jn17:21). During the conference we studied the Bible, and ate, and studied Bible. All brothers and sisters remained thankful to God for that.

Third: One body of missionaries, native shepherds and 2nd generation. missionaries. The attendants only from Europe

were 97 people. Among them native shepherds - 19, second generation missionaries - 22. All of them prayed to be one in Jesus. They had their own Bible studies separately. All of them participated in the Foot washing ceremony with grace and joy. God blessed this ceremony. We all prayed for next 50 years of European mission, especially for 2019 ESBC in Willingen, Germany. God made the harmony between the three different generations in Jesus. We are praying for God's world mission in Europe together in one spirit and one mind.

Fourth: God blessed the program of hymns. Msn. Barnabas Woo from Greece served wholeheartedly with hymns. There were about 10 graceful and joyful special songs. All 19 native shepherds and second generation missionaries, and missionaries praised God with thankful and joyful mind. Praising program was wonderful for God's glory.

Fifth: Coworking with second generation missionaries. The last night in the conference James Kang, Elijah Park and Joshua Lee had a fellowship meeting with second generation missionaries. We shared ideas how to cowork together

in Europe. Second generation missionaries did not hesitate to suggest several ideas for good coworking. All of them showed their desire to serve God together for God's mission in Europe. They are God's hope in Europe. May God have mercy on missionaries and native shepherds to understand second generation missionaries., respect them and work together with them.

Sixth: God blessed the serving life of coworkers in Romania. It was not easy to prepare and serve the conference. But missionary John Jung and Monica Jung served with great joy with coworkers. And Ambassador Joseph and Josephine Kim served so gracefully. All brothers and sisters received much grace from coworkers of Romania.

Praise God for blessing the conference. May His name be glorified among all European people. May God bless us to be one in Jesus. Amen.





MESSAGE

Reiner Schauwienold (Heidelberg, Germany)
Germany Coordinator

KOINONIA

1John 1:1-10

Key Verse 1:3, “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”



This message will not cover all verses of the text as usual but will focus on verse 3 and the topic „koinonia“. The theme of our conference is “That they all may be one“. Our Lord Jesus prayed in the night before he was crucified that all Christians would be one (Jn 17:20-23). Last August P. Moses Yoon became our new director of UBF and during his inauguration ceremony he gave us the

prayer topic to build a loving spiritual community. This is the same as koinonia. There are so many fellowships—at school, at the universities, in science and in the business world, in sports clubs and in many other associations. All these fellowships have in common that the people are together because of some common interest (or unwillingly, e.g. in the army) and that the quality of such fellowship is quite limited and in the end every remains for himself.

But the Christian community which John talks about in today’s passage is different. Every time he talks about it he uses the word “koinonia“. In classic Greek “koinonia” meant to have part in something, to share something or be related. Koinonia was used for example for business relationships, also for marriage—two people married to

have koinonia and share everything in their lives. Koinonia was also used for fellowship with God. In the New Testament “koinonia” is used about eighteen times, in a variety of contexts which show, what a wide the range of Christian fellowship should be. In Christian life there is a koinonia, which means friendship and to stay together with others—we find a good example in the first church in Jerusalem in Acts chapter 2 (Acts 2:42-27). Another meaning of koinonia is to practically share with those who have less goods than us—Paul used the word koinonia three times in connection with the collections, which he arranged for the sake of poor Christians in Jerusalem (Rom 15:26; 2Kor 8:4; 9:13). Koinonia also means partnership in the ministry of Christ—in his letter to the Philippians Apostle Paul thanks the Philippians for their support for the Gospel ministry (Phil 1:5). In short the basic thought of koinonia is relations and we can say koinonia means relationship in a broad sense. We are happy that we have come together here from many nations to live and experience koinonia. This morning let us think about Christian koinonia!

1. The koinonia of the churches in the time of John

Before we go into the text, let us first think to whom John wrote this letter and what was their situation. John does not name the recipients but he repeatedly addresses them kindly as “dear children“. So we can assume that John knew them personally and that his letter was a circular letter to various ministries in minor Asia, which John visited from time to time. When John wrote this letter, Christianity was not the same as in the beginning of the Christian movement. In Revelation chapter 2 and 3 the Risen Jesus rebukes seven churches in Minor Asia. He acknowledged the deeds and the hard work of the church of Ephesus, but he rebuked that they had forsaken the love they had at first (Rev 2:2-4). The rebukes to the seven churches show that, after several decades, Christianity had become habitual, traditional and half-hearted. They had become like old wineskins. Furthermore there were many false teachers within the church called Gnostics. Revelation 2:6 mentions the Nicolaitans, who spread teachings of Gnosticism. The influence of Gnosticism at that time was great. Their theory was, simply spoken, that spirit is good and matter is evil. As a result, they denied the incarnation of Jesus Christ. They

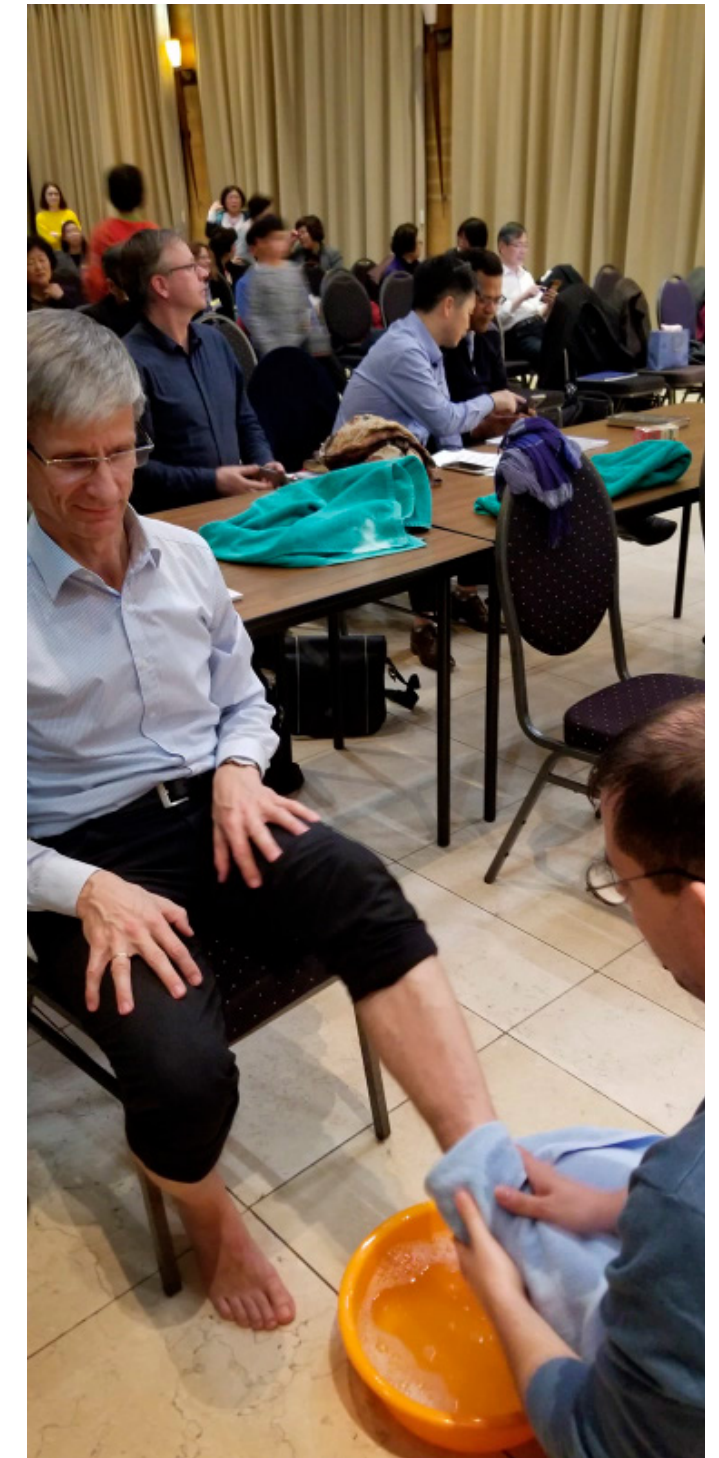
thought Jesus was a phantom figure or an appearance, and that he had no real humanness. If he was body, then he was evil. This simple theory affected the early Christians and made them doubt the grace and truth of Jesus’ incarnation. Finally, they began to doubt the love of God.

The Bible clearly teaches us that Jesus is perfect God and perfect man, but he is sinless (Heb 4:15). Even though he is God, Jesus came to this world. When he came to this world, Jesus renounced all his power and glory and honor of the kingdom of God. The grace and truth of Jesus’ incarnation help us see Jesus’ complete divine humbleness, and the unconditional love of God in him. Especially, Jesus’ fellowship with all kinds of sinners is the heavenly sunlight and is full of grace and truth to all mankind. When we do not know the grace and truth of Jesus’ incarnation, we cannot realize the love of God. When we don’t realize the love of God, we don’t realize our parents’ love. When one has no love of God in his heart, he doesn’t know how to love his wife and children. When we do not know the grace and truth of Jesus’ incarnation, we remain as proud and unthankful people. The Gnostics’ theory cleverly refutes the love of God, who gave his one and only Son to save men from their sins. They denied Jesus’ preaching and healing ministry, his death on the cross for the sin of the world, and his glorious resurrection. When Christians were deceived by the Gnostics, they lost their first love for Jesus and became cold. In this way gnostics caused many Christians to stumble.

2. The Word of Life came to have koinonia with us

How did John help the Christians in that situation? He proclaimed to them who Jesus really is. Look at verse 1: „That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the word of life.“ John was one of Jesus’ disciples. He had common life with Jesus for three years. He could hear Jesus speak every day. He could see Jesus in all kinds of situations and slowly realize his divine nature and character. At the Last Supper, Jesus talked about the betrayer among the Twelve. Then John leaned on the breast of Jesus with confidence, expressing that he was not a betrayer, but the most beloved disciple. So John could really say, “which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched“. Later on he saw and touched the marks of the nails on Jesus’ hands. The Gnostics were only teaching a theory, but John emphasized the fact that he had seen and heard and touched the eternal word of life and thus testified to Jesus’ incarnation.

In John’s Gospel chapter 1, John summarizes who Jesus is very clearly: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” (Jn 1:1,2) In the light of these verses, “the Word of life” here is Jesus Christ. Jesus is God. Jesus is the Creator God. Without him nothing was made that has been made (Jn 1:3). Jesus is God who came to this world to save sinners. Look at verse 2. “The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we pro-claim to you the



eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.” In short, the purpose of God’s coming down to the world of sin is to have koinonia with men and to save men from their sins.

3. John encouraged them to have koinonia with him and with each other

Look at verse 3: „We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.“ Here John clearly explains the purpose of his testimony. He testified to them Jesus’ incarnation so that they could have fellowship with John and his coworkers. Why was this so important? What is the meaning of koinonia in Christians’ lives?

Actually, fellowship with heartfelt love and unanimity of many very different people is not possible. At that time the differences between the Greeks and the scattered Jews caused great difficulties in living together everywhere. The city of Ephesus, which was a major Roman garrison town, was known for the problems of living together between the Romans and Greeks on the one hand and the Jews on the other hand, so that even the Roman emperor had to deal with it. The Jews and the Greeks were simply too different from their way of thinking, their religion and culture! The Greeks thought in principle, but the Jews thought specifically. The Jews knew the only true God, but the Greeks worshiped many gods and demigods with human qualities. These fundamental differences made the two cultures incompatible and living together hardly possible. Real fellowship was impossible.

But when Apostle Paul came to Ephesus and taught the Bible there daily for two years, many Jews and Greeks came to faith and formed a new Christian community - Koinonia! As they shared fellowship with God and with his Son Jesus Christ, they were able to accept and love each other, overcome all differences in their culture and way of life, and formed a community of compassionate love. People must have been so amazed to see this.

At that time, they were so filled with the love of Jesus that they not only loved each other, but went out and preached the gospel throughout the province of Asia. They volunteered to proclaim the Gospel to as many people as possible after work, and spent all their annual holidays traveling to other cities and other countries in Asia Minor to preach the gospel and help people become Jesus’ disciples. They daily prayed from the heart for every missionary they had

sent out and listened with excitement when he returned to talk about God’s work. They rejoiced immensely over the people they heard they came to believe in Jesus, and prayed from their hearts for them. Their koinonia with God and with each other was spiritually so lively and strong. Acts 19:10 says, “This went on for two years so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.” The koinonia that came into being through Paul’s Bible study in Ephesus was spiritually so influential that in the entire province of Asia new communities of Jews and Greeks emerged. So in many other cities Jews and Greeks and those who were influenced by Greek culture came together and formed Christian koinonia. All their personal and cultural differences became unimportant, because they were all filled with the love and grace of Jesus and inspired by his desire to bring the good news of Jesus to all people and lead many to fellowship with him.

But as we saw earlier, their spiritual condition had worsened over the decades. Their love for Jesus had cooled. Their eagerness to spread the gospel and help people spiritually had gradually diminished. Instead, they started

loving the world and what’s in the world.

Therefore, John testified to them Jesus as God, who became man to have koinonia with them. He encouraged them to renew their faith and koinonia with Jesus and to renew their koinonia with him and with each other. John himself had koinonia with God the Father and with his son Jesus Christ. He also enjoyed koinonia with the other Christians in Ephesus. But his joy could not be complete as long as he there were Christians in other churches whom he knew but who did not have koinonia with him and his coworkers in Ephesus. So John prayed and encouraged them to also have koinonia with them—even though they did not live in the same town. John believed that koinonia in Jesus is the will of God for all Christians. John was also sure that they would be spiritually restored and strong enough to overcome all temptations, if they were to renew their koinonia. Their koinonia would give them spiritual support and protection in all the turmoil of life. Their koinonia would also be a testimony to the love of God for many unbelievers and a place where they, too, can find spiritual refuge and salvation. John believed that the Koinonia of

the Christians honors God, because it is a direct fruit of His Gospel. John also knew that their koinonia is a testimony of God’s love and an invitation to Savior Jesus for all the homeless and lost people in the world. Therefore God really wants the Christians to live in Koinonia.

