

The strangers scattered (1 PETER 1:1-2)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. (1 PETER 1:1-2)

Peter says that Christians are the strangers scattered. If we think it is poetic expression simply, it couldn't have great import. However we can find the fact that it never means a simple thing via staring at the matter. So it is. This is most proper expression that summarize Christ's lifetime in a word.

Every Christian is strangers without exception. They have a destination, but they don't stay at one place before arrive at their goal. If he want to settle down at one place, it means that he give up the life as a stranger. It is so important thing to Christians. They are peoples who make steady progress with desire for the kingdom of heaven. They can't live in peace under any circumstance during their lifetime. If they want to cast anchor in putting their desire at the world, they can be regarded as resigning their glory of the heaven. Our purpose isn't in the world. We might encounter stubborn resistance if we pursue it.

Don't be discouraged but be happy when our life is tough and difficult, because it will give the better value of life to us. A stranger doesn't have many burdens. When we are willing to dismiss our burdens, we can become a real traveler. Look at Paul. He gave up his honor, power, knowledge, and all glory for becoming real traveler, and went on Lord's glorious way (Philippians 3:5-9). Now, do you live the world as a stranger? It is need to look back how much our looks have burdens, and if we stand in a condition that can't walk God's glorious way because of the burdens. We, are Christians, are strangers.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

A lively hope(1 Peter 1:3)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,(1 Peter 1:3)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is very special to Christian, because it gives surprising desire to strangers who don't put their hope in this world. Peter says it is a lively hope. These words emphasize that the desire holding in Christian's bosom is by no means fruitless thing.

Today, many people living with a vain hope. They spend their time thirsting for winning in lottery, watching for a chance of making a fortune at one stroke in an amusement hall, and hopping accruing a miracle in hearing someone's success stories. We say, "Work hard without a futile hope." but they think that life is meaningless if they can't have even such desire. However, a clear fact is that their hope gives frustration to them immediately.

Where is the space that put our mind? There is no place like that around us. Of course, there are many things attracting us. The things like money, honor, and power seem like making many people be happy, but it leads them to the way of ruin. How about a self-styled director? He says that people could be happy if they follow him, but he soon sneaks away leaving a severe pain.

Our lively hope is only in Jesus Christ. The resurrection of him is an event for just the hope. Our welcome of him as the savior means participation in this resurrection. The resurrection is confession for our hope isn't in the world. It passes the fact that we can overcome all the difficulties. If the way for our eternal life and happiness without a frustration exist, it is only living with a belief that we can take part in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the way for a lively hope.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Reserved for you(1 PETER 1:4)

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,(1 PETER 1:4)

The things that reserved for us... It makes us be excited. The Bible says that it is incorruptible, undefiled, and not fades away or everlasting. The heaven is preparing it, and it is called an inheritance. What is 'an inheritance'? It is money or property which you receive from someone. So, whose possession will we inherit? Of course, it is Lord's. It is above our deserts.

It makes us surprising that the inheritance is given caused by only the fact we believe in Jesus Christ. Surely the time of patience will need comes from the belief. However, the important fact is that much more inheritance waits for us if we overcome the times wisely and live longing for the glory we will receive. For that reason, many Christians could be happy in their time of agony.

Do you remember Stephen's attitude in front of death? He looked at the people throwing stones to him, and prayed for them. His face was occupied with pleasure, and he never feels sad with tears in his eyes. Yes, he would receive glorious inheritance from God, and his martyrdom would undoubtedly look the most glorious figure to God.

The people like Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab show what they want to in the Bible (Heb 11). They desired only a reward of heaven in the situation of pain. If we put our hope in heaven and live seeking inheritance we'll receive, a frustration won't exist in the world. The worse life we live because of God, the greater happiness we can feel. The inheritance we will succeed to leads our life to be worth. It is another reason we live in this world.

The inheritance in heaven and the sharp adversities in the world are prepared for us. Remember that our short suffering makes us more glorious. So, we are happy Christian thanks to the suffering.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Salvation ready(1 Peter 1: 5)

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1: 5)

It is a subject about salvation that Christians are extremely misunderstanding. Some Christians argue that salvation is decided from beginning, and another argues that it is made gradually. These arguments seem like all is right on any point of view, but it is wrong idea in a standard of the Bible, because salvation has no qualifications, and isn't a creature of a moment. The object of salvation is all people in the world, and they can be rescue when they meet Jesus Christ. So, the Bible says that salvation is a thing ready. Yes, our salvation is a thing ready, and we became possess the salvation.

We can see many people who mistrust their salvation and too strive for the confirmation. They question of themselves that they are living the life that bears fruit for the verification work. Yes, Christian's fruit is very important thing, and it is a Christian's duty. However we have to know how the attempt is dangerous because some people say that they can't be rescue with the fact they don't bears fruit right now. Teaching like that makes Christian hold a great disappointment in his arms, and after all it makes him fall into spiritual stagnation.

Look at a tree bearing fruit. To bear fruit needs much time. There is no tree in the world which bears fruit straightly after planting seeds over the fields. It gives a lesson that we can distinguish between salvation and the life bearing fruit. Salvation is given to us only one time when we accept Christ as our Savior, and it means that we get new life. However, new life doesn't mean the life bearing fruit directly. He will undergo training for his ripen life.

Lord's salvation is obviously special thing. It will reveal itself with glory in the last time. Remember that the salvation never can lose, and Lord will defend it in safety. Don't be discouraged. As long as we are in Christ, Our salvation is free from danger.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

The trial of faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 1:6-7)

After proclamation of good news in the world, Christians had to endure many hardships, and many of them are killed off. We can see through the history of church that persecutors had sunk Christian to the dust and did unthinkable harsh tortures and acts of murder. Satan who leads persecution always smiled after the work, because he thought that the believers will disappear in his presence. However, he realized that his plan fall through immediately, and continued the work with a more powerful method. It is kept up until now, and he is leading Christian into temptation with a crafty trick. In the past, he progressed his plan through persecutions, but now he is working through a truth be deteriorated. Moreover, he fakes evil into good to daze us. However, the wise Christians have to know that such Satan's work makes our faith more mature.

The Bible says that Christians who perseveres under trial have to be happy, because a temptation, train his faith, will become known as a praise, nobility, and glory when Lord come into his kingdom. We must pay attention to the word 'the trial of faith'. Of course, the faith means a condition that need for conviction of salvation. It is difficult for most Christian to have a firm belief even if they believe Jesus Christ firmly. They doubt for much time, and miss their foot. We must be trained our faith for conquest of such situation and the way of belief of victory.

A pure gold is made by several refining on fire. The level of refining means the level of purity. Likewise, our belief is estimated by how much we undergo the process of many trials, and it will be connected with our rewards in heaven. Don't be afraid of trial, but think about the day we will receive the reward and be happy. It is just an image of Christians who live the great life of belief. What kind of mind do you have in the present temptation? If you are in despair, be happy! Your faith will become sound, and you will receive a surprising reward in the future.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

The end of faith(1 Peter 1:8-9)

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8-9)

Someone asks, “Have you ever seen the Lord, though you say that you are the redeemed one?” Then Christians are confused, because they never have seen a person looked him. So, they think their faith is wrong, and they attempt many things; go to a prayer house, go on a fast, and so on. Of course, they want to see him, but they still don’t do that. If there is a person who sees him with a special providence of God, it isn’t a universal situation, because the Bible says that the faith is the thing that loves, believes, and rejoices even if it is invisible. Yes, the faith is look for God even at invisible condition.

Then, what is the end of faith? It is ‘the salvation of a soul’ in a word. In common, people think it is the salvation of the soul, but it is one among the facts many people are confusing. The spirit comes from God, and it goes back to him. The body is from soil, and it goes back to the soil, so we can witness that a dead one get buried under soil, and the body changes into soil. If so, what is a soul? Animals don’t have it, but the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7) So, this soul is in only man.

A miserable fact is that Adam made the soul be in a condition of death because of a sin. Such situation is continued among people without a measure until coming of Jesus, and the chance for recovery is given to us after the resurrection of him. When we believe the resurrection and confess a fact is for you, our soul will revive. The simple and surprising works like this are recorded in the Bible, and this is contents on the center of all histories.

We hope to obtain many things by our faith. We can meditate honor, power, money, knowledge, and so on. However, a fact that we must remember is that the end of our faith is

on the salvation of a soul. What does it mean if you have everything but a salvation in the world? This is the reason that we have to cherish the salvation of a soul.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

About the salvation of a soul(1 Peter 1:10-12)

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:10-12)

Why did a religion come out? Of course, the main reason is a crafty trick of Satan, but it can work because people are on pins and needles about the time to come. For that reason, people are worried about a subject of the salvation, and it is a big task for prophets. They made a study of the subject with assiduity, and presented the solution. That is the suffering of Christ and a glory after that. All this is not for them, because Christ didn't exist in their age.

What is the core content of the Old Testament? The ideologists of commandment will argue that of course it is commandment, and a Judaism and historian will talk about a record of their history and a historical material. However, all is not a correct answer. The Old Testament is a record about the suffering of Christ and a glory after that. In other words, it is a book introducing a salvation plan of Jesus. Jesus Christ points out the Old Testament, and says that it makes a record of him.(John 5:39,46) Yes, the Bible is about Jesus Christ.

Such good news spread with Holy Ghost, because we can't realize the words without him. That is, we have to interpret the words with the spirit, because it is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16). People like analysis the Bible according to their mind, and get pleasure from teaching a truth deteriorated. However, all this will be set in judgment of God. The truth must tell in accordance with lead of Holy Ghost. The good news is worth admirable

even in heaven. It is grieve work to analysis the words forcibly and deteriorate by arbitrary judgment.

The salvation of a soul is surprising event not only in this world, but in heaven. Remember that even if we are given the salvation by our faith easily, the process is by no means easy. Many people die longing for the salvation, and Jesus went through death and resurrection personally for the salvation, but how about the people of today? They deny God as ever, and persecute believers, though live in a age of perfect salvation. Now, which is the place we stand?

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Have a hope(1 Peter 1:13)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Peter 1:13)

Having a hope is very important to Christian, because virtually there is no hope in this world. If a life in this world is everything, we will give up hope. The word 'hope' means that we aren't satisfied with our present time. Yes, we can't have a life of contentment in the world. For that reason, the word 'to the end' is used to express a hope. So, how do people who have a hope behave?

The Bible says, 'gird up the loins of your mind'. Girding up the loins means tension and concentration of power. We can see that a weight lifter gird up the loins to lift up a heavy weights. Like this, doing that is not only for the prevention of an injury, but for the getting of bigger power. It is telling that a person who has a hope needs to strengthen his mind. The world will disturb our mind tenaciously, but we must not waver. A person who has a hope ought to get over difficulties in the world with a strong mind.

The words 'be sober' can be explained to same meaning. Losing mind is losing the hearth of mind. It is due to a Christian, has a hope, to always maintain a state of tension, and make preparation against an attack of Satan, because our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,

walk about, seeking whom he may devour(1 Peter 5:8). We are feed of him, so we must be sober, and live a life as Christian having a hope.

Finally, an important thing we must remember is that the way our hope can be kept up is a grace of God. In other words, God will give a reward to us for our suffering and adversities in this world. It will make us overcome those pains. The reason that we do our best for today is that we expect a reward in heaven to come. I wish you to don't take off a string of hope.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Be holy(1 Peter 1:14-16)

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (1 Peter 1:14-16)

A demand for the holy life is always emphasized not to speak of an age and a religion, because every religion put their goal in living a good life, what is more, the holy life is related to their salvation. However, we must know that the holy life of Christian is greatly different from others. The holy life doesn't give a salvation to us, and it has nothing to do with a salvation. It is an order for children of obedience of God.

God is holy, and he says 'be holy' to his children. Of course, he already had demanded it to Israelites (Leviticus 11:44-45). Why do we have to be similar to the character of God? The answer is simple, 'because he is our father'. It is due to children to resemble his or her father. So, it is natural that Christian lives a holy life.

Once again, the holy life has nothing to do with a salvation. If someone says, 'a person who doesn't live a holy life is not in salvation', he is misunderstanding the gospel. However, if one thinks that he can live with sin as he likes because he is in salvation, he has more troubles. The children of God ought to follow his orders. In plain words, if a person who says that he believes Jesus wants to stay in sin, it is impossible that the profession of his faith is truthful. The believers must seek after the holy life.

Surely, when discuss a standard of the holy life, people will explain it in their standard. They think many things; collection, prayer, service, evangelism, etc, but the Bible order the holy in all behavior. In other words, we must make us familiar with the holy not only in the inside, but in all living. How much we walked the way of holy? Remember that the holy life is an order of God for us.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

He doesn't judge with respect of persons (1 Peter 1:17)

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: (1 Peter 1:17)

Saul, the first king of Israel, had good looks. People didn't make a difficulty about having Saul as the king, because they became enamored of his figure. However, God left him, and his last came to an end with disgrace. He should have known that God doesn't judge with respect of persons. Look at David who became a king after Saul. He is a suitable person for explaining the fact. In his childhood, his features in Goliath's presence show how the believers win wars. How about Moses? He, a prince of Egypt, wanted to become the leader of Israel, but God didn't use him. God called him when he is a shepherd in the Midian wilderness and lives as a shabby sheep raiser. After all, he could get Israelites to escape from Egypt.

People hope to be paid attention from others through their appearance, and they take judging with external features as read. They think a fine house, a car, good clothes, and jewelries are enhancing the value of a person. In actuality, people interest in making their toilet after having proper property, because they think that it will help to maintain their position.

