

PAUL C. JONG



This book explains how much the Nicene Creed, produced at the Council of Nicaea in Late Antiquity, has had a bad influence on Christians today.

In this age, in order to meet the truth of being born again, you must study a little more. And you need to know more deeply about the creed of faith that you have believed so far.

Now you must find in this book the meaning of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist that was omitted from the Nicene Creed. So, it should be an opportunity to receive true salvation and peace in your heart.

Now you will discover the true value of the gospel of the water and the Spirit in the baptism that Jesus received. You will come to know more deeply and clearly how the Word of the baptism Jesus received from John the Baptist has affected your soul and you will therefore give glory to God by faith.

If You Have
Confusion and
Emptiness
in Your Heart,
Seek the Light of
the Truth
( II )

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# **Hephzibah Publishing House**

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### If You Have Confusion and Emptiness in Your Heart, Seek the Light of the Truth (II)

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# **Preface**

The history of Christianity is full of confusion and emptiness. It is the same with theological thoughts and with all religious doctrines. Also, the hearts of those who believe in Jesus are the same. Because they are confused and empty and their sin is deep in their hearts, they are seeking the Savior. Many people believe in Jesus as their Savior and are still confused after many years. Theologians say: "By believing in Jesus, you have been saved, you are being saved, and you will be saved." Do you understand this now? This kind of faith and religious belief is the current state of Christians today.

Why do Christians today have confusing faith? It is because they believe in confusing creeds. Christians today believe that sins they have inherited from their ancestors are forgiven when they believe in Jesus and receive baptism in the church, and all the sins committed in their life are resolved by believing in the seven sacraments prescribed by their church. The theological ideas they created also included the doctrines of prayer of repentance, gradual sanctification, and penance.

Is it possible for us to wash away our sins with our own prayers of repentance? If you think so, you are indulged in the theologian's doctrine of salvation. If the process of sanctification of Christians depends on the passage of time, it will be possible only in the doctrines of man-made religions. How could people receive the remission of sins by relying on the flow of time? If one's sins can be washed away with the passing of time, it is only an illusion that comes from a firm belief in one's own thoughts and will.

The Reformation initiated by Luther was trimmed and

ideologically systematized by Calvin. People say that Luther was the one who carried out the Reformation and that Calvin was the one who organized the Reformation theologically. However, until today, the Reformation has ended as a simple historical event, and people are still living as sinners in the Reformation.

What you need absolutely now is to know the fact of salvation that the Lord, the Savior of mankind, took upon the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. And you must receive the remission of sins by this faith.

Like this, if you know and believe the work of Jesus' baptism as revealed in the Old and New Testaments, then you will surely become the born-again. Otherwise, you are doomed to death with sin in your heart. In this book, you will come to realize the inconsistencies of the Apostles' Creed, how it was instituted, and what damage it has done to you spiritually.

## What is the solution of faith for Christians today?

The faith of Jesus' disciples, such as Apostle Peter, Apostle Paul, and Apostle John, is revealed in the Bible. Then we must have the same faith as them.

Apostle Peter testifies that Jesus washed away his sins by taking upon the sins of the world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:21, "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Peter said here, "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism." We can see that Peter made a confession

of faith that Jesus washed away his sins once and for all because the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist was to take upon the sins of mankind.

And even in the apostle John's, we can find his faith in the truth that Jesus washed away the sins of the world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. 1 John 5:4-8 says, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? The Certainty of God's Witness This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness. because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one." Here, Apostle John testifies that the faith that overcomes the world is the faith that believes in Jesus Christ who came to this world by water and blood. He says that he overcomes the world by believing in the truth that Jesus washed away the sins of the world through the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist.

Apostle Paul also says in Galatians 3:27, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." The Apostle Paul is saying that his salvation is based on the faith that Jesus washed away all his sins by the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

However, the faith in the Apostles' Creed, which you now believe in, is based only on the crucified Jesus, missing the truth that Jesus took upon the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Today, Christianity in the 21st century is causing many problems because it is not based on the fact that Jesus bore the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

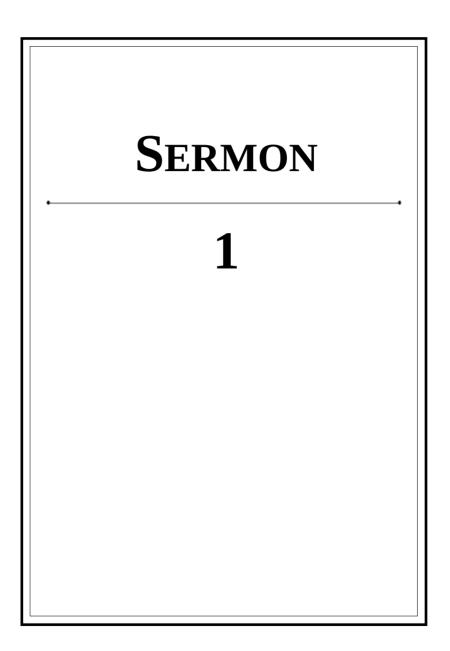
Therefore, we must find the solution to the problem of our sins in the truth of salvation fulfilled by the Lord. Only when we believe in Jesus based on the truth that He took upon the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist can we wash away our sins and escape from the judgment of sins by faith. It is indispensable for us to realize that by believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, we can be washed from our sins and receive the precious blessing of receiving the Holy Spirit as a gift. We can receive the blessing of passing all our sins onto the body of Jesus by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. Hallelujah!

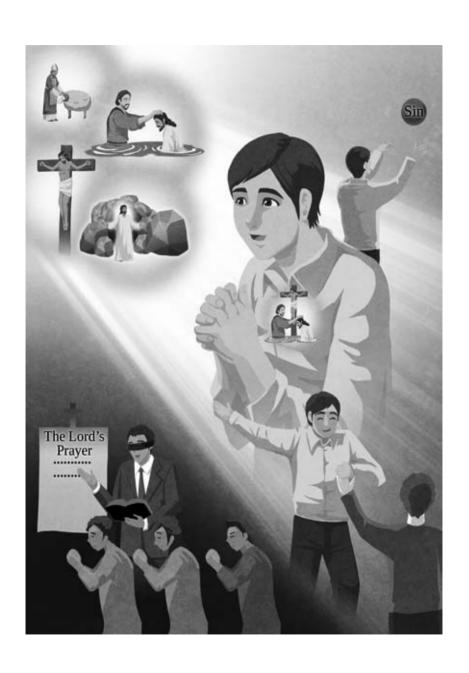
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# How to Pray According to the Lord's Prayer

#### < Matthew 6:5-15 >

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly

Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Today's Scripture reading speaks of the prayer that the Lord has taught us. The Lord said, "Do not pray just in form to show off to others, nor emulate anyone who prays in such a manner." He told His disciples, and us as well, not to pray hypocritically like the religious people of the world. Today, let us consider the content of the prayer that the Lord has taught us.

We need to pay close attention to what the Lord said in Matthew 6:9: "In this manner, therefore, pray." The prayer that the Lord taught us starts with this: "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name." The Lord told us to pray in such a way that the name of the Father is hallowed. We need to reflect on this Word and think about whether the kind of prayer we are giving these days is correct. So many Christians recite the Lord's Prayer ritualistically out of rote memory, but such prayers do not meet God's requirement. In the prayer that the Lord taught us, He instructed us to pray so that the name of the Father in Heaven may be hallowed. The Lord told us to pray in this way.

In teaching us how to pray, the Lord told us specifically that the contents of our prayer should hallow the name of God the Father. What, then, should be the very first topic of our prayer? To meet what the Lord is asking of us in our prayer, we must first ask for the remission of our sins. We must pray to God the Father to wash away our sins, so that His name may be hallowed. Since it is impossible for us to make ourselves sinless before God on our own, we ought to pray to Him to teach us the Truth that our Lord Jesus Christ shouldered and washed away our sins once and for all.

The prayer that Jesus Christ has taught us entails hallowing the name of God the Father with our faith. To pray like this with the kind of faith that can hallow the name of God the Father, we must first understand His Word promising our salvation with a new covenant. Here we need to grasp what is the new covenant God promised us, but I will address this point later in the sermon.

For us to pray so that the name of God the Father is hallowed, we must first have the faith to put on holiness before God. So, to pray in the way God wants us to pray, we must first pray to Him to give us the faith that can wash away our sins.

The first content of the prayer that God the Father wants from us starts with this: "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name." The Father of Jesus Christ in Heaven is exceedingly holy. The Lord is therefore telling us to pray so that we may know the gospel Word of regeneration that can wash away all the sins that are now in our hearts. Asking the Lord to help us understand the salvation He has brought to us should be at the top of our prayer topics. No one who has any sin in his heart now can call on God the Father in Heaven, and that is why He told us to ask in our prayer to first wash away our sins right now at this very moment.

Our Father in Heaven is an exceedingly holy God, so how could He be pleased if a sinner were to just pray to Him for His help without seeking the washing of his heart's sins? If there were any sin in our hearts, God would want us to first pray to Him to wash it away. God is the Savior who delivers sinners from their sins. Therefore, whenever any sinner prays to God, he must first ask Him to save him from his sins. This is because our hearts are sanctified only if we receive the remission of sins into them, and it is only then that we can call the holy God our God and glorify Him in our lives.

While God has mercy on sinners, He cannot side with them.

Even though He is the God who saves sinners from their sins, He is not their God. Therefore, for us to call the holy God our Father, we must first receive the remission of sins into our hearts now by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His blood on the Cross. It is only then that we can call God our Father. As we know, our sins are what separate us from the holy God, and therefore they must be removed from us. That is why we must be washed from our sins once and for all by believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood.

By believing in the baptism and blood of the Son of God, we must be saved from our sins so that we are able to commune with God. God is not the God of sinners, but He is rejoiced to wash away our sins. We ought to believe in the Truth that Jesus Christ has washed away our sins once and for all with the baptism He received from John and His blood. God is pleased by those who believe in the baptism and the blood that have washed away the sins of mankind. He is pleased by us only if we are first transformed into the righteous from sinners by faith, and then pray to Him in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

I keep repeating myself, but what kind of faith must we have for God in Heaven to be our Father now? Without fail, we must have faith in the Truth that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon all the sins of mankind and washed them away once and for all with the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross. This means our hearts must obtain from the Word of God the faith that washes away our sins. So, I have been testifying lately that Jesus Christ, who came as the Savior of sinners according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest, is our everlasting Priest. Today, I would like to again share the Word with you on this topic.

## Jesus Christ Is the Everlasting Priest Who Came Looking for Us according to the Order of Melchizedek the Priest

Let's turn to Jeremiah 31:33-34 here: "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Was the Word here spoken to just the people of Israel? No, not necessarily. When God spoke to the "house of Israel" here, He was speaking to all of us now. Our God is a merciful God. He is speaking to us of a new covenant so that He may give the remission of sins to all sinners. During the age of the Old Testament, God tried not to forsake the people of Israel no matter how much they sinned. However, the people of Israel could not stop the sins they were committing. As a brood of evildoers, they were all born on this earth full of sins, and therefore they couldn't help themselves but continue sinning.

Therefore, God sought to give the Word of a new covenant rather than the Word of the Law. Put differently, God sought to wash away the sins of mankind and give them salvation through the baptism and blood of His Son. This salvation and the remission of sins were promised to not only the people of Israel but the entire human race. This was the Word of promise that God would save us from all our sins once and for all and make us His own people forever.

With a new covenant, God promised that He would save all

sinners from the sins of the world. Having established a new covenant of salvation for mankind, when the time came, God sought to give them salvation through the baptism His Son Jesus Christ received and the blood He shed. The new covenant that God gave us promised that His Son Jesus Christ would come to this earth and save mankind from all sins by being baptized by John and crucified. God made this covenant with mankind in His Son. Because the people of Israel could not keep the old covenant that God had made with them, He ended this covenant and made a new covenant with the entire human race. God knew that every human heart was corrupt and therefore all human beings were sinners. Just as humanity now is living in sin, the ancient people of Israel were also lovers of sin. Yet, because they did not know that their true selves were nothing but piles of sins, they still tried to reach salvation by keeping the Word of God. However, they just could not keep the promise they made with God in their lives.

So, when the time came, God made a new covenant with all of us for the remission of sins. He promised not only the people of Israel but also all the Gentiles, "I will save you from all your sins." God made this covenant with us in His name. Because God knew that human beings were too weak to keep His Law, He promised to save them from all their sins with the Word of the new covenant. As we know, human beings are simply incapable of keeping the Law, and therefore it was only right for God to abolish the old covenant.

In God's sight, we are indeed full of sins and totally incapable of keeping the Word of His Law no matter how hard we try. Despite this, people in not only the age of the Old Testament but also the age of the New Testament are recklessly challenging themselves to keep the Law of God. So many people are trying to observe the perfect Word of God, not knowing that

they themselves are a brood of evildoers. God says to them, "If you want to keep the Word of the Law so badly, give it a try." And when they run out of their willpower and strength, God gives them the Word of the new covenant, saying to them, "From now on, I will save you from the sins of the world."

Even at this very moment, there still are many people trying to keep the Law of God on their own. But God is just watching them. He waits until the entire human race gives up trying to keep the Word of His Law, and when the time comes, He tells them to be saved by faith, saying that His Son Jesus Christ took away their sins by being baptized by John, was condemned for their sins by being crucified, and has thereby saved them once and for all.

When sinners come before our God and ask for His merciful salvation, Jesus tells them to be washed from their sins by believing in the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross. For those who seek to wash away their sins with faith in the baptism that the Son of God received from John and His blood, God the Father grants their wishes and saves them. But, for those who otherwise try to reach salvation through their own effort, God just tells them to keep on trying with even more work of their own.