4. Koinonia among us

I thank God that he has also created koinonia among us. In recent weeks, when I saw the pictures the Christmas service in some countries at Kakaotalk, I was reminded me how God has been creating loving spiritual communities throughout Europe in our church. When I saw the photos of M. Paul Lee from Geneva last week, as he and Paul jr. and Yann and others together distributed 1.000 Bibles at the university in Geneva, I was very happy not only about the 1000 Bibles which were given to many young people, but about the joyful loving faces of the brothers who had spread them which shows that they not only did some action together but they themselves have become a loving community. Listening to the annual reports every year, I noticed most of all that God has formed a loving spiritual



community in every country. I believe that God is honored by our koinonia, in which we accept, love and serve one another, overcoming all differences in age, character, and culture. In addition, our koinonia is a vessel in which our children, our Bible students and our coworkers can be spiritually protected and grow. In these days we are thinking a lot about how the work of God will continue as it is getting more and more difficult to invite students to Bible study. But our koinonia itself is a strong invitation to young and old people which God will use to lead many more students and other people to the Word of Life. My own strongest memories of the first years of Bible study is—besides some words of God—the loving spiritual community that I experienced in the house church of M. Kaleb and Sarah. And I was much encouraged when I experienced the same kind of loving community in other chapters where I was visiting.

God has created Koinonia not only in our house churches where we come from, but also among us here. The very fact that we have come together from so many different countries during this precious Christmas season to study the Bible and pray together and have fellowship, already proves that we are a koinonia. The fact that we—Romanians, Bulgarians, French, English, Germans, Americans, Koreans—understand each other and love each other and joyfully want to serve our Lord together in one mind—already proves that we are a koinonia. It is particularly encouraging that many younger coworkers and second gens also participate, and we all together have koinonia in Jesus. I remember, when the European Directors' Conference took place close to Heidelberg some 17 years ago, there were about 17 men who studied the Bible and had

koinonia. But their koinonia has evidently grown strongly, in numbers and in quality. Even in the Kakaotalk chat room of the European leaders, I see an expression of our koinonia where there is cordial relationship and compassion. For example, when M. Abraham Park from Serbia posted a picture of his new-born baby, everyone was so happy for him and M. Caleb Lee was so joyful that he sent firecrackers to the sky (emoticon). When someone sends a prayer request, minutes later, the first ones confirm that they will pray for it and write spiritual encouragement. God is surely happy about our koinonia. May God continue to grow this fellowship in intensity and depth and continue to use it preciously for the honor of his name and for his salvation work in Europe!

5. Threats to our koinonia and how we can overcome them

The greatest danger that threatens our koinonia is not our diversity, the big distance between us, lack of time or ability or some decision of someone which we would rather not agree with, but sin. Therefore John writes about how to overcome sin in verses 5-10. God is light and in him there is no darkness (5). For our spiritual koinonia to continue and grow, it is important that we do not walk in the darkness but really live in the light, as verse 7 says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." Even though we want to live in the light in all areas of our lives, we cannot fully avoid to sin. Then it is important how we deal with sin. We should not fool ourselves thinking or pretend before others that we are without sin. We should not deny our sins, but confess them in the light of Jesus and accept the cleansing by his blood, as verses 8 and 9 say: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." True lasting koinonia is only possible, if we live in close fellowship with Jesus and ask and receive his cleansing of our sins continuously. May God abundantly bless our koinonia with him and our koinonia with one another during this conference! May God build up and shape our koinonia through the word of life, so that he can take honor and continue to bless each of us, our coworkers and children and countless students and young people in Europe!

Let us read the key verse 3 again: „We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”



CLOSING MESSAGE

James Kang (Bulgaria, Europe)
Europe Coordinator

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

1 John 5: 1-21

Key Verse 5:4, "Everyone who is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory over the world, our faith."



I thank God for blessing us with this conference that we could learn about God's love and Jesus' high priestly prayer. Thank God for the New Year's spiritual direction with the words, "That all of them may be one", (John 17:21). I also give thanks to God for allowing us to pray and share fellowship together for the European mission.

The title of closing message is Faith is the Victory. I pray that through this passage God may help us learn the faith that overcomes the world and have victory in practice, by faith, during the new year. Amen.

First: Christians are born of God. (1-3)

Apostle John said in verse 1, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well." In other words, if we believe in Jesus Christ, we are born of God. God is

our Father. John said in John 1:12, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God". When we believed in Jesus, we were already given the authority to become children of God. God, who created the heavens and the earth, is our Father. Isn't this touching? Doesn't this move our heart? Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "... your heavenly Father knows that you need them.", (Mt. 6:32). When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he said, "Our Father in heaven.", (Mt.6:9). George Müller, a man of prayer, asked and received all from his heavenly Father. So he became the father of many orphans. Let us all close our eyes and quietly call him "our Heavenly Father who created the heavens and the earth". All fathers in the world have limitations in many ways. However, our Heavenly Father, the Creator, is almighty.

Also, all who believe in Jesus Christ are born of God and become his children. Generally speaking, we have natural love towards our families and siblings, without someone telling us to love them, because we are of the same blood. That is why, when we recall that we are brothers and sisters sharing Jesus' blood, we can grow to love one another at all costs, despite all weaknesses.

Apostle John said that when we love God, God's commandments are not heavy, (2-3). We are happy to hear the words of our beloved ones. We are also happy to do what our beloved ones want. But when our love becomes cold, it is hard to listen them. We know many people who gave their lives for God's commandments with burning love for Him. Missionary Samuel was one of them. Because he loved God, he loved many children of God and served them.

Second: The victory that overcomes the world is our faith. (4-12)

Apostle John speaks in verses 4 and 5, "for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God". It is crucial for us to overcome

the world. It is our mission to overcome the world. When God created the heavens, the earth and man, He gave man a commandment. Let's read Genesis 1: 27-28: „So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Isn't that an awe bringing mission? The world is not something we should be afraid of. We must rule over the world and conquer it. Once St. Francesco rebuked a wolf that was on his way. They say the wolf shedded tears of repentance upon his rebuke.

However, it is impossible for man to rule and conquer the world of Paradise Lost. For us the world has become like a giant tsunami, and an object of fear. Providing bread, water and a roof above one's head is not easy. Unemployment rates are at the core of many social problems. Buying an apartment has become a dream for ordinary people. Many live under pressure and plan their financial security. The world has made all men slaves with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

At the time of John, only surviving was hard enough. During the first century AD the Roman Empire dominated the world. About 50 years after Jesus' death on the cross and ascension, the then Roman emperor thought he was the ruler of the universe. He wanted people to worship him. However, Christians did not worship him and served the one and only God. For that matter, Christians were persecuted and became martyrs. They were treated coldly and were despised by their society. They left their homeland and scattered across the Gentiles' lands. They were rejected from the world. Many Christians died in catacombs without ever seeing sunlight just to keep their love and faith in the Lord. In such circumstances, the world had to be an object of fear for all Christians.

But John proclaims to Christians in these situations,"for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God"(4-5). John shows proof that although Christians are rejected from the world, the world cannot overthrow Christians. The world can test the children of God for a while, but it can never win over them. John says in verse 4:4 that Christians are victors: "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." The world belongs to the Satan, and we

belong to God. We need to acknowledge that. Satan is the power in the world, and he is a beast with ten horns. That is why when we look at the world, we cannot help but become full of fear. But when we believe that the Almighty Father in Heaven is in us and protects us, we can enjoy the peace that is in the eye of the typhoon. We can overcome the world.

The vital question here is, do we truly believe that Jesus is God's only begotten Son and the Christ? John testified in verses 6-12 that when Jesus was baptized with water, he was baptized with the Holy Spirit and said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Mt. 3: 16-17). Jesus also said about himself: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Mt. 26:28). Jesus died on the cross for my sins. When we believe Jesus as Christ, faith bears fruit in us. The Holy Spirit starts dwelling in us and we start believing God gave us life, the eternal life. We are filled with the fullness of life in Jesus. Then the world is no longer an object of fear. The world's splendor is no longer envied. In our hearts the world looks like a paper tiger. This is the power of faith that overcomes the world in Jesus. In fact, if you think about the power of faith, it is the power of love. The love of Christ rules us.

Paul sets a good example of how we can conquer the world. When he met the risen Jesus on the way to Damascus, he met God, the ruler of heaven and earth, who is ruling earth from above. Before Paul had persecuted Christians, but then realized Jesus gave His life on the cross for his salvation. He was compelled by this love of Jesus. He met Jesus, the Lord of Life, who died but who was risen and who defeated the power of death. He realized that by knowing Jesus was he had the greatest excellency in the world. Paul considered the world and its splendour as garbage. But when he practically loved Jesus and received the mission from Jesus, he was constantly persecuted by the Jews. He was stoned, imprisoned, and had no hope in life. But he was not afraid. Rather, he gave his life for the mission among the Gentiles, that he received from Jesus Christ.

When he knew that the world wants to crucify him, he did not despair. Rather, he himself crucified the world. He constantly challenged the wicked, Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting? (1 Co 15:55). The world could not defeat apostle Paul. He won over the world by faith. His faith is the faith in the love of Jesus Christ. Paul

exclaimed: „He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Ro 8:32-39).

Jesus is the only one who conquered the world. With the crime of the first man Adam sin came into the world, and the world became sinful and filled with the temptations of all sin. Also, the power of death has ruled the world ever since. All accept death. Adults with good personalities die, and vicious criminals also die. The rich die and the poor die. The wise die, and the fools also die. Humanity sit in the shadow of darkness and death. But God sent His begotten Son into this world. The world was did not go easy on Jesus. He has received a cold welcoming when he came into the world. Satan constantly attacked Jesus. But Jesus did not fall into Satan’s temptation. Satan’s attack continued through the religious leaders. But Jesus won in the attack. Satan also attacked Jesus strongly through his disciples. But Jesus overcame this attack. Then came the time of Jesus death on the cross as the Passover Lamb to redeem our sins and the sins of all mankind. Satan continued to attack Jesus, who died on the cross of victory. They said: “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One” (Lk 23:35). It was hard for Jesus to bear Satan’s constant attacks. The writer of Hebrews records the pain of Jesus and the secret of his victory: “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5: 7-9). Satan attacked Jesus so that he could not obey God’s will to the end. However, Jesus submitted his will to God’s will until his sweat became blood-drops. Jesus said on the cross. “It is finished”, (John 19:30) and “I have overcome the world”, (Jn 16:33) mean the same thing. God resurrected Jesus, who was obedient to the will of God so much that he died on the cross, to become the Lord of life and to be the King of kings. I praise Jesus, who opened the door of victory towards the eternal kingdom of

God! Jesus loved God and gave His life according to God’s will. I praise Jesus, our Lord, who already brought from death to life those who believe in Him, follow Him, and love Him. These words of Jesus come to my mind: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33).

Third: Christians have eternal life, (13-21).

John reminds us that the saints who are persecuted and suffering in the world for their love and faith in Jesus are not to be pitied. Rather, they are triumphal victors in Jesus. John makes it clear in verses 13 and 20 that there is eternal life, a true hope for the Saints. “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.” Isn’t that impressive? We have eternal life! It is not easy to endure when you are misunderstood in the world because of your faith. And it is hard to live and suffer because of faith. But we must remember that heaven is ours: „Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven” (Mt5: 3-12). I believe that Lazarus was bold to live as a beggar because he knew there is “eternal life.” Recently, a 26-year-old young missionary “Chow” of the United States went to a primitive tribal people in India that was far from the civilisation. He had received much advise from the Indian government to avoid going there because he would be in danger. Yet he went out with the intention of preaching the gospel. He said, “Lord, whatever happens, it is by your grace. Lord, if somebody wants to kill me on the island, please forgive them. Even if they kill me, forgive them”. He could do that because of his love for Jesus and his faith in the eternal life.

John exclaims: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (Jn3:16). “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1Jn 5:12).

John speaks about the privileges and responsibilities we have in 14-17: „This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we

know that we have what we asked of him. If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.” We have a privilege as well as a responsibility to pray. We must believe that we have received the boldness to go before God boldly by the blood of Jesus Christ. Also we must pray for the will of God. In particular, we should not condemn and judge the crime of our brother, but rather we should pray for him. When we pray boldly, the temptations of sin retreat and the evil one can not touch us. Our prayer is another proof that we belong to God and that we are from God.

Through today’s Word, I newly accepted that I should not fear the world, but I should conquer it and rule it. I also learned that nothing in the world should be envied, but considered as dump. The secret to this is that we have to be compelled by Jesus’ love on the cross. We come to realize also that “No cross, no love”. I pray that I will always keep the Jesus’ cross in my heart and give thanks for Jesus’ love at the cross. I pray that I will be able to become like apostle Paul who engraved Jesus love on his heart and practiced this love for the salvation of many people.

The year 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of our European UBF Church community. Now we are given another new fifty years before God. We have yet to catch up with the speed of 4G, but 5G is already waiting for us. Europe’s refugee problem and the expansion of Muslims into political power seem to be a big problem.

But more than that, Europe’s cities are shaken by movements on human rights that unveil gender chaos among the younger generation. Satan is tearing apart the roots of the family in the most cunning way. Issues on transgenders are spreading like a fashion in society. Absolute values and truth are collapsing one by one. The world is thus opposing to the sovereignty of God with great force.