However, it is an undesirable thing to Christian, and if someone does such behavior, they will get a scolding of God. Simple and neat looks is a tradition of Christian be handed down from the first generation church, and the Bible is giving a warning about that many times. It is more important to look deep into ourselves than embellish the outside.

Paul had everything; honor, money, knowledge, and power. However, he thought those are obstacles in living as Christian. He had suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, also he spend his last in prison, and finally he died a martyr for his faith. Nobody can say that he choose a wrong way if they are normal Christian. He was a person who knows the heart of God well. He armed his inside with strong faith even if his body was weak. Now, we, a Christian, need wisdom about where the concern of God is in.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

You were redeemed with(1 Peter 1: 18-19)

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1: 18-19)

An event of redemption in Christian is the most surprising event in one's life. We can know that we are happy person from a fact that we received a new life and the life is eternal. Then, where is our redemption from? The Bible is explaining the issue very briefly and to the point.

Think about our vain conversation received by tradition from our fathers. Is it true that the things which control our life are our decisions and actions? It has gone too far, because we are made from education and experience of life. Even now, people are conducting under the control of something according to their way of life. It doesn't belong to only non Christian. Many Christians are making their life of a vain life, obeying to a word of a person or a tradition than a direction of God. They say, 'we are living doing our best', but they can't avoid Lord's judgments.

Then, where is redemption from? It doesn't from the world, and it isn't corruptible things, as silver and gold. People make an effort to be free from a way of hell, so they attempt various means. A rich person will strive to be redeemed with money and a person who has honor or power will do with their position. Also, a well-informed person will do with their academic logic. So, people argue that the way for redemption is various, but their arguments and ways can't redeem them.

The way of redemption is only one. That is the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:19). We must always engrave it in our heart. Many false leaders try to disturb such faith. They say that only faith plus work will redeem us and the blood of Christ isn't important. However, we must remember that our redemption is possible because of only the blood of Christ. We can see a glorious day, a day Lord come, if we make ourselves be strong in the faith and continue the life of Christian. Please keep our faith hold on firmly.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Was foreordained(1 Peter 1:20-21)

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. (1 Peter 1:20-21)

Being foreordained means a plan. In Church, this plan doctrine makes people misunderstand the Bible, and even confuses many believers being applied to the doctrine of salvation. However, we must know that this plan doctrine is talking about Jesus Christ. Yes, he came here as our Savior who is decided before the creation of the world.

Jesus came this world to die. So, we can see that he talked about his death several times, but people gathered together including his pupils didn't understand the meaning. They thought only that he is the king of Israel, and his pupils calculate which person will occupy a high position. However, God prepared Jesus for a sacrificial offering from beginning, and the sin of all people is forgiven through the death. Moreover, he gave a desire of eternal life to believers with a glory of resurrection.

All this is planed before the creation of the world. Some people attack the God because of a hasty judgment. They ask whether God made a situation of sin of Adam and Eve. In other words, it is 'Isn't it true that God prepares a sinner?', but we have to be careful about such extreme thinking. There is difference between planning and handling. If Adam and Eve didn't commit a sin, a plan of God, coming of him' couldn't be realized. It was best way not only for

us, but for God. Who does a parent want his children become a sinner? God hope that the believers live a holy life.

The purpose of God is always same; he wants all people live in him. Such efforts of God are continued even in the Old Testament. Even if many people betray and break off with him, God still calls us them and hope to become their Lord. We can see more in the New Testament. God descended the Holy Spirit to believers, makes their body a sacred hall, and wanted become their Lord. Many people live in much sin, but God take an active part in them. There is a phrase 'where sin abounded, grace did much more abound' in the Bible (Romans 5:20). Remember that God is who want that our faith and desire are in him.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Love one another fevently (1 Peter 1:22)

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: (1 Peter 1:22)

Love is best stage Christians pursue. Of course, we can't get it easily. Everyone wants love each other, but in actuality few people love another in Christ. There is a certain formula to attain the stage of love. Unless we substitute our life for this formula adequately, we never can attain the stage of love. The words are putting the formula into shape.

First, it is living a life of obedience to a truth through Holy Spirit. It is the reason of the teaching concentrating on the word of the truth or a doctrine in a church. It is very important to realize the truth and live as Lord says for no lie love. Being controlled of Holy Spirit is reasonable for living the life of obedience, because we can't realize the truth without him.

When we obey the words of the truth, we can experience becoming clear of our soul. In actual fact, all people in the world want to have such soul. The purpose of all religion is in it. They make an effort for purification of mind with various kinds of yoga or training, but they are being had. Their minds are looked like becoming pure in a moment, but they will find that

they never have clear soul when they get out to the world. The way to make clear our soul is only being submitted to the words of the truth.

A person who has a clear soul will love his brothers truly. Think about the word 'truly'. This word means that love have pretense and untruth. It can't be truth to do a good deed and act as love the poor and the sick for their face. The true love is from one's inside.

The attitude of a person having a true love is that love one another with a pure heart fervently. 'with a pure heart fervently'... It isn't an easy command, but it isn't mission impossible if we have pure soul in the truth. Not only will they pursue this love, but will they can feel a great happiness in living in this love. How much love do we practice? We must strive to arrive at a stage of pure and hot love in accordance with a formula the Bible struct.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23)

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 Peter 1:23)

'Being born again' is the most important event to Christian, because all people is born with a flesh while the soul is in a death. The difference between Christianity and other religions is the truth about this 'being born again'. Religions attempt to arrive at the kingdom of heaven through the cultivation of the flesh, but Christianity say that we have to get the salvation of soul because the flesh go back to soil.

Then, how is our being born again possible? Of course, the answer isn't easy. We can get a salvation by confessing our sin, believing the fact that Jesus Christ died and resurrected for us, and welcoming him. So, we summarize kernel contents, and sow the good seed. Also, we demand a reception pray or a confession to make sure one's reception. All this is the most traditional way used to preach the Word. It might be the most effective way for evangelization.

However, more important thing we must think is that the words is compared to a seed. A seed can't bear fruit of itself. It can fructify when it is sown. We can observe in Bible that this seed is the word of the Lord. The word of the Lord can't change a man of itself. When it is sown in one's mind, it can bear fruit.

The truth in the world undergoes a change. It change in quality and become worthless thing in the course of time, but the word of the Lord is eternal. It is indefectible forever. It is alive, and exists for ever and ever. People will experience being born again by these words. The being born again can't be gotten simply by listening. In other words, a fine sermon and the words of God can't make one born again by it. He must recognize a fact that he is a sinner, and receive the word of the Lord deep down in the heart. Then, he will experience a new life and get to know the glory of heaven. Please sow a indefectible seed, 'the word of the Lord'.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

The word of the Lord endure for ever (1 Peter 1: 24-25)

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. (1 Peter 1:24-25)

The Bible likens our life in the world to grass. It looks like have a desire when it is verdant. The Bible likens all the glory of man as the flower of grass. It is very beautiful, so people take comfort from it and sing the beauty being charmed by the smell of the flowers. In actuality, people admire heroes who don't receive salvation, and hope to make his life more beautiful by making his biography. However, the Bible is taking a calm attitude toward the answer. Their desire will wither, and their glory in the world will fall away, that is, they will disappear without a form.

People are living as if they live forever. They do anything for their gains no matter how other people are painful. There are many people who seem to have everything in the world, but they don't get, in fact, their life. Their being look like glorious and beautiful as a flower in

their life, but their soul is groaning with pain of hell, and he will meet a complete end in the inferno someday. It is a horrible thing even imagination.

Like this, the flesh can't help save our soul, because it isn't permanent. Only everlasting thing can save our soul. It is only one, the word of the Lord. It will have effect on even at this world. The word having the value of eternity will give eternal life to people as a present, and this word will compensate for tasks in the world at the kingdom of God someday.

Have you ever seen a person who disregards the word of the Lord and teaches morality and philosophy in our round? Don't they encourage you to live glorious life with a religious tradition or a conversation of a hero? All this can make a great impress on many people, and lead a changed life, but it is for a while. It can't be everlasting. Remember that it is only the word of the Lord that gives a eternal life and ensures glorious life.

Translation by Lee ji-hye

Desire the sincere milk of the word (1 Peter 2:1-2)

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (1 Peter 2:1-2)

We need to compare it with other modified Bibles before meditate on this phrase, because this phrase is very important as a doctrine and deal with a keen issue. The modified Bibles changed 'the sincere milk of the word' into 'crave pure spiritual milk', and 'grow thereby' into 'grow up in your salvation'. We can find an enormous difference of doctrine between them even through a simple comparison.

A salvation never can be got from growth of faith. It is once a life of event happens when we welcome Jesus Christ as our Savior. It is the same as we receive baptism by immersion one time. If one receives a salvation in the process of growth, the death of Jesus will lose the value. It is the same with repeating in and out the mother's womb when birth of baby. Our

body came from the mother's womb just one time. Therefore, it is a very foolish act to establish a standard of a salvation and teach that we can miss it.

It is a growth that one received a salvation chase. We acted all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking before receiving a salvation. However, now we laid aside such things, and are as newborn babes. Baby can do few things. We admire only our mother's milk before maturity. It is a conduct baby take. This milk is the word of the Lord.

The first behavior of Christian be born again is to listen the word of the Lord. It is most important work in church. Someone want to doing something in their church after believe Jesus Christ. Of course, they will be successful the works, but what can a baby do? It is lucky if there is no accident. Being required of baby is to suck the breast well and grow up healthy. If you see a person who stays a faith of baby, be faithful to their sucking the breast of the word. It will make them most sound Christian.

Lord is gracious (1 Peter 2:3)

If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Peter 2:3)

Have we tasted that the Lord is gracious? A Christian born again will have this experience certainly, because it is started from a moment we are born again. When we think about Jesus who died upon the cross and resurrected to show us eternal life for our salvation, we are already a man experienced in the grace of Lord. If we started the life of faith without such sense, we need to check our belief.

In fact, there are many people in our round who didn't taste the grace of Lord, but say that they received a salvation. Most of them think that they can receive a salvation through their deeds. They are unconcerned with the work of God, and try to complete their salvation with morals or rituals that religions in the world pursue. They call the name of God, show their power sometimes, and seem like have a great faith. However, they actually don't receive a salvation.

The condition of a salvation isn't complicated or difficult. It is only believing and welcoming Jesus who died upon the cross and resurrected for us, sinners. It is grace of God, and the entire condition of a salvation. The Devil will daze us continuously. Some people deny a fact that Jesus came to the world as a man, and other argue that he didn't accomplish his mission. However, the Bible makes a record of completion of his mission and the grace of God given to people.

The grace will become a surprising power to believers. They could be fearless and keep their faith in many crisis of death, because they tasted this grace. Of course, there is a difference of impression about this grace by different persons. Maybe that is the difference of one's faith. We can experience more grace proportionately with growth of our faith, and after all, it makes us bring down ourselves in God's presence. What do 'the growth of faith' means? It is to know the worth of the grace, to deny ourselves, and to live the life leaning on Lord wholly. How do you accept the grace of God? I hope that you taste the grace of Lord and walk a way of more mature faith.

A precious living stone (1 Peter 2:4-5)

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:4-5)

'Disallowed indeed of men'... Yes, Jesus came to this world to rescue the world, but people make him die upon the cross. Such phenomenon is happening even these days. He is taking an active part in a salvation of people as ever, but many people are refusing him, and even persecute and kill believers.

The Bible says that Jesus is a living stone. A stone is used to build a building. The reason of an expression 'Jesus is a living stone' is that Jesus is a foundation stone of a Lord's church. Yes, he is the basis of Lord's church. If we don't build a building on this basis, the building will fell with a great crash when the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew (Mat 7:27). The church of the Lord must be built upon a rock, 'Jesus Christ'.

The Bible says that Christians are also living stones. In other words, Christians are building materials. Many materials are gathered, and make one church. We must pay attention to a fact that when the stones are constructed firmly the building is made finely. Likewise, the church of the Lord never can be made by specific people. When each person in a church harmonizes each other and stands with a firm faith, the church has a graceful figure in the eyes of the Lord. It is the task of believers who build a spiritual house.

Also, it is very important to become a spiritual victim Lord receives through Jesus Christ as Christian belongs to a church. Are we a being receivable to Lord? How do we prepare for it? The answer is very simple; it is removing the things Lord dislike in our own, that is, we must leave even a shape of a sin. If we have a figure of a sin as before, Lord can't receive us.

For this reason, we must live the holy life. A holy priest is our new position got from Christ. Not only living a holy life but living as a priest is a new mission of Lord for us. It is guiding people into the presence of Lord, and making peaceful between Lord and people or among people as a intercessor. We have to bring to a successful finish of this entire mission. Remember that the root of all this is a living stone, Jesus Christ.

A corner stone (1 Peter 2:6-8)

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. (1 Peter 2:6-8)

It is already recorded in the Bible that Jesus will be a corner stone. As we know, a corner stone is used to build a house as a basis. In this, we can know that the Bible is saying Jesus will be a basis of today's church. Nowadays, people who believe the fact will keep their presence of mind and accept it very naturally, that is, when we believe Jesus Christ, we will belong a church of the Lord naturally.

The corner stone is very precious to believers but people of disobedience cannot help refusing, because it becomes a basis of their house for believers, but there is no merit of it for people of disobedience. It is very inconvenient to face it according to an intention of an architect. Like this, people reject Jesus Christ because they can't put to use him at their convenience. Believers must obey only an aim of the Lord, but it is never an easy task to unbelievers because most of them live settling their life by themselves. If they want to worship the Lord, surely they must abandon their own life. Of course, it is a foundation to believe and welcome Jesus.