# What Kind of People Must We Be before God?

What would you do now then? Would you wash away your sins by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross? Or would you try harder to keep the Word of the Law of God on your own? The Lord is asking us what we would choose. God wants us to be saved by believing that His Son Jesus Christ has

now become our Savior by being baptized by John and crucified, rather than offering Him the Old Testament's sacrificial animals.

God wants us to be saved by believing in the baptism that His Son Jesus Christ received from John and His blood on the Cross. We can now reach salvation from all our sins by believing in the Word of God. God is waiting for us be saved from all sins by placing our faith in the gospel Word of the remission of sins.

Therefore, in obedience to the Lord's will, we ought to receive salvation by believing in His baptism and blood. God is teaching us that obedience is better than any sacrifice. Rather than being so obstinate before God and refusing to believe in the Word of His grace, God wants us to believe obediently in the Word of salvation that He has given us. This is all the more so because God wants mercy and compassion for us. He wants us to believe in the baptism that His Son received from John and His blood, and to wash away our hearts' sins once and for all with this faith.

When the time came, God said, "Since you broke the old covenant all on your own, I will now make a new covenant with you for your sake" (Jeremiah 31:31-34). And He also promised, "I will put My law in your hearts and write it in your minds, and I will be your God and you will be My people." Put differently, God the Father promised to save us from our sins through His Son Jesus Christ, as He would wash away our sins by being baptized by John and be punished for our sins in our place. This is the Word of the new covenant that God has given us.

The Lord has now written the Word of the new covenant in our minds and hearts, and He has given us the Word of testimony proving that He has washed away our sins. This Word of testimony tells us that Jesus has washed away our sins with the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross. God said to us, "You are incapable of living according to the Word

of the Law that I have given you. I have therefore now come up with a plan of salvation for you, so that I may be your God. I have raised up My Son Jesus Christ as the everlasting Priest to save you from your sins now. With the Word of the baptism that My Son received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed, I have now washed away your sins once and for all."

In the Old Testament, God the Father had promised to send Elijah, and according to this promise, He sent John the Baptist to this earth to fulfill the role of Elijah in the New Testament. Jesus therefore took away the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John, was crucified, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us His believers from the sins of the world. And Jesus completed all His work on this earth, saying on the Cross, "It is finished!" In this way, God Himself has become our Savior once and for all, just as He promised us, "I will be your God and you will be My people."

With the new covenant God made with us, He said to us, "I will send My Son Jesus Christ as the everlasting Priest to blot out your sins. And He will take away your sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, who will come in the spirit of Elijah. Believe in the salvation that My Son will fulfill by being baptized and bearing the condemnation of your sins once and for all by being crucified. With the baptism that My Son will receive from John and His blood, I will wash away all your sins." In other words, God promised us, "I will save you from the sins of this world once and for all if you believe in the work of the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ." And Jesus has indeed saved us by being baptized by John, crucified, and thus being punished for our sins in our place. As well, God the Father's promise to "write My law of salvation in your hearts and minds" has been fulfilled.

We must believe in the Word of God, who is our Creator

and Savior. God promised us our salvation with the Word of the new covenant like this so that we would be able to call Him our Father. In short, all our sins are remitted away once and for all by believing in the salvation that Jesus Christ our Savior has fulfilled with the baptism He received from John and His blood. By believing at once in the baptism that our Lord received from John and His blood, our hearts are now able to receive the remission of sins and put on holiness. Out of His mercy, our God has saved us and given us eternal life. By saving us from all the sins of the world once and for all, Jesus Christ has enabled us to call God in Heaven our own Father.

"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name." The prayer that God is teaching us through the Lord's Prayer here has been fulfilled with the Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His blood on the Cross. This means we ought to be washed from our sins by placing our faith in this Truth now, and then call God our Father. For us to be able to call the holy God our Father by faith, we must first believe in the baptism that His Son Jesus Christ received from John and His blood on the Cross as our salvation.

As you and I already know very well, we are all Adam's descendants, and therefore we were all born in this world as completely depraved sinners before God. However, by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the blood He shed, we have been washed from all our sins. Without this washing of sins, we cannot call God our Father. While we may call on the name of God, we must call on His holy name only after first being washed from our sins as He so desires, and therefore it is absolutely indispensable for us to believe in the gospel Word of the baptism and the blood of salvation that enables us to be born again.

If we accept the baptism that the Son of God received from

John and His blood as our salvation, we can all become the holy God's children. If, however, we refuse to accept into our hearts the gospel of salvation God has given us, we cannot become His children. We must therefore be saved by believing with our hearts that God sent His Son to this earth and made Him take away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John. And we must also believe that the baptized Jesus Christ gave up His body on the Cross to be sacrificed for sinners as their propitiation. Like this, it is only through faith in the baptism Jesus received from John and the blood He shed that we can receive the everlasting remission of sins and become children of the holy God. Such salvation is the will of the holy God for us. The Lord's Prayer therefore teaches us that we must obtain, from the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, the faith that enables us to be born again, so that God may be our God.

By our fundamental nature, all of us were nothing but piles of sins before God. We were all born in this world in a state where the holy God was not our Father. We ought to realize here that this is precisely why God told us that the very first subject of our prayer should be asking for the washing of our sins. And God told us to believe that Jesus has cleansed away our hearts' sins by being baptized by John, and to thus sanctify our hearts and become righteous to be able to call God our Father.

# Who Has Faith in the Righteousness of God to Be Born Again from His Sins Once and for All?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has blotted out our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood on the Cross, and those who realize and believe in this Savior are the ones who have the faith to be born again. In God's sight, those who are saved from their sins are those who are truly born again. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us once and for all with the Word of the baptism and blood of the remission of sins. Therefore, by believing now in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross, we can receive the remission of sins into our hearts and call God our Father. It was to teach us this lesson that the Lord taught us His prayer. Jesus was teaching all of us to pray by believing in the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross.

We have now become people of faith who are able to pray like this to God the holy Father. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has given us salvation by accepting our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John and being punished for them on the Cross in our place, and by believing in this salvation, we have now been washed from all our sins once and for all. This is all because God the Father made His Son Jesus Christ take away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, be crucified, and thus complete the work of salvation to deliver His believers once and for all.

The purpose for which God the Father has saved sinners from sin like this is for us to glorify His name. Jesus has saved from sin those who believe in the baptism that He received from John the Baptist and His blood so that the name of the Lord may be praised. By making His Son receive baptism from John and be crucified, God the Father sacrificed His Son in our place. Therefore, whoever believes in this Truth of salvation—that is, in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood—can receive the remission of sins into the heart and praise the name of the holy God. Because we have received the remission of sins into our hearts by believing in the God-given salvation, we are now able to praise God the Father as we have become His children. We can now pray to Him, calling Him, "Our Father in

Heaven." It is when we receive the remission of sins into our hearts that we are able to call God our Father.

Even before the universe was created, long before the foundation of the world, the Triune God planned to save mankind from their sins so that we would come to praise Him. When the time came, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to this earth and made Him bear the sins of this world on His body once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist; and having been baptized by John, Jesus was punished for our sins by shedding His blood on the Cross, thus saving His believers from their sins. Our Lord has saved us the believers from all our sins once and for all by taking them away through the baptism He received from John, shedding His blood and dying on the Cross to be punished for them, and rising from the dead again. On account of this faith of ours, we have now received the remission of sins in God's sight.

We must believe with our hearts that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has made us righteous with the baptism He received from John and the blood He shed. We must believe in the true Word of salvation that our Lord has fulfilled deep in our hearts and minds. Because the Lord completed the work of His baptism and the shedding of His blood that save us from the sins of this world, it is now possible for us to be saved by faith. In other words, we can now become God's children by faith because Jesus has saved us from the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross. It is because we believe in the baptism of Jesus Christ and the shedding of His blood that we have been blessed to call God our Father now.

The Lord is trying to teach us such prayers of faith. So that we may be able to call on "our Father in Heaven" and pray to Him, the Lord Jesus Christ has saved us from all sins once and for all by being baptized by John and shedding His blood on the Cross. And He is telling us that those who believe in this Truth of salvation are God's children (John 1:12). Because Jesus paid off the wages of the sins of mankind once and for all with the baptism He received from John and the blood He shed, those who believe in this Truth can be saved from their sins once and for all.

Whoever believes in this Truth of salvation can now receive the remission of sins into the heart and become a child of God. Jesus Christ came to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek, and it is thanks to His baptism and the shedding of His blood that we have reached salvation. So let us all remember that we have been saved by placing our faith in Jesus Christ's grace of salvation.

Only those who have been saved from their sins by believing in the God-given love of righteousness are qualified to call the holy God their Father in His presence. In contrast, those who have not yet received the remission of sins into their hearts do not have sufficient faith to call God their Father. So, they cannot pray to God and call Him "our Father in Heaven." Such people ought to pray first for deliverance from their sins. They should then believe in the baptism that the Lord received from John and His blood, and wash away their sins with this faith. It is only after this that they can call God their Father.

God's purpose is making us humans sinless like Himself. That is why our Lord told us to pray for the remission of our sins according to the prayer He taught us. For us to become God's children, we must first realize exactly when and how Jesus Christ, the Son of God, blotted out your sins and mine, and we must believe in this with our hearts. God has now given us the born-again faith that enables us to reach salvation from all our sins, and the Truth of this salvation is that His Son Jesus Christ

shouldered your sins and mine once and for all through the baptism He received from John, died on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby become our Savior.

# Where Is the Word of the Remission of Sins Written in the Bible?

The Lord said, "till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). Where, then, is the Word written testifying that the Lord has saved us from the sins of the world? God said that His Son would come to save us from all sins as our everlasting Priest, but where is this testimony written in the Word?

Now then, let us turn to the Bible and look for the evidence at this hour. Let us first verify from the written Word that Jesus was raised to be the everlasting Priest of this earth. It is written in Psalms 110:4:

"The Lord has sworn

And will not relent,

"You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek."

Here in the Old Testament, we see the word "Lord" used to refer to the holy name of God, and this name means "He who exists by Himself." Referring to Jesus Christ, He who exists by Himself said, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." God said this because His Son "Jesus Christ" would save the believers from their sins by being baptized by John and crucified for our salvation.

As it is written, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek," God the Father has raised His Son to be our everlasting Priest. As such, to save you and me from the sins

of this world and condemnation, Jesus was baptized by John, the greatest of those born of women (Matthew 11:10-12; Matthew 3:13-17), and He was crucified, thereby saving all those who believe in this Truth from all the sins of the world. Therefore, it is now by believing in this true salvation that we are washed from our sins. God has saved us from our sins once and for all through the baptism His Son Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross, and He has made us, the believers, His own children.

God the Father has raised His Son Jesus Christ as our everlasting Priest. Why, then, did God raise Jesus Christ as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek? The account of Melchizedek is found in Genesis 14:17-20:

"And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said:

'Blessed be Abram of God Most High,

Possessor of heaven and earth;

And blessed be God Most High,

Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.'

And he gave him a tithe of all."

It is based on Melchizedek the Priest that God is saying that His Son is the everlasting priest who would save mankind from the sins of the world.

Based on this passage from Genesis, God said in Psalms 110:4, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." There is a great deal of time difference between when Genesis was written and when Psalms was written. Psalms was written long after God blessed Abraham through Melchizedek the Priest. Despite this, the writer of Psalms 110:4

recorded God's prophecy that He would raise His Son as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest. And we can now discover that Jesus has indeed become our everlasting Savior according to this Word of prophecy.

This shows us that even before making the universe and mankind, the Triune God planned to send His Son Jesus Christ to this earth, save the entire human race once and for all through the baptism the Son would receive and the blood He would shed on the Cross, and make the believers God's own children. Transcending time, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ has fulfilled His everlasting priesthood.

That is why the Bible says, "Jesus Christ is the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek." It means that God the Father put in place a plan of salvation to deliver mankind from all the sins of this world through His Son. And when the time came, God sent His Son to this earth, and Jesus has saved us from all sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John and His blood. God is then telling you and me that the gospel we believe in now is the gospel that enables us to be born again from our sins through the baptism Jesus Christ received from John and the blood He shed.

Even before the foundation of the world, God prepared His Son Jesus to be our everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest. And when the time came, He sent His Son to this earth as the Savior of mankind. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, then carried out His work of salvation on this earth, fulfilling the will of God the Father in raising Him to be the everlasting Priest to save His people from the sins of the world. This work of salvation was fulfilled according to God's plan. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born on this earth through the body of Mary, shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John, was crucified to death, rose from the dead

again, and has thereby saved those who now believe in this work of salvation from all their sins once and for all and made them God's children.

It absolutely is not by keeping the Word of the God-given Law that you and I can now become children of the holy God. Rather, we are saved only by placing our faith in the work of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His blood on the Cross. This is because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has become our everlasting Priest of salvation by being baptized by John the Baptist on this earth and shedding His blood. It is now through our faith in this gospel of salvation and the remission of sins that we are delivered from all our sins once and for all and become God's children.

Through the Word of the God-given Law, we have come to realize the sins that are in our hearts and to recognize that we are sinners. And we have become God's people once and for all through our faith in the work that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, carried out on this earth by shouldering the sins of this world on His body through the baptism He received from John and the suffering He endured on the Cross. By believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we have become God the Father's children who have received the remission of sins. Because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us from the sins of the world through His baptism and blood, we are now able to call Him our Savior, and we can also call His Father our God and our Father.