In addition, our church community has communication problems between generations. It seems that the love and attention among the coworkers has been somewhat changed. There are misunderstandings between one another. The feeling of failure in the discipleship training on campus makes our minds heavy with thoughts. Yet, we have been chosen and called for European campus missions. We all want to have victory in Jesus. What should

we do? Today’s passage teaches that we must be moved deeply by Jesus’ love at the cross. We must accept newly that Jesus’ love at the cross is everything to us, to me. We have to fish men, but most importantly we must fight the good fight to receive Jesus.

Although externally we might not bear fruit in this kind of struggle, God will make us bear fruit, the beautiful fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is love. And he will rejoice in this. When we consider that the direction of our life is set towards becoming in the image of God, especially his love. Thus, we can see that the evangelisation situation in Europe is nothing we should be discouraged about. On the contrary, in the current arena of European evangelisation is an ideal situation where we can persistently challenge ourselves until we reach God’s image. In addition to this, Europe is bread for us (Numbers 14:9) when we look at the continent with eyes of faith in God.

I know some people who seemingly do not have fruit in disciple-making, however they grow as truly beautiful people. They do not step back because of the world and the circumstances. They are soldiers of faith and apostles of love who go forth courageously by faith. I pray that God helps our community of Europe UBF to serve God, who created the heavens and the earth and who sent His only begotten Son, as the Father of all. I pray that God may renew the calling for the European mission in the heart of each person, a calling given to us by God, that it might be on fire.

I pray that we might not only watch from afar the young people who have become slaves of Satan, but that we might like David and Paul live the mission and work for their deliverance, without cherishing our own lives. May God help us pioneer the 1700 European universities and send out 100 000 missionaries by 2041.

In conclusion, abiding in God who is the eternal life and the truth and continuing the fight to abide in him becomes the testimony of our faith and our victory. We, brothers and sisters, are coworkers walking in this same path. Jesus is with us on this path, he who conquered the world. The Almighty God who created the heavens and the earth is on this path. That is why we can shout out with faith, ‘Europe is bread for us’, (Num 14:9).

Let us read the key verse all together: “For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” Amen.



Oceania

■ Dec. 31, 2018 - Jan. 2, 2019 - Brisbane



REPORT

Mark Lee (Macquarie, Australia)
Oceania Coordinator

BE SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S FLOCK

1 Peter 5:2, "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;"



The 2019 Oceania Missionary Shepherd

Conference was held on December 31, 2018 – January 2, 2019 in Brisbane in Australia. This conference was hosted by M. Michael Ho and M. Carol Ho in Brisbane chapter. We had 34 attendees. The title of the conference was "Be shepherds of God's flock."

M. Joshua Lee delivered the 'Opening message' titled, "The Lord is my Shepherd" (Ps 23:1-6). We learned that we lack nothing, because God's goodness and love is following us all the days of our life. Pastor Kevin Albright delivered 'Lecture 1' titled, "As sheep having no shepherd" (Mt 9:35-38). Out of his compassionate heart Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching, preaching and healing. We were greatly encouraged to go out and serve the students out of shepherd's heart.

M. Joseph Sim presented "Oceania UBF 30 years review." Oceania UBF has been 30 years in pioneering and devel-

oping, 6 chapters in Australia and 1 in New Zealand. God has used the remnant missionaries and blessed Oceania UBF ministries with establishing 14 missionary families, raising faithful second gens and making a few disciples of Jesus. Through the history review we have seen God's vision of expending the kingdom of God in Oceania and raising the disciples of Jesus through us.

M. Moses Yoon gave us the New Year's message titled, "That all of them may be one." Jesus' heart's desire for us is that we may be one, just as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in him. Complete unity is our most powerful message to the world. People may come, join us when we Oceania UBF community are full of love. Lecture 2 titled, "Be shepherds of God's flock" (1 Pe 5:1-11) was delivered by M. Jacob Kim. The main point of the lecture was what kind of leader God want us to be. God will use us and bless us when we become shepherds who take care of his flock willingly and humbly.

M. Isaac Choi from Chicago gave two special lectures titled, "The godly family in the world mission" and "Children ministry." He has been dedicated to the CBF ministry in Chicago for the last 40 years. Out of his knowledge and experiences

M. Isaac Choi taught us a critical importance in children ministry. Shep. Joseph Ahn, who has been a short term missionary in Sydney, gave a seminar titled, "House church ministry." We learned that man is quite different to woman; man from Mars and woman from Venus. A unity between husband and wife is the most important base in the family and the community.

Thank God for blessing the 2019 Oceania Missionary/ Shepherd Conference with graceful words of God and God's vision for Oceania.

We continually pray for Oceania UBF ministries with such prayer points:

1. To build up the church, 7 chapters of Oceania UBF, in love and unity
2. To raise disciples of Jesus in each chapter
3. For 2019 new year's direction – being shepherds of God's flock
4. To make second generations a successor to the next generation



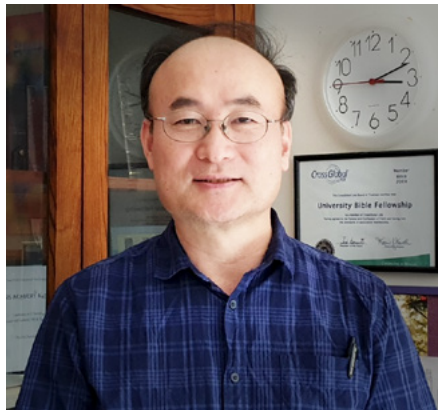
OPENING MESSAGE

Joshua Lee (Canberra, Australia)

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23:1-6

Key verse 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing."



The passage of Psalm 23 is very famous. I heard this passage as a choir song at my wedding ceremony long time ago. It means 'The Lord is my shepherd'. Probably, attendants wished that the Lord would be a good shepherd for the new family

forever, and I believe that it has been coming true.

The title of this conference is "Be shepherds of God's flock", and so the word 'shepherd' is definitely a key word. We chose this title, as we aim at learning the good shepherd Jesus, and we wish to be shepherds of wondering campus souls with Jesus' heart. Everyone needs a good shepherd. It is a great blessing for us to learn and follow the good shepherd Jesus and grow as a shepherd of a wondering soul.

As you know, the author of today's passage is the king David. In today's passage, first, we can think of how the Lord is king David's shepherd and how he can say that he lacks nothing. Secondly, we will think of whether we can confess the same confession David did. Perhaps we can say, 'well, David can say that, but I should say a bit

differently, like 'The Lord is my shepherd sometimes.' It sounds not bad, but not enough. The purpose of today's passage is to demonstrate that David's confession is our confession.

Look at verse 1a. The Lord is my shepherd. To David, the Lord himself was so great, as the Lord is the Creator and David was a mere creature like dust in the vast universe. The Lord was Almighty and David was a mortal human being, weaker than a mere wild animal. The Lord was so great to David. But here, David called this Lord as his shepherd. This shows what kind of relationship David had with the Lord. David had shepherd-sheep relationship with God the Lord. David himself was a keeper of sheep since childhood and understood both the needs of various cares for the sheep. David called the Lord 'my shepherd', rather than the shepherd of the whole world. David expresses that the Lord is his personal shepherd and takes care of him.

Look at verse 1b. "I lack nothing." When David met God as shepherd deeply, he felt nothing lack. Did David feel nothing lack, because he became a king, and obtained wealth, honour and everything he wanted? Or is it because he was handsome and was praised by many women? Or because he made a success as a king, warrior, poet and musician? Probably that's partially true. He could give many thanks to God for providing him with so many blessings and talents and worldly great things. But we know that all these things cannot satisfy a man fundamentally. A man can still feel empty even though he stacks up many treasures. They feel empty even though they do not have any worries about survival, no children problem nor health problem. Without God, a man feels terribly empty deep in the heart. This emptiness cannot be filled by other people, achievement, human love or art work. Usually, people seek love and recognition from others to fill this emptiness, but mostly without success, resulting in hurt and disappointment. There can be some successes, but very temporary until empty again. Due to such temporal satisfaction, many people fall to a kind of addiction, whatever it is, to fill this emptiness, often resulting in destroying themselves physically and mentally and spiritually. The Bible tells that real satisfaction comes only from God, the shepherd. When David said that he lacks nothing, he means that he is really

satisfied only by God.

The rest of the passage shows how the Lord satisfies David. David has had many different situations, including very dangerous times. Afterwards, David finds that the Lord has become his shepherd in all the situations in different ways. The Lord has been David's shepherd in multi-dimensional ways. Sometimes, the Lord led him to green pastures and quiet waters, and sometimes protected him from the darkest valley. With all things God has done for him, David concludes: the Lord is my shepherd. He expresses this verse in present tense. It means that the Lord is his shepherd now, rather than the Lord was his shepherd in the past or the Lord will be his shepherd in the future. Let's further look at God's multi-dimensional shepherding for David.

Look at verse 2. "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" A shepherd leads sheep into green pastures. Green pastures are favourite foods, essential for sheep. Last winter, there was a severe draught in NSW, and there were no green pastures available on the field. It was a tough season to the sheep and farmers altogether. Likewise, there were many tough seasons to David. But David confesses that the Lord makes him

lie down in green pastures. The Lord provided David with spiritual and physical foods. In Psalm 19: 10, David particularly talks about the spiritual food, mentioning what God's words are like to him. "They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb." Psalm 42: 1 tells about David's heart toward God himself: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." David was seeking God as the deer pants for streams of water. The Lord leads such David to green pastures beside quiet waters. The Lord satisfied David's spiritual hunger and thirst.

The Bible tells that spiritual hunger and thirst are more serious than physical ones. The prophet Amos said: "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.12 People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it. 13 "In that day "the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst." Without word of God, even young people lose power and collapse. But when the word of God in the Bible is active in a soul, they can be alive, opening eyes to the spiritual



world, and spiritually alive and refreshed. When I was a uni student, a freshman, I was suffering from a disease called “the Sickness Unto Death”, overshadowed by the power of death, without knowing the meaning and purpose of life, without knowing what to do and where to go. By God’s grace, I was led by a campus shepherd to the Bible study, and with God’s word, my soul was fed and refreshed and saved, and satisfied. When I am provided with the word, I still can be satisfied.

Look at verse 3. he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths. David was a man after God’s own heart (1 Sam 13:14). He was a man of faith, fighting against enemy by faith, and shepherding people with God’s heart. But he once committed adultery and murder. Because of the sin, he lost strength and fell to fear. He was in danger to be cut off from God. He became helpless and powerless.

People suffer from various tough things while living in the world. Particularly, people are having hard times when committing sins. The problems caused by sins are not solved by human efforts, not by psychology treatment, not by speech coaching school. David repented his sins by fasting many days, and then experienced the grace of God’s forgiveness. In Psalm 32, he expressed this grace of God’s forgiveness: “When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.” (Psalm 32: 2-5). Human beings have soul who needs God’s word and forgiveness and the life of resurrection in order to be refreshed fundamentally. God is leading us to the right paths by his grace of forgiveness.

Look at verse 4. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. David experienced God’s comfort when he walked through the darkest valley many times. Around him, there were many enemies like king Saul, and sometimes betrayer, wicked informer and Gentile attackers. Whenever facing such enemies, David relied on God and God rescued him from enemies. God directed David’s way when he got in the wrong way, and God drove away any harmful things by his rod and staff of shepherd. Based on such experiences of God’s protection, he can now confess: “I will fear no evil, for you are with me”.

Protection from danger does not mean no harm at all. In fact, David could have been wounded at many battles. He was also hurt several times when he was attacked by his

own son Absalom. When he was running away from his son, a man named Shimei cursed David, saying, “Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! “ At this severe curse, David endured it. There were times of ordeal and perseverance. However, these periods were all on the course of God’s protection and guidance.

Each of us have such experiences of God’s protection, whether protection from life risks, or disease or all kinds of temptations or money problem or language problem, or children problem, or any human problem. Whatever problems or risks or fear, God has comforted us, and now we are here in peace. Though we may say, ‘we had such hard times’, but we can still confess that it was part of God’s protection and guidance.

Considering that we are living as strangers in this world, full



of heretic ideas and knowledge, anti-Christian cultures and legal system, and also materialism and hedonism spread to daily life, we cannot but confess that God is protecting us day by day.

Look at verse 5. Out of the darkest valley, David now sings a song of victory. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. God has granted David great victory. Even in the presence of his enemies, God prepared a big table for a party. Nobody could disturb this table, as God prepared it. Furthermore, God anointed his head with oil. Anointing with oil means special separation and granting special position by God. God raised up David as ruler of Israel, that is, king. David is not anymore chased by enemies, walking through the darkest valley. So, David shouts, "Lord, my cup overflows." David enjoyed life full of thanksgiving, satisfaction and joy.

Blessing to David can be blessing to us, if the Shepherd to David is our Shepherd. Theoretically, it is true that the Lord is our shepherd, as Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd' (John 10: 11). Whether you can say, 'Jesus is my shepherd', it is up to you. I believe that everyone here can confidently confess, 'The Lord is my shepherd', or 'Jesus is my shepherd'. John 10: 11 says: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." The Lord saved us, by coming to the world as our shepherd. He bore our weaknesses and sins, and became the good shepherd even to lay down his life for us. With his blood on the cross, He rescued us from the darkest valley. And now He separated us from the world and raised us as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession (1 Peter 2: 9). And he promised us that he would be with us to the end of the world (Matt 28:20). Until then, God will bless our life with the spiritual bread and the living water, satisfying our souls and helping us to produce abundant fruits.

Thus, theoretically, we should confess, 'I lack nothing'. What else can we lack? Do I lack anything? No, but nevertheless, I feel I lack something sometimes. (Isn't it amazing?). When everything is going well, I feel I lack nothing. But when everything is not going well, I feel something lack. When I have something to buy, but don't have enough money, I feel I lack some money. For campus mission, I started PhD course and hoped to keep interacting with students. But often I felt I lack understanding in what other people said, and also I felt I lack ability in making other people understand what I wrote. Considering my age of over 50, I feel I lack spirit and appearance of young age. I am getting

less hair and nearly bald now. It's okay to me, but I lack confidence at campus. I also felt lack of Bible knowledge to share with students. And I often feel I lack time in getting along with them. You may also feel lack something sometimes in some situations. You may feel you lack sufficient health in serving people. You might feel lack some kind of healing power toward sick people. It is quite possible that we sometimes feel lack something, isn't it? But let me tell you why we cannot but confess that we lack nothing, even though we definitely feel lack something sometimes.