The same goes for believers. One and all want to live the life of a success, but many of them are living an unsatisfactory life because they don't understand the basis of their house. Despite their welcome of Jesus, a corner stone, they don't build a house on the stone. They make an effort to build a house on what they like, but it is so stupid thing. It is important to live to have money, honor, power, and knowledge, but you will have a very hard time if you lean on these things.

Christians ought to put a corner stone in their mind, and build a house on it. In other words, they need a wisdom that bases their life on Jesus Christ and lives according to his words and orders. It must be carried out in a church life. If a church depend on only growth and be run with a way of the world, the church will lost a looks of Lord's church. If a church knows its appointed task and follows the word of the truth, it is a wise Christian who builds on a corner stone, and an upright looks of Lord's church. Build a house on a corner stone.

The identification of Christian (1 Peter 2:9)

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: (1 Peter 2:9)

It is very important for Christian to understand their identification, so the Bible is teaching us the identification clearly. If a person can understand his value of being, he will have security about successful life. On the other hand, if a person underestimates himself and lives a passive life, he will finish his world in vain. Then, how will we, Christian, live?

First, the Bible said we are 'a chosen generation'. Yes, we are living in a special generation. It is very lucky to live today in progress of history. Why is this generation special? The answer is that anybody can arrive at salvation through Jesus Christ in this generation. Before coming of Jesus, people couldn't imagine their salvation without appearing of Lord. In this generation, however, good news is open to all people, anybody can receive a salvation by believing the word of the Lord, and the Holy Spirit goes about together with them forever, so our generation is a blessed generation.

Second, we are a royal priesthood. The mission of priesthood is intercession. Christian must have a capability to make peace between God and people. All people are a sinner. They can't be a righteous person by themselves, and also God never can tolerate them. Therefore, Christians have to introduce good news linking a person to Lord, and make peace between them. It isn't a shameful thing. When we sow the good seed, we need to have an authority and courage as a royal child. We must remember that we are children of the Lord who already became the king of kings.

Third, we are a holy nation. It is natural that a Christian lives a holy life. Gathering of them make a nation. We will stand as one feature in the kingdom of the Lord. It is ironical that the same faith's persons are set against each other. Remember that we are one nation belonging to the kingdom of heaven in Christ.

Finally, we are a peculiar people. Yes, we are never a mediocrity but a distinguished person from other people, because we live forever, live as a child of the Lord, and will rule over the world with Jesus Christ in future. Now, do you have a pride as a peculiar people?

Now you (1 Peter 2:10)

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:10)

Changing of one's social standing in his life is very difficult thing. Actually, many people want to raise their social position and persevere in their efforts to get out of their unfree position, but it gives a frustration and sorrow to them instead. A person is born not having a

environment he or she hope, so our position isn't made from our will. For that reason, changing of position is more surprising for Christian.

We were children of the devil in the world. All people dream of being born to the child of the Lord and live forever, but in actuality they came into the world having a sinner's figure who already is condemned to death. Many people endeavor to free themselves from a position of a sinner, but there is very little probability they success. They are still living on a position that proceeds to hell after all. However, at last a surprising event came into existence that can change their life. The time was come for their changing of a position.

A chance that can change their position from children of the devil to of the Lord came up to them. In other words, a way was presented that change them from a position be thrown out to a fire lake to a position together with the Lord forever. The change isn't so difficult work, and we need not to pay for the position.

Yes, Jesus Christ died upon the cross and resurrected for changing of our position, and said that we will get the changed position if we believe the fact and make a confession that the works is for us. We were children of the devil who can't get a pity of the Lord in the past days, but now we are his children under his absolute pity. Even if it was simple to welcome Jesus in our mind, the changing of our position is to set the world on fire.

People will probably hope to be born and grow in an excellent family, so they will make an effort to not hand down to their posterity when they couldn't grow in such family. Yet, it isn't easy. It will give much disappointment instead. However, even if we have a humble station in life, we need not to be discouraged, because we are the Lord's nation and children forever and ever. It is a worthful position above all things. Now, are you living under this position?

Abstain from fleshly lusts (1 Peter 2:11)

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; (1 Peter 2:11)

We already have ever meditated on a fact that we live as strangers and pilgrims. Yes, we never put our hope in this world, so we can live without greed about the world. If one can't throw off all restraint about the world, he isn't the right man for the kingdom of the Lord. A genuine Christian will make the kingdom of heaven a hope and go straight down the way of faith.

The main opponent for those Christian is carnal desire. Though our flesh corrupts in future, it competes with our holy life without a pause. People think the success of the flesh is the success of the life, but in actual fact it is leading his life to ruin. People think it is success to have much money, to get a honor and power, and to have a broad knowledge, but they will have a difficult and confused time on account of the possession, because it can't satisfy them.

Remember that carnal desire compete our soul. Of course, a soul that isn't born again covets carnal desire, and may happy for a while because of that. However, at least to Christian, the carnal desire will make their life tough. Look at the life of Paul. He suffers pain from his conditions of the flesh. His native, honor, and much knowledge became obstacles to his life as Christian.

Today, many Christians strive to gain the world instead of dismiss. They hope to gain fame through much money, honor or position in the world, or knowledge. However, this way can't be a right way for Christian, because it will disappear like dust.

Please win in the war against carnal desire. We must do our bet for holy life. It is a correct posture of life as strangers and pilgrims. If we pursue the satisfaction of the flesh and settle down there, we already fail in the spiritual war. Win in the war. The Lord is fighting for our life of a victory to this day. Remember that there is the Lord's support on a way of faith we are walking now.

Having your conversation honest (1 Peter 2:12)

Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Peter 2:12)

Honesty is very important thing for Christian, because the character of the Lord is on basis of it. Meet the mind of the Lord in the Bible. He made a promise many things, but never broke his promise even one time. He can't be compared with today's leaders who use one's mind and conduct him to a profitable situation for them.

People think that there isn't any problem at living the world without honesty, so they change their appointment, and justify a lie. However, we must keep in mind that the Lord never forgives even a minor untruth. Look at Ananias and Sapphira. They promised to devote their possession in the presence of others and the Lord, but they changed their appointment, kept back part of the price, and devoted a certain part to the Lord. How was the conclusion? When they stand in the face of Peter, they felled down one by one. The reason was that they cheat the Holy Spirit.

People can explain that this cast is a special circumstance takes place in only the first generation church, but we must remember that the Lord isn't liberal to liars, because a lie is a weapon of Satan. He made Adam and Eve sin with this lie, and is making many people children of hell constantly.

Christian must have honesty. It can't be finished with words, but it have to be showed through our life. The honesty will receive praise of people, also the Lord will be honored by it. Of course, after the honor, the reward of the Lord will be followed.

Many people say 'honesty', but honesty of Christian isn't easy than the world's one; it will include many difficulties and mockeries of people. However, if we bear and forbear all the things, we can make fruitful. Honest life can be defamed from many people for a moment, but it will give us a chance to let the Lord have glory. We can get bigger fruit than lessons we shout out to the empty sky. Remember that our honesty life is best way of evangelism.

The will of God (1 Peter 2:13-15)

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of

evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: (1 Peter 2:13-15)

We know that whoever does God's will is fit to entering the kingdom of heaven. Jesus has a strong point of view about this matter; he says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Mat 7:21). Also, the Bible is saying many phrases about the will of God. Among others, the typical one is that 'Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.' in Paul's letter to the church of the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). This is teaching us what mind we must have in our life as Christian. We can understand and accept this in a family way as Christian.

However, another phrase says that the will of God is to submit ourselves to every ordinance of man, and to hold kings and governors in reverence than compete. We can't understand the words if we think of that time condition of Peter, because that time kings and governors locked in prison and killed Christians. The ordinance of man, also, has adverse conditions for the faith of Christian. Nevertheless, the Bible commands to submit to their authority.

We can see similar phrases in the letter of Paul, and it encourages to supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks for kings and for all that is in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Of course, the authorities aren't Christian. They are persecutor. Now, we look the authorities holding much biased view, criticize them, and sometimes enjoy it. However, remember the Lord don't want it. The Lord hopes to pray for them and live more peaceful life. In other words, He wants that we recover relationship with them and good news is spread purely in peace. In history of old church, sincere Christians never participated in a political issue or challenged their authority. Their concern was only living in the word of the Lord, and prayed to keep it. If you want to become wise Christian, pray for the authorities and submit to their words. This is the will of God.

Act as the servants of God (1 Peter 2:16-17)

As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. (1 Peter 2:16-17)

It is a promise of God that the truth makes Christians free. Yes, in the instant of receiving Jesus Christ, we are set at liberty from a yoke of a sin. Also, we free ourselves from bondage of the devil, and it is now possible for us to live happily looking at the future. We are set free, but it isn't means that living according to desires of flesh is permissible. We, are Christians, have to prepare as a ruler of the world with the Lord. The basis is love. The words are teaching us how we act as the servants of God.

Jesus emphasized the loving our neighbors. Christians should surely have a mind of loving our neighbors. The Bible demands us to respect them. What is the meaning of 'respect'? It is the mind to consider others better than me, and it means that we must lower ourselves when we face them.

Fraternal love is the final destination Christians pursue. Look at today's churches. They say that each one believes Jesus Christ, but they hold each other in check, and hate each other. We can see that a church turn against other church, there are disputes among believers in church, and sometimes they engage in a controversy in a harsh tone. However, if we are a mature Christian who prepares future and lives as the servants of God, we won't neglect the fraternal love.

What does 'there is a faith' in the world mean? It is started fear of the Lord. If one has it, he will keep away from a sin, and do his best to delight the Lord. Remember that a point of sameness believers have is to fear the Lord.

Finally, the thing that Christians must remember living in the world is to honor the world's kings, because we will be a ruler in time to come. We can get better ability to rule over by training of submission to sovereign's authority, and the submission to the kings is one to the Lord because God appointed the sovereigns. We must submit to and respect them.

Be subject to your masters (1 Peter 2:18)

Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the forward. (1 Peter 2:18)

In the Bible, there are many orders we can't understand. It might be a right expression to say 'hard to keep' than incomprehensible. For example, 'love your enemies'. The enemies are intimately associated us, but are irreconcilable people. Nevertheless, the Lord is demanding for loving them. These words mean that we must love everyone. In other words, there is no one we can't forgive.

Likewise, it isn't easy that a servant submits to his master, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the forward. Taking a step forward, they will experience a tight situation physically and mentally. For all that, the Lord is demanding for obeying the order of the master without a discontent.

Today, what attitude does a member of society have toward his boss at the office? Do they face them with fear? And do they always prepare of mind for submission? Of course, they think that they can obey to orders of their boss even by compulsion, but Christians have to do more; they must face their boss like the Lord.

The reason that the Lord refer to an attitude of a servant is that he want us to become his servant. He hopes to make the best use of us in his works through training of a servant in the world. Look at the David. He shows us that though Saul attempted life of him, he submits to Saul as hard as he can rather than faces him like an enemy. The Lord can see that the David will become a great king through his this feature.

In our life, the training of a servant is very important too. If there is no training of obedience in our life, we can't live as a great servant in the face of the Lord. It is sure that if he can be a servant, but there will be many difficulties till the will of the Lord is accomplished. How much are we equal to the training of obedience? If we cope with it well in the world, the Lord will give us a more important appointed task.

This is acceptable with God (1 Peter 2:19–20)

For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. (1 Peter 2: 19–20)

There are many events we cannot understand in this world. One of them is that a person goes through hardships in spite of his good deeds. He approaches them with a good intention and carries out beautiful affection toward them, but there are persecutors of him. Of course, people's a little rights and interests intervene in it, but mostly due to a direct intervention of the devil.

Think about the missionary work of Paul in Philippi. It was a good deed that he cures a disease of a girl demoniac, because it made her free. However, her master who gathered wealth by using her entrapped Paul and even threw him into prison. Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God in there, and experience a surprising event; all the doors were opened and every one's bands were loosed. Their suffering for a moment was so glorious thing.

On the other side, we can meet many events be punished from God by a ignominy; Miriam who became leprous because he set up against Moses, Aaron's two sons who died due to using of other fire in religious service, Ananias and Sapphira who attempt deceive the Holy Spirit, etc. There is no one who thinks their death was glorious, and people hope to not do like them.

The Lord wants for Christian to don't be shy or fear about their hardships, because he will compensate them for all they undergo. The compensation can be given to us in this world, and will be added in the future.

Joshua went across the Jordan blocked. It isn't true that they had no sooner determine than the river is opened. The Jordan is still blocking their way. However, when their step went toward the river, the river was divided. Now, our attitude in the world becomes clear. We must walk the way of faith having a daring looks according to the word of the truth.

Sometimes adversities and persecutions come up to us, but it will make us glorious. If one can step up to the Lord having these attitudes, he is living at a position acceptable with God. Now, where is our position?

An example of Christ (1 Peter 2:21)

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: (1 Peter 2:21)

It is very interesting for Christians that they are called for sufferings, because most of them dream that everything goes well. It is a characteristic many religions are having. All religions in the world want to live successful life, so when people get sick they rely upon the religion and ask for recovery, when be in poverty they desire money, even they get its help for their honor or power. Of course, we can see that Jesus cured a disease of many people and let the poor eat, but we must remember that the object of coming of him wasn't just those miracles for them. Then, what was the purpose of him? The answer is the death.