To those who still do not believe in this salvation, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, wants to bear witness that He Himself is the Savior who came to this earth as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Jesus Christ took away our sins once and for all by being baptized by John. It is because Jesus shouldered our sins by being baptized by John like this that

He died on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby become our Savior for those of us who now believe. We can become God's children by believing in this fact of salvation. Thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we can be made sinless in our hearts and call the holy God our Father.

## Many People on This Earth Still Do Not Know This Truth

Some Christians recite the Lord's Prayer blindly as if it were a spell. In the movie *Titanic*, there is a scene where people are praying together as the ship is floundering and sinking. How should one pray in times like this? One ought to be specific and ask God, "Lord, our ship is sinking. Please deliver us from death!" But, in the movie, the people just recite the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.... Amen."

However, this is not why Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to His disciples and us. He gave us the Lord's Prayer for us not to just memorize it and chant it, but to ask God to make us His children. Our Lord came to this earth as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, and He took away our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. He was then crucified to be punished for our sins in our place, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us His believers from all the sins of the world. Therefore, the Lord wants us to believe in this gospel and be saved from all our sins to become God's children by faith.

This is why the Lord told us to pray first so that we may be washed from our hearts' sins and reach salvation. The problem,

however, is that many people just recite this prayer as if they were casting a spell. Christians all over the world these days are regurgitating the Lord's Prayer out of memory only as a religious ritual. Because they have been accustomed to reciting the Lord's Prayer like this for so long, they are not willing to learn about the real meaning of the Lord's Prayer. They think mistakenly that by reciting the Lord's Prayer once, they are praying according to the Lord's teaching. However, the Lord taught this prayer so that we would have the faith that saves us from sins in accordance with the will of God.

The same goes for the Apostles' Creed that many Christians are reciting. Many Christians believe in Jesus according to the Apostles' Creed, but this creed leaves out the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. The first sentence in the Apostles' Creed is written as the following: "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." As is written here, we ought to indeed believe in God as the Creator who made the heavens and the earth. But we ought to also believe that Jesus took away our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, and has thereby saved us from our sins.

However, those who made the Nicene Creed in AD 325 wrote into this creed only the crucified Jesus. The Nicene Creed was made to be used in an interrogative form for the rite of baptism for new church members professing to believe in the Son of God as their Savior. When baptizing a new believer, the pastor would first recite the Apostles' Creed and then ask, "Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior?" When the new believer answered and said, "Yes, I do," the pastor would baptize him, saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The believer would then become a formal member of the church. From then on, the new church member would be

obligated to make various donations to the church, such as tithes, thanksgiving offerings, and regular Sunday offerings.

In the Catholic Church, newly born babies receive infant baptism with their parents attending the ceremony. There are also some Protestant denominations that perform infant baptism. Some churches set aside at least one day a year earmarking it for infant baptism. With the parents holding their baby, the pastor would sprinkle water on the baby's head three times, saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

Do you think a newly born baby has any idea about his sins? Would this baby know why Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John? Everyone was born as a sinner, but could a newly born baby be saved just by receiving infant baptism? As adults, we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as our Savior because we have now realized all our sins and want to be saved from them once and for all, and we reach salvation by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John and His blood on the Cross.

Once people go through puberty and reach a certain age, they all realize their sinful selves. It is only then that people can finally see themselves as sinners. It is after we grow up and reach maturity that we can realize and believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away the sins of the world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood, and has thereby become our Savior; and it is then that we reach salvation by faith.

We must all realize that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away all our sins by being baptized by John, shed His blood on the Cross, and has thereby saved those who believe in this fact from all sins. It is by believing in the righteous work of Jesus like this that we become God's children. And that is how we come to be able to call the holy God our Father.

We are made God's children by faith, by realizing and believing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to shed His blood on the Cross because He shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John. We are then to live for the spreading of the Lord's gospel until we go to Heaven. Through His Son, God the Father has fulfilled our everlasting remission of sins and saved us from the sins of the world. Placing our faith in this Truth of salvation, we are to live the rest of our lives for the Lord, and then go to His Kingdom when He calls us.

Coming to God's presence with this faith of ours in the Truth of salvation, we are to enter God's Kingdom that He has prepared for us. This is the Truth that the Bible speaks of in both testaments. This is the first very subject of our prayer that Jesus has taught us to pray. I hope and pray that everyone reading this book would come to grasp the full meaning of the Lord's Prayer and believe in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

You must not let yourself continue to just recite the Lord's Prayer like a religious ritual. If this is how you still think and believe about the Lord's Prayer, then you must listen to the Word of salvation that is being preached to you now to learn about how the Lord told you to be holy, believe in this Word with your heart, and receive the remission of sins.

## What Is the Second Lesson from the Lord's Prayer?

The second lesson from the Lord's Prayer is found in Matthew 6:10, which says, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Here, Jesus Christ is teaching us to pray for His salvation to be fulfilled in our hearts. And He

is telling us to build God's Kingdom on this earth. Put differently, He is commanding us to expand the Kingdom of God by faith.

It is written, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God the Father promised that His Son would be baptized by John and shed His blood as our everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest, and that He would make those who believe in this God's children. From the day Adam and Eve sinned before God, all human beings became sinners and lived as such, but when the time came, God the Father sent His Son to this earth as the everlasting Priest and saved mankind through the Son's baptism and blood; and we can now be saved from our sins by believing in this work.

God said in the Old Testament, "*The virgin shall conceive* and bear a Son" (*Isaiah 7:14*). Just as prophesied, when the age of the New Testament arrived, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born through the body of Mary, took away the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John at the age of 30, was punished on the Cross for our sins, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us, His believers, once and for all from the sins of this world and their condemnation.

Therefore, those who believe in the baptism that the Lord received from John and the blood He shed have the responsibility to preach this gospel to everyone while they are living on this earth. Having believed first, we have the duty to spread the Word of the baptism of Jesus and His Cross to every tribe throughout the whole world. "May the will of God the Father be done on earth as it is heaven." By raising His Son to be our everlasting Priest already, God the Father has washed away all our sins with the baptism His Son received from John and His blood on the Cross.

God the Father has already fulfilled our remission of sins once and for all by sending His Son to us. And Jesus Christ, our

God, is now sitting at the right hand of the throne of God the Father. He is telling those who have already received the remission of sins to spread God's gospel so that the salvation that the Son of God has fulfilled for us would be fulfilled in the heart of everyone else living on this earth, and to pray to God until this goal is achieved completely. Put differently, that we are spreading the gospel now means we are praying for the will of God to be fulfilled on this earth. That is why we are carrying out our ministry in various ways to spread the gospel, from running our literature ministry to sharing audio books and e-books, conducting street outreaches, and providing individual spiritual counseling.

We ought to pray according to how the Lord has taught us to pray. The Son of God has fulfilled our salvation once and for all by shouldering the sins of this world through His baptism and shedding His blood on the Cross, and the Lord told us to pray so that we would be washed from our sins by believing in this salvation and His will would be fulfilled in our hearts. We must now live according to this will of God, spreading throughout the whole world the salvation that His Son has brought to us. It is when God's Church preaches salvation on this earth that His Kingdom expands more. You and I who now believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit are God's people, His soldiers, and the people of His righteousness doing His will. We are the ones who are now expanding the Kingdom of God on this earth. We are the workers of God's Kingdom who are spreading the gospel and expanding the Kingdom on this earth.

## "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

The third lesson from the Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). Here God is commanding those who have received the remission of sins into their hearts to pray for their daily bread. Since we are all human, we all need our daily bread in both body and spirit to sustain our lives. Just because we have become God's people, this does not mean that we don't need our daily bread, and therefore we must always ask for our spiritual bread in our prayer. For God's people, their daily bread is carrying out God's work.

We receive our daily bread when, first of all, we listen to the Word in God's Church. Second, we receive it when we gather together as God's people and share fellowship with one another. Third, when we support the gospel ministry for its proclamation, this constitutes our daily bread for our souls. Fourth, we receive our daily bread when we preach all over the world the gospel that saves people from their sins through the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received and the blood He shed on the Cross, and it is when we carry out this work that we come to have abundant spiritual bread.

Therefore, we must carry out the Lord's work every day by faith, and we must spread the faith that God is our God. We ought to pray for our daily bread, and we ought to also look for God's work always so that we may never go hungry from the lack of spiritual food.

When the Lord told us to pray for our daily bread, He did not mean that we should pray for just the bread of our flesh. It is absolutely imperative for us to spread the gospel and work diligently every day to look for God's lost sheep and save them with the gospel Word. The Lord is telling us to pray so that we may continue to carry out this work of spreading the gospel. We ought to pray now for the gospel to be proclaimed successfully, so that we may expand the Lord's Kingdom.

Those who now believe in the Truth of salvation must always have their faith ready to share the gospel Word of God in body and spirit. We must therefore carry out God's work by faith. Otherwise we will succumb to spiritual and physical indolence. Those who do not labor to spread the gospel as they are supposed to always do little else but complain about God's Church. So, to make sure that this does not happen to us, we all need to do our parts and be able to help one another also. To carry out such work, we must become God's faithful servants. God told us to pray always for our daily spiritual bread precisely because we have the duty to carry out His work to spread the gospel. Like this, we must pray for specific goals.

God is telling us to believe according to His Word and to also preach this Word. He is telling us to be saved from our sins by placing our faith in the gospel Word of the new covenant of salvation and live as His children. God is telling us to live the rest of our lives by faith worthy of being His children. He is telling us to live by faith as His army. He is telling us to always carry out His work by faith for the salvation of the souls that still remain sinful. God is telling us to be the people of faith who always have something to share with many people.

If we were to seek just our own prosperity, we will not prosper and end up starving ourselves. We must therefore always work hard so that we have something to share with others. There are many people in this world who still have not reached salvation. That is why the Lord told us to undertake our literature ministry for their salvation. To support the gospel work and carry out our literature ministry, we must devote our lives to God.

## "Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Forgive Our Debtors"

The fourth element of the Lord's Prayer says in Matthew 6:12, "And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors." As those who have received the remission of sins, we have the duty to live for the Lord, but sometimes we fail to do so, and this may result in some tension. We all make many mistakes to wrong one another. But we should not hold a grudge over such wrongdoings.

While we can forgive one another for our individual failures, we cannot tolerate anyone who stands against God and tries to undermine His Work, for such people are contesting God. Whether God will forgive their sins or not is not ours to know.

We should admit our mutual wrongdoings to one another and live according to the will of God by faith. However, when it comes to those who stand against God's work in their lives, we should leave them up to our God. We cannot be with such people. We ought to therefore let God deal with them. Certain sins are committed against God, while certain wrongdoings are committed against one another. Recognizing the Word of salvation that the Lord has given us, we can forgive one another for our mutual wrongdoings. However, as far as God's opponents are concerned, we should leave them up to God and separate ourselves from them.

How can anyone, while professing to believe in the Godgiven gospel of salvation, still obstruct His work with a malicious heart? God says such people are evildoers. They must return to God and believe in the true Word of salvation that God has given them. If they do not believe wholeheartedly in the gospel Word of salvation that the Lord has given them, then they are just abusing God's gospel to do evil in their lives. God will judge them for their sins. We need to realize here that it is spiritually very problematic for anyone who has been saved to

neither serve the gospel of salvation nor unite his heart with God's Church.

Those who stand against and obstruct God's work even though God has saved them from their sins are evildoers in God's sight. God does not give any spiritual blessings to such people. His blessings only drift further away from them. The Lord said, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

The faith that saves us from all our sins is the faith that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has blotted out our sins by being baptized by John and dying on the Cross to bear their condemnation, and it is by believing in this Truth of salvation that we can receive the remission of sins and the grace of salvation into our hearts. And if we want to be blessed by God, we must carry out the Lord's work by faith, devoting our hearts and bodies to the proclamation of the gospel to God's pleasure. Having saved us from the sins of this world, God is now saying to us, "Are you asking Me to bless you even though you are not spreading this gospel? If you wish to receive My blessings, you should also do what I desire." This is the God-spoken, true and most just Word. "How can you ask Me to bless you when you are not doing My work? What will become of you if I bless you? "Far from doing My work, you are standing against Me, so how can you ask Me to bless you?"

God does not bestow His blessing on such people. God demands repentance from those who are deliberately undermining His Work. I do not know how much longer God would wait for such people in these end times. Although God is the God of love, He is also a just Judge.

Given the fact that we now believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior, it is unconscionable for us to mistreat the righteous, who

are in the likeness of the image of our God. God is telling us to walk by faith in His love, follow the way of faith as we ought to, and live by faith. In our hearts we have the duty and the faith to cherish and love one another. God is not pleased by anyone who mistreats His people for no reason, torments them, or harms them.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has blotted out the sins of mankind. Just as God said, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7), those who believe in the baptism of Jesus Christ and the shedding of His blood will be saved, but those who do not believe will be cast into hell for their sins.

God the Father sent His Son as our everlasting Priest and made Him shoulder the sins of the world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. The Lord was then condemned for our sins by being crucified and shedding His blood on the Cross, and He has thereby saved His believers from their sins once and for all. Those who have become God's children by believing in this salvation must live out their faith and their everyday lives must also be lived according to God's pleasure. Otherwise there will be no blessing from God. Although we will enter the Kingdom of God on account of our faith in His righteousness, those of us who do not carry out God's work while living on this earth will have no peace.

That is why I say to those who have received the remission of sins to do what they ought to do by rights. I teach them, "Do you want to be blessed? Then serve the work that pleases God." So I give them God's work to spread the gospel. God's work is not something that can be done just for a few days for immediate results, but if we preach the gospel steadily without ceasing, the power of this gospel will eventually be manifested in the hearts of the believers. If we live out our faith before God in unity with

His Church, God will pour on us and fill us with the spiritual blessings of Heaven. We will then hear others saying to us, "You have truly been blessed by God!"