Look at verse 6a. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Here, I emphasize 'all the days'. If God's goodness and love follow us all the days of our life, we don't have to lack anything all the days of life. In other words, we can say every day, 'Lord, my cup overflows!'. Surely God's goodness and love follow us all the days of our life. Why? Because God watches over us all the time. Psalm 121: 3,4 say; "He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." So, God watches over us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When I drive through the field, I often find that there are sheep but no shepherd visible. Was there really no shepherd? There is surely a shepherd, as sheep don't exist by themselves. I guess the shepherd was watching the sheep by telescope or CCTV at some place. David wrote God's watching over him in Psalm 139:1-3: You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways." It is true that God is with us by the Holy Spirit all the time, who works by the word of God. This means that God protects us, provides us, and leads us all the time. Even when we are in hardship, frustration or uncontrollable disaster, God's goodness and love follow us. As long as God's goodness and love follow us, we should lack nothing, as God is the Creator and the Owner of everything and cares us.

Look at verse 6b. Now David, who met God as his shepherd, makes a firm decision:

I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. David has conviction that God's goodness and love will follow him all the days of his life, as he knows God's character. Knowing this God, David says: "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." No matter what kind of house it is, David says okay, as long as God dwells in it. He says he will dwell in the house as long as God is there. This means, anything without God has no meaning, as God the shepherd is everything to him.

David enjoyed the victories as warrior. He once became an idol of all sisters of Israel. He became the king. Many nations around him devoted tributes to him. But he says: "I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." He would sell every wealth, honour and glory to dwell in the house of the Lord. This is because it was his utmost value and joy.

Why sometimes we feel hard to say that we lack nothing? As we have limited eyes to see the whole life, sometimes we don't understand God's goodness and love upon us when we are in hard times. But God knows it. In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Ro 8:28). God's purpose upon us is to bring us to his house and until then to make us conformed to the image of his Son Jesus. Sometimes we don't recognise his great purpose upon us in our specific situations. But we can know that God has his great purpose upon us and leads us best, according to our experiences.

Look at verse 1 again. David confessed: The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. This was not an easy confession. But according to his past experiences, he was sure that the Lord is his shepherd. And then by faith, he confesses: I lack nothing. When he confesses, I lack nothing, his conditions might not be perfect. Probably, he was getting old, probably, he was dying of a disease. But he confesses, I lack nothing, because he knew that surely God's goodness and love was following him all the days of his life. Thus, we can feel lack of something sometime, but still we can confess: I lack nothing. Because we know that the Lord is my shepherd all the time.

MESSAGE

Kevin Albright (Chicago, USA)

JESUS SAW THEM AS SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

Matthew 9:35-38

Key Verse 36, "When he saw the crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."



This short paragraph at the end of Matthew chapter 9 takes place in the middle of Jesus' ministry. Jesus had already been preaching and healing in Israel. Opposition from his own religious leaders was growing. Matthew writes: 35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease

and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

Verse 35 tells us, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good

news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness." This short verse has 4 verbs, including one active verb and three helping verbs called participles. The active verb is "went" or "was going." As Jesus was going from town to town, he was doing three things: teaching, proclaiming and healing. We'll think about each of these verbs.

First, let's think about the first phrase, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages..." As we know, there were no cars, busses, trains or planes in Jesus' time. Even bicycles had not yet been invented. Horses were owned only by wealthy people, and Jesus was not wealthy. So Jesus traveled like most everyone else: on foot. Jesus went from town to town and village to village. It says he went through "all the towns and villages." Of course, that doesn't mean all the towns and villages in the world, but in his own region of Galilee.

The point here is that Jesus worked hard going here and there. He didn't sit down in one place, just reading the Scriptures or praying or preparing a sermon. I'm not saying it's bad to spend much time reading the Bible or praying or writing Sunday messages. But if that is mainly what we are doing, then something is imbalanced in your ministry and mine. Jesus didn't sit around thinking or praying or reading the Scriptures. Jesus visited people. Jesus ministered to people diligently. Our ministries do not consist primarily of writing books. Actually, we tend to spend a lot of time making money and then preparing Bible studies or messages. And that's good. But if we spend little time meeting and talking to people, then we are doing something very different from Jesus.

We could say: "Well, that's Jesus! Jesus didn't need to read the Bible or prepare sermons, since he knows everything already! He's God!" But Jesus did read the Scriptures! Jesus found specific verses in Isaiah's prophecy which he wanted to reference when the scroll was handed to him. As for prayer, Jesus sometimes spent late nights or early mornings in prayer. Jesus spend adequate time reading the Bible and praying. So did Peter and Paul and all the apostles. So should we.

Yet, ministering to others means going to them, where they

are. Do you know the main reason why churches don't grow? It's because Christians don't go and tell others about Jesus and they don't invite people regularly to church and Bible study. In UBF terminology it means: "No fishing, no new students." That is, if we don't invite people, how can they come? They will not come by a poster or by a website or online invitation. They need a real flesh and blood person to meet them and speak with them. The question is: Do I make time to meet people where they are? Or more importantly: Do I even care?

We can make many excuses like: "I'm too busy. I'm too old. I can't speak well to young people. I don't want to be rejected. They'll say "no" anyway, so I don't want to waste my time." Imagine that your child fell into a river and one mile downstream there was a great waterfall. Wouldn't you frantically do your best to get your child out of the river, before they reached the destructive waterfall? Well, many people are headed for disaster without Jesus Christ. Most of them don't realize it and don't care. They think, "If there is a God, I think I'm OK, because I'm a pretty good person," or, "I don't want to waste my life chasing a God whom I'm not sure even exists; so I'll just focus on worldly happiness, like money and pleasure and some noble dream to achieve something in this world." Not long ago, I re-connected with an old friend from high school. He was not a religious person at all in high school. When I re-connected with him, he said his goal of life was to, "Leave the world a better place." It meant, "I'll try to do some good," whatever that meant. Who doesn't think that? I mean who actually thinks: "I want to make as many people miserable as possible"?

Jesus went through all the towns and villages. So did the apostles when they were commissioned to go and make disciples of all nations. What are we doing to reach out in Jesus' name to others? I want to challenge you: if you don't have a weekly plan to speak with people about Jesus Christ, then make one. Missionary Michael Ho in Brisbane struggles to go to the campus each week to invite students. Sometimes he is too busy or too discouraged to go to the campus. But he challenges himself to keep going and inviting students even though the results are not so great. In this way, God led him to one Muslim student who has come many times to Bible study. What a beautiful thing it is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with someone! Not only is that student blessed, but M.Michael feels to glad and victorious to study the Bible with someone and after he goes to the campus and share with even one student a few words about Jesus Christ and God's word.

Up to last year, I faithfully went to the campus twice a week:

once on Wednesdays at lunch time to invite students and then join a campus cheap lunch at a Catholic Center open to all people for lunch for an inexpensive lunch. This lunch became a way to connect with some UBF coworkers and to invite new students and to study the Bible during the lunch some times. One day I finished inviting students with M.Peter and we went to the lunch. At the lunch we sat at a table with two graduate student women from India. One of them opened her heart and soon began 1:1 Bible study with M.Peter's wife, M.Pauline.

My other weekly standing appointment to invite students on the campus was with my wife after our Sunday potluck lunch which took place right after our Sunday worship service. In both of these instances, I only went maybe for 15-30 minutes at a time to invite students. One time it was raining. But we kept our invitation time, taking umbrellas with us. We drove close to campus and invited one student. That one student ended up coming to Bible study. On average, over 30 years, I need to invited about 25 students at the university to see one of them come to Bible study. But there are also peak invitation times, like the day before our Christmas worship service. That's a great time since final exams are over and Christmas is a festive and special time. Almost without fail, God sends new students that way to the Christmas worship service and to Bible study.

So I repeat the question: "Do you care about perishing souls? What is the evidence? What are doing practically to go to people and show love for them?" Last year a student committed suicide. I did not know the student but that event gave me a heart to go to the campus as a friend and shepherd. Honestly, I often go only expecting to be rejected. But to go with love and joy is powerful. Jesus spoke the truth in love. Jesus went to people full of grace and truth. May God help us to go and meet with people in Jesus' name as our earnest prayer to participate in his life-giving ministry.

Remember that Jesus was doing 3 things as he was going: teaching, proclaiming and healing. Teaching and proclaiming are similar. They both involve our words. They involve sharing verbally God's words of truth, hope, warning and promise. Jesus taught the word of God. When have the word of God in the Bible. It is not our message. It is God's. We proclaim the good news of God's kingdom in Jesus Christ. God's kingdom is indeed good news, because God is good. God's kingdom gives us hope, joy, peace and purpose and direction of life. This is what all souls are longing for, even if they don't realize it or admit it. Jesus also went around healing every disease and sick-

ness or illness. We do not have the power or authority to heal. But Jesus does. Jesus is still our Great Physician. Jesus still heals broken hearts and wounded souls. Jesus still changes lives. To engage in Jesus' healing ministry is to show real care and practical concern for people's lives. Everyone has sinsicknesses and wounds in their minds and hearts. They need healing. They need someone to pray with and for them. They need a friend. They need someone to coach them or mentor them or tutor them or simply to listen to or spend time with them. Someone said, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." May God help us to engage in the healing ministry of Jesus' by his grace and mercy and love.

Now look at the key verse 36: "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Throngs and crowds of people were coming to Jesus. Why did they come to him? Some of them came for healing from their diseases. Some of them came since they were curious or seeking the truth. So many people came to Jesus for help. What would you do if many people came to your home knocking on the door? Would you welcome them in? Or would you say, "What do you want? Why are you visiting me without calling or without an appointment?" Honestly, even if I didn't say it, I would probably react that way. In other words, I would feel burdened. After all, I have enough problems and troubles of my own. I don't need more. Sometimes, when I get a phone call and I look at who is calling, sometimes I don't want to answer if the person has a habit of asking me for something. Or sometimes I don't want to answer if the person tends to complain or criticize me for something. Jesus was not like that. Jesus did not avoid people coming to him. Rather Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away." Why? Because Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Praise Jesus who is our Good Shepherd.

I never forget when my Bible teacher, M. Pauline Park, taught me John chapter 10 about Jesus the Good Shepherd. At that time, I was a UBF shepherd. I invited students on campus. I tried to serve others with prayer and God's word. Of course, I knew I fell so short of Jesus' heart. So I expected my Bible teacher to challenge me saying, "Are you a good shepherd like Jesus? Have you laid down your life for your sheep?" But from the start to the finish of the Bible study she only talked about Jesus our Good Shepherd. It was the most moving and beautiful Bible study I can remember. I was so happy to learn about Jesus my Good Shepherd. I was also so happy that my Bible teacher did not push me to be more like Jesus.

So I'm sorry that my message was so far kind of pushy: Hey, you should go and meet people for Jesus' sake! Actually, we are so weak and worldly to imitate Jesus and the apostles well. In fact, we can't by our own effort or hard work. We need his grace and Holy Spirit to do anything good. And then whenever we do, we must give him all the praise, honor and glory. Paul said, "I worked harder than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God that was with me."

Here's another thing: People are called sheep in the Bible, but they are never called our sheep. They are always called God's sheep. They belong to God, not to us. Even our children are not really ours; they are on loan from God. We are merely caretakers for them until they become independent. When Jesus spoke to Peter he said to him, "Feed MY sheep! Feed MY lambs! Take care of my sheep!" Later Peter wrote to Christian elders to "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care." We are all God's sheep. We should never think that people are "my" sheep. They are God's sheep under our care.

An important question here is: Do I have compassion for people? How do I see people? One time when I was a student, I looked at the campus at night and saw so many students going to parties on campus. To me, the students looked like cockroaches coming out at night to go to parties. My heart was broken. But to see people like cockroaches is not very compassionate. Rather it is repulsive. Jesus saw the crowds as "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Harassed people don't need someone to harass and criticize them more. Harassed people need someone to defend and protect. Helpless people don't need more burdens. They need someone to help them, to lift their burdens. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." When people are near us do they feel helped or more burdened? Do they find rest? If they do, we can say we are being shepherds.

Jesus saw people as sheep without a shepherd. They needed guidance, protection and help. Sheep without a shepherd are like lost and vulnerable children. Can you imagine a child lost in a crowd? Wouldn't you do all you

could do to help them find their mommy and daddy? Why? Because we know they are helpless and we understand the fright of a parent who has lost a child. One time my kindergarten son did not get off the bus like he normally does. I was frantic for about an hour to find him. Finally, I found him: he fell asleep on the bus ride home and was at the bus station but they didn't know whose son he was since he didn't memorize his address. How do you see yourself? Do you see yourself as a shepherd for wandering souls, a rescuer of lost people, a prayer servant for your neighborhood, campus and nation? Pretty much everyone at this conference came to Australia or New Zealand as a missionary, not as an immigrant. Is it evident to those around you at work and in your family that you are not an immigrant but a missionary. How does it show? How do you pray? More importantly: how do you show care for lost souls around you? How do you show your identity as a follower and servant of Jesus Christ? May it be evident to the people around us and closest to us that we are living fully for Jesus Christ as his child and servant and ambassador.



We remember the story of the Good Samaritan. In that story, two men had no compassion. They were too busy with their own affairs to show concern for a wounded foreigner. Naturally, the wounded man who was by implication Jewish and the Samaritan would've been enemies. But the Samaritan took pity on the wounded, dying man and treated him like his own child or brother, like his own family member. Compassion is what makes the story beautiful.