Jesus announced in advance about his death to his disciples several times. Nevertheless, the disciples couldn't understand the meaning of words; Peter kept Jesus' hold on, and they were scattered when he died. If they had understood enough his object, they would bow respectfully watching his death.

How about the looks of Christian today? To tell the truth, our figure is not different from their one, because they didn't think that they can be suffered when they believe Jesus Christ. They were afraid of persecutions and unprepared to accept the time of hardship, but they want to avoid adversities and to know the glory of Heaven. However, it is impossible for Christian to keep away from a way of suffering.

The death of Jesus means not only just that he died for us, but that he set a good example to Christians for working them to his trace. In other words, the suffering of Jesus is a way that we must walk along.

Look at Paul. He was bitten many and many a time, experienced a prison life, and even was killed off because he was a Christian, but he took it all for granted. James, Stephen, and Peter are in the same manner. They were tried in the furnace, but they were happy in that time, and even they gave a glory to God. If you undergo hardships, don't be afraid, because it is evidence saying that we are following a trace of the Lord.

An example of Christ II (1 Peter 2:22)

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: (1 Peter 2:22)

There is no need to say that the nature of Jesus is one that we must have, so it may the truth Christians take for granted that we have to live a holy life like him. Then, how did he display his divine nature?

First of all, he is saying that he did no sin. Of course, this sin can be perpetrated among people, but it is saying that he never do a conscienceless act. Jesus Christ was God, but he never misuse the true, and he lived a prudent life because he had a body. If you are a Christian who follows a Christ's example, it is natural to live a life having nothing to do with a sin. We can say that such person is who live having a mind of Christ.

Another nature of Jesus is that it was no guile found in his mouth. Having no guile in one's mouth means no lie. In other words, it means that there is no untruth for a profit of oneself. Yes, Jesus never holds himself in reverence for catching the fancy of people or jerks around people with telling a lie. On the contrary, people misunderstood him, and make themselves be caught in a trap. For example, Jesus said that he will be killed off, and emphasized that only so, the salvation plan of God can be completed. However, his disciples didn't hang onto these words, and didn't recognize his death. They were looking at Jesus with their point of view. Jesus said only truth. That is the most basic nature of Jesus.

The devil, the father of lies, is a existence dazzling people. If a Christian is telling a lie, he still doesn't free himself from the influence of the devil. A Christian who has the nature of Jesus certainly must tell the truth, because it is an act only a person who is like the mind of Jesus can do. People think that proper lie can be permitted, so they take advantage of

someone and fatten themselves. However, we must remember the fact that the Lord don't permit such life of Christian be born again. Remember that Christian who lives always in the truth is the picture the Lord want for us.

An example of Christ III (1 Peter 2:23)

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: (1 Peter 2:23)

The first thing we must know for following the life of Jesus Christ is a fact that he is God. It means that he didn't need to suffer an insult or undergo all sorts of hardships, but he came with a flesh and went through such things. We must remember that there are several reasons but the first is for making today's Christian follow example.

Jesus suffered insult but didn't call anyone names and he undergo all sorts of hardships but didn't menace. As men go, the law says 'eye for eye, tooth for tooth'. Nowadays, a rule in the world, is almost based on the laws in the Bible, is applying of such a principle. If one cause damage, he must compensate for a loss, but if he can't afford to do it, he must pay the price with his body. So, a murderer is killed off through capital punishment, and a person who is liable for physical damage imposes a fine. These things are casting anchor among people in the world as a general thing.

However, when we see looks of Christians in New Testament times, we can find that they didn't apply a world's rule based on the law. They invoked a blessing for people who call their names, didn't oppose to persecutors, and even they became a gentle lamb in front of death. These acts came from a mind of hoping to perform an example of Christ. Today, we can see that many churches have nothing to do with those things. It isn't an image of people who follow an example of Christ. If they are real Christian, they have to pray and control themselves with patience even in the pessimum.

The main reason Christians must do so is that the right of judgment is not in us or the world law court, but only in God. Even if we are disadvantaged in the world, it isn't the attitude of Christian that we get an answer to the question by ourselves or strive to retaliate. Only God

can judge. We must not take the posture of defense even for a person who attempts our life. We ought to entrust ourselves to the Lord and pray for them. Look at Stephen. He didn't implore for his life and didn't put on a grim face in the presence of people gathered to kill him, but he committed him to the Lord's care and pray for them spring with stones at him. He was like Jesus praying for people made an effort to kill him. Remember. We have no right of judgment. Only God will judge.

An example of Christ IV (1 Peter 2:24)

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

Jesus is God. It was a preposterous determination that he came to this world for our sins. He, is God, needed not to come to this world obstinately, disgrace himself, and even be killed off. Nevertheless, he did it. We need to pay attention to a fact that he came personally.

'Coming personally' means that he decided by his free will without anyone's approval. Even if people have no capability to rescue themselves, nobody expects God to come down. So, many religions have built a tower with thinking that they can rescue themselves without Jesus, and have dazzled people to train by themselves. However, no one of them received salvation. Their life was but an empty dream, and they show how much following the world is foolish.

Yes, the way of salvation is in Jesus, so he came down to the world. He had to not only come to this world, but become a sacrificial offering and shed blood as people in the Old Covenant offer a sacrifice of a sheep for their sins. Have you ever imagined about a looks of Jesus upon the cross? That was like a lamb on the altar.

, Before being crucified, his figure beaten by whips was more miserable. He went through sufferings of coming off a piece of his body. Why did he undergo such pains? The Bible says that it is because of our frailty or the diseased flesh. Jesus covered for our sufferings. If you are painful, ask of God. He already encountered the sufferings as a substitute of us.

Looking the figure of the Lord toward us, if we are sincere Christian, we have to can shoulder a burden of him. In other words, remembering the love of God for us, we must share the love with our neighbors. Have we made an effort for the salvation of our neighbors? Though our love is incomparable with one of Jesus, we ought to share it, even our life. It is due to for people following the Lord to have his love together. Now, are you walking along the way of the Lord?

The Shepherd and Bishop of your souls (1 Peter 2:25)

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. (1 Peter 2:25)

It is very important to rightly understand about Jesus, because nowadays many people are in a state of disorder by their wrong recognition. They head for different ways from the will of the Lord due to the stubborn attacks of heterodoxy and the wrong teachings of false teachers. True understanding of Jesus will guarantees the life of a sound Christian. Then, what does Jesus mean to us?

The Bible says the Lord is a Shepherd. What does a Shepherd do? He supplies food to his sheep. In other words, he finds green pastures for them, and leads them to there. It means that the sheep must fix their eyes on the shepherd and follow them. If they try to go after their will, they will be a lost sheep.

Nowadays, many people are becoming more distant from the truth, and lost their way. Most of them didn't obey the lead of the Lord. They make much of their will than the Lord's, and even use him for their dream. However, if they are Christian, they may not be able to live a sound life. Though they believe Jesus Christ, the more they make a constant effort for their works, the more they will spend hard times, because they have no capability to find green pastures by themselves. Remember that if we don't follow the lead of the Lord for immediate gains, we can't expect a plentiful life.

The Lord, also, is our Bishop. In general, people think a bishop is who simply defend and watch, but he points out wrongs and continues to admonish until be corrected. Look at the

great men of faith. There was the Lord all the time around them, and when they walk a wrong way, Jesus came to and amended them. Of course, when God see they do a good work, he praised them.

It means that Christians always have to give ear to the voice of the Lord. If a person doesn't pay attention to the words of bishop, he never can build a house of faith. Even if build, the house will collapse before long because it is incomplete. We must be under the supervision of the Lord if we want to build a house of faith rightly. For this, we must know that God always want to help us. I wish you to understand the Lord, the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls, rightly.

Ye wives (1 Peter 3:1-2)

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. (1 Peter 3:1-2)

The role of wives in a family is the absolute, so the influencing power of women cannot help growing large. Generally, people think women did blind obedience to their husbands in the past days, but it isn't true. In encouragement of Paul we can see disobedience of women to husband. For that reason, it is demanding the subjection to husbands.

Then, why do wives have to live the life of subjection? The answer is simple. The Lord made men, and gave a valuable present 'a home'. He made one loves another, has their children, and enjoys a plentiful life in there. It is showing in advance our glorious looks in the future. Jesus will be our bridegroom, and we, a bride, will participate in a wedding feast and make beautiful Heaven.

In this, there is a reason that the present family is precious. We think that the present family is simply needed in our life in this world, and that it is possible to disrupt their family if it is unsatisfactory. So, they get a divorce, leave their children, and even turn away their parents. However, we must think twice about the meaning of family if we are Christian born again, because the family is a model of glorious Heaven. We are as good as practicing of living in

the world coming. If we can't live defending our family in this world, we won't be compensated the glorious life in the Kingdom of God. Even if we receive a salvation, we will stand in the face of God with a shameful figure.

The position of wives is the most important factor on appraise of a family. When look through a family, people will see how much the wife is cultured and silent. Money and knowledge is no consideration. Though a family is poor, the family will be an object of envy if the wife subject to her husband and live happily. Also, the family will shine brilliantly more and more by her. As Christian, the role of wives is more important, because many people are gazing at her behavior. If a wife does an immoral behavior, it will make herself, all Christians, and even Jesus be spoken ill of. On the other hand, if she does a virtuous behavior, many people will not only praise her, but come back to the Lord. Think about how about our figures as wives, please.

Ye wives II (1 Peter 3:3-4)

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Peter 3:3-4)

It is true that the female's external features are very important to the moderners. In the past, people adorned themselves simply with clothes and jewels, but now, they set up their standard of beauty, and correct their face and body through various plastic operation. It was made popular. They think that their beautiful appearance will change their life. In fact, society is favorably disposed toward who have good-looking, and it is an attribute of the world belonging to the flesh.

However, if these pictures take place in church, what do you think will happen? We can't think that it isn't a serious problem, because it can make believers in church be confused. An external problem can cause believers to get in bad and to judge each other. The females must have a care of making frown the face of others or arresting attention with adornments.

Many churches have established standards of appearance for preventing these things; men put on formal dress, women put on a long skirt and plain black dress, etc. Above all, they gave emphasis to temperate in having on necklace and earring, and in wearing low-cut dresses. Though it isn't stipulated in the Bible, they taught it for order of the church. These teaching were great, but everything can be dangerous if it overdo. If it become a means of condemnation, it is much better to don't teach it, because the most important thing to Christian is spiritual thing.

The thing which we have to think deeply before every thing else is where are the concern of the Lord. Yes, the concern of him is in only our spiritual matter. When estimate one woman, her beauty won't be reflected in the judgment standard of the Lord. Nowadays, many people strive to have a good job and good looks. However, God won't see their figures, but will see their gentle and quiet adornment of spirit. The beauty of women is on warm and soft mind, and on character that submit to only the word of the Lord and her husband. Ye wives! Remember once again. God is no respecter of persons. He watches only the problem of spirit, our mind.

Ye wives III (1 Peter 3:5-6)

For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. (1 Peter 3:5-6)

The figure of wives being in subjection unto their own husbands is never weak. The Bible says they are holy women. Yes, the basis of holy women is started from subjection to husbands. If one is beautiful and lovely but doesn't obey her husband, she can't gain the good word of the Lord. She seems like satisfy everything, but in fact, she is having an empty shell.

In the present generation, many people are getting a divorce. Of course, they have their own reasons of divorce, but it isn't unpardonable to dissolute of marriage for any reason as Christian. If a wife obeys her husband and act wisely, it is impossible to get a divorce. Surely, now we talk about Christian couple. If one of them doesn't believe the Lord, circumstances

beyond their control can come into existence. However, at least in Christian family, a divorce never can happen because God made them.

The Bible talks about Sara. She called her husband, Abraham, lord. It means that she is his possession, so she didn't manage or teach her husband, and can obey only him. Also, it means she made herself low to a servant. A servant always pays attention to the order of the master, and has an attitude of submission. We can know that having an attitude of a servant, she always pays attention to the words of Abraham and walks a way of obedience along only her husband.

The thing we must take notice of in here is the attitude of our mind that don't be afraid of any wonders. Yes, the action of husband cannot but fear, because it is sometimes reckless and unexpected. Sara, also, might feel a fear when Abraham says to go to Canaan. However, she obeyed him without a comment, so she had a son 'Isaac', became a mother of gigantic nation, and stand up as the woman of the faithful. It never is easy to obey husbands, but have a mind of submissiveness, please. It is an attitude a wife must have.

Ye husbands (1 Peter 3:7)

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

Husbands are no less than wives. The obligation for their wives makes them be conscious of a sense of responsibility. Many men demand for many things to their wives, but they actually don't know how to face their wives. So, if a couple has spent marital life for a long time, we can see that the wife who has obeyed her husband is leading her family affairs, large and small. It can be said the family is normal, but it is because the husband didn't pay his dues.

Then, what attitude do husbands have for their wives? First, the Bible recommends them to dwell with their wives according to knowledge. Yes, in any circumstances, it is wrong to live separate from their wives. Even if they quarrel each other or are in unavoidable engagement, it never can be a desirable behavior to separate from their wives in the married state. Under

any circumstances, a husband must not become estranged from his wife. Excepting for special cases, for example for a prayer, a couple must always live with one accord in everything.

The Bible likened wives to the weaker vessel. It means that they must be treated with great care. If one treat his wife with a sneer and insincere because she is his wife, the wife will be sadly wounded. It is impossible that once broken vessel is to be recovered. In other words, the mind got a wound from husband can't get over easily. After all, we have to know that a couple have a closest relationship but can have a worst relationship according to their behavior.