I have devoted my entire life to the proclamation of God's gospel. I am living by faith, knowing very well that it is the will of God the Father for me to spread the gospel throughout the whole world together with my co-workers. Ever since I first found the righteousness of the Lord, I have lived only for the spreading of the Lord's gospel to this very day. I have also suffered many losses because of this. Even though I have never done anything wrong to those who do not believe in this gospel, they have accused me of heresy and denounced me unjustly.

Because I have gladly chosen to live my life for the spreading of God's gospel, I have suffered many losses, from my reputation to my possessions and even my friends. My losses have been countless. I have given up so much for the expansion of the Lord's Kingdom. And to this very day, I have lived by faith to do what the Lord is pleased by. As a result, I am now living happily preaching the gospel of the water and the Spirit together with you. Whenever I had any need while preaching the gospel, I prayed to God. God then made sure to meet all my needs, ensuring that I would be blessed to receive His help.

Abraham dug a well wherever he went. Where he lived was like a desert. In countries like Korea, you don't have to dig that deep to find water, but Israel is so arid that digging a working well is like winning a lottery. After all, isn't this why the Samaritan woman drawing water from Jacob's well in the Bible bragged about how this was her ancestor's well? Every time Abraham dug a well in the desert looking for water, he found it. The nearby inhabitants were shocked by this. They had spent their entire lifetime there digging countless wells with very little success, but wherever Abraham dug a well, he found water. So,

being jealous of Abraham, some of them dumped rocks into his well and sealed it, but Abraham just handed it over to them, saying, "Here, you can have this well." He then went somewhere else, dug a well, and found water again. Like this, Abraham dug a well wherever he went.

I, too, have many earthly needs for spreading the gospel. Whenever I feel in my heart that there is something that would be useful for preaching the gospel, I pray to God for it. This place where we are now worshiping is also a blessed place that God has given us. When we forgive those who sin against us, we say, "Don't worry about this sin, for the Lord has blotted it out also. From now on, let us live in harmony by faith." This is how we forgive each other. As we carry on with our lives before God, we must stand upright and fitting in His sight. God blesses such people who are approved in His sight, saying, "You are fitting to receive My blessings. You will not do evil against Me."

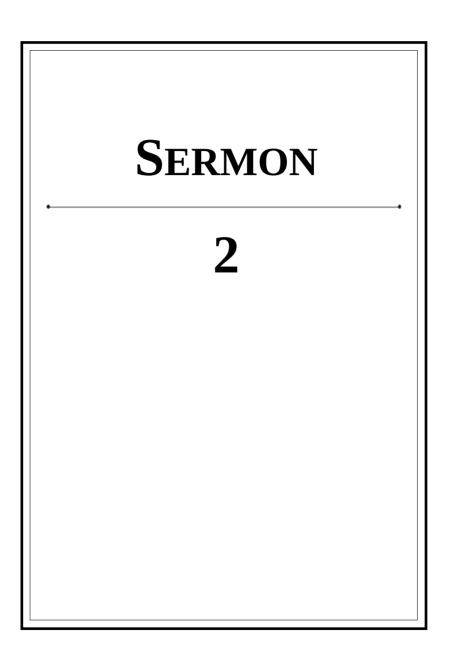
The fifth element of the Lord's Prayer says, "Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." We ought to pray so that we would not stumble over hardship and fall into where God does not want us to be. When we get angry, we sometimes feel like we could act out evil. But, since we should not do what God does not want us to do, we need to pray to Him and say, "Lord, please stop me from doing such a rash thing. Please help me control my emotions. Watch over me, Father, so that my thoughts do not go astray to do evil."

As we carry on with our lives on this earth and spread the gospel, our hearts can be stirred up to anger when we see people standing against the gospel Word that we are preaching. Evil thoughts can arise in us in times like this, but we should not act on our anger, which is precisely why we pray to God to give us the strength to control ourselves. Evil thoughts can arise in anyone. And anyone can wish to take matters into his own hands

to punish evil.

If we face hardship to spread the gospel on this earth, this, too, is a blessing for us in God's sight. However, God did tell us to pray so that we would not face insurmountably difficult temptation. This brings us to the end of the Lord's Prayer.

It is very important for us to realize from the Lord's Prayer what it is that we should be praying for, keep this in our minds whenever we pray, ask for God's help, and live for the proclamation of the gospel. We ought to also seek harmony with our brothers and sisters, and live by faith for the sake of spreading the gospel. While living in this world, we ought to receive God's blessings, dedicate our lives to preaching the gospel of the water and the Spirit, and then go to God's presence by faith. Realizing and believing that this is what our Lord is telling us, we must live by faith. Hallelujah!



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# By What Kind of Faith Can We Receive the Remission of Sins Now?

#### < Leviticus 1:1-9 >

"Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock. 'If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord. Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. He shall kill the bull before the Lord; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting. And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces. The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire. Then the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar; but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord."

### **How Can We Commune with God?**

When Christians think of ways to commune with God, they generally think of the following.

Prayer: Prayers are private conversations with God, and they include telling God our hopes, thanking Him, confessing to Him, and asking Him for help. It is therefore through prayer that people open up their hearts to God, obtain His help and guidance, and express their gratitude and respect.

Reading the Word: It is important to read the Bible and other writings of faith, so as to understand and apply God's teachings and revelations. Such writings provide us with lessons on how we can apply our faith in God to our everyday lives.

Meditation: Meditation is a way of calming the heart, thinking profoundly about God's being and His love, and finding spiritual strength. Through meditation, one makes a deep connection between his heart and mind and the Word of God.

Participating in worship service: Worship includes praising God together in a community of fellow believers, listening to the Word, and praying. Through worship, one deepens his relationship with God and builds solidarity with fellow believers.

Good deeds: Our relationship with God is expressed through our acts by serving others, loving them, and helping them. Such acts spread God's love in the world and deepen our relationship with Him.

Confession: Admitting our sins and asking for God's forgiveness restores our relationship with Him and enables us to start anew with a clean heart.

In both testaments, however, the Bible provides different explanations on how we are to commune with God. Today, I would like to share the Word with you on this issue. We just read Leviticus 1:1-19 for today's Scripture reading. God gave the

Law to the descendants of Abraham on Mount Sinai. And He opened a way for them to be washed from all their sins through their sacrificial offerings when they sinned. This sacrificial system is the only way by which God and the people of Israel could commune with one another.

When we read a book, we can see that there is a purpose that the author wants to convey to the reader. The same way, the Book of Leviticus speaks about how a sinner can be reconciled with the holy God through sacrificial offerings.

Today's Scripture reading is the introduction to the Book of Leviticus, and it begins in verse 1 as the following: "Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting." God called Moses to the Tabernacle of Meeting here to teach him what kinds of sacrificial offerings the people of Israel had to give, and how they had to give them, in order to be washed from their sins. Having heard this through Moses, the people of Israel had to give their offerings according to the Godestablished rules of the sacrificial system.

Moses can be described as a representative of the Law. His role was receiving the Word of God and relaying it to God's people. Through Moses, those who broke the Law of God could know what kinds of sacrificial offerings they had to give, as they learned the sacrificial system from him. Moses was someone raised by God, and the sacrificial system that God showed him contained His will and desire to be reconciled with His people.

Where the Bible says here, "Now the Lord called to Moses," we are shown that God always spoke through the representative of the nation of Israel. The role of this representative of the people was relaying God's will to them as His ambassador. God called Moses from the Tabernacle of Meeting here to teach the sacrificial system, which would enable His people to wash away their transgressions.

It's written in Leviticus 1:2, "When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord." For those who sinned against God, Moses provided guidance on the method by which they had to offer sacrificial offerings to be washed from their sins. It was an absolute must for the people of Israel to offer sacrifices to God according to the requirements of the sacrificial system set by Him. They had to bring their sacrificial offerings and come before God according to the rules of His sacrificial system. The "offering" here refers to the sacrificial animal that the people of Israel had to offer to be remitted from their sins. Like this, God set up the sacrificial system through Moses for His people so that they could be remitted from their sins.

Through the Word of the Mosaic Law, God also made it possible for us to realize our sins. It is only when we reflect ourselves upon the Law that we can realize what our present sins are, and it is such people who come to offer sacrifices to God to wash away their sins.

# Sin Offering for the People of God in the Age of the Old Testament

The age of the Old Testament had sin offering, which was offered for God's people. It was an offering made as the following: for anyone who sinned against God in the days of the Old Testament to be washed from his sins, he had to pass them to his sacrificial animal by laying his hands on its head, draw its blood, and the priest put the blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offering. This sacrifice was made for sinners, to obtain the washing of sins for their hearts through the sacrificial animal's vicarious death. In this way, the sin offering made it possible for God's people to recognize their transgressions, be washed from

their sins through the sacrificial offering, and restore their relationship with God.

During the age of the Old Testament, on the tenth day of the seventh month every year, the High Priest offered to God the sacrifice of the Day of Atonement on behalf of the people of Israel. The people of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness. Can you imagine just how large their number must have been? When the High Priest offered the yearly sacrifice of the Day of Atonement in the Tabernacle, he had to pass the people's sins to the sacrificial animal by laying his hands on its head. God raised Aaron the High Priest as the representative of the people of Israel and made him make sin offerings. He made a sin offering for himself and his household first and then he made another sin offering for God's people.

It is written in Leviticus 16:11-22: "And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is for himself. Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil. And he shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die. He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the

tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel. And he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord, and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness."

The words "laying on of hands" used here for the sin offering that God would be pleased to accept refer to the High Priest's act of passing the sins of the people of Israel to the sacrificial animal. During the age of the Old Testament, the laying of hands used in the God-established sacrificial system was the method by which one's sins were passed onto the head of the sacrificial animal. In other words, the phrase "laying on of hands" was used to mean "passing one's sins on to the head of the sacrificial animal." This was one of the rules of the sacrificial system set by God.

God raised Aaron and his descendants to be High Priests, and He allowed sin offering to be made only once a year. Thus

allowed to offer the sacrifice of the Day of Atonement, Aaron the High Priest, on the tenth day of the seventh month, passed the sins of the people of Israel to the sacrificial animal by laying his hands on its head, drew its blood, put the blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, sprinkled it seven times on the mercy seat, and thereby made atonement for the people. Like this, the High Priest offered the sacrifice of the Day of Atonement once a year to wash away the people's sins.

Here we see the Bible mentioning a bull. The bull refers to Jesus Christ. Every Word of the Old Testament points toward Jesus Christ, the Son of God, telling us that He would come to this earth, take away the sins of mankind by being baptized by John, shed His blood on the Cross, and thus become our everlasting propitiation. It tells us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would be born on this earth, shoulder the sins of mankind by being baptized by John at the age of 30, shed His blood on the Cross, and sacrifice Himself as mankind's propitiation.

The laying on of hands in the age of the Old Testament, and baptism in the age of the New Testament, were both for passing sinners' transgressions to the sacrificial offering. The Old Testament's sin offering refers to the sacrifice whereby the people of Israel passed their sins to their sacrificial animal as specified by God by laying their hands on its head, and this sacrificial animal was condemned for their sins in their place. While the word "atonement" means passing one's sins and condemning them, it also means appeasing the wrath of God the Father.

Because God loved human beings created in the likeness of His image, He took His Son as their sacrificial offering, made Him receive baptism and shed His sacrificial blood on the Cross, and sought to save those who believe in Him from their sins. This was the sacrifice that Jesus offered to God to pass mankind's sins to Himself and stop the wrath of God. God sought to appease His heart by passing His people's sins to Christ and condemning Him for these sins.

Like this, God sought to save us by preparing the baptism and sacrificial blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, in our place, so that God may condemn our sins. This is the remission of sins that God prepared for our everlasting atonement.

God the Father is showing us here that His Son, Jesus Christ, would be baptized to take away the sins of the world, shed His sacrificial blood on the Cross, and thereby offer the sacrifice of salvation that would deliver mankind from sin. Having sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to this world, God made Him receive baptism from John, the greatest of those born of women, and thereby passed the sins of this world to the body of Jesus once and for all (Matthew 3:13-17). God then allowed Jesus to be crucified while shouldering the sins of this world through His baptism, thus saving the believers through His sacrifice.

This is exactly as the Lord said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God the Father sent His Son to this earth, made Him shoulder the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John, the representative of mankind (Matthew 11:11), and blotted out our sins once and for all with Jesus' blood on the Cross.

# "Permit It to Be So Now, for Thus It Is Fitting for Us to Fulfill All Righteousness" (Matthew 3:15)

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?' But Jesus answered and said to him, 'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

This passage describes John the Baptist baptizing Jesus. Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. However, John recognized that Jesus was a higher Being than himself, and he insisted that he should be baptized by Him, but Jesus said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

From this passage, we can realize for certain that Jesus Christ is our Savior. We can see in greater detail why Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. To be appointed as the High Priest in the age of the Old Testament, it was legally required for one to turn 30 years old before taking on the priesthood. For all the descendants of Aaron also, they could be appointed and begin ministering as the High Priest when they reached the age of 30.

In the same vein, to fulfill His duties as the everlasting Priest who would accept the sins of mankind in the age of the New Testament, Jesus also assumed His priesthood as the High Priest by being baptized by John at the age of 30 and taking away the sins of mankind. The Bible tells us that like Jesus, John the Baptist was also 30 years old at the time.

Jesus received His baptism from John. With this, He took upon all the sins of mankind. God the Father and the Holy Spirit bore witness of this, as it is written, "Suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:17). By shouldering the sins of mankind through His baptism and shedding His precious blood on the

Cross, Jesus the Son of God fulfilled His work of atonement, sacrificing Himself as mankind's propitiation.