We also remember the story of the prodigal son. He was so rude to his father, taking his dad's money and wasting it on prostitutes and wild parties. But the father did not condemn his son. Rather, he was filled with compassion and ran to his son and embrace him when he saw him coming home. That is the heart of God. God runs to his runaway children to bring them back home. God eagerly welcomes sinners back to him. Our hearts need to be burning with this compassion and love in Jesus Christ. When we have this love and compassion, people can see Jesus in us and smell the aroma of Christ and they can be drawn to Christ. At the same time, we will become the target of selfish and self-righteous people who love the world and who hate a life of devotion to Christ.

Now look at the last verses in this passage, verses 37-38: 37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'

Jesus saw people as sheep without a shepherd, and he saw the world as a vast harvest field, ready to be harvested. The problem was there were not enough workers for the harvest. So Jesus taught us what to do. It was not to raise workers for the harvest. That is the Lord's work. Rather, we are to pray that the Lord of the harvest may send out workers into his harvest field.

One Bible student from Ghana came to deep personal faith in Jesus while studying in Nigeria. At that time, they were praying to send missionaries. This student named Barnabas also began to pray this. He never imagined that he would be the answer to his own prayer. In time, he got the vision to go back to his own native country, Ghana, as a missionary. He married and went to Ghana. He passed away after a short time in marriage from a lifelong battle with sickle cell anemia. But he had become a missionary. Moreover, he passed away during a Bible conference. That's a good time to pass to glory with our Lord, while honoring him and earnestly seeking him through his word and prayer.

In this passage we thought about Jesus who diligently went around, teaching, proclaiming the gospel and healing the sick. Jesus saw people as sheep without a shepherd. Jesus resolved to shepherd the world until his last breath. For this, Jesus died on the cross to bring us back to God. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, and the Lord laid on Christ our Savior the iniquity of us all. May God form in us the mind and heart of Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd, by his mercy and the power of the Holy Spirit.



Asia

■ Jan. 3-5, 2019 - Ulaanbataar, Mongolia



REPORT

BE ONE

John 17:1-26

Key verse John 17:21, "...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

2019 UBF Asia Directors conference was held on Jan 3-5th at Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia with the theme "That all of them may be one." All 40 people attended from countries in Asia and others.

In Mongolia UBF, discipleship ministry has been growing since M. Matthew Lim and M. Paul Gwon were sent out

to Mongolia in 1991. There are 4 UBF chapters including "East & West of Ulan Bator UBF" and three house churches among the native shepherds. We really thank God for the growing evangelism in Mongolia using the sacrificial life of faith and prayers of M. Matthew & Maria Lim and M. Paul & Esther Gwon.

Our conference program was focused on the words of God as we did last year because we believe that only the living words of God can help each directors and native shepherds to grow.

We thank God for richly blessing the conference with full of grace and truth through the living words of God. The opening message "Now Give Me this Hill Country" based on Joshua 14:12 was given by M. Peter Lee. We all were greatly encouraged by the faith of Caleb, a spiritual general who kept the promise of God which God gave to him 45 years ago. Even in his 85 years old age, he did not retire but



he would actively participate in God's conquering war over the Promised Land, because he had a clear conviction of faith in God's promise.



P. Moses Yoon (GD) powerfully delivered the main lecture with the title, "That All of Them may be One" based on John 17:1-26. Through it, we learned about (1) God's earnest desire for each one, (2) Why we all must become one? (3) How can we be one? (4) What will happen among us when we become one?



And there we had group Bible studies based on 1Kings 1:1-18:45 (Three lectures). Through the GBS, we learned about (1) How God greatly blessed Solomon & his kingdom when he had humbly relied on God and was living by faith? (2) How his kingdom was divided and destroyed after he was following the gentile women and idol worship? (3) How God used his servant, Elijah who was a powerful prayer warrior and a compassionate shepherd for the people of God by rescuing God's people from the idols of Baal and Asherah and got rid of the 450 prophets of Baal.



On the next day evening, M. Jacob Lee gave a special lecture entitled "God's Vision for Next Generation". Through it, we learned about the Biblical basis of why we should raise next generation leaders?



M. Matthew Lim, national director of Mongolia UBF served a closing message entitled, "Put this Money to work until I come back" We learned that there is time for each person to stand before God at the end of life and God sees what each person has done for the work of God in this world. When we work hard for God faithfully, God will reward us surely.

We praise and thank God for refreshing our faith, hope and pioneering spirit through the conference. We also thank God for enabling us to have a deep loving fellowship with God in his words. Especially based on the main lecture "That All of Them may be One", we could learn each other deeper through writing and sharing testimonies.

Next year in 2020, Asia directors conference will be held in Cambodia and M. Paul Gwon has been elected as the 4th Asia continental coordinator after M. Peter Lee.

Again we praise and thank God for recharging of our faith and making 2019 Asia directors conference as a memorable gathering with full of grace through the life giving words of God. Thank God for Mongolian coworkers and their sacrifice including delicious foods and good environments for us.

OPENING MESSAGE

Peter Lee (Depok, Indonesia)
Former Asia Coordinator

NOW GIVE ME THIS HILL COUNTRY

Joshua 14:6-15

Key verse 14:12, "Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."



Happy New Year! Joshua chapters 1 to 12 are a record of the Canaanite conquest war. Chapters 13 to 24, about dividing the conquered land by tribe. Chapters 14 verse 1-5 reveal the general distribution. The distribution method was by lot, and the inheritances were assigned to the nine-and-a-half tribes(2).

But before the distribution of the land began, Caleb came to Joshua and demanded that he give the mountain of Hebron to him, based on the word of

God's promise. At this time Caleb was 85 years old. Caleb has lived his life as a man of No 2. But he was a man of faith who lived by seeking God wholeheartedly. Today, I would like to share God's amazing grace by thinking about the characteristics of Caleb's faith and life that sought God wholeheartedly.

I. Caleb spoke words of faith (6,7)

Look at the verse 6-7. Forty five years ago, Caleb was given a mission to spy on Canaan with the other twelve. After

spying, all ten reported negatively. They dismissed the land of Canaan "a land that swallows its inhabitants." They saw the strong cities and the mighty Canaanites, and they were discouraged and lost their willingness to fight in the battle. And when they saw the captain of the sons of Anak, the descendants of Nephim, they were terrified. They considered themselves as grasshoppers that are caught in all kinds of distrust and fear, and concluded that it was impossible to conquer Canaan, so they reported negative reports. This caused the whole people of Israel to lose faith, blame God and they wanted to return to Egypt.

But Caleb reported with sincerity. In Numbers 13:30, Caleb said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." Caleb was confident that they would win even if the enemies were strong and the city was solid. So he sought to give faith to the people and plant confidence of victory. He tore his clothes with Joshua, and told all the congregation of the people of Israel. (7) Joshua and Caleb witnessed that the land they had discovered was not a land of inhabitants, but indeed a very beautiful land. They wanted to give hope about the Promised Land.

Caleb and Joshua also reminded everyone that going into the land of Canaan was all dependent on God. "If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into the land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us" (Numbers 14: 8) And they gave the people confidence in victory. "Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them." (Nu 14: 9) God is the one giving us the Promised Land, so in order to enter the land of Canaan where there are milk and honey, they only need to not rebel against God. The way to not rebel against God was not fear the inhabitants of that land, but to win the land by faith. In Joshua and Caleb's eyes, the enemies' protector had already left them. Therefore, they were simply like the food on the table, ready to be eaten by the people of Israel.

Caleb turned to himself and said, "I have reported it to him with sincerity." In NIV, it is written as "according to my conviction." Therefore, Caleb's "sincere heart" is basically full of confidence, "By believing that going there in faith and

taking the land will result in victory." Also, his report was based on his faith that "God was pleased, and He will lead us into the land. So we must not rebel against Him. He is with us." In short, Caleb was a man of faith, and a man of conviction.

People of faith have minds that do not fluctuate based on circumstances and conditions. The people of faith believe in God, believe in God's promise, and are convinced that God will accomplish what He promises, so they only speak words of faith. God blessed Caleb who spoke words of faith.

How did God bless Caleb? God let Caleb and Joshua, who reported with faith, into the land of Canaan where milk and honey flowed. But God made the ten chiefs who made negative report die on the spot. The people of Israel who agreed with the chiefs and rebelled against God were also died in the wilderness. Look at verse 10. "Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old!"

If we are to receive God's blessing, we must look at all things with the eyes of faith and speak of faith. Even when ten out of twelve people speak negative and critical words, we must firmly believe God's promise and speak the word of faith. This is the way to save the people. It is also the way to save yourself. We must not be influenced because of the words of those who speak negatively. We must always speak words of faith before God. We have to look at people with the eyes of faith. We must also look at our church with the eyes of faith. We should always look at your co-workers

and sheep in the eyes of faith and always speak words of faith.

II. Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly (8-10)

Look at verse 8 and 9. The ten leaders who went up with the spy with Caleb made a negative report and demotivated the people. But Caleb was faithful to the LORD. Verses 8 and 9 refer to the words of God in Numbers 14:24. "But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it." Caleb was different from the other 10 leaders. What was different? He was different from them and said that He had fully followed God. So God blessed him for following him and his descendants could have the land.

What is the faith that God acknowledged? It was a faith of following God wholeheartedly. "Wholeheartedly followed" means he completely and fully sacrificed. Look at verse 14. "So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly."

The sincerity of the heart means to be convinced as it is believed in the heart. However, the word "followed wholeheartedly" means to be faithful and fully devote to God in everyday life. Caleb lived a life that was fully devoted to God. It was the same when he spied on Canaan 45 years ago. He followed the LORD entirely and fully. After Moses' death, he was covered in the shadow of Joshua and lived 45 years humbly without being recognized and without getting any attention. Nevertheless, he obeyed God's sov-



ereignty to the best of his ability, and was loyal to God. Caleb held onto God's promise and obeyed God wholeheartedly. Such faith is truly mature.

The word "wholeheartedly" means full and satisfying. Caleb was the one who fully satisfied God's demands. He was worthy of God's heart. He was the one who captivated the heart of God and filled God's heart. The word 'followed' means that he lived in obedience to the word of God. Caleb was not interested in anything but following the Word of God completely. From the age of 40 to 85, he continued to follow the Lord God and be with him always. The later generations also gave Caleb the nickname of a man who followed the LORD wholeheartedly. Caleb became a man of faith, a man of obedience, who left a legacy of good faith to his descendants. I hope that you and I will be able to receive the acknowledgment and praise for following the Lord God just like Caleb, on the day we leave this world.

III. Caleb had a spirit of challenge (10-15)

Caleb continued speaking. In verse 10 he said that God kept him alive in the wilderness. So now he was 85 years old. But how is Caleb's health? Look at verse 11. He said

that he was as strong as he was 45 years ago. He said he still had a lot of strength. So he said there was no inconvenience in going to war for Caleb.

So what was Caleb asking for? Look at verse 12. Let's read together. "Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."

He was asking to give him the hill country that God promised to give him that day. Where was the mountain? The towns are big and strong. There were also descendants of the Anakites. Joshua could conquer the Anakites in the mountains, but the Anakites living in the mountains of Hebron were too strong, and the cities were strong and large, and so Joshua could not conquer them. But Caleb is asking for the hill country.

What was his conviction? "There is an Anakite there, and the cities are large and strong, but if the Lord is with me, I will drive them out as the LORD has said." Caleb still had the same faith. He still obeyed Jehovah with the unchanged

faith. He believed that as long as God was with them, God would help them drive their enemies out. 45 years had already passed, but he was still saying the same thing as before. "If Jehovah is pleased, he will bring us into the land, and he will give it to us." "Do not rebel against the Lord, do not be afraid of the people of the land. They are our food. He is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Caleb was not asking for the land that is already conquered. Nor did he ask for ayolky and fertile land? He was asking for the land that no one was brave enough to ask for, or pleased to have, so then he can conquer the land with faith in God. He had a belief that no matter how strong and solid the enemies and their castles were, and no matter how weak and old he was, God would help him conquer the land. He believed God's promise with his heart. Caleb's challenging spirit came from a faith in God's promise. Similarly, those who believe in God's promise and believe in God's presence will always be filled with a challenging spirit. The spirit of challenge is not only for young people. Like Caleb, people of faith challenge themselves with new opportunities even when they are 85 years old.

What happened to Caleb in the end? Look at verses 13-15. Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron as an inheritance. Caleb eventually defeated the Anakites by his faith, and took possession of the land as a possession. Caleb begged, "Now give me this hill country." He asked for mountain that everyone else wanted to avoid. What is the basis for his demand? "If the LORD is with me, I will drive them out as the LORD has said." His basis was that if God is with him, nothing is impossible. May God grant everyone here the faith like Caleb's to begin the new year of 2019. What would be impossible with God? I believe that God will be with you and that all things will be possible with Him. It seems like for Caleb, the God who is with him was more important and greater than the situation. The faith he had since youth is not shaken even when he is old, but rather stronger, and his vision shines more clearly. I hope our faith will be just as strong and just as bright as Caleb's.

Then, what is the Hebron mountain that we must conquer? It is Asia continent, our mission field that is full of idolatry. It is also the campus ministry we must serve. Our hill country is God's ministry that we have to conquer, which does not seem to change even after 10 and 20 years. This is the mission that we can not conquer alone. But because it is the land that God has given us, and also the land that God promised us, we must conquer it. I pray that even in 2019, just like Caleb, we will continue to ask God for this mountain, and challenge ourselves in faith.

Syalom! I give thanks to God for letting me learn Caleb's faith while preparing this message. Last year through the book of Joshua, I was greatly challenged and inspired by Caleb, who held onto faith in God and sought God all his life. I was able to have a spiritual hope of spending my entire life just like Caleb, following God wholeheartedly. I fought to wake up at 4 in the morning and pray, by holding onto God's words. Also, in order to stay physically strong and healthy like Caleb, I did 120 times push ups and 200 squads every day. And I made a badminton club di Depok Center and worked out with the sheep 3 times a week. So I was able to live this year without getting sick.