As Christian, the reason a husband must make much of his wife isn't simply for living the world comfortably. Wives are who will be heirs together of the grace of life. Of course, it can't be connected with the problem of salvation, because it is possible that only one of them receives salvation. However, to a husband received salvation, his wife will become an important standard of inheritance; the Lord will judge how he faced his wife. Keep your attitude that considers your wife as being heirs together of the grace of life.

Finally, the most important attitude for one's wife is to respect her. Most of social prejudices about women are from home, because people think wives must play a role of a servant in family. Inside church, there are same prejudices. Churches force women to be quiet. However, if these thinking bring about a result of neglecting women or wives, it is very dangerous. The Bible is clearly demanding husbands to give honor unto their wives. Remember that this is a Biblical attitude of Christian.

A correct posture of Christian (1 Peter 3:8)

Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8)

Inside church, Christians must associate with as existences need each other. If a Christian leads a religious life without company, he never can get a benefit of his faith. Christians must have a suitable attitude in the church.

Christians ought to have one mind, because believers in church are forming one body. If they don't have one mind, it is not different from being disabled. When even a part of a body went wrong, the body can't do normal activities any more. Likewise, if believers don't make one mind, the church can't do normal activities. Therefore, believers must have one mind, and live for each other.

For this, the Bible is encouraging us to have compassion one of another. Especially, taking care of the poor is very important work of Christians. If there is no caring among Christians, it can't be a sound church. It was giving to the needy that the first generation church attach great importance to. Nowadays, many churches are in existence, but they are stingy in sharing with the poor. They are turning away the teaching of the Bible. Remember that we must make an effort to sharing with the poor for growing as a sound church of God.

Fraternal love can be a completion of faith. The boundary of this love is to love even an enemy. It means that there is no person we never can love. If there is hatred in our mind, we must get rid of it immediately, because it can be a poison in our life. Also, we must have the mind of pity. It is the mind of the Lord. He had pity on us, and came to this world with the flesh. We also must have pity toward the souls near to death in the world. When they are in need of us, surely we have to help them. It is a correct posture of who have the mind of God.

Finally, being courteous is important posture. Christians have much less courtesy than our thinking. They strive to keep their doctrine or tradition, but face people around them rudely. Even if one falls short of our standard of faith, we have to lead him kindly. Even if we become a leader of a church, we must have a low posture and serve others. Being courteous is the very virtue Christians ought to have.

Bless (1 Peter 3:9)

Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:9)

The law says 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'. Many rules in the world are made under this principle. It is clear that the law is the command of God, but it has its limits. It had been

of general application to the Israelites, and had controlled them before coming of Jesus Christ. However, it became meaningless after advent of him, because this law is preparing for his coming. Of course, it makes us realize our sins, and proves a fact that Jesus Christ became the lamb personally and sacrificed himself for us.

After performing a role of the law, Jesus gave a new command to us “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”(John 13:34). It is true that the contents of the Ten Commandments are concrete but the commandments of Jesus are expansive. The reason is that when in dispensation, God ruled straight through people, so He needed to make a specific rule for them, whereas in New Testament times God ruled people through the Holy Spirit, so actually He didn't really need to mention specifically. Remember that the saints in New Testament live with guidance of Holy Spirit.

So, what is the difference between the law and the good news? The Bible is presenting this question clearly. The purpose of the law is to keep order among people, but that of good news is to be separated from the world. The word ‘separation’ doesn't mean the “total separation” from the world, but it means that, you cannot live the same way of life as everyone does, because the zone of Christian life is never in this world. We are the people of Kingdom of God, so we must prepare for the world drawing near, and for the rewards from him.

Then, how can we be separated from the world? If it is the characteristic of people who pay back with sin with sin, and curse with curse, but it is a separated life of Christians to bless people who call their names. Real separation doesn't mean guarding against, judging, and keep other people away from them on themselves doctrine, but it means performing with the way of God to the world. The way is to always embrace people with love, and to have a figure of blessing in any situation. This is the purpose why God called us, and it can be a standard of our inheritance. How about our figure? I hope you enjoy a plentiful life in Jesus Christ.

Let him refrain his tongue (1 Peter 3:10–11)

For he that will love life, and wee good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good,; let him seek peace, and ensue it. (1 Peter 3:10–11)

We can see many instructions about tongue in the Bible. It is closely connected with sins of Adam and Eve, the first man. Satan tempted Eve to eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil through a snake. There are several reasons about why he did so, but first reason is that snakes have tongues divided into two. It means that the animal can tell the Good and the Evil at once, that is, it tells lies well.

One thing we must remember is that another nickname for Satan is the father of lie. It means that he makes people tell a lie and make them confused. Then, we must get an answer for it. God hates lying. So, we must keep a lookout for lies, and eliminate it completely in our minds.

Through early church, we can meet a surprising event “the death of Ananias and Sapphira”. There are a lot of opinions about their salvation, but they made up their minds to devote themselves as a member of their church, and they had a mind of giving to God though they gave only a part of what they promised to him. However, they breathed their last because of only one reason ‘a lie’. We ought to realize how much telling lies is dangerous.

Nowadays, many people are handy with lies, and they think that it is foolish to live an honest life. The same goes to churches. Many congregations decide something in front of church, but they change their minds when circumstances become different or disadvantageous. We must remember that those things are the things that God dislikes.

We ought to refrain our tongues. Lord wants to open his heart to an honest and trustworthy people and talk with them. If we are given to lies, he will block his ears and many people will become estranged from us. I hope that we live with a figure of truthfulness to become an imposing Christian in the face of God.

The eyes, ears, and face of the Lord (1 Peter 3:11-12)

Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. (1 Peter 3:11-12)

Every religion emphasizes to eschew evil, to do goods, and to seek peace. It is a very fundamental thing not only in religions but in the morality of the world. However, the reason why it is important to Christian is that it has a close connection with the fact that we receive a salvation by the grace of the Lord. In other words, the world religions or people live a righteous life for satisfying their belief, but Christians live such life because they receive a salvation not by themselves but by the grace of the Lord. So, Christians cannot help being aware of the Lord, and they have to learn how to live with him.

The Bible says that the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous. It represents that he doesn't see an evil. We remember that Jesus said, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?', meaning 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?'. Some people may have a question about the word 'forsaken', but it shows the characteristic of the Lord well. He can't see any looks of sins, so he couldn't see Jesus who had all sins of the world. The Lord wants to be with righteous people even now. If any sin remains in you, make an effort to remove it.

The ears of the Lord are open unto their prayers. It tells us how much our prayers are important for the associations with God. He is always preparing to give an answer to our prayers. If we have something we can't get, it is because we don't pray. The conversation is positively necessary for associating with someone. In the same way, if you want to associate with the Lord, you must pray. Pray to God. He is preparing to hear our prayers.

As I've said before, the Lord is very sensitive of sins. Think about why the Bible expresses that the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. He has a mind against evils soaring just invisible level. Think if we have evils, it will be so terrible, because we will get to stand against the Lord at last. Put evils out of your mind, and arm yourself with good things. This is just the way we can step up to God.

Having a good conscience I (1 Peter 3:13-14)

And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; (1 Peter 3:13-14)

The Bible emphasizes the good conscience of Christians in many scriptural phrases. In fact, it can weigh on believers who grew up by knowing Christ, because 'a conscience' depends on feelings. They think that they must hide their feelings and follow only the teaching of the Bible. Living with a good conscience doesn't mean making light of knowing him. It needs more attention, because our good conscience starts at knowing and understanding the Bible.

There is something that people who live in the words of God get to meet. It is the time of hardships. If they don't go through this time, they can never get a healthy faith. Some people expect a victory without sufferings. They hope that all goes well, and that difficulties will keep out of them. However, Christians who want to live a sincere life will greet the time of hardships invariably.

Yet we have no need to be worry about these times, because it will be a chance we can be confident of our faith in the face of the Lord. Even if you are going through the hard times at present, you can find yourself getting more mature in the course of time. Moreover, these times will give a power that we can overcome any ordeals.

Don't fear about adversities, and don't get uneasy about it. If there is the worst circumstance, 'death' in your presence, you need not to be discouraged, because we will receive compensations from God for our sufferings in the world. If we lead a religious life without hardships, we can't look forward to receive anything from him. It goes same to a student who doesn't study wants to win an award for score excellence.

Stephen felt happy in his moment of death, and prayed for people who aim a stone at him. Also Paul said, 'I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus' when he proceeded to Jerusalem. The reason that they can be happy in their hard time is that they expect their compensations and good conscience. The thing which

makes us confident is to live according to good conscience from knowing the words of the Lord. Make an effort to have a good conscience.

Having a good conscience II (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:(1 Peter 3:15)

Another characteristic of people who follow good things is distinguishing the Lord from others in their mind. While we have the flesh in the world, it isn't easy to discriminate us from the world, and it can't be a piece of cake because the flesh itself follows the bad things naturally. So, the Bible is saying to us to distinguish the Lord from others in our mind.

It can sound strange distinguishing God as holy, but these are very meaningful words to Christians because there are a lot of thoughts in our mind; not only good thoughts, but also bad ones. So, it is essential to do those works. This distinction doesn't just get divided by thoughts, but it means engraving the holy life of the Lord in our mind and living in such figures. We must remember that the Bible teaches us that we ought to be holy as God is holy.

Also, people who follow good things have to prepare to answering to the reason of hope in our mind. What is hope for us? This is the question we must prepare throughout our life. The answer is very simple compared to our expectation, because there is no hope in the world and we will great glorious days in future. However, it is difficult for us to realize such faith in our life.

Though we are the people who are living putting our hopes in heaven, we still keep our mind to the world and live for money, power, knowledge, and authority. In our life, the plans of the Lord are always laid away from us, and we believe that the honor in the world can be a success in religious belief. However, there is no compromise with the world to people who live in right truth. They will throw away their honor of the world daringly and understand the ways to live making only heaven their hope.

Many Christians misunderstand that as soon as we receive a salvation we get to have a great faith. We must remember that in instant of receiving a salvation we become pure as a child. They will mature thought in their growth process, and they will master the ways for living wisely as Christian. It is just a good conscience that they master. It makes them think and act all things in God's point of view, and they will do their best for joy of the Lord. I hope that you look back where you are standing.

Having a good conscience III (1 Peter 3:16-17)

Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. (1 Peter 3:16-17)

People who have a good conscience have another difficulty. It is that many people speak evil of them as of evildoers. It is recondite because they are plainly walking a good way and giving benefits to many people through good deeds. However, it is the principle of the world that they are considered as evildoers because of only the reason that they believe Jesus Christ.

Why did people treat believers as evildoers? The reason is very simple; because they have other identity fundamentally. They are living as children of Satan in the world, and Christian also had lived having a same identity with them before knowing Jesus Christ. However, after receiving Jesus Christ as their lord, they became the children of the Lord and it makes the world turned out enemies. Jesus always taught us to love our enemies. This is including not only enemies who we made living in the world but also people who don't know Jesus Christ.

How many people were killed because of one reason that they believe Jesus Christ? Their death is unfair thing. If they had lived a nation having free on religion like us, they would win a lawsuit even on the law of the world. However, it is surprise that they took their death all for granted. They praised God in front of their death and prayed for people who are going to kill them. They could do it because they had a clear conviction. The Lord talked repeatedly about judgment for sinners and promised compensation for believers. Their fair reason in front of their death was that they can see the compensation through their faith.

Having a good conscience means that they can endure everything through their faith. Where there is a good deed, there is a suffering. It is the will of God. If one suffers from his evil, nobody can have sympathy. When in having a good deed we bear hardships doing not lose heart, we can make a rich harvest. No suffering, no glory. So the Lord says that hardships are the will of God. I hope that if you are in sufferings, praise the glory of God.

The suffering of Christ (1 Peter 3:18)

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:(1 Peter 3:18)

We have heard many times about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, I repeat it again because it is the base of good news. The Bible was recorded for this event, and it is impossible to relieve all mankind without this. Satan is working for weakening this good news even now.

Jesus came to this world to die. After a fast of Jesus for 40 days, Satan tempted him and presented an easier way of salvation that can get by showing his ability. Even Satan told that he will give all power and glory in the world to Jesus if Jesus bows respectfully him. However, Jesus Christ rejected all these things, because the salvation can be complete only through the death of Jesus, it was a promise.

It was not easy even for Jesus himself. We can see the scene which Jesus feared to take a cup of death when he prayed in Gethsemane. He wanted the cup to be taken away. However, he knew the will of God, so he could walk the path of the cross.

The death of Jesus is not simple capital punishment. He was the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. In the process, he had to pour out all his blood of all his body. For that, his whole body was taken a whip, his head was put the crown of thorns, his hands and feet were crucified, and in the end, his heart was speared and he pour all his blood. His whole blood was used for mankind's salvation. Through this precious blood of Jesus, we could receive a salvation.

After the death, Jesus resurrected. It is not for showing simply that Jesus alive, but for the hope that we will resurrect in the future. Without this hope, life will be very vain. Look at religions in the world. They make a world of assume, and desire to enter there. However, no one of them have ever convey of message of resurrection, because they not only have not been resurrected but also have not been enjoy the glory of heaven. We will experience the glory of resurrection in the future. Jesus is the first fruit of this, and now we will be part of the fruit. I hope you who relieved through the blood of Jesus Christ to live longing for glorious days in the future.