This shows us Jesus' work, who fulfilled all the righteousness of God through His baptism and His sacrificial blood. We can realize from this that Jesus made Himself our propitiation. From the work of the baptism that Jesus received and the blood He shed, we can reach a deep understanding of just how much He loved mankind.

# Let Us Examine the Birth of John the Baptist and the Ministry of Jesus

The birth of John the Baptist is accounted in the Four Gospels. In particular, Luke and Matthew provide a more detailed account. In Luke chapter 1, we see the angel Gabriel appearing before Zacharias the Priest while he was ministering in the Temple and promising him that he and his wife Elizabeth, who were barren in old age, would be given a son. A baby was indeed born according to this Word of prophecy, and this baby was John the Baptist.

In Luke chapter 1, the Bible notes while listing the genealogy of Jesus that Mary, Jesus's mother, and Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother were relatives. In Matthew chapter 3, the Bible writes how John the Baptist passed the sins of mankind to Jesus by baptizing Him.

So, the birth of John the Baptist is recorded as a miraculous birth just like the birth of Jesus, and he is highly relevant to Jesus' ministry. John the Baptist was a witness testifying that Jesus, who came after him, was the Savior.

Let us turn to the Word here to take a closer look at the birth of John the Baptist. His father Zacharias was a priest ministering

as the High Priest. It is written in Luke 1:11-17: "Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Through the Word relayed by the angel inside the Temple, Zacharias the Priest was prophesied to the birth of John the Baptist. In the end, John the Baptist, too, came to succeed his father's priesthood.

We know from Jesus' own testimony that John the Baptist was the greatest of those born of women in this world (Matthew 11:10-11). Jesus Christ is the Savior who came to fulfill His work of washing away the sins of mankind by shouldering the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. It is written in Matthew 3:16-17, "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

By being baptized by John the Baptist, the greatest of those born of women, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was able to shoulder the sins of mankind once and for all. At that moment, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away your sins and mine, and all the sins of the world, through the baptism He received from John. As Jesus took upon the sins of this present world once and for all through the baptism He received from John, He made Himself mankind's propitiation. So, thanks to the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John the Baptist, we can now receive the grace to pass all our sins to the body of Jesus by faith.

By accepting all the sins of this present world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus became the sacrificial offering for your sins and mine. After receiving His baptism, Jesus Christ was crucified and shed His blood on an accursed wooden Cross as the sacrificial offering of mankind, and He could say just before passing away, "It is finished!" By being baptized by John the Baptist and crucified, Jesus could offer Himself as the propitiation for the sins of mankind and become their Savior. It is with the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, completed His work of salvation to deliver all of us, who now believe in Him, from all our sins once and for all. Jesus Christ was more than able to become the Savior for us the sinners.

Therefore, we can now be saved from all sins by believing in this Jesus who was baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood to death on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. It is written, "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). It has now been made possible for us to be remitted from all our sins by placing our faith in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His blood on the Cross.

# To What Extent Have Our Sins Been Blotted Out Then?

By being baptized and shedding His blood, Jesus Christ has completely blotted out all our sins once and forever. When He was baptized by John, all our sins were passed onto His body once and for all. And by being crucified and shedding His blood on the Cross, Jesus made Himself the propitiation for all the sins of mankind, thus becoming our Savior. Accordingly, we can now receive the eternal remission of sins once and for all by placing our faith in the work of salvation that Jesus fulfilled.

If we now believe wholeheartedly in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John, our sins will be forever passed onto His body and washed away from our hearts by faith. And we will reach salvation by believing that the punishment Jesus endured on the Cross was to sacrifice Himself for our sins. We are therefore able to enter the everlasting Kingdom of God by faith, which the Lord has prepared for us.

The Bible says, "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). It's written here, "unto righteousness," and the word "righteousness" means what is right and just. The Bible is telling us here that the sacrifice that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made—that is, taking upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John and shedding His blood on the Cross—is the right and just work that brings the remission of sins to us now. God gives the gift of true salvation to all those who believe in the Word of Truth.

We can believe with every conviction that Jesus Christ, the Son of God who shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John, shed His blood to death on the Cross, and rose from the dead again, is our Savior. Those who now believe in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ can say that He is the One who has truly saved them from all their sins. This Truth of salvation is testified in the Word of the Bible. The Bible says that this Truth of salvation is the gospel of the water and the Spirit.

Therefore, we can say with every confidence that we have been saved from all our sins through our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross. At this moment, those who realize the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of mankind through the baptism He received from John the Baptist can wash away all their sins with their knowledge of and faith in this Truth.

However, those who still have not accepted this amazing Truth into their hearts will live merely as religious practitioners only to disappear like morning dew. We are admonishing those who do not believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood to accept true salvation. Some people say blindly that it is on the Cross that Jesus has saved sinners, but in reality, these people do not know the Word of salvation. Even though many people try to make their hearts sinless by believing in the crucified Jesus, the problematic reality is that their sins remain intact in their hearts. We need to preach to them now that anyone can receive the remission of sins into the heart by realizing and believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood.

In the days of the Old Testament, a sinner's transgressions could be passed onto his sacrificial animal because of the prior step the sinner took when he laid his hands on its head, and this sacrificial animal could then wash away his sins by shedding its blood of life. Similarly in the New Testament, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered all the sins of this world on His body by being baptized by John, and He was crucified in our place as our

sacrificial offering.

If Jesus Christ had not taken the step to be baptized by John, He could not have become our propitiation by being crucified. It was to take away our sins forever that Jesus Christ shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John, and it was after this that He was crucified, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again; and this is how Jesus has become our Savior for those who now believe.

Therefore, we ought to believe in Jesus' righteous work of salvation, be saved from all our sins and their punishment, become children of the holy God, and give thanks to the Lord for fulfilling our everlasting salvation.

### The Lord Has Blotted Out All Your Sins and Mine

To blot out the sins of mankind, God the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to this earth. To save us from the sins of the world, the Son of God was baptized by John, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. As a result, we are now able to be saved from our sins through faith and live a new life.

By placing our faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, we can receive the everlasting remission of sins from our God. By believing in the work of Jesus Christ, we can praise Him and begin a new life, all thanks to the love and the grace of salvation He has given us. The love of salvation that Jesus has given us is what has transformed us so greatly now. As we carry on with our lives in this world, we are now able to share God's love of salvation with people all over the world and follow Him in our everyday lives.

The Lord Triune God loves you and me. That is why Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John the Baptist to shoulder the sins of His beloved people, was crucified, and has now become our Savior. With our faith we praise the Lord for saving us from the sins of the world.

In the love God has for us, His mercy is always found. It is because God loves us that He has saved us from all the sins of the world once and for all and given us new life. God loved us the sinners, and He sacrificed Himself to make atonement for our sins. God the Father wanted this Son of His to be exalted throughout the whole world. It is therefore only fitting for us to believe in Him and praise His highness.

God wanted to bestow His love of salvation on us His creatures. This is the reason why God has saved us from all the sins of the world. Since He has saved us from all sins out of His love for us, we, too, can believe in His holy love and His just salvation, and praise Him as our Creator, our Savior, and the Judge of sinners.

Love can be categorized into four types. First is agape, which is God's merciful love for mankind. This is the love of salvation that God has bestowed on us to deliver us from the sins of the world and all our condemnation. Second is storge love refers to natural or instinctual affection, such as the love of a parent towards offspring and vice versa. Third is philia, which refers to brotherly love between friends. And the fourth love, eros, refers to romantic love between opposite sexes. The highest of these is the just and merciful love that God has for us.

God the Father loved us so much that He gave us His only begotten Son. To save us from the sins of this world, the Son of God sacrificed His own body as our propitiation. It is all because of His merciful love that we have been saved. Through the baptism He received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross, Jesus has completed our just salvation once and for all. To accept all our sins once and for all, Jesus Christ, the Son of

God, was baptized by John, and He was punished for our sins by being crucified and shedding His blood while shouldering the sins of the world. Having risen from the dead again, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has become your everlasting Savior, and mine, for all of us who believe in Him now.

Such love of God is forever preserved in the merciful love with which God has loved us. The baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the sacrifice He made on the Cross to deliver us from the sins of this world demonstrate His love, and this love is the singular love of salvation that the Lord has given to mankind. This can be found only in the love out of which God had mercy on us. This love of salvation is all revealed in the baptism that Jesus received from John, His blood and death on the Cross, and His resurrection. From now on, we ought to sing praises of thanksgiving to the Lord in our everyday lives for blessing us to be saved from all sins by believing in God's merciful love.

Even now, there still are many people trying to blot out their sins by offering prayers of repentance, but we must realize that no one's sin can ever be blotted out with any prayer of repentance. If you try to be saved from your sins before God through your own prayers of repentance or your own devotion, you will fall into great despair, for you will not be able to receive the merciful love that God wants to give you. We must grasp that God does not allow anyone who relies on his own effort to be saved and born again. If human beings were to be saved from their sins through good deeds, we should realize that there is not a single person among us who could ever be saved from his sins.

For all of us, we can be washed from all our sins and reach salvation by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His Cross. We should therefore realize here that we are saved from our sins only

if we believe in the Word of baptism and blood. And if we have indeed been washed from all our sins by realizing the righteous love of God and believing in it with our hearts, then with this faith we can all give thanks to God for the salvation He has given us.

In obedience to the will of God the Father, we must be remitted from our sins by placing our faith in the baptism that the Lord received and the sacrifice He made on the Cross with His blood, and we must preach this gospel from now on. By faith, our hearts' sins have been cleaned away, and we also know that the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts is walking with us. Moreover, the Holy Spirit dwelling in us wants us to live out our faith in unity with the Church. Those who can live such a life of faith that is pleasing to our Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, and God our Father are those who have received the God-given blessings of salvation. We are such people who bring joy to the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts, for we now have faith in God's just salvation. So let us thank the Lord for blessing us to live out our faith!

You and I are now able to obey the will of God and bring joy to His heart. That is because we have received the remission of sins by believing that the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross constitute our salvation. The Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts is rejoiced to see the faith we now have in the baptism and blood of Jesus. Let us never forget this one fact: we can now live the life of faith that is pleasing to the Lord—that is, we can devote our lives to preaching the gospel just as our Lord wants us. The Lord is rejoiced by those who live such a life. God comforts such people, saying to them, "Well done! You have worked so hard to spread the fact that I have saved mankind from the sins of the world."

## The Holy Spirit Works in Our Hearts

Do you know that the Holy Spirit is pleased by your faith? Those whose hearts are dwelt by the Holy Spirit are in peace, and they can be led by Him to the path of righteousness. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has given the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who have been saved from their sins by faith. Because Jesus Christ was baptized by John, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again, we were able to reach salvation by faith. Through the Lord's work, God has given us the true remission of sins, and with the Holy Spirit, He has also given us the assurance of our salvation. And we are the people of faith who believe in this God.

God pours the Holy Spirit to fullness on those who have received the remission of sins by believing with the heart in the love of salvation with which God has delivered mankind from the sins of the world. The Holy Spirit is the hallowed Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is our God just like Jesus. By believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His blood on the Cross, we can be saved from all sins and receive everlasting life. And He has made it known to us that He has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord pours the Holy Spirit on us and fills us. The Lord permits the fullness of the Spirit to those who believe in and serve the everlasting salvation that He has given us by washing away your sins and mine once and for all with the baptism He received from John and His crucifixion.

Having received the remission of sins into our hearts by believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we are now guiding people all over the world into the Lord's salvation. We will abide in the Lord's salvation and carry out His work like this, and soon, we will stand before Him. The Lord protects His people. He is managing our lives of faith through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us timely gifts so that we can serve the work of spreading the gospel, and He is also helping us to follow the Word of God by faith.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John, and the Lord was punished for our sins in our place. God has blessed those who believe in this fact to receive the remission of sins by faith, giving them the Holy Spirit to dwell in their hearts, and He has made us carry out the Lord's work. The Lord is saying to us, "Submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and receive the fullness of the Spirit." With this, the Lord is telling us to spread this gospel throughout the whole world, for He has washed away all the sins of mankind.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has given the blessings of salvation to those who have faith in the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross, so that they may receive the remission of sins into their hearts unto salvation. That is why the Lord dwells in and leads the hearts of those who believe in Him as their everlasting Priest. For those who have reached such salvation, the Kingdom of God has been fulfilled in their hearts. This means that the Lord's Prayer, where He said, "Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10), has been fulfilled.

Our salvation from all sins is the mystery of salvation that no one else can know but those who have received the remission of sins by believing in the Word of God. By being baptized by John and crucified, the Lord sacrificed Himself as the propitiation for our sins. He is the Savior who has now washed us from the sins of the world. With the baptism He received from John and His blood of sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus has fulfilled our salvation once and for all. Therefore, whoever believes in

this gospel Word of salvation now can receive the salvation that our Lord Jesus Christ is offering. This true salvation cannot be received in any other way but by believing wholeheartedly in the baptism of the Lord and His sacrifice on the Cross.

Today, what those who believe in Jesus only as a matter of religion are saying about the work of the Holy Spirit is all theoretical. No one who has any sin in his heart can know the work of the Holy Spirit. After all, how could a sinner comprehend the work of the Holy Spirit or even speak of it? Because these people are stuck in spiritual darkness, they cannot understand the work of the Holy Spirit until and unless they realize and believe in the salvation that our Lord Jesus has fulfilled through the baptism He received from John and the sacrificial blood He shed on the Cross. They are just living a worldly religious life in the name of Jesus. They are no more than nominal Christians claiming to believe in Jesus, when in fact they are leading a worldly religious life. Those who have any sin in their hearts are yet to discover the Truth that enables them to be born again from their sins by believing in the baptism that the Lord received from John and His sacrificial blood.