However, after coming back from USA international conference in August, I became lazy as my regular routine was broken. Also, the hidden sin problems among the shepherds and shepherdesses, as well as those conflicts among the leaders appeared on the surface. When I had to be more spiritually awoken and challenge myself to pray harder, I became lethargic. I made God sad by making my work as an excuse to hardly keep the deadline of finishing my message. I realize that I have been a helpless sinner without faith, and I am determined to hold on to God's words and challenge myself. I pray that God will give His grace to a man of full flaws like me, and help me follow Him in faith, by continuously challenging myself in 2019 and until the day I receive the Muslim Hebron as an enterprise. Amen.

In a conclusion. Caleb was a man who spoke words of faith. Caleb was a man of obedience who followed God wholeheartedly in his everyday life. And he challenged himself to confront the impossible by obeying God's guidance. God blessed Caleb and gave him victory. I pray that God will give all of us the same faith that He has given Caleb. I pray that 2019 will be a year of blessing and victory, and that our remaining lives will be blessed and more beautiful in the sight of God.



CLOSING MESSAGE

Matthew Lim (East Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)

PUT THIS MONEY TO WORK UNTIL I COME BACK

Luke 19: 12-27

KV: 19:13, "So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'"



First, I give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father, who called us as missionaries for gentiles in this age. Our missionaries gathered here have been loyal to the Lord and working so hard for the ministry of God in each mission field. And I thank God that we could gather here and have fellowship in the Word of God to be refreshed. This passage is about the parable of Ten

Minas, which we know so well. I would like to share a few things that I have learned from this passage.

Let's look at verse 12. "He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return." The man of noble birth refers to Jesus. And going to a distant country to receive the throne means that Jesus will ascend to the heaven and come back as the king of kings. Let's look at verse 13. The nobleman called ten servants, gave one mina to each servant, and said, "Put the money to work until I come back."

In this verse, the servants refer to the disciples, and to all believers. One mina is equivalent to three months' wages of a worker and could become seed money for business for the servants. The money that the master gave to his servants was not for spending for their pleasure but for starting a business to make profits. This verse teaches believers and disciples what their mission is in this world. One Mina can be seen as anything God has given us, but I'd like to look into it in two aspects.

First, one mina is life and talent given to each of us.

God has given everyone only one life. He also gave each of us amazing talents that fit us. Although we are expected to live for 100 years thanks to the advancement of science these days, our life is very short and finite. However, the fruit we can bear in this short life is abundant and almost infinite. Jesus also said that the life of a human being, like the kernel of wheat, has the potential to bear much fruit, as much as 30, 60 or even 100 times of what he sows. God has given us life and talent so that we may bring glory to God by bearing fruits. If we do not use our life and the God-given talents for the glory of God, but use it up for our own enjoyment, then it will be a waste of our life. We will have no choice but to be judged by God because it will be disobedience to God's command to make profits with our life. But when we invest our life for the Lord and for His kingdom, God will commend us and make our life so fruitful.

Second, one mina is the gospel of life that Jesus entrusted to us.

Jesus has entrusted his disciples the gospel as the seed money and order them to do the gospel business with it till he comes back. Matthew 28:19-20 say, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Also Mark's gospel ends with Jesus command, which says, "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."(Mark 16:15). Therefore, we must glorify God by gathering the fruit of the gospel through the investment of our life and time in the gospel ministry.

Look at verse 15. "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it." Here we can see that the time of settlement is surely coming in our life. Then what did the servants do with the money?

Look at verses 16 and 17. The first one came and said, "Sir, your mina has earned ten more." This servant did the business well and made a profit of 1000%. The master was greatly pleased and praised the servant. "'Well done, my good servant!' 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'" The greatest reward given to the servant was the recognition and praise of the master. In addition, the servant also received the reward of taking charge of ten cities. In verses 18-19, the second servant also reported that he had made five minas out of one mina. The master did not rebuke him for making smaller profit compared to the first one. He praised the second servant because he did his best. And he gave the servant the authority to take charge of five cities. The first and second servants did well in their business and made lots of profits. They were very useful servants to the master. What would be the secret of their success?

First, it was because they were trustworthy in a very small matter.

When the master praised the first servant who had made ten minas, he said, "'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter'" Those who do business don't despise one cent. They take one cent seriously because they know how powerful it can be. Perhaps the servants of this parable also cherished one cent. Above all, they must have been grateful to the master for the one mina which their master entrusted to them. They did not complain about the amount of the seed money as if they should do business with 100 or 1000 minas. With the grateful heart for the master, they did their best in a very small matter.

As gospel workers, what is the very small matter that we should be trustworthy in? That is serving one sheep that God has sent to us, cherishing them as more precious than the whole universe. We have to pray for them, teach them the Bible, feed them and raise them up as Jesus' disciples. Then they will grow and raise up other disciples.

Second, it was because they obeyed the master's command wholeheartedly.

This is the main reason that the first and second servants could make profits. They deeply accepted and obeyed the master's command to "Put this money to work." When they

started business, there must have been many difficulties. The rent may suddenly have doubled, or the number of customers may have decreased significantly, or a national financial crisis may have come to the country and the business have gone bankrupt. However, they were willing to do anything to make their business successful and to make profits for the sake of their master. They did not try to make an excuse in whatever circumstances, but instead struggled to obey their master. Finally, God blessed their obedient faith and gave them 500% and 1000% of profits each.

Third, it was because they did good research to make an investment.

For business to be established, there should be investment. Without it, there would be no loss, no profit and nothing would happen. However, investment should be made with caution as well. Many surveys and analysis of market size, consumer preference and the timing of investment should be done in advance. Without these basic researches, the business will go bad. The servants in this parable must have researched diligently, and finally could make lots of profits.

As disciples of Jesus, we must diligently study the Word, study the sheep, and study this age in order to make our gospel business successful. We must invest our time and resources for this study. We must invest our talents and life. However, investment requires faith. You may fear that your life could be wasted in vain leaving no profits in the Gospel business, if invested in the wrong places. But surely, our life will be the most blessed and abundant life when we invest our youth and our resources by faith as Gospel businessmen. Moreover, we will please the Lord by making a profit in the Gospel business and be praised by our Master as "good and faithful servants."

God called me to Mongolia 27 years ago as a missionary. It seemed to me that my life would be wasted because there was no future guarantee or certainty of life in Mongolia. But I remembered the grace of God's salvation upon my life, which gave me eternal life and His calling. So, I came to Mongolia as a gospel businessman with a spirit of "If I perish, I perish". I have just lived in obedience to my Lord by learning the language, translating the Bible into Mongolian, serving one-to-one Bible study with the students, preparing and delivering the Sunday message every week. Since I had lived without a stable job or a fixed income for more than 10 years in the beginning, I often felt discouraged because of my lack of faith and wanted to return to Korea. However, God has sent me many Mongolian college

students who have been hungry for the Gospel, and they have been regenerated by the Gospel and have grown to be disciples of Jesus.

Many students came and left over the years, but God allowed the remnants to be raised up as staff shepherds, full time shepherds, and many house churches to be established in Mongolian UBF. In 2011, the entire leadership was transferred to Mongolian shepherds. In addition, a few Mongolian shepherds have begun to serve and pioneer several branches of their own. God allowed me to study at Mongolian Law School at the age of over 40 to support my family. After graduation, I passed the Mongolian national bar examination in 2011 and became the only foreign lawyer in Mongolia. I came to Mongolia as a missionary at the age of 27, and have lived here for more than 27 years. I have lived for a longer time in Mongolia than in Korea. When I invested my youth, my time and my resources for the Mongolian campus ministry, God has poured out so many blessings upon my life. Looking back on my 27 years of missionary life, I realized that God has made my life so blessed and enriched more than anyone else's. I give thanks and praise to God.

People may think that my family would be financially well since I got a decent job as lawyer, but in fact we are still struggling hard. When we had to worry about our living expenses and the tuition for my two children, I wondered why God would not let us be financially carefree yet, but always leave us in need. But I am not complaining to God.

I just want to be financially stable, but perhaps God's time has not yet come.

Since April of this year, I have had a few abnormal symptoms in my body. I started to have various pain in my legs and arms for no reason, and it got worse. I went to a hospital in Korea in September, but the doctors could not find the exact diagnosis or the cause. However, I got some medicine and have been trying therapies on the basis of the assumption that my internal organs might have got frostbite and the nerve might have been inflamed while I have been living in this frozen land for a long time. Many thoughts arose as I was experiencing this sudden aches and pains in my body. "Is it time for me to leave Mongolia, or should I stay here?" I have to be here for at least 6 more years because the foundation of my life was laid here in Mongolia. I still do not know what God's will and direction would be. However, in the midst of financial struggles and the physical suffering in my body, I learned one thing clearly through this passage.

It is that there will surely be a time of settlement of my life before God, though I do not know whether He would lead me to Korea or to other mission field, or even let me stay in Mongolia. In other words, I must remain faithful and do well in the Gospel business until the time of the Lord's coming for settlement. Now I am only 55 years old, and I should not be in the backseat like an old man, not working hard with various excuses. I pray that I may live as a loyal servant of Jesus to the end and get praised by the Lord when I stand before Him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"

In conclusion, the Lord has given us noble life and talents, and commanded us to put to work with His Gospel. I hope all of us to be Jesus' servants who are obedient and useful and make lots of profits for our Lord. Therefore, when our lives should be settled, we all may be praised by our Lord Jesus. How glorious would it be to be recognized and honored by Jesus, the king of kings and the judge of the world. Jesus will praise and put a crown of righteousness and a crown of life on the head of those who has completed the

race of faith, those who has made good profits in His Gospel business, "Well done! My good and faithful servant!" Amen.



CIS

Jan. 4-6, 2019 - Irkutsk

БЮДЖЕТ
КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ ЛИДЕРОВ

ВСЕ ЕДИН
4-6 ЯНВАРЯ 2019 г. Иркутск



REPORT

Caleb Han (St. Petersburg, Russia)
CIS Coordinator

THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE

John 17: 21, "That All of Them May Be One"



CIS Conference was held by God's grace in Irkutsk, Siberia, between 4-6, January, 2019. We studied Zechariah. Shepherd Changwon Kim, the Korean coordinator for CIS, helped out for questionnaires and group study arrangement. Initially we attempted to cover all the 15 chapters of

Zechariah, but time did not allow it, and we studied up to chapter 6. To support Bible studies, shepherds Changwon Kim, James Suh and Gyeonghee Suh attended; for prayer support, Pastor Ron Ward from Chicago, Joshua Lee from Canada and John Park from Gwangju UBF, Korea, attended. And missionary Moses Yoon, the general director, attended to serve the word of God. Bible studies, prayer support and fellowship by these servants of God became great encouragement to CIS missionaries. Brother missionaries had fellowship with them staying up second and third nights. I felt we lacked time so much, more than any other new-year conferences.

Lecture 1 for the conference was delivered by 2nd gen missionary Samuel Lee from Yekaterinburg; he demonstrated excellent interpretation and application for the passage with

the theme "Sprout from burnt tree", delivering a very deep, graceful and powerful message. He was the first second gen messenger in new-year leaders meetings, and in fact, he was a new sprout itself. He revealed the hope of God who wants to build a great church of God in CIS, and we all could see the great hope and vision through his testimony.

Lecture 2 was delivered by missionary Moses Yoon, with John 17 "May they also be in us". The word of God was active and alive, and we all learned how to become one. We earnestly prayed that CIS may become one all the more and we may establish a holy temple of God.

Lecture 3 was delivered by shepherd Aleksei, from Mos-



cow, with Zechariah 4-6 "Build the temple of God". He testified by faith that God has surely made us win the victory overcoming all the difficulties, building the church of God in CIS.

In this new-year leaders conference, the second gens had a great opportunity to serve God's work by joining various activities such as messages, music and special song performances. We pray that the second gens may be raised firmly as gospel co-workers.

Through the new-year messages, God has clearly shown that when we become one by the word of God, we can build a temple of God. We pray that we all may love the word of God all the more in 2019, abiding by the word, having God and Jesus our Lord in the center of our heart, thereby experiencing transformation of our life, and building the church of God. We pray for abundant work of God's word, fruitful disciple ministry and many house churches in CIS, this year. We also eagerly pray that God may bless regional

conferences (Central Asia, Ukraine, Russia).

I personally received abundant God's grace through the word of John's gospel. I deeply accepted the fact that only when I am separated from the world by the word of God, becoming holy as a child of God, I can become one with God and can help sinners who are living under the sinful world, so that they may be saved. Then I decided to spend more time to know the word of God this year rather than to know the trends of the world by searching worldly news. I pray that I may invest everything on the word of God so that I may devote to discipleship ministry and the work of becoming one, which will make the year of blessing (the Year of the Swine).





North America

■ Jan. 10-12, 2019 - Chicago



REPORT

Yvonne Lee (Chicago, USA)

THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE

John 17: 21, "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."



Our North American staff conference was held Janu-

ary 10-12 at the Sheraton Hotel O'Hare in Chicago with an attendance of 166 members. Messages were given by Pastor Abraham Kim (Acts 1:8), Pastor Moses Yoon (John 17), and William Larsen (1 Cor 1, 2). In addition, there were regional reports, two Bible studies plus testimony sharing, a multi-generational discussion, and much prayer.

On the opening night, Pastor Abraham Kim encouraged us to be witnesses of Jesus to end of our lives by the power of the Spirit. He said our roles in the ministry may change, but our calling to be a witness of Jesus never changes. His message was followed by regional reports of how God worked last year and each region's prayer topics. In addition, we also welcomed many new young leaders from different chapters.