The spirits in prison(1 Peter 3:19-20)

By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. (1 Peter 3:19-20)

These phrases are very puzzling passages even among biblical scholars. However, it is never difficult to understand if we dismiss fixed ideas and take it as it is. The reason that people cannot understand these phrases is the phrase, 'he went and preached unto the spirits in prison'. In here, we must know what he preached. In generally, people think that it means relieving them by preaching good news but it go too far. Remember that the Bible made a record only 'preached'.

Preaching good news of Jesus shows two sides; the life for believers and the judgment for unbelievers. Of course, it was about the judgment that the spirits in prison was given. They were already persons who didn't pay attention to the words of God and refused the way for salvation which Noah presented. So the Bible says 'eight souls were saved'.

In the above contents, we can understand the property of God. It is endurance for our salvation. Yes, God want salvation of everyone, and even now he is bearing patiently looking the world. The Noah age is similar with today in many parts, but two has only one difference that God judged the Noah age with water but will judge this age with fire.

The disobedience of people has many things beyond our understanding. The Lord conveyed good news through Noah, and give a situation that can be relieve only by entering Noah's ark. In other word, receiving salvation was never difficult. However, people rejected and couldn't avoid the judgment of water. In the end, all they died and went to hell.

Even now, good news is conveyed to many people, but they still don't pay attention that and refuse entering the way of salvation. It isn't because it is difficult or they do not know, but because they don't cognize the judgment they will receive. This world will be judge by fire, and wheat and chaff will stand in the presence of the Lord. Where is our place? I hope that you go to meet glorious days with the Lord like eight members of Noah's family.

Baptism (1 Peter 3:21)

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 3:21)

Today Christians are confused by the things about baptism. This is an objection that Satan attacks Christians by, and he makes them be greenhorn in belief for Christ through getting discolored its meaning. Nowadays many people think that acting baptism is very biblical, but in one breathe they consider that it won't have influence on their life of faith. However, baptism is very important for Christians in actually, because it has the most fundamental doctrines of all faith.

The Bible talks about baptism through Noah's ark event. The world committed sins, and the Lord made a plan to ruin this world. When the world was judged by water, Noah's family who prepared an ark to follow the words of God was alive, but the rest couldn't help avoiding ruin. Noah also was on the center of water, but he was in the ark which was made according to the words of God and he received salvation. This is another model of baptism.

Yes, baptism shows symbolically that believers will become get salvation on the judgment days through building a house that can avoid ruins. Baptism is never a simple ceremony. If

you believe that this ceremony can rescue us, you will have a very hard time; you can't avoid ruin in the end.

Baptism means death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Someone hold fast to baptism by sprinkling than baptism by immersion and than say "if we have a faith, everything is okay, isn't it?" Of course, it isn't true that we can't receive salvation until baptism; in actual fact, although a burglar on the cross who was next to Jesus didn't receive baptism, but he receive salvation. However, it is insufficient to explain that baptism has no use, because the Bible is talking about baptism and baptism faith many times.

What do we need for our salvation? What is the way we can avoid ruin? It is to believe Jesus Christ with no exceptions; with accuracy, it is to believe death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for our sins. Yes, this faith is baptism faith. Baptism is a deed putting our profession. Do you have this baptism faith?

Who is gone into heaven(1 Peter 3: 22)

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.(1 Peter 3: 22)

Where is God? It seems that this answer is so easy that everyone knows it, but it is very important. Because it includes the contents of what kind of work the Lord is doing in us and it shows the identity of him.

Who is him? As we know, he is the son of God. He is sitting in well-matched place with his identity. There is the right side of God. Angels, powers and competences are obeying to him. When we think that this world is governed by them, we can know that Jesus is who make the history of the world. Yes, he made this world and has managed all history from the beginning.

Sometimes people are doubtful of the creation of the world. Also, they, even some Christians, are in negative about the fact that Jesus creates this world. They say, "I believe in God the Father Almighty Maker of heaven and earth...", but they don't want to disclose about this. However, the Bible is showing the evidences.

The one thing we must remember is that Jesus has relation to the history of human beings more closely than our thinking. Look at the today's role of Jesus. He is praying for the sins of people constantly, even now. It means that he is defending us to God the Father for each one of us and he wait in patient for the world that can't help reaching at destruction. We have to remember what things are connected with our life closely.

We think about the word Jesus said when he ascends to heaven again. It is that there is who takes the place of him. He is the Holy Spirit. Yes, it is the Holy Spirit to connect with our life closely. He is in our inside and is acting together with us. He makes us pray, know the will of God, and win in the war with evil spirits. Please don't forget that the Holy Spirit is always together with us. I hope you remember that right following the lead of him is right following of the will of the Lord.

To the will of God(1 Peter 4:1-2)

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. (1 Peter 4:1-2)

If you ask what living to the will of God is, the Bible will answer that it is choosing the life of the flesh's suffering. In fact, people in the world may hate answering through this way, because most of them are afraid of suffering. They look forward for being prosperous in everything and want the way of safety. However, it is true that the people who live in Christ have to make up their mind to undergo the life of suffering.

It is Jesus who becomes the best model of that life. He was who could become a king in supports of Israelites and rule over the kingdom, but he refused that himself and chose the way of suffering. He emphasized the fruit through his death like a corn of wheat (John 12:24), and he accomplished the work on the cross. And than he is giving orders us to walk this way of hardships like him.

There is no one who avoid this way among people who lived the life of belief. They were willing to walk the way of sufferings. Look at the Paul. He knew he would be bound, but he went his way saying 'for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.'(Acts 21:13) The belief of fine proportions in the face of death and the happier figures in troubles were the common features of leading Christian. What are the reasons they could be pleased like this? It is because their mind is not on this world.

Yes, our desire not on this world. This world gives only the time of bigger despair. Even when we make much money, get honors, and become knowing everything on this world, we can't take satisfaction and know well they don't secure our happiness. So many people lay stress on the fact the life in this world is vain. We can talk about what is successful life. That is preparing the world coming up. One who arrange for the world must overcome difficulties of this world, because the more we go through hardships, the more we can be compensated on the world. If one lived without any sufferings, he can't expect any reward. Are you on troubles? Than, be happy. It is also the will of God.

The will of the Gentiles(1 Peter 4:3)

For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries (1 Peter 4:3)

The Bible shows what the Gentiles want. We can say it is the temptations in our life because it is things we had done before our salvation and it is evil rarely thrown away.

We know well through the Bible that the eyes toward the other sex changed after committing sins. After eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, Adam and Eve were ashamed of their naked body and hid those with leaves of a fig tree. The Lord made coats of skins and clothed them. Covering the body means covering sins. People started to keep away from God, to be indulged, and to take the way of sexual depravity. It has been kept in all human history and broke the basic rules of the Lord; one husband-one wife. This is the result of sins and Christians have to think about it seriously.

What about excessive drinking? As we know, alcohol is generally made of fermented grains or fruits. In other words, it is intentionally gone badly. It makes people intoxicated and feels like they are happy. Of course, someone who loves alcohol may contradict of it. I think there is no need to criticize of proper drinking too, but a little alcohol will tempt people drink more and finally people will have excessive drinking, so they cannot help speaking for their corruption. They will face more and more sins, and they forget even the fact that they are in sins in the end.

The other characteristic of Gentiles is idol worship. Even though they are stingy for God, they are very active for idol worship. After the judgment in Noah age, people hope being free from the judgment of God with every means. They built a tower and made other gods to guard themselves; every visible things—sun, moon, stars, animals, plants, fishes, etc. However, they must know that neither of which can relieve them. Now, we have to think whether we are going the stupid way like Gentiles.

Account(1 Peter 4: 4-5)

Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. (1 Peter 4: 4-5)

It is a big consolation that our life will be given account. If our life is decided by only visible things, we could say that Christians is miserable, because they were already given an advance notice of suffering. They can be happy for the reason that they sure their rewards in keeping account the life.

The libertine in the world would think that there is no date of account of their life, but think that the life in this world is everything. So, they try to get all things they want here. People make every effort for holding many materials, honor, power, and knowledge, because the world requires these. However, in the process there are many side effects on account of the drastic ways people use when they can't acquire what they want; they serve other people a trick, sometimes become a robber, and even kill their selves by way of excuse of no hope.

The account doesn't mean just simple settlement of accounts. Settling set put a point of view at how much made a profit in the end, but the account set at the process. Yes, it is important for Christian to live sincerely each day than to leave many things. We can find its evidence in the Bible as much as we want.

Stephen was a deacon and a distinguished evangelist, but he was killed by stoning people. If he was judged as simple figure, he would receive little reward from the Lord. God will give reward to him through much time he had lived just for the Lord. This is a big consolation to us making us happy in hardships, and even it makes us grand in the face of death.

The account makes us be tense too; because the day is coming that we have to explain everything to the Lord. He will see all things; what we think, what we act, and what we experience, so we must be careful. How do you think about our features? Remember that the Lord want us live without regrets making ourselves ready for future.

The gospel preached also to them that are dead(1 Peter 4:6)

For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. (1 Peter 4:6)

We must know about the spirit, the soul, and the flesh in dealing with a question of salvation. It needs for understanding ourselves, because those are in us. Generally speaking, we use a word 'the Trinity' to express the Father God, the Son God, and the Holy Spirit God. We can understand it easily when we think that there are the spirit, a soul, and the flesh in us making one personality. We have to know that these three characteristics are close to salvation.

When we talk about salvation, we represent it as the salvation of soul. It means that the target of salvation is the soul. Then, what about the spirit and the flesh? The Bible already gave the answer; we can find it easily when we understand where those came from.

As we know, flesh made from soil. We can't do any things with our body; it is just a clod. People make various things with soil. Like this, we are the work of the Lord, so it is no wonder that our body revert to soil. This fact is said in the Bible.

Then, where did the spirit come from? It is from God. God formed Adam of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. The breath means the spirit, and belongs to God in essence. If so, how about the spirit after the death of the flesh? It will go back to the Lord for sure. So, the Bible says that it is for following God by the spirit to evangelize to the dead. That is, the Lord is calling every spirits into him again.

As mentioned above, the target of salvation is the soul. This is the God's personality completed by breathing his spirit into the flesh, so the essence of man is the soul. What goes to heaven or hell is the soul. Sometimes it is expressed as our thinking, mind, intelligence, emotion- it is all we have. Occasionally, it seems that the Bible says what we can't understand, but it isn't difficult to understand this matter when we comprehend rightly the relationship among the spirit, the soul, and the flesh. I want you understand your own feature and walk on the way of salvation.

Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.(1 Peter 4:7)

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.(1 Peter 4:7)

The days of good news means the end, because the Old Testament era is the time of preparing for Jesus' coming and the days after his coming is the time of providing for the Kingdom of God. Today, it is the reality that Satan already knows his last and does his best to make many people miss their foot. So, Christians must have special ways to deal with this threat.

The Bible says the end of all things and encourages Christians to sober. Why do we have to sober? The answer is that there are a lot of plots of Satan for defeating Christians. Satan makes us be insensible to sins. It means that he makes us cannot realize our sins. Even in churches, these phenomenons frequently happen.

Think about rites in churches-there are many Satan's culture; Christmas that is the birthday of Baal, Easter that is the birthday of Easter, Lent that is festival of Baal, etc. For sure, I don't agree to criticize the participants, but they have to sober and classify where those are from if they are sincere Christians. What is more, lots of things are putting down roots in

churches and it is too many to enumerate. Now, are we practicing in our life what the Bible says? I hope you to sober and look around your surroundings.

Then, what do we do after sobering? The Bible calls for watching unto prayer. Prayer is very important for Christians; because it is the way of gaining a victory against Satan and the arms for guardin us from his temptations. Of course, the Bible didn't demand just simple prayer. If we run through only formal prayers as Pharisee did, it will bear more problems, because they fell into temptation and took part in Jesus' death. So, Christians ought to sober, and to watch unto prayer after discriminate between rights and wrong clearly through the words of the Lord. Look back upon your features. Do you live a life of watching unto prayer? I hope that you keep your life of prayer until you stand without shame in the face of the Lord.

For charity shall cover the multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

We already know about how much charity is important for Christians. For all that, the Bible is emphasizing about that, because it is difficult to live up to action in our life; we are living in the flesh. We make an effort to love each other, but the body rejects practicing it.

The Bible says 'above all things' talking about charity, because it has priority for Christians. Nobody is perfect in his flesh. No matter how good a man may be, he has a defect. For example, all people recognized that Pharisees, secretaries, and a high priest in Christ's age pursue the perfection on the way of law. Look at the rich youth came in the face of Jesus. He said confidently that he had performed the law of the Lord perfectly, and many people thought so. However, in a point of view of the Lord, he was not complete. Jesus asked him for sharing his possession and following him, but the man gave up being his pupil and went back. He seemed like to be perfect, but he chose his property throwing up helping the poor. He thought himself was perfect, but never was he.

Other example is the metaphor of a Samaritan. Look at the characters. Excepting for a Samaritan, how did they behave? Although they saw a dying person, they passed by him.

They had a reason for sure; it was against the law to touch a dead body. They wanted to perfect on law, and stepped aside him. However, the action can't be recognized from Jesus. They ran counter to the will of God.

Let's arrange the thinking of charity now. It can't be analyzed or completed by a law or morals. It isn't carried out under any condition or on any belief. It has no condition and no rules, but it is one-sided action; think that Jesus bore his cross by one-side thinking when we were sinners. These charity covers up not only our faults but also the sins of all people. Charity is great. It will make our life more plentiful. Do charity.