# Do You Have Faith to Become the Lord's Disciple?

I respect every religious belief and faith, and I know very well that they play an important role in providing stability and hope to people. Religious beliefs are formed in diverse ways, depending on each person's choices and experiences. However, to become a disciple of the Lord, one must first be saved with the knowledge of the righteousness of Jesus Christ and through faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and only such people can follow the Lord's will and live a life of faith.

What would you do then? Would you place your faith in the Lord's baptism and blood and become His disciple following His will? I am now preaching to you, by faith, the Word of the baptism that the Lord received from John and His blood. The lying makers of the Nicene Creed have deceived so many people today with false Christian doctrines. False gospels do not have in them the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John. To this day, the advocates of such false gospels have misled countless people away from the Lord by claiming to have received the remission of sins just by believing in the crucified Jesus without the Word of the baptism He received from John. This is why we are spreading the gospel of salvation to those who have been deceived by falsehoods, preaching the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John and His sacrificial blood on the Cross. Countless Christians these days are trying hard to live a devout life, faithfully offering prayers of repentance according to Christian doctrines. But, they say that it takes a very long time living a life of faith before their hearts are sanctified. In reality, such claims are completely spurious and useless.

You have probably heard that you can be born again from your sins only after believing in Jesus' blood on the Cross and leading your life of faith for a long time. But, what is your spiritual condition now? After doing what you have been taught to do all this time, are you really in a born-again state now? Has your heart been sanctified? No, of course not. Far from it, there are only more sins piling up in your heart despite believing in Jesus. What is then happening to your faith now? It is most likely getting increasingly more corrupt and rotting away.

For human beings to be born again now from their sinful selves, they must have in their hearts the Word of the baptism that the Lord received from John and His blood. This is all the more so because the Lord told us that "one must be born again of water and the Spirit." The Word of God is what enables us to be born again, and we must be born again of water and the Spirit now by believing in this Word of God exactly as it is. The Lord already knows that we were born in this world as sinners. That is why He carried out His righteous work, shouldering all the sins of this world on His body by being baptized by John. With this baptism, the Lord has washed away all our sins. We must believe in the fact that the Lord took away all the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John in the Jordan River. It is then that we can escape from our sins and be born again truly. And it is then that we can become the Lord's disciples.

Because there are liars in this world who have deceived their followers with countless Christian doctrines, many people are now living as sinners. We must preach to them the Truth of salvation revealed in the Word of both testaments—that is, the gospel Word proclaiming that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered and washed away all the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John. This will then open up the possibilities for salvation to come to them also.

Those who remain sinners in their hearts despite believing in Jesus as their Savior must be born again by placing their faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John. This is why we have undertaken our literature ministry, to preach the Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross. Only if we spread our salvation through the Word of God like this can all the souls that have been trapped in darkness until now come into the light of salvation.

Christians today are all the more confused because they have believed in the Nicene Creed alone with their hearts for hundreds of years to this very day. They do not know the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has solved away the sins of this world by being baptized by John. They must therefore listen to the Word of regeneration, believe in it with their hearts, and be born again. Even at this very moment, those who yearn to become the Lord's true disciples must realize and believe in the Word of God, that Jesus sacrificed Himself as the propitiation for our sins by being baptized by John and crucified.

How could any human being become a true disciple of the Lord without being born again? Because the Lord is the holy God Himself, a believer in Jesus can also attain holiness only if he believes in the Word of the baptism that the Lord received and His blood on the Cross. Put differently, it is absolutely indispensable for all of us to be born again from our sins by believing in the Word of the baptism and blood of Jesus. After all, isn't it self-evident that we can believe in and follow our Lord only if we ourselves first accept the Word of the washing of sins?

To be born again from their sins, all human beings must first know their sins and realize God's just condemnation of sins from His Word. They must then have faith in the Word of the Lord, who took away their sins by being baptized by John and sacrificed Himself as their propitiation by being crucified. We have reached our salvation by believing that the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross are the very Word of the Lord who has saved us from our sins and condemnation now. Realizing from the Word of God that Jesus shouldered our sins through His baptism and made Himself our sacrificial offering to be condemned for our sins, we must believe in this with our hearts now and thereby receive the remission of sins into them.

Many people all over the world are now being remitted from their sins by believing that the Lord was sacrificed for our sins with His crucifixion because He had been baptized by John. Many people are testifying that they have received the everlasting remission of sins from reading just one of our books on the gospel of the water and the Spirit that we are preaching now. They are receiving salvation into their hearts by believing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John and sacrificed Himself by being crucified. They are grateful beyond words for the grace of salvation that they have received into their hearts. Our brothers and sisters abroad are devoting themselves to the work of spreading the joy of their salvation everywhere and preaching the gospel to the Lord's pleasure.

Their hearts are so rejoiced that they are shouting out hallelujahs and expressing their gratitude both physically and spiritually in their testimonies, thanking God for the Word that Jesus Christ, His Son, took away their sins and sacrificed Himself as their propitiation. Some of them are really good dancers. Our brothers and sisters really get into the grooves of the rhythm when they dance, and I think theirs is the dance of faith that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are such good dancers!

Watching a video clip sent from Africa, I thought to myself, "Wow, our brothers and sisters have such amazing dance skills! Our Lord must be so rejoiced to see them!" I love how they dance in joy because of their faith in the righteousness of the Lord. Some people may say that they are just moving their bodies a little bit and not really dancing, but the real dance is all about getting into the grooves of a genuine joy that springs forth from one's heart. Even at the slightest bodily movement, I can feel their joy and faith oozing of every inch of their bodies and hearts.

My fellow believers, we believe in the Word of the Lord

that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John and sacrificed Himself as the propitiation for our sins, and we are preaching this gospel of salvation by faith. Are you living by faith, trusting in Jesus who bore our sins and their condemnation through His baptism and blood? Through our faith in the baptism that the Lord received from John and His sacrificial blood on the Cross, we are now able to be washed from all our sins and reach our everlasting salvation once and for all.

Jesus was sacrificed for our sins because He was baptized by John. He shouldered the sins of mankind once and for all when He was baptized by John, saying, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). Here the Lord spoke of "all righteousness." With this, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was saying that He would take upon all the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John and sacrifice Himself to make atonement for our sins in our place.

We are now able to be washed from our sins by believing in the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John to shoulder the sins of this world once and for all, and the Word of His crucifixion. It is now possible for us to be saved from all our sins by believing in this true Word of salvation. We are so happy to be able to live as our Lord's disciples, all thanks to His grace of salvation. We can now thank God the Savior by placing our faith in the work of salvation that His Son carried out, delivering us from all sins through the baptism He received from John and the condemnation He bore for our sins with His crucifixion.

## When Can We Be Liberated from Our Everyday Sins?

Those who believe in the Word that Jesus took away their sins once and for all by being baptized by John and shed His sacrificial blood which constitutes their salvation can be delivered from all their transgressions. This is because we can know and believe from the written Word of God that Jesus shouldered the sins of mankind by being baptized by John and sacrificed Himself as our propitiation by being crucified. When we know and believe correctly from the written Word of God when all our sins were passed onto His Son Jesus Christ, we can truly pass our sins to Jesus. It is only if we do this and then believe in the Word of His sacrificial blood with our hearts that we can be delivered from the condemnation of all our sins. When we believe that the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John and the shedding of His blood constitutes our salvation, we obtain the certainty of our salvation.

If we are willing to believe according to the written Word of God that Jesus the everlasting Priest is our eternal Savior, then we can be saved from our sins right at this very moment through Jesus. For this to come about, we must believe in the baptism of Jesus and His blood of sacrifice, and we must not only believe in the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross but also pass our sins to the body of Jesus wholly.

If you still believe in Jesus as your Savior based on the Word of His crucifixion only, then every time you commit a sin in this world, this sin will seize your heart and thoughts. Your life of faith will then end painfully, and you will ultimately turn into a hypocritical religious practitioner living a life of suffering. As a result, you will just go through the motion with your life of faith, and you will never get to know what it means to live a true,

born-again life of faith.

The dogmatic faith of Christianity today has no faith in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John, and at its core, it is instead ruled by sectarian doctrines and worldly religious beliefs. If you really want to pass your sins to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, you must hold steadfast to and believe in the Word of God that is the basis of the fact that Jesus Christ took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13-17).

You must now hang onto the Word that when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John, all your sins were passed onto the body of Jesus. We must be saved from all our sins by realizing and believing in this true Word of salvation. Through the baptism He received from John, Jesus shouldered all your sins and mine in this world. This is the true Word that washes away the sins of mankind.

Now in these end times, we must live by the unwavering faith that we have become God's children by believing in the Truth of salvation that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered the sins of this world and saved us once and for all by being baptized by John. Otherwise we will eventually lose our faith, stumble, and end up denying Jesus. For you to avoid turning into such a person, you must make sure to believe that the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood of sacrifice constitute your salvation. You will then realize that God has saved you from your sins.

Through the written Word of God, we must be saved by believing that Jesus Christ is our everlasting Savior and Priest, and we must preach this gospel Word to people throughout the whole world. This is because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved mankind from the sins of the world through the baptism He received from John and His blood of sacrifice. Why are

today's Christians ignorant of this fact? Why do they believe only in the sacrificial blood of the crucified Jesus to turn themselves into worldly religious practitioners? They must return to the Word of the Lord our Savior now, and based on the Word of God, they must believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His sacrificial blood.

So many sinners remain unable to wash away their sins because they do not believe in the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John and sacrificed Himself as their propitiation. This is so tragic. These people are truly foolish. Even though the Word of Truth that enables them to be born again is written in the Bible, sadly, they have no spiritual eye to see this Truth.

If you want to be born again from your sins now, you need to meet those who have already been born again by finding the Word of the baptism of the Lord and His blood of sacrifice, or read the books written by them. You, too, will then be able to find the Word of regeneration. So, rather than believing according to your own foolish emotions, I urge you to receive the remission of sins into your heart by believing in the Word of regeneration written in the Bible—that is, in the Word of the baptism of Jesus and His sacrificial blood on the Cross.

Today's Christians who say that Jesus has saved them by being crucified are unable to be freed from their sins. This is all because they still have not found the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John. It is also because they have not found the Word of the blood that Jesus shed to be their propitiation. Because Jesus shouldered our sins through the baptism He received from John, He had to be crucified and shed His blood on the Cross for their punishment. The crucifixion of Jesus was made possible because He had taken upon the sins of this world on His own body by being baptized by John.

If, when you sin, you just look toward the crucified Jesus without any understanding of the Word of the baptism He received from John, and say, "Lord, please forgive me from this sin that I've committed," then you need to realize here that you still do not understand the Word that Jesus also took away this sin of yours when He was baptized by John. Jesus Christ the Son of God will say to you, "Why do you not believe in My Word of salvation and still cry over your sins, when this Word says that I shouldered your sins and washed them away once and for all with the baptism I received from John?"

If you were to say to the Lord every time you sin, "Please wash away my sins with Your precious blood," your conscience will still feel guilty and you will increasingly turn into a hypocritical religious practitioner. It is absolutely indispensable for you to realize that the crucified Jesus shed His blood only once; He does not get crucified nor does He shed His blood every day for you. If this is how you believe, you must at once return to the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John, grasp that He took away your present sins once and for all through this baptism, and believe in the Word of His sacrificial blood. And you must place your faith in the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ who has saved someone like you from the sins of this world, trust in Him, and thank Him.

From now on, whenever we commit any sin, we ought to believe according to the Word of the baptism that our sins were passed onto the body of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and we ought to thank the Lord for this. We must look toward the written Word of the Lord and believe in His baptism. The Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John has the power to wash away all our sins once and for all now, and therefore it is all the more indispensable for us to hold on to this baptism by faith together with His sacrifice.

The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross means that He was condemned for our sins in our place, and the baptism He received from John means that He took away the sins of the world once and for all. Therefore, we must grasp and believe that the work of the baptism of Jesus and His sacrificial blood is the powerful work of salvation that cleanses away all our sins, and it is the true Word. For those who now believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ the Son of God received from John and His blood, the everlasting washing of sins has been fulfilled in their hearts, for they believe in the written Word. If you listen to the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John together with the Word of His sacrificial blood, you, too, will see for yourself all your heart's sins being washed away once and for all.

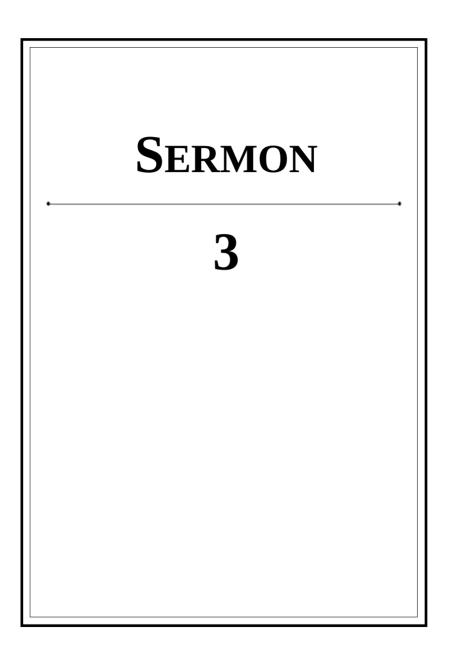
In contrast, if you believe only in the Word of the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross, then you will see your sins and their condemnation remaining intact in your heart. We must obtain the washing of sins by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ the Son of God received, and we must receive salvation by believing in the Word of the sacrificial blood He shed on the Cross as the punishment of all our sins.