The next morning, members engaged in a working breakfast for regional meetings, and afterwards, studied John 17 in small groups. Then, Pastor Moses Yoon shared his New Year's message with the theme that we may be one.

He reminded us that this was Jesus' prayer for us and this is how others know that we are really his disciples. He emphasized that we need God's protection and sanctification to love one another and truly be one. After his message, several new chapter directors were introduced, and we heard a presentation on Next Gen education and vision camps.

In the afternoon, there was a multi-generational discussion on how to be one by recognizing the differences and needs of each generation, first by six panelists from three different generations and then in break-out groups. Everyone agreed that this is possible when there is genuine love and communication. Before testimony sharing in the evening, we heard various reports on preparation for ISBC 2023, the formation of the third Emerging Leaders Cohort, UBF's online education, the Wikipedia project, and a certificate program on cross-cultural relations from Wheaton College available to UBF members.

On the last day, following a Bible study on 1 Cor 1:18-2:16, William Larsen, of Los Angeles UBF, gave a message entitled, "Jesus Christ and Him Crucified." He encouraged us to be one by holding only onto the power and wisdom of the cross and by repenting of worldly wisdom that leads to divisions, quarrels and struggles in the ministry. Also, through

the Spirit we can have the mind of Christ by which we can be one. Afterwards, more new chapter leaders were introduced followed by an update on Dr. John Doty's miraculous recovery.

Lastly, Pastor Moses Yoon gave us direction and prayer topics: 1.) to study the Bible deeply and fervently; 2.) preach the gospel, believing the power of the gospel, and for North America UBF to have 5,000 1:1 Bible studies weekly; 3.) to build up a genuinely loving community; 4.) to raise up the next generation leaders; 5.) for Dr. John Doty's health.

By Yvonne Lee



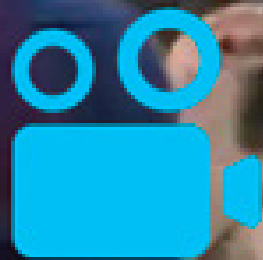


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MESSAGE

William Larsen (LA, USA)

JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16

Key Verse 2:2, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."



the Corinthians were by far the most splintered church; boasting in leaders, divided by lawsuits among each other, divided by social classes—rich and poor, divided by jealousy for one another's role in the body of Christ. Although the Corinthians were not "lacking in any spiritual gift" their lack of unity was an absence of a fundamental quality Jesus looks for in his body—oneness.

Church unity can feel like a perplexing issue though. We can easily feel overwhelmed by the many differences we naturally have: age, ethnicity, culture, life experiences, etc. The gospel of God is however a total solution for even the most overwhelming problems of life, including how to unite a people together with one mind and heart. We should not turn away from the problem of church unity but by faith look to Jesus' Cross, the power and wisdom of God.

So, by looking at Paul's letter to the divided Corinthians let's learn how we can insure there is oneness in our church body. Let's consider this passage in four points.

Part 1 - Power & Wisdom (18-25)

Look at verses 18 to 20, "18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?"

In these verses and throughout today's passage the words "power" and "wisdom" are repeated over and over. What is the appeal and nature of power and wisdom?

Have you ever heard of the GE9X? It's a massive jet engine capable of moving a 400 ton airplane down a runway, lift it into the air and then run continuously for 16+ hours in transcontinental flight.

Likewise, power makes things happen, it changes situations and overcomes incredible obstacles. With power men and women can face their problems (internal and external) attack the problem and be victorious. Without power we are tossed here and there, shaken by circumstances and overcome by the devil our enemy.

Wisdom, on the other hand, is like a jetliner's navigation system. It tells us what is happening around us, gives insights into how to respond to situations, what to do next and where we are going, who we are and much more.

We really do need both Power and Wisdom to live. God calls us to fly above the things of this world. Therefore, mankind needs both, power and wisdom. Where does power and wisdom come from? Look at verse 18 again. "18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Power and Wisdom comes from the "message of the cross". What is the message of the cross? It is the story of what

God's one and only son Jesus accomplished through his crucifixion and resurrection. The "message of the cross" is the power of God because it through the cross and resurrection Jesus resolves the stain of sin and enables weak humans to live powerful new lives that are righteous, holy and godly. But to those on the outside this "message of the cross" looks like foolishness because the entire message hangs on what Jesus did for me, not what I can do for me.

Paul identifies three types of people who think this message of the cross is foolishness; the "wise person", "teacher of the law", "philosopher of this age". What do they all have in common? They all develop expansive systems, modals, concepts and frameworks that emphasize what you need to do to grow into a better, more virtuous and happy person.

For example, Teachers of the law took the Torah and then built extra-biblical ideas atop of the Word of God. These teachings focused on how you, with focus and determination, can live a good life according to God. By following the teacher's of the law, you might grow into a self-righteous person who brags to God saying, "I fast twice a week and pay tithes of all that I receive." Jesus, during his time on earth wasn't impressed and so said, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" --Mark 7:9

Let's think about philosophers of this age." Epicurus, tackled the question, "How can people be happy?" He emphasized moderation of desires and the power of philosophy to liberate oneself from the fear of death. Aristotle identified 11 virtues (courage, temperance, liberality, magnificence, contentment, honor, good temper, friendliness, truthfulness, wit, justice) and designed an entire framework around them. In Plato's most famous work, the Republic, he writes about how to unify a society through justice and philosophy.

Overall, the message of philosophers was that logic and reason had power to unify society. To the Corinthian believers, who were immersed in this culture, it may seem that there were a lot of aspects of greek philosophy which made sense to them, which they liked and even seemed to be effective. But what does God think about this type of wisdom?

Look at verse 19 again, "19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Paul reminds us from scripture that there is an active cam-

paign by God to "destroy the wisdom of the wise" and "frustrate" the "intelligence of the intelligent". What a surprise that God Almighty is on a mission to "destroy" the wisdom of the wise! If God is seeking to destroy something, God's children must distance themselves from that object of destruction! Why though is God so aggressive towards worldly wisdom?

Look at verses 21 to 25, "21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

Paul reveals here in v. 21 that the world's wisdom does not lead people to know God. The teachings of the wise set themselves up to be a path but God hates it because worldly wisdom doesn't bring anyone to a knowledge of God. Instead, it hardens sinners in self-righteousness, false piety and arrogance, actually carrying people farther from God! It's understandable that God is on a campaign to destroy worldly wisdom because it is a wisdom of pride, leading men to believe in themselves, to lean on a power that is of man.

"But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Why is the message of the cross a "stumbling block" to Jews and "foolishness" to Gentiles? Because the message of the cross does not entice the pride of man, instead it humbles us and paints us as sinners, in need of mercy and forgiveness. Most people are too proud to even ask for directions when lost driving, how much more do most hold onto their pride in regards to their inability to resolve the issue of sin.

Human pride is completely incompatible in the cross of Christ. The cross is a completed work that does not require effort, special knowledge or qualifications. It seems so weak and foolish to the world because we put our faith in what Jesus did, not what I can do. It is a stumbling block because trusting in Jesus' righteousness, as my righteousness is counter intuitive to worldly wisdom that focuses

on what man can do with logic and self-discipline. There's never been any philosopher or guru who taught mankind is a helpless sinner in need of a savior. But this "foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom" and this "weakness of God is stronger than human strength" because the wisdom of the world has no power to resolve sinfulness. Perhaps people can diminish some sinning but if you put any of them in the right situation their sinful desires will come springing up from them like a den of lions.

So what was the Corinthian church to do? They should flee every hint of worldly wisdom coming from their past life; wisdom that God had set his mind to "destroy" and "frustrate". By fleeing these teachings, and the human pride therein, "the message of the cross" might be properly held up as the total solution to all sinfulness, past and present. For their church's jealousy, quarreling, factions and divisions were a direct result of the message of the cross being emptied of its power.

Part 2 - Boast in the Lord (26-31)

Look at verses 26 to 31, "26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

Here, Paul reminds the Corinthians of how they were when they first believed, "Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth."

Evidently, among the Corinthian believers some were beginning to grow proud. When they came to Jesus they were sub-human, despised by the world, weak and lowly people. Perhaps after receiving God's grace the Spirit worked among them so well that many found themselves more disciplined, more insightful and harder working than the worldly people who shunned and ridiculed them in the past. How many testimonies in UBF have we heard of F-students becoming A+ students? The danger is that after receiving Jesus' healing we can fall into the temptation of

pride.

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him."

Amazingly, from God's perspective, our original lowly state and deep humility was and is God's ideal for us! For, he doesn't want anyone to boast about themselves but to remain humble and lowly, as we actually are. Boasting on the other hand is what Satan does. He boasted that he was like God. Therefore, boasting is a horrible declaration that I don't need God. Though someone might not say this explicitly, the spirit of boasting ties back to Satan's desire to be independent from God. Is it any wonder that God seeks that "no one may boast before him"? But we can "boast in the Lord" and freely exalt Jesus and praise him who freely took away our sins and has granted us his Holy Spirit to live new lives—this we can declare and take pride in!

Part 3 - Resolved to Know Nothing Except... (1-5)

Look at verses 1 to 5, "1And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power."

Among the Greeks it was common for orators to practice the art of rhetoric. Aristotle developed three rhetorical styles that used emotion, reputation or logic to make a point impactful. Paul refused to utilize these tactics because in his view it might empty the cross of its power. So instead of Aristotle's three styles, Paul practiced "weakness", "great fear" and "trembling".

His complete focus when preaching was "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." There wasn't any "9 steps to knowing God" or "Secrets to becoming a better Christian". Instead, every message was "Jesus Christ and him crucified". Instead of getting bored with that message topic Paul would just keep his focus on Jesus' cross, over and over again. He didn't dress it up with "wise or persuasive words" because the cross is by definition lowly and its power and wisdom is for

the lowly and humble.

Naturally, serving God can lead to feelings of strength and confidence. Experience does this to people because we aren't in unfamiliar territory anymore. But "experience" is a type of pride and human wisdom where God's grace isn't desperately sought anymore. Paul knowing this didn't allow himself to embrace self-confidence but instead retained his "weakness with great fear and trembling" to the end.

We might think, "I don't like being weak, having great fear and trembling!" As messengers of God's word I don't think we should desire to feel more comfortable through experience. Instead, we should embrace this weakness, fear and trembling because it makes us rely on God. When we rely on God we can be conduits that demonstrate "the Spirit's power"! This is critical because those who listen to us need to put their faith in God, not persuasive or wise words. What then does the demonstration of the Spirit's power look like?

Part 4 - Mind of Christ (6-16)

Look at verses 6-10a, "6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him — 10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit."

As messengers, the demonstration of the Spirit's power comes in the form of supernatural insights and power to declare "God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden". God has revealed these things by his Spirit and they are truths and mysteries that all the wise men, teachers of the law and philosophers knew nothing about. No eye had seen, or ear heard or human mind conceived the deep truths and mysteries God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

Look at 10b to 16, "The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not

in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. 14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."

In these last paragraphs we learn that the Spirit knows the mind of God and since the Spirit dwells in us, we have the potential to uncover truths that are so profound that only the mind of God would see or understand them. This profound statement, "But we have the mind of Christ" tells us that we don't need any types of worldly wisdom because Jesus has given us access to the Spirit who "searches all things, even the deep things of God"! What a treasure! Therefore, as God's messengers we have been fully equipped with 1) "the message of the cross". 2) demonstration of the Spirit's power through 3) "words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words". How blessed and pleased is Jesus' church with all he has provided for us to know and serve Him!

In conclusion, this entire passage can be distilled down to one theme: man's power and wisdom VS. God's Power and Wisdom. For the Corinthians, they had NOT completely fled worldly wisdom but polluted "the message of the cross" by mixing them together. The result: divisions, factions, jealousy and quarreling coming from unchecked sinfulness.

The message of the cross is the power of God that leads us to victory over sins past and present. The message of the cross is the power of God to unite Jesus' body with His unfailing love. The message of the cross is the power of God to completely transform any circumstance we may face as a church body and lead us into complete victory over our enemies.

In today's modern society there are many forms of worldly wisdom that we might be tempted to integrate. But let us remember that "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength". We don't need worldly wisdom, all we need is to resolve to know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified!

One Word: Jesus Christ and him crucified

art,
art!



Latin America

■ Jan. 17-19, 2019 - Bolivia



REPORT

Esteban Cho (Bolivia)
Latin America Coordinator

WE RENEWED OUR PIONEERING VISION TOWARDS THE 7 COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA



Thank you for your prayers for the Conference in Bolivia which took place on January 16th to 19th. In total 70 people attended this conference (48 from Latin America, 10 from the U.S. 4 from Korea, 18 from Bolivia). Among the participants, 24 were Latin America native leaders and 6 were 2nd gens. The conference was held in a quiet Catholic conference place, 20 minutes away from the airport. Koreans are required to get a visa to enter Bolivia

and get yellow fever shot 10 days before coming. Moreover, some countries don't have the Bolivian consulate so it was very hard to come to the conference. As hard as it was to come, the Holy Spirit worked greatly in this conference. I summarized the conference in the following points.

First, we could have the direction for 2019 through M. Moses Yoon's powerful message on John 17. One of the most important goals for the New Year's conference is to get a new direction for the year. We could accept God's earnest desire for us to become one through John 17 and

M. Moses' message, "That all of them may be one..." Last year during the international conference in United States he gave us the prayer topic that we may become a loving community and this new years message is the same as well. Personally, I think the Holy Spirit gave us the same topic because we aren't one yet and felt guilty about it. I pray that we may love the Lord even more and experience God's power by co-working together throughout this year.