Use hospitality one to another(1 Peter 4:9)

Use hospitality one to another without grudging. (1 Peter 4:9)

It is not easy to share something in our life because most people think that they can do it when they have time or money to spare, and it is the actual. It is difficult to look for sharing from the poor, and they complain of it when they do that. Then, how do Christians have to cope with this matter?

It is sure that one capable of using hospitality to others must do his best for doing it. Material blessing the Lord give us is for helping the poor and sharing with others. If we use it for ourselves, it is same to give up what the Lord commissions to us, life as a steward, and we won't receive any reward from God for sure. The rich must know the way of sharing. It is the good conscience Christians have.

If so, what attitude should the poor have for using hospitality to others? They must do that with the belief 'the giver is blessed' based on the words of the Lord. God will overflow to people who use hospitality each other. There are many evidences in the Old Testament. Look at a widow who treated Elisha. She blessed of not dried jar by using her last food for him. These words are not for just a command 'make welcome the people of God', but it includes that the Lord will compensate for the people who are hospitable to the poor with good mind.

We know that there is a condition for these hospitality; no discontent. It means hospitality not with any expectation or desire but with pure mind. If a man uses hospitality to others looking for blessing, he will have a high misstep possibility and will be full of complaints. It is not a right hospitality. So does that of the rich. Nowadays, some people make welcome others and demand them to live in obedience to his belief and plan. Others want to make welcome when other people meet their demand. These deeds are never sound. Though others have a different thinking from me, we must help them for sure if they need it. For this, we have to recognize that all ours is God's. Aren't we miserly to using hospitality to others? I hope that you make efforts to use hospitality without discontents.

Stewards(1 Peter 4:10)

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10)

Christians often use the word 'gift'. The word has two meanings; present and talent from God. 'Present' emphasizes that it is given from God for nothing, but 'talent from God' stresses that it is applied to real life. Regardless of how the word is translated, both of two characteristic are important.

Why is the meaning 'present' important? It imports that all things we have are from God; honor, power, material, health, etc. All our possession is that the Lord entrusted us. Most people think that their possession is the fruit of their own efforts, but it is enormous misunderstanding. Everything in the world can't be taken by our struggle. If anyone is forward to get everything by himself, he will soon feel deep frustrated. Our all possession is from God.

However, we cannot live an idle life only looking up at sky. Christians have to work harder and live with the features of sincerity and frugality, and these are that the Bible is saying. Which son does a father give a good present to? – for sure, it is who is lovable and faithful to his life. It is sure that the Lord gives a better present to who live a life which makes the Lord delightful.

Let's think about the concept 'talent from God'. The Lord's present is introduced as wisdom, belief, healing, language, teaching, managing, serving, etc. These are of no use by itself; these should be in groups and are shared on associations. It is the reason of necessity of church gathering congregations. Christians given the Lord's present must make an effort to serving each other with their gifts.

Yes, Christians who carry out above is called as 'stewards'. The Lord wants for all Christians to live as this 'stewards'. In other words, He wants to us think our possession as not ours but God's, and live on serving one to another with our gifts, various present from God. How do we think about our possession? Remember, ours is not ours. It is from God, and is commissioned us temporarily. Live in the world as a steward.

If any man(1 Peter 4:11)

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11)

The words and action of Christians are different from those of the world people, because they don't belong to the world. So, it is no wonder that they act as the people of heaven. The Bible give orders based on these facts; 'if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth'.

Christians must be very careful of speaking, because their words are common and are a means needed in their life before receiving salvation but they have ability as special existence after that. Think about Adam before committing. All things came out through his mouth get accomplished in the world created by God. We already get back to the condition before committing. On this count, it is sure to be careful.

Think about 'speak as the oracles of God'. What was the world made from? This world made from the words of God, and even now is made progress by it. Then, how can we speak 'as the oracles of God'? We have to think that the world would be changed according to our

words. Let us suppose that we are cursing someone. If so, he really could be under a curse. Conversely, if we bless someone, he will be blessed. We must have these thinking.

The same goes for ministering. The Bible says 'If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth'. It is never easy to ministering somebody else. It premises our sacrifice. Then, what is to minister the Lord show? It is to God personally came this world with body and became a servant of people. If so, what ability is the Lord giving us now?

People misjudge that the ability is an authority, and imagine their features reigning over this world. It is perfectly wrong. If you want to live a minister life as a sincere Christian, you ought to make low yourself, hold others in reverence, and have an attitude of serving. The Lord emphasize that these all things are from only him. Are you being supplied everything from God?

When the fiery trial come(1 Peter 4: 12-13)

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (1 Peter 4: 12-13)

Can we be guaranteed the successful life of belief without any sufferings? As the Bible show, it is impossible. Then, can we be compensated for our works by God without any trials? It is also impossible. The sufferings need for living the successful life of belief and being compensated in the face of God. Yes, it is not a shameful thing but a glorious thing.

You know that Noah was shunned in the process of building an ark. He built that in the conditions he can be treated like a stupid, and received a salvation from a judgment of water. What about Moses? He lived 40 years as a prince of Egypt, but he was incongruent as a servant of God. He could become a leader because he endured sufferings as a shepherd for 40 years.

How about Jacob? He, also, blessed by his father, but he was not until severe serving as a slave that he became an elder of a clan. In the life of Joseph, there were many trials, too. He was the most loved son among brothers, but he dreamt after serving in the Potiphar's house and being put in Egypt prison. Like this, there are sufferings, there are great lives.

It is clear that there are more trials to people who live in the age of good news. Look at Peter. He expected Jesus will build a kingdom and he will be blessed with glory, so he was discouraged and even cursed Jesus when he died on the cross. However, he met resurrected Jesus again, and devoted himself to sowing the good seed after Pentecost. We can see that he was put in prison and threatened his life many and many a time in the process. In actuality, Stephens and James died a martyr in that process. These sufferings made the churches of the Lord firm and became a model to believers.

It is always true that it needs times of suffering for receiving the blessing of God. Especially for people who work for the Lord, it is very important. The churches of God are not built by accident. It is that God bought with his blood. Please don't forget a fact that all glories are got by sufferings.

Happy person(1 Peter 4:14)

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. (1 Peter 4:14)

Who is happy? In the world standard, he is who has a sure means of livelihood, and his everything turns out well. However, we can see that they suffer a severe pain and even commit suicide. On the other side, people who go through material difficulties and are in bad condition say they are happy. Like this, the world standard is wrong.

It is stupid to explain happiness theoretically, because people have different standards of happiness. Some who pursue material think that happiness is to possess much substance, and other who seek knowledge think it is to possess much of it, for sure. Also, honor or power followers say they are happy when achieved their purpose. There is not only someone who is

happy due to a harmonious family, but is also other who is unhappy with everything because of insatiable desires. Happiness is decided on their minds.

Then, where is the happiness of Christian from? The Bible says about it clearly because they seek after same thing. What is our goal? It is to live for glory of God. Christians can take a true happiness in it. If someone pursues his own satisfaction and asks for happiness from it, he is never disqualified for Christian.

What is the life for glory of God? The Bible says, 'blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake (Mat 5:11).' By the standards of the world, it cannot be happy to be reviled, but it means a special life for Christians. In other words, if you live a humdrum life like others on the planet, you will not be persecuted. However, Christians cannot help avoiding libels.

Look at Noah and Job. They are admitted as righteous persons from all people, but are ridiculed in the process of following words. They, yet, didn't think they are unhappy, but they are so happy. Yes, for Christians, true happiness is to obey the words of God and to think about glorious times on the life to come in spite of many libels. Now, are you reproached from someone? Then, you are a happy person.

If any man suffer as a Christian(1 Peter 4: 15-16)

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. (1 Peter 4: 15-16)

It is very glorious to be suffered, but Christian must think sense about why they are done because it is nothing to do with the Lord unless they suffer as a Christian. In fact, the Bible points out these problems.

It cannot be recognized as a suffering though someone goes through hardships if he does not follow the words of God but lives by the way of the world. Some people think they are a

righteous person with a fact of believing God and justify their actions. However, their all actions cannot be admitted.

The sufferings of Christian are from Christ. As we know through Peter, Stephanos, and Paul, true suffering is from the process only for works of the Lord.

Some heretical leaders insist his imprisonment as a suffering after inveiglement, stealing, and even murder. Do you think they are right? Can they be forgiven any actions? Clear answer is that it has nothing to do with the Lord. The Lord will not forgive his sins no matter how severe he may receive a punishment. Christian has to face the sufferings being suitable Christian.

Nowadays, it is not easy to be part of these sufferings, because we are living the different age from the age Christian have to be resigned to die for their faith. So, today's Christian has another task; knowing what the proper life for Christian is and separating from the world by themselves. It doesn't mean keep watch and fall apart from the world, but it means that we have to understand the will of God and live a proper life as a Christian among them. In the process, sufferings will give you most valuable and glorious present.

The judgment(1 Peter 4: 17-19)

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. (1 Peter 4: 17-19)

All people in the world must prepare for the judgment to come, because we will not stay here forever. We cannot know if we receive a reward or a punishment after the judgment, but it is obvious that we are judged in the presence of God.

Some Christian say that everything is over after salvation, take satisfaction in the fact, and don't hope any more. However, they have to know one thing; they will be judged by God, too. Generally speaking, when a man commits a crime and stand at the bar, his all crimes are

become known in very case. Like this, all people cannot help avoiding the moment they must explain their all sins. Though he is a sincere Christian, he can never turn away from it.

Nonetheless, Christians wait with a long neck for the judgment, because they are sure of their salvation and they will be compensated in the place. Then, what kind of person will be compensated? As we know well, reparation is different from gift. Christians have received many gifts from the Lord, but reparation can't be got for nothing.

Can we be compensated only by believing Jesus Christ? The answer is 'no', because reparation demand a corresponding action. Everywhere we can get more fruits if we make efforts; in school, work place, etc. Compensation is a same thing. God gives us gifts which is a mean of our reparation, so we should prepare the Day of Judgment. The Bible expresses us as persons who go through sufferings according to the will of God. It means that this ways is never easy, but I hope you live a meaningful life with gifts given from the Lord.

The elders I (1 Peter 5:1)

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:(1 Peter 5:1)

Today, a pastor has three duties; a shepherd, a supervisor, and an elder. In generally, an elder stand for a leader who has wide experience and wins respect. Peter introduced himself as an elder. Yes, he is the best elder in the early churches. He was a pupil of Jesus, witnessed his death and resurrection, and did his best for conveying good news even if he had left a scar on his life through denying Jesus. His figure towards sound faith shows a looks bearing comparison as an elder.

He said about 'a witness of the sufferings of Christ'. This is a kernel of good news in the early churches, and makes no difference today. Many people spend more time being proud of their church, pastors, and places of worship than the fact that Jesus Christ shed his blood and died on the cross for us. They missed the core. Gospel preachers must be a witness of the sufferings of Christ.

When Paul preached in Athens, many people were hard of hearing due to his words. He persuaded people with his general mobilization. He looks like a success preacher because many people received Jesus Christ in their mind through him. However, he was a failure. People thought God one of many gods. His logic and teaching were perfect, but didn't bear fruits of preaching. He must have said about salvation by the sufferings of Christ, the blood of Jesus Christ. He got to know the fact, and since that, he made up his mind to preach nothing but Jesus Christ. Yes, elders, gospel preachers, live a life of becoming a witness of the sufferings of Christ. For that, it is no wonder to be part of the sufferings.

The other thing Peter said is 'a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed'. He was convinced of glorious days that shall be revealed in spite of his passenger life; he put his desire to heaven. It isn't easy to live as an elder. Nonetheless, we can live with joy because glorious days are waiting not only for elders but also for us.

The elders II (1 Peter 5:2)

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; (1 Peter 5:2)

What is the most important mission of the elder who receive good news in trust? Before thinking about it, we must recognize that many changed bibles are attempting to hide away this fundamental issue because today's pastors carry out many things regardless of the will of God through change of this phrase. Then, what is the most important mission of the elder, that is, pastor? The Bible says it is to feed the flock of God.

If one who received good news in trust doesn't teach Christian saints as he should, he is not the elder. We have to pay attention that saint was expressed as flock. It shows how the elders feed the flock of God. As we know, sheep chew the cud; they, in advance, put food into their body, take out the food from the stomach, and digest it. If so, how do the saints understand the words of God? They also can meditate on the words, and use it in their life at every moment. Based on these facts, gospel preachers should make an effort for teaching saints as possible.

Changed bibles record 'be shepherds' instead of 'feed'. It is a serious, because it can bring about an act of menacing the position of Jesus. The real leader of flock is only one, Jesus Christ, and preachers like the elder are who supply proper food as a servant.

Have you ever seen some people who put pastor or the elder in the same position with the Lord? This is a common, and was influenced by changed bibles. Alien religion has mobilized all means and ways for maximizing the influencing power of the leaders. These influence got in Christian churches, changed bibles which was one and only authority from the early churches, and made people receive the leader's words more powerfully than the Bible.

For Christian, the sole authority and the standard of faith is the Bible, the words of God. They must grow up with these words, and guard against things getting out of that. Based on these facts, the elders have to convey the words of God with loyalty.

The elders III(1 Peter 5:2)

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; (1 Peter 5:2)

Another role of the elder is taking the oversight. People think supervisors exercise of power, but they just keep watch and point out whether something goes uprightly. It is very important work in churches of God, because churches can't be founded strongly on the words of God if these works go wrong.