Jesus was baptized to shoulder our sins, and He shed His sacrificial blood on the Cross to be condemned for our sins in our place. We must believe in this Savior. We must believe in the Word that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, accepted all our sins on His own body once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and we must believe so deep in our hearts. If your heart does not believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John, then there would be no Word of the Cross that you now believe. Therefore, for the Word of the blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross to sacrifice Himself for our sins to be firmly established in us, the Word of the

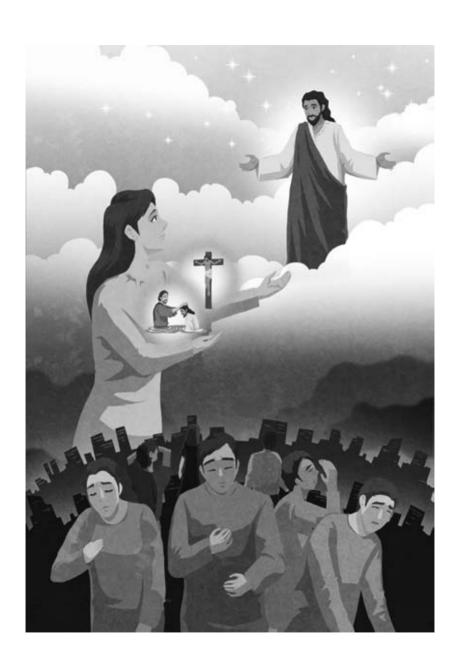
baptism that He received from John must be firmly planted in our hearts by faith.

That is why Jesus said in John 3:1-7, "One must be born again of water, blood, and the Spirit." This Word testifies to us that Jesus took away all our sins of the world by being baptized by John and was condemned for our sins in our place. And we need to realize that the Apostle John, a disciple of Jesus, is testifying in 1 John chapter 5 that we can be washed from our sins by believing in the Word that Jesus shouldered them by being baptized.

We must believe now that Jesus has saved us from the sins of the world through the Word of the baptism He received from John and the Word of His sacrificial blood on the Cross. You must ruminate and examine yourself to see if you have really reached salvation by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross for you. Let us all be washed from our sins by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John, let us all receive everlasting life by believing in the Word of His sacrificial blood, and let us all enter and live in the Lord's Kingdom. Hallelujah!



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# How Has Jesus, the Son of God, Saved Us from the Sins of This World?

#### < Romans 3:25-31 >

"Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

Today, with the Word of God, I would like to bear witness of the fact that Jesus Christ has saved us from the sins of the world. Jesus Christ has saved us, His believers, by being baptized by John to offer His own body as the sacrificial offering for sinners, being crucified and dying on the Cross, and rising from the dead again. Referring to Jesus, the Bible says that God the Father raised His Son to be our everlasting Priest according

to the order of Melchizedek the Priest who appeared in the age of the Old Testament.

#### Who Is Melchizedek the Priest?

It is written in Genesis 14:18, "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High." When Abraham was returning from his battlefield victory, Melchizedek the Priest, who was king of Salem, brought bread and wine to him and blessed him.

That Melchizedek the Priest brought out bread and wine and blessed Abraham like this in the days of the Old Testament is a shadow of what was to come in the age of the New Testament, showing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would shoulder the sins of this present world through the baptism He would receive from John and become our propitiation.

Jesus said in John 6:55-57, "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

The flesh of Jesus here testifies the fact that Jesus took upon the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. We can eat His flesh by believing in His baptism. Moreover, the baptized Jesus sacrificed Himself as our propitiation with His crucifixion and death. The Lord has saved us from the sins of this world once and for all by receiving His baptism from John, being crucified and shedding His blood as our propitiation, and rising from the dead again. We must receive everlasting life by believing in all these facts, and thus eating the flesh of Jesus and drinking His

blood.

By believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the shedding of His blood, everyone must receive the remission of sins and be saved from the condemnation of sins. We must believe that Jesus has become our everlasting Priest by being baptized by John. We must believe that Jesus, the Son of God, has become the everlasting Priest of mankind in the age of the New Testament. This is because Jesus, who has now become our everlasting Priest like Melchizedek the Priest in the Old Testament, has fulfilled our salvation once and for all with the baptism He received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross when He came to this world.

In the days of the Old Testament, Abraham accepted by faith the blessings that Melchizedek the Priest offered him. In the same manner, those who accept by faith that Jesus Christ has saved them from all sins now in the age of the New Testament, through the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross, will receive the blessings of faith like Abraham. In other words, we can be saved from all our sins by believing that Jesus shouldered the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John.

This means just as Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek who brought out bread and wine, we can now be washed from our sins by believing in the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John. And by believing that the blood that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shed on the Cross was for the punishment of our sins, we, too, can receive the blessings of salvation.

We must have faith in the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross for us. Only if we have the proper knowledge of the Truth that saves us from all our sins now can we also believe properly. The way for

all of us to be truly washed from our sins by faith is to believe in the baptism of Jesus Christ and the shedding of His blood.

When we receive Holy Communion in the church, the very first thing we do is thanking Jesus in our prayer for the bread, which signifies His flesh. This is because we believe that Jesus shouldered our sins by being baptized, and we are performing this rite in its remembrance. Put differently, it is because we believe that Jesus Christ took upon all the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John to become our Savior. When we break bread during Holy Communion, it is absolutely imperative for us to believe that the baptism that Jesus received on His body was the work through which He took away our sins (Matthew 3:13-17).

After this, when we use the wine of Holy Communion in remembrance of the precious blood that Jesus shed on the Cross, we do so by faith to remember that Jesus bore the punishment of our sins in our place. This means we believe and remember that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John, went to the Cross, was crucified, and has thereby washed away our sins now. Like this, we receive Holy Communion with bread and wine in remembrance of the fact that Jesus accepted our sins through His baptism and sacrificed Himself as our propitiation. With this, we are confessing to God our faith in the flesh and blood of Jesus, that Jesus offered His own body to accept the sins of mankind, was punished for these sins with His blood on the Cross, and has thereby become the Savior of all sinners now. This is what Holy Communion is all about.

Like this, the baptism that Jesus received on His body and the shedding of His blood on Cross denote His flesh and blood. This is the sacrifice that the Lord made to fulfill our salvation, and it also tells us that the remission of sins is received by believing in this work of sacrifice. By being baptized by John, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered the sins of this world once and for all, and by being crucified, He was punished for our sins as our propitiation.

Therefore, we are now able to be remitted from all our sins by placing our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross. Mankind's everlasting remission of sins has now been made possible, for the Son of God made Himself our propitiation to bear the condemnation of our sins, and we are to reach our salvation by believing in this.

### **Eucharistic Theology**

Now then, let us take a moment here to examine what various theological claims are made about Holy Communion. Let's first see what theologians these days are saying about the bread and wine that we use in Holy Communion. In general, two doctrines are used when explaining the bread and wine of Holy Communion. One is transubstantiation, and the other is memorialism. First, "transubstantiation" is the notion that at the very moment the priest says the eucharistic prayer over the bread and wine of Holy Communion, this bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Jesus. This is why it's called transubstantiation.

Another theological take on Holy Communion is "memorialism." This position sees the bread and wine of Holy Communion as merely symbolic memorialization of the death of Jesus Christ. It is said that Protestant churches today believe in memorialism while the Catholic Church believes in transubstantiation.

In contrast, the Bible says that the bread and wine we use

for Holy Communion refer to the baptism that Jesus received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross. Spiritually speaking, this means that Jesus gave up His flesh and blood to take upon our sins on His body. The Bible is therefore saying that those who eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood by believing in the baptism He received on His body and the shedding of His blood will receive the everlasting remission of sins and eternal life on account of this faith.

Through the baptism He received on His body, Jesus Christ shouldered the sins of this world; His body was crucified and shed His precious blood on the Cross; and He has thereby saved us now from the sins of this world and the condemnation of our sins. The Lord told us that we can receive everlasting life only if we believe in this fact. We ought to realize and believe that anyone can be saved forever through the work of the baptism that Jesus Christ received on this earth and the shedding of His blood.

We need to realize and believe here that "My flesh" in the Bible refers to the fact that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John. And "My blood" refers to the precious blood that Jesus shed when He bore the punishment of our sins by being crucified while shouldering the sins of this world. These are all speaking of the gospel Word, that Jesus shouldered the sins of the world once and for all through the baptism He received from John, shed His blood on the Cross, and has thereby saved every sinner from all sins once and for all.

The Lord said in John 6:58, "This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." Where Jesus said here that He is the bread that came down from heaven, this means that Jesus Christ, who came to this earth incarnated in the flesh of man, shouldered all the sins of the world through the

baptism He received from John. And it means that He was punished for our sins once and forever with the crucifixion of His body and the shedding of His blood. In short, Jesus Christ is telling us to be saved by believing in the sacrifice He made by accepting our sins on His body through His baptism and giving up His body on the Cross.

This all came about according to Psalms 110:4, where God said, "The Lord has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." It was the fulfillment of this Word. Born on this earth, Jesus took away the sins of the entire human race once and for all through His baptism, offered His body to be crucified as our propitiation, and has thereby saved us from our sins as our everlasting Priest.

Referring to His Son, God the Father swore in the Bible, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." To become our everlasting Priest incarnated in the flesh of man according to this Word, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, and shed His precious blood on the Cross. And He has forever saved all those who now believe in His work from their sins. This Word is the new covenant that God established to save us from the sins of the world and make us His people. In other words, God has fulfilled the Word of the new covenant that He spoke of in Jeremiah 31:31.

In Psalms 110:4, God was saying, "I will raise My Son as your everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, and I will save you by making Him shoulder your sins once and for all through His baptism, shed His blood on the Cross, and sacrifice Himself as your propitiation." According to the will of God the Father, Jesus came to this world incarnated in the flesh of man, took upon the sins of this world on His body through the baptism He received from John, sacrificed Himself as our propitiation by being crucified, and has thereby delivered His

believers from their sins. All this Word is telling us that whoever believes in the work of Jesus will reach salvation from his sins.

## What Is the Truth of Salvation That the Apostle Paul Speaks of in Romans?

Romans 3:25-26 say, "Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." The Truth that all of us must know is this: long before we were even born in this world, we were all destined to be born as sinners because of our ancestors, Adam and Eve. All human beings born in this world had no choice but to inherit their ancestors' sins and live in their sinful state. Sin therefore came between human beings and God, and as result, they could not commune with Him no matter how much they yearned for it.

However, to save us, the sinners, from the sins of this world, the Father of Jesus Christ, the Creator of mankind, sent His Son as our Savior and made Him shoulder all our sins by being baptized in the Jordan River. Taking His Son as the sacrificial offering for all of us to be punished for our sins in our place, God the Father let the Son be crucified and thereby become the everlasting Savior of those who now believe in Him.

God the Father made His Son, Jesus Christ, offer Himself as the propitiation for our sins once and for all by being baptized by John. This was the first step in the work of salvation that God the Father planned out of His love for us to take away our sins and wash them away. By sending His Son, Jesus, to this earth,

making Him receive baptism from John, and letting His body be crucified, God the Father has made His Son the everlasting Savior of those of us who now believe. The Apostle Paul is bearing witness of this amazing Truth of salvation to us now.

## Has Jesus Saved Us through the Work of the Cross Alone?

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 3:25, "Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed." From this passage, and based on the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has spoken to us, we need to think long and hard about whether God the Father has saved us from the sins of the world just through His Son's sacrificial blood.

The Apostle Paul is speaking about how Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself as mankind's propitiation. Although he is speaking of "His blood" in Romans 3:23 while omitting the baptism that Jesus received from John, this is preconditioned on the fact that Jesus took away the sins of mankind through the baptism He received from John. Paul is saying that it is because of the prior step of shouldering the sins of mankind through His baptism that Jesus shed His precious blood on the Cross to be our propitiation. When the Apostle Paul speaks of the sacrificial blood of Jesus and how He has become our propitiation, his premise is that Jesus, the Son of God, shouldered the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism He received from John. We need to be cognizant of this fact.

What we must grasp here is that even before the foundation of the world, God the Father prepared and raised His Son to be the Savior who would solve away our sins, and according to this plan, He made His Son our propitiation. As prophesied in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ was born on this earth from the body of a woman, took away the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John, shed His sacrificial blood to death on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby become our everlasting Savior for those of us who now believe.

God the Father planned the salvation of mankind before the foundation of the world, saying, "I will endow My Son with everlasting priesthood and save you from all the sins of the world once and for all." Such was God's plan of salvation. For the method of saving mankind from the sins of the world, God the Father said that He prepared the plan of salvation whereby the Son would save us from our sins by making His Son shoulder the sins of this world by the baptism that He received from John and shed His precious blood on the Cross for mankind as our propitiation.

God the Father decided to make His Son, Jesus Christ, take upon the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist, let the Son be crucified and shed His blood to death, resurrect Him from the dead, and thereby make Him the true Savior for those of us who now believe. Jesus was crucified and shed His blood on the Cross because He had shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John. We must know and believe that the Lord has become the Savior of mankind by bearing the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John when He came to this world and shedding His blood on the Cross.

With the baptism He received from John, Jesus Christ has washed away our sins once and for all, and by bearing even the punishment of death for our sins on the Cross, He has become our Savior. As Jesus Christ rose from the dead and has thus made it possible for mankind to be born again from the sins of the

world, we can now be saved and born again from our sins by believing in this fact. We must believe that Jesus Christ has become our Savior once and for all by being baptized and shedding His blood as our everlasting Priest. Because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John, He was able to offer His body on the Cross as our sacrificial offering for the punishment of our sins. Therefore, it is now possible for us to reach salvation once and for all by placing our faith in the work of Jesus Christ.