Second, we renewed our pioneering vision towards the 7 countries in Central America (Caribbean). On the last day of the conference, there was a 'spying' report on Costa Rica by M. Caleb from Mexico, who wants to serve Costa Rica's mission land as an exchange student - the report was read by Shp. Fermin. Following the report, M. Jose Awn from Chicago gave us the news about pioneering Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, and The Bahamas. I was surprised that there were servants of God who were preparing to go as missionaries to these 7 countries anytime. Especially M. Wesley Jeon from the U.S. is praying to go to Haiti, the poorest country. He went there as a short term missionary twice already. He served the message in a local church to 40 young people and their response were powerful. On the other hand, M. Carlos from the U.S. has already started the ministry in his hometown Puerto Rico. Last year, he took some days off from work and did the first summer Bible conference in Puerto Rico. Besides them, there are many people in Venezuela who are praying to go out as missionaries. In Bolivia, Shp. Hannah has been praying for 2 years to serve the ministry in Paraguay as a foreign student. Last year M. Paulina Cho and she did the 'spying' trip to Paraguay. Last year during the international conference I had the chance to talk to a senior missionary from Canada. He said that "At one point, some people in the ministry started to give a comment saying they couldn't co-work well". After he analyzed the situation he realized that the reason for it was that "the members stopped fishing and taking care of the sheep actively. The wind for world mission is starting to blow in Latin America. I pray that we may participate in the Holy Spirit's work with all our heart. May Latin America become a Holy Nation and a Kingdom of Priests to this generation.

Third, our Directors Conference is changing to Leaders Conference. Given the vast geography of Latin America, it's hard for us to meet up altogether every year. For example, traveling from Central America to South America or vice-versa takes much longer and is more expensive than traveling from Central America to the U.S. In reality if one missionary family has to spend a budget that surpasses their one-month income, it's very hard to attend the conference every year. Despite all these difficulties, not only our directors but missionaries, native shepherds and 2nd gens from our neighbor countries have participated in our conference. For instance, beside the directors, 3 other missionaries and 2 2nd gens from Brazil have attended this conference. For this reason, we changed the title of this conference from "Latin America Directors Conference" to "Latin American Leaders Conference".

Fourth, we accepted the differences between the Korean missionaries and the Latin America native shepherds and did most of the programs separately. Up until now, our directors' conference have been centered on the Korean missionaries. But now many native shepherds have been sent as missionaries or they have become shepherds in charge. Moreover, some of them have been transferred officially the leadership by the Korean missionaries. Now we cannot think about the Korean missionaries' needs only. These two groups share the same mission but they have different spiritual needs. If we ignore this reality and do the meetings together the dynamics between them will be lost remarkably. For this reason, we divided the lectures

in Korean for the Korean missionaries and Spanish for the native leaders. In this way, both the Korean missionaries and the native leaders could share freely without being self-conscious about each other. But we lack professional lecturers among our native leaders who can give lectures in Spanish. I pray that we may have many professional lecturers among our Korean missionaries and native leaders. On the other hand, we could also think about inviting non-UBF lecturers who can influence us. We need to pray for these two groups (three including the 2nd gens).

Fifth, it was a time to talk and have a fellowship between the native leaders. Some of the main activities in our ministry is pioneering and making disciples focused on university students. For this reason, we often find it hard to relate and have fellowship with believers from other ministries. Many people say "I don't have friends". The Bible emphasizes the fellowship in Christ but I think we haven't been able to work on that point. This time two shepherd families from Bolivia invited some native leaders to stay at their house. They cleaned and made the accommodations for them to rest. Also, many shepherds from Santa Cruz 1 and 2 served picking up guests from the airport although they were busy. So many native leaders had the opportunity to have fellowship with the Bolivian leaders. Shepherd Jaime from Venezuela was surprised at the number of coworkers in Bolivia.

I asked one of the shepherds from Bolivia "How was the conference?". He said, "I thought I was struggling a lot







preparing this program are M. Timothy Rhee, Elias Park, Joshua Ham, John Set, and Stephan Cho. Please pray for them. On the other hand, we are preparing a website to share and have fellowship between chapters. We are thankful for Shp Jaime from Venezuela who is carrying forward this project. We hope that we can start this project in some countries this year. We hope that gradually there may be responsible servants in each country who can collaborate in this project.

Sixth, we had consistent lectures on the whole book of Revelations. In this conference, we had 5 lectures, each with different themes. The lectures were "Revelations" by M. Stephan Ahn, "God's hope towards Latin America" by M. Pablo Star Oh, "Discipleship" by M. John Seo, "Early Church History" by M. Paul Chung, and "Education for 2nd gens" by M. Jacob Lee. Many people think that Revelations is too difficult and dangerous. Although we've been studying the Bible nearly 30 years in Bolivia, we've never studied Revelations except for the message to the 7 churches. However the Lord says "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near" (Rev 1:3). In the beginning, we invited M. Stephan Ahn to study the introduction only. But most of the Latin America coordinators wanted to take advantage of this opportunity and study the whole book so we had 3 lectures on Revelations besides the Introduction. Some people may think that it wasn't adequate for a coordinators conference. But behind this decision, we can see our missionaries' spiritual thirst. In this conference, I was responsible for the closing message. I prepared the message taking Revelations 12:11 as an example of victory. "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony..." Although the grace I received was clear I didn't feel confident about my interpretation on the passage. I felt this way because I didn't have knowledge of the book of Revelations as a whole. So after I confirmed with M. Stephen Ahn that my interpretation wasn't wrong, I could prepare the message with confidence. But I think this wasn't my problem only. I think people who haven't studied theology systematically share the same problem I had. We think that understanding and obeying to one word in our practical lives is the best interpretation of the Bible. I believe this is our strength. But we lack a systematic and integrated knowledge of the Bible. I think our missionaries have the thirst to work on this weakness. I realized that for this reason many missionaries weren't satisfied with studying the Introduction alone but wanted to study the whole book. M. Stephen served us passionately with 8 lectures even though his health condition was bad.

but hearing about other leaders' struggles made me realize mine were nothing compared to theirs". There is a limit to what I can teach them as a missionary. But I saw that he was challenged after talking with other native leaders—something I wouldn't be able to teach him. "Iron sharpens iron". I think it's extremely important to make an environment in which "some prepared leaders" from each ministry can have fellowship. Although it is important that we serve our own chapters it is equally important to help the native leaders to grow and have fellowship and influence on each other. I think we can take the Staff meetings we used to do in the past as our model. M. John Kim's (Nicaragua) sending Shp. Adriano and Jonathan is a good example for us. This year we're opening an educational program online for the native leaders in Latin America (This first time will be only for the shepherds in charge from each chapter). I pray that there may be influencing professional lecturers who can direct the meetings in Spanish. May we be financially able to meet once a year. The missionaries who are



Seventh, 2019 Prayer topics for the ministry in Latin America. Next year we have the Latin America Conference divided into 4 areas- on January 26-19th 2019 South America and Brazil, April 9-12th Mexico, middle of April Central America (place undefined), middle of September North of South America in Colombia. Depending on how we serve the ministry of the Word these conferences could be one more event or they could provide the opportunity for a spiritual revival. It's been 6 months since I became the coordinator of Latin America. I believe it is my responsibility to have good communication between the 5 coordinators and serve our coworkers well. It is also to observe and understand God's will and suggest it as a prayer topic. These past 6 months I've been thinking a lot about what God's will is for us. And I believe it is to study the Word deeply and to have a powerful ministry of the Word.

After the conference, as I was organizing my desk I happened to find and read the book from the Latin America Coordinators Conference from 2014 in Argentina. That year we had a symposium on "Preaching and Preachers" by Lloyd Jones. I was touched by M. Noah Jung's words "When preachers preach the Word of God truly, the Holy Spirit sends those who are ready to hear the message. Preachers need to believe this". This words give us a clear direction. I think we should believe these words from Lloyd Jones are God's truth. Whenever we had the international conference in the U.S. M. Samuel C. Lee used to call all the staff after the program was finished and directed a prayer meeting. He used to say "I've never ran behind the sheep". Like the Holy Spirit sent the Ethiopian eunuch to Philip who was ready to preach the Word, even today the Holy Spirit

sends his sheep to those who are ready to preach. God is looking for someone to entrust his sheep even today. Do we really have the living Word of God in us? I pray that we may be servants who have the Word of God revealed by the Holy Spirit and may we see the abundant fruit of the ministry of the Word in 2019.

One word: The Holy Spirit sends his sheep to those who have the Word of God.

Prayer Topics:

1. To be a community who loves each other
2. To have deep 1:1 Bible Studies and powerful Sunday messages
3. To pioneer the 7 Caribbean countries (Cuba, TNT, Costa Rica, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Bahamas)



JOURNEY REPORT

Moses Yoon (Chicago, USA)
General Director

KEEP THE UNITY

Eph 4:3, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."



Dear precious co-workers,

In Chicago UBF I delivered the 2019 New Year message (Jn 17) on Nov. 25, 2018, with the title, "That all of them may be one." By God's grace, I then began my attendance of the continental conferences delivering the new year message a total of 10 times in different continents as below.

Korea Dec. 10-12 / Africa Dec. 14-16
Ghana / M. East Dec. 21-23 Cyprus /
Europe Dec. 27-28 Romania / Australia

Dec. 31- Jan. 2 Brisbane / Asia Jan. 3-5 Ulaanbataar /
CIS Jan. 4-6 Irkutsk / N. America Jan. 10-12 / L. America
Jan. 17-19 Bolivia.

The highlights were as follows:

1. God blessed the new year message at each conference, and through the fellowship of God's word and prayer, the unity of our community was consolidated among missionaries and native shepherds. Further, as the theme of the message was about unity which is Jesus' hope for us, we could experience and strengthen oneness.

2. God helped me to learn about and understand the suffering and hardships of our missionaries and native leaders. In particular, our missionaries to the Middle East are growing in their faith, and building up genuine relationships of love with one another as true family members in God

from being under the same loneliness and persecution. We need to pray for them all the more.

3. I realized that the ministries in Korea, Europe and North America are the spiritual engine of our community, and they have to more positively pray and support our co-workers working in other parts of the world.

4. The leadership succession of native leaders is well-established in Africa. Among those who attended the conference in Ghana, the number of native leaders that attended were 24, missionaries 13, and the guests were 5. Native shepherds there continue to grow into responsible and sacrificial leaders. Meanwhile, in spite of hardships, the work of the Spirit in Latin America is evident. God's work grows on the soil of sacrifice where a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies. I realized that we must pray and support all the more our suffering missionary co-workers in Latin America.

5. The common point of all the conferences was that they were full of joy like a heavenly banquet. The missionaries and native leaders met with real gladness as if meeting their own brothers and sisters, and shared their joy and love as comrades in a spiritual battle field. We give thanks and praise to God that he formed this community of true love and matures it more as time goes by.

6. God kept me in good condition in his grace throughout the journey in spite of frequently changing jet lag. In one month and a half I had to travel about seventy thousand plus miles, equivalent to 3 times the circumference of the earth. The temperature varied from higher than 30 Celsius in places like Ghana and Australia, to lower than minus 30 Celsius degrees in Ulaanbataar and Irkutsk. I got the cold a few times yet amazingly it was gone by the next day. Through this, I realized how powerful the prayer support of our co-workers was! I really thank those who prayed for my journey.

As I finish my 2019 New Year mission journey to the vari-



ous continents, one word struck my heart. “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace “(Eph 4:3). We were basically a difficult people to be one with because of our selfishness and pride. But Jesus, by shedding his blood, demolished the barriers between us and united us as one body. The Spirit of God worked among us to be the members of a spiritual community of which its head is Christ. God formed a mission community which is wholly dedicated to world campus mission and raising disciples. Still today the Holy Spirit is unceasingly working to keep the unity of our community.

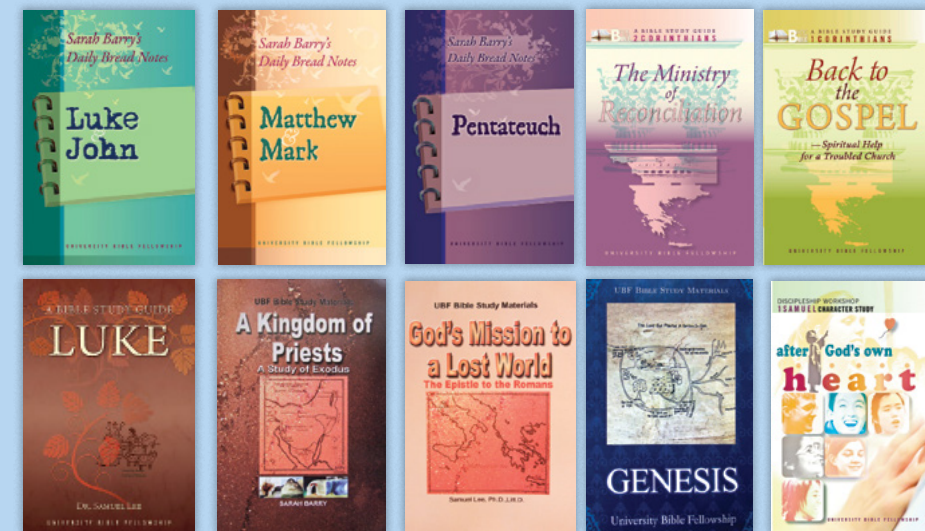
There are many challenges and threats to break our unity in the world. Satan causes believers to distrust one another and split up the community. Our weaknesses and sinful desires cause conflicts with other co-workers. We must acknowledge this reality and, in all situations, accept one another with humility and love. We must make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. In particular, in our postmodern generation, we tend not to involve ourselves in others’ lives and tend to be indifferent to how people live. Yet if we have that attitude, each one of us will end up living the lives as we see fit like in the time of the Judges (Judges 21:25), and the unity of our community will collapse. Therefore, we need be spiritually awake and keep the unity of the Spirit in order to continually be used by God. For this reason, I pray that we may accept one another, be eager to gather together for prayer, and strengthen our unity. May God’s abundant grace be with our mission co-workers who are scattered all around the world but are yet faithfully and sacrificially serving the Lord. Amen!

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