The elders were given these roles of supervisors. For sure, we know well that the duties were given to gospel preachers who take charge of the words of God. Like this, the reason of emphasizing the role of supervisors is not only for preaching but for taking a good look at believer's fruits and helping them to walking the way of faith. We have to know that it is never for exercise of power.

The Bible says Christian saints are the flock of God. The flock can't find a way by themselves; they just follow the voice of shepherds. The shepherd is Jesus Christ for Christian, of course. He is talking to us through the Bible even now, and saints are living the

life of belief by these words. However, all of us couldn't walk the sound way; sometimes we leave from the way and become a lost sheep. For these sheep, the elders are needed.

It is not easy to act the role of supervisors. It means they can't look off from them even a moment and they must watch all their life; concern and suffering, and all happiness. It doesn't mean interfering in their life, but paying attention to them in silence, praying for them always, and helping for their plentiful life by supplying the words of God.

Look at the fake shepherds. They destroy homes, take another's property, and confuse the soul with reason of supervision. It can't be the figure of true shepherd. Supervising rightly as an elder is to helping saint to live a plentiful life. If we restrict their life and make their faith sufferings, it isn't an upright guidance as a supervisor. We must remember that true preachers have to help saint always be happy.

The elders IV(1 Peter 5:2)

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;(1 Peter 5:2)

Do you think that there is a person who do the God's work by constraint? Absolutely, the answer is 'yes'. The Bible and many people around us show the evidence. For sure, nobody would do the works by constraint if we can preach the gospel and keep beautiful company with believers in good circumstances. However, the God's work give us sufferings rather than happiness. So, many servants of God want to return to their old position as long as possible. But you, having a firm belief, will know well that you can never give up your work.

We can find a prophet who didn't follow the way of the Lord in the Old Covenant. He is Jonah. He had to go to Nineveh, the city of gentiles, and preach the gospel according to the order of God, but he rejected it and chose the way of Joppa. However, he went to Nineveh as the Lord make a plan after all. But the next is more important. He was extremely obstinate as ever and followed not the will of God but his own thinking. We can see that he was a servant of God but he carried out the works he given by constraint.

Doing the works of God by constraint causes side effects as a matter of course. It is like going up a flowing river. The principles of the world are the same one. If you try to do what you don't want or what you can't manage, you would be exhausted soon. Moreover, it might give people around you pains. We have to remember that every work by constraint can't make a beautiful result. For sure, doing by constraint is different from patience. Patience is so heavy but holds hope. Doing by constraint, in the other hand, has no hope.

The person who is taking charge of the works of God must perform his duties with pleasure. It means that he determines about these things by himself and does his best. The motive of it is on the future. If there is no future for him, there would be no reason of bringing hardships upon himself. However, many believers preached the gospel with love of sacrifice because they knew well about appointed future and fairly certain compensation of the Lord. We have to seize this promise. It will make us mature and be equal to the task with delight.

The elders V(1 Peter 5:2)

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;(1 Peter 5:2)

It isn't easy to do the works of God. So, we can see many believers confess that they sometimes want to quit their works for the Lord. It seems like optional to live this world as a servant of the Lord but it is true that it has the side of obligation because God put this work in charge of us according to his plan. The Bible shows the evidences.

Look at the disciples of Jesus. Nobody wanted to be his disciple by themselves. Jesus called in person Peter who was catching fishes, John who was sewing fishing net, Matthew who was collecting taxes, and Paul who was persecuting Christians. It was in the Old Covenant, too. God called Abraham who was living a ordinary life, Moses who was dwelling in Median wilderness as a shepherd, and David who was raising sheep. And then he made them live as his servant. There are a large number of evidences in the Bible but in a word, all calling is from God and the receiver of it live as a servant of God.

We need to know how the servants of God work today. Many people think that doing works for God is a occupation. They think that they become works for God after learning about him, studying various kinds of skill and administration, working in a big church as a staff, and standing on his own legs from the church. Moreover, they think of church as a business hall, and decorate gorgeously and prepare for receiving a caller. The problem is that they get frustrated and even give up when there is little visitors in the churches. We know well the answer for the question 'Is this a mind of God's servant?'

Now, we can understand the meaning 'not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.' It says not only that we can't look for any gains of the world because this is the works for God, but also that it causes dangerous results when our individual greed. Living as a worker for God doesn't mean plentiful life or honor but means a devoted life. This is a shape of ready one. A ready leader applies the service of the Lord to his life for works of God. Are we together with ready workers?

The elders VI(1 Peter 5:3)

Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (1 Peter 3:5)

As previously stated, the leaders of other religion seek after reigning over the believers. They regard having the authority of their God as a duty and exercise the authority to the followers. It is so frustrating that this situation takes place in the churches of the Lord. The Bible teaches us clearly that the leaders of churches must not be lords over God's heritage.

It is so distressing that many people take the stratification in churches for granted. For sure, these states occurred in the first generation churches, too. The Bible makes mention of Nicola tans and encourage not allowing their activity in churches. In other words, it said that churches have to keep watch being lords over God's heritage and to be separated from them if the church already full of yeast.

A church is like a family. Nobody distinguish between high and low in family. They love each other and try to make a beautiful home. It is important that there is no structure of class but suitable order in a family. Like this, the church of the Lord is never over each other but has

some order. When the church of the Lord devote mutually, we can see the most beautiful image.

The Bible says 'Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.' We must make an approach to this problem cautiously. Some leaders demand believers to respect them with the words of God. It seems like a truth, but it isn't. Esteem comes from the bottom not from the upside. It means that true esteem can be hold when watch the action of the leader and express respect spontaneously. The leaders of churches must be such a person and live a life of being ensamples to the flock by themselves not for respect.

The elders VII(1 Peter 5:4)

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (1 Peter 5:4)

Why many people work devotedly for the Lord? The answer is simple; they have a desire. If they cannot make any good a loss, we could say they are so stupid. Then, what is their desire? The Bible answers the question clearly. Their desire is to 'receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.'

Anybody cannot receive the crown. It identifies special position. Yes, even though they are ridiculed and sneered in this world, they will receive a crown from the Lord and live a special life in the future. This change of position is our only hope.

Then, would God give these awards for every workers of the Lord? No, it wouldn't. It is given only for workers who cope with their duties with loyalty. In other words, workers can receive a crown when they manage the works of God and be ensamples to the flock. Look at the pastors today. They take their many glories for granted. They accumulate of riches for themselves and make an effort to get honor. For those things, they make use of the believers and go on unfair way. Even if it is possible to get those things, they will not get any rewards in the future.

It is sure that the right evangelists undergo sufferings. If you live an easy and comfort life, you have to make a diagnosis of your life. For sure, it isn't true that workers for God must live a painful life because the Lord always wants to give us everything and compensate for a loss. However, if he lives according to his own greed, desire, and belief having nothing to do with God's will, he must get back his life. True servants of God don't put their desire on this world and they are able to give up what the world give them. Today, how are we?

Ye younger I (1 Peter 5:5-6)

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you n due time: (1 Peter 5:5-6)

As above, the Bible encourage younger specially. I think you'd better consider 'younger' as young adult neither boy nor girl for understanding the Bible. They are on an important position in churches. The Bible calls for them to live a submissive life. It means that this submission must be made not only for elders but also for every Christians. In other words, 'younger' have to serve everyone in church. Yes, younger are the most active one. They meet all condition for serve others. If they live a submissive life, the churches would get enormous power, that is, the church would get everything they want.

Submission always goes in company with modesty. Younger could be proud because they have many activity and much confidence. Also, they can't put up with immorality and risk their life for righteousness. However, they have little judgment and experience of elders and make many mistakes. For sure, these mistakes make them mature.

This is the reason of modesty of younger. Does their enthusiasm make their life plentiful? No. Look at Paul. He was filled with passion for the Lord but he used it to persecute Christians. It tells us that just passion cannot make God delightful.

This is the reason of obedience and modesty for younger. They have to use their passion in right way. That is, their passion must be not vain. Now, younger has to open their ears to

other people before starting some action. When younger equip themselves with mind of obedience and modesty, they will live a victory life as a Christian.

Ye younger II(1 Peter 5:7)

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

The Bible continues to encourage younger to casting all their care upon the Lord. The biggest weapon for them might the spirit of challenge. If there is no challenge for them, they would be as good as dead. It's their privilege but not for every younger. Because there is something in the presence of them; it is anxiety and fear. If a younger don't live a life of challenge, it is clear that he is full of anxiety and fear. These are like poison for them.

The Bible prescribes for them to entrust their all anxiety to the Lord. In fact, it is not easy to place something in the hands of God. It is possible when we trust the Lord entirely. However, it doesn't mean that we simply pass our burden on the Lord because it is irresponsible action both for him and for ourselves.

Then, what situation makes anxiety? It will be made when we work for God as a Christian. Each time we works for God, the environment will block our way. It can be material or physical. These things get us to stop for the mean time and to do nothing for the Lord. So, the Bible says our all anxiety must be entrusted God.

Here, we have to remember that God always watches us. That is, he is together with us all the time. Look at Joseph. He was sold for a servant to Egypt and even became a criminal under sentence of death. However, he did his best every place he was and waited for the help of God. After all, he became the Premier of Egypt. He could live these life because he knew that God always be with him.

Yes, if you know that God always be with you, you would do your best in any environment. Many times of difficulty and pain happen incessantly but mature Christians will never remain firm in those situations and will manage their duties with more virile spirit. Stopping their life

with anxiety is a conduct unbecoming to younger. Place your all anxiety in the hands of God. He will care our every situation.

Ye younger III(1 Peter 5:8–9)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (1 Peter 5:8–9)

Younger in churches of God is unavoidable to be the target of the devil because they have a great influence. They are motive power of driving churches but, at the same time, they can be a tool of throw down the churches. So, they must always keep watch against the temptation of the devil.

The Bible says ‘Be sober’ to turn against the temptation of the devil. What does ‘be sober’ mean? It means having a right discernment and judging correctly for everything. Today, the devil has already spread out much yeast, false truth, in churches. So, it seems like a truth although it is falsehood obviously by the Bible.

Look at the subdivisions of the seasons in churches. Is there Biblical one? What about rites? Most of that is performed by what is called tradition in spite of going against the Bible. What is more, various kinds of decorations and managerial regulations are following the way of the devil. The mission of younger is to discern these things and distinguish churches from that. For that, younger have to be sober and watch the churches of God.

Then, what does ‘be vigilant’ mean? It is the way for holding the truth. Because the devil always gets ready for attacking churches of God, we have to be vigilant. This is the portion of younger. The elder people are indecisive, so want everything goes loosely. These things can make forgiveness and tolerance but can make churches come to a crisis.

Younger must be vigilant for ‘our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour’. They have to obstruct churches to compromises with falsehood and keep truth. This is younger’s mission. These works have continued through

young Christians from the first generation churches. If younger in churches are indifferent to keeping the truth and do not any opposition against attacks of the devil, the churches would break down soon. Remember that it is your commission.

Ye younger IV(1 Peter 5:10-11)

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:10-11)

What is the most important thing for younger to live a devoted life? It is to live a life of suffering. We can be suffered when we are old one but there is little temptation in that time because most of us will pursue a settled life and go our own way. However, it is clear that younger must endure many temptations of the world and there are many tribulations on their way for Jesus Christ. But, these hardships will make their life more precious.

The Bible says ‘after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.’ In other words, we must go through these times to live an intact life as a Christian. We have to pay attention to the fact that the Bible admonish this specially for younger. In a word, we would live a plentiful life as a Christian if we spend the time of suffering valuable.

People in the Bible didn’t waste their time when they are younger. Also, they were never disappointed or frustrated for their time of suffering. They put themselves under God’s charge and waited. Look at Moses in the land of Midian, Joseph in the prison of Egypt, and David in a wilderness. They lived the most exemplary life. Although they spent times of sufferings, they waited the time of the Lord and progressed their way with daring when he called them.

Have you ever seen a successful man who has no experience of hardships? Nowadays, many people look up to the rich and the powerful for sure. However, we have to know that the standard of property or power is meaningless for their respect when they leave the world. In that time, people will see how they endure sufferings with wisdom.

Like this, the times of sufferings make a life precious. It is a privilege for younger, because it can be a pathetic and even can make them be beyond retrieval when the old are suffered. Younger has power of getting over sufferings and standing again. Younger, enjoy the time of suffering. It will make your life more precious.

A kiss of charity(1 Peter 5:13-14)

By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen. (1 Peter 5:13-14)

Peter faces saints both with encouragement and with admiration. As above, he ends up with 'greet ye one another with a kiss of charity.' As we know, Westerners don't mind light kiss between saints. It is related to their culture. However, if we apply it to Korean, many people would be confused, especially between the other sexes.

We know well that the words of Peter don't mean the physical 'kiss.' It means that saints have to advance to deeper relationship in Christ. Yes, they need to make their relationship deeper. They are nation in the kingdom of God and body in churches of the Lord. What is 'the body of churches'? It means that one isn't his own. Sound body moves together in one body. So each saint has to respect, love, and cherish one another because those actions make me more plentiful. Look at the commandments of Jesus. He said 'love God first, and love your neighbors'. How? He said 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself' because our neighbors can't be a stranger in Christ.

Saints have to maintain the relationship of deep love each other and greet with the love. If one has an uncomfortable feeling to someone in church, he also has those feeling to the church. It can never be a desirable thing. Enjoy a happy life in church is the very thing of great value. Peter ended up his words with 'peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus.' As he desired, I hope our life to be full of peace of the Lord.