Before the work of the blood that the crucified Jesus shed, there was the work of the baptism that He received from John. If you do not know this, it can only mean that your present life is still bound by your sins. This is because you cannot be washed from your sins if you believe without the knowledge that God the Father made His Son, Jesus, shoulder your sins once and for all by being baptized. You need to realize here that the consequence of faith is drastically different for those who know and believe that Jesus took upon the sins of this world by being baptized by John, and those who believe without knowing this fact.

When we believe in Jesus, it is imperative for us to realize the fact that Jesus shouldered our sins once and for all and was crucified because of the baptism He received from John. This is because there is a huge difference of faith between believing in Jesus with the understanding that His baptism and blood both constitute the same work of salvation on the one hand, and believing in Jesus without this understanding on the other hand. Indeed, whether we believe with the knowledge of the Truth that enables us to be born again of water and the Spirit, or we believe without this knowledge, makes as much difference to the consequences of faith as the difference between Heaven and hell. If you are offering prayers of repentance to wash away your sins

every time you commit them while living in this world, then you do not know the fact that Jesus shouldered the sins of mankind on His body by being baptized and carried them to the Cross. That is why I am saying that there is a huge gap between the faith of someone who knows and believes in the Word of the baptism of Jesus and someone who does not believe in this Truth. Realizing this, all of us must believe in both the baptism and blood of Jesus and be born again from all our sins.

Jesus said in John chapter 6 that He has given us His flesh and blood, and we must understand and believe in this Word in a biblically sound way. In other words, we must believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross as our salvation exactly as written in the Bible. Jesus took away your sins and mine once and for all by being baptized by John; He was punished for our sins by shedding His blood on the Cross; and we must reach true salvation by believing that this work was for our propitiation—that is, a sacrificial offering made for the remission of sins. We ought to realize here that the faith that enables us to eat the bread of true salvation is believing the baptism and blood of Jesus.

The bread and wine that Melchizedek the Priest brought out when he blessed Abram in the Old Testament refer to the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross in the New Testament. They tell us that Jesus has saved His believers by being baptized and sacrificing Himself on the Cross as the propitiation for our sins.

In the age of the Old Testament, if the sacrificial offering of the Day of Atonement was bled and killed without the High Priest's laying his hands on its head for the people of God, this sacrifice was not accepted by God. The sacrifice of the Day of Atonement was offered once a year, and to wash away the sins of the people of Israel with this sacrifice, the High Priest had to pass his people's sins to the sacrificial animal by laying his hands on its head without fail, and then draw its blood of life and sprinkle it on the mercy seat.

If the High Priest drew the blood of the sacrificial animal and offered it to God without passing his sins and the sins of the people of Israel to its head through the laying on of hands, it would render the sacrificial offering in vain and unacceptable to God. Therefore, to offer sin offerings properly, the High Priest had to pass the people's sins to the sacrificial animal by laying his hands on its head and then offer its blood. In other words, every sacrifice of the Day of Atonement required the High Priest to first pass all the Israelites' sins to the sacrificial animal by laying his hands on its head. And according to this method, God wanted Jesus to accept the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John and wash away the sins of mankind with this blood in the age of the New Testament. We are therefore able to receive the proper remission of sins by placing our faith in the baptism and blood of Jesus.

So far, I have explained the reason why Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to be baptized by John. God the Father made His Son, Jesus, shoulder the sins of this world by being baptized by John and shed His blood on the Cross, so that the Son would become the propitiation for the sins of mankind. Like this, Jesus Christ had to fulfill His duties as the everlasting Priest of the Kingdom of Heaven.

To fulfill His everlasting priesthood, Jesus Christ accepted the sins of this world on His head by being baptized by John, shed His precious blood on the Cross, and has thereby become the Savior, delivering us from the sins of this world. Having come to this earth as the High Priest of the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus Christ took away His people's sins once and for all through His baptism and the shedding of His blood, thus becoming our Savior. To offer His body to God the Father as our propitiation, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John and crucified, and with this precious blood, He has saved us, His believers, from all the sins of the world once and for all.

To those of us who believe that Jesus took upon the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized and shed His blood on the Cross, He has given the everlasting remission of sins. Therefore, all of us must be forever saved from our sins through faith, by accepting that the work of the baptism that the Lord received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross to become the sacrificial offering of the New Testament constitutes our salvation.

Mankind's salvation from sin has been fulfilled by the work of salvation that Jesus Christ completed once and for all with the baptism He received from John and the shedding of His blood. If you now realize and believe in this fact that Jesus took away the sins of mankind through the baptism He received from John and shed His precious blood on the Cross, then by this knowledge of the Truth of the everlasting remission of sins and faith in it, you will be able to be saved from all your sins once and for all. This is why Jesus said to us in John 8:32, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

In John 6:55-58, Jesus told us to "eat His flesh and drink His blood," and it is imperative for us to believe in this Word with a proper understanding of its meaning. We must grasp and believe that the baptism that Jesus received from John and His sacrificial blood on the Cross are what has now washed away our sins once and for all and paid off the wages of our sins. In short, we must realize and believe that Jesus is the true Savior who has delivered us from our sins by sacrificing Himself as our propitiation.

With our hearts, we must believe in the fact that Jesus came

to this world and was baptized to wash away our sins by offering His body to God the Father as our propitiation. We must believe that the Lord has saved us, His believers, from the sins of this world by shouldering them, being crucified to death, and rising from the dead again. It is to be saved now from the sins of this world that we believe in this gospel Word.

By believing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, forever took away our sins for us, we can receive salvation into our hearts. Jesus, the Son of God, came looking for us the sinners, shouldered our sins by being baptized by John, paid off the wages of our sins by shedding His blood on the Cross, and has saved us from our sins forever. By believing in the Truth of the baptism of Jesus and His blood, we can be saved from all the sins of this world through faith.

As we know, everything in this world has a beginning and an end. Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (Revelation 22:13). When Jesus came to this earth, He took away all sins from the beginning of this world to its end by being baptized by John, was crucified, and thereby completed His work of salvation to deliver us from all sins. It is therefore now possible for us to have the faith that washes away all sins, thanks to Jesus Christ our Savior. So that we may reach salvation, Jesus made Himself our propitiation by being baptized by John and crucified, and by rising from the dead again, He has become our Savior giving us, His believers, the everlasting remission of sins.

By understanding and believing in the work of Jesus Christ who came to this world 2,000 years ago, we can now receive the remission of sins. We can be saved by believing in the sacrifice of Jesus, who shouldered our sins once and for all by being baptized by John at the age of 30 and sacrificed Himself on the Cross for our sins. And by believing in this work of the Lord, we can know that He has blotted out all our sins. We are saved by

believing that Jesus has fulfilled His work of salvation to deliver us from the sins of this world once and for all with the baptism He received from John and the sacrifice He made by shedding His blood.

We must know and believe in the work that Jesus carried out when He came to this earth. We are saved by believing that Jesus, our Savior, accepted all sins from the beginning of this world to its end by being baptized by John, was crucified in our place, and has thereby saved from all sins those of us who now believe. Salvation is reached by believing that the Lord shouldered our sins and made Himself the propitiation for our sins. The Lord has saved His believers by bearing our sins and their punishment once and for all with His baptism and the price He paid with His death. As the Savior of the believers, He has completed the work of salvation fully. Jesus Christ has saved us, the sinners, from the sins of the world, and He has reconciled us to God the Father.

In the Bible, atonement is made when those who became God's enemies offer the sacrifice that He prepared for them and restore their relationship with Him through this sacrifice. By being baptized by John to take away our sins and shedding His blood on the Cross, the Son of God has broken down the wall of sin that had blocked us from God. This means when Jesus came to this world, He restored our troubled relationship with God. By believing in this gospel Word of salvation, we have been reconciled with God the Father and we can commune with Him.

Having been baptized by John, Jesus paid off the wages of our sins once and for all with the blood He shed on the Cross. We are now able to be saved from all our sins and condemnation by believing in the Truth that has blotted out our sins. By believing in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we can have the faith that saves us from all our sins and condemnation

now. The Lord came to this earth only once, and He has saved us once and for all with His baptism and His blood on the Cross. Jesus took upon our sins through the baptism He received from John. And with the sacrificial blood He shed on the Cross, He was condemned for all our sins, and He has thereby saved us once and for all from our sins and condemnation. It is by believing in the fact that Jesus has become our propitiation that we are saved from all our sins once and for all.

When we think about this based on the point when we were saved from our sins, this means that the Lord at once took upon even the sins that we would commit in this world in the future through the baptism He received from John and washed them away by being crucified. Because we are weak in our flesh, we cannot help but sin every day before God while living in this world. However, Jesus our Savior shouldered our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John and shed His blood on the Cross. Through the work of Jesus, we are now able to reach salvation from all our sins and their condemnation by faith.

In other words, since Jesus has solved away our sins now by being baptized by John and shedding His blood on the Cross in the age of the New Testament, we can be saved from all sins by faith. We ought to be saved from all sins by believing in the Lord who has become our propitiation for us, and we ought to praise our God for this.

## What Have We Gained from the Lord's Baptism and the Shedding of His Blood?

The Apostle Paul said, "In His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed" (Romans 3:25). Here in the phrase, "passed over the sins that were previously committed," the expression "to pass over" means "to disregard." In this passage, God is saying to us, "Through My baptism, I took away and blotted out all your sins once and for all, from your past sins to your present sins and even your future sins."

The Lord is saying to us, "I took away not only your sins but also your descendants' sins once and for all through the baptism I received from John. I shed My blood and died on the Cross for your sins, and through My sacrificial death and resurrection, I have given you the everlasting remission of sins."

Romans 3:26 says, "To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." God the Father is saying that if we believe, we will be saved from our sins, for His Son, Jesus Christ, came to this earth, was baptized by John to blot out all the sins of mankind, was crucified, rose from the dead again, and has thereby given the everlasting remission of sins to those who now believe. God the Father raised His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the everlasting Priest of mankind.

God the Father made His Son fulfill the salvation of mankind through His baptism and His blood on the Cross. For us living in this world now, Jesus Christ shouldered all our sins and was condemned for them with the baptism He received from John and His sacrificial blood on the Cross, and He has thus given us, His believers, the remission of sins. God the Father has addressed the condemnation of all the sins of mankind with the

baptism that His Son, Jesus Christ, received on this earth and His blood on the Cross. That is why God said, "*To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness*."

Even if Jesus shouldered just the sins that we have committed until now by being baptized by John and sacrificed Himself for these sins by being crucified, we would be utterly grateful. However, God the Father is telling us that Jesus, through the baptism He received from John and His blood, shouldered all at once not only the sins that we have committed until now while living on this earth but also the sins that we will commit in the future, and that He has blotted them all out once and for all. How wonderful and amazing is this salvation? We ought to believe with thanksgiving.

We must know the Truth of salvation that Jesus our Lord took upon our past, present, and future sins and solved them away through His baptism and blood, and we must believe in this with our hearts. We ought to be grateful for the work of salvation that God the Father has fulfilled in Jesus Christ through His baptism and the shedding of His blood. That is why our Lord is saying, "That He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

The Apostle Paul was a man of impeccable logic and intellect. When he preached the Word of God, he did not preach it in vague, nebulous terms. Romans 3:25 says, "To demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed." This passage shows us just how great and eternal the salvation is. Yet, when people read this passage, many of them still believe in just the fact that Jesus was crucified. If there are such people among us, they must realize now that the Lord shouldered their sins through the baptism He received from John and was crucified, and they must believe in this as their salvation, or otherwise they will

render in vain the baptism that Jesus received and the blood He shed on the Cross for them.

Many Christians today are trying to receive the remission of sins into their hearts by believing in the crucified Jesus alone. This is why their sins remain in their hearts constantly. Even though they believe in Jesus unwaveringly, they are still living in this world as sinners. I feel so sorry for them. So, let us all answer God's love now by placing our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John and the sacrifice He offered with His blood on the Cross, and let us receive the washing of sins through this faith.

Some people say that even though they believe in Jesus as their Savior, their hearts are always sinful. Such people believe that by believing in the sacrificial blood of Jesus, they have been remitted from the sins they had committed before believing in Jesus, and that they are washed from their future sins by offering prayers of repentance. They say that they will eventually be sanctified and perfected before dying and then receive the Lord. They believe that since they believe in Jesus as their Savior, the Lord will just look over the sins they are now committing.

These misguided Christians say that even though their sins remain in their hearts, they will not be condemned for these sins and the Lord will just skirt over them. They think that because they believe in Jesus as their Savior, the sins they commit from then on would not be condemned and instead be looked over by Jesus. And they say that the sins they commit after believing in Jesus are washed away by offering prayers of repentance whenever they commit them.

Is Jesus really such a God who would look over sinners and just pretend that they have no sin? Look into your own conscience! Just as you cannot skirt over your sins, Jesus cannot pretend not to see your sins. Yet, many Christians believe that

because they believe in the crucified Jesus as their Savior, they have already been saved from the sins they have committed from the day they were born in this world until now, and that they can be remitted from all their future sins once they are sanctified later.

However, the written Scripture says that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John, shed His blood on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved His believers from all sins. Those who believe otherwise are ignoring the fact that Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself as their propitiation for the sins of the world by being baptized by John. These people believe in the religious doctrines of their own making.

In Isaiah 1:18 in the Old Testament, God said that He would wash away our sins "as white as snow." In the New Testament, God is telling us that His Son, Jesus Christ, has saved us, His believers, from the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John, shedding His sacrificial blood on the Cross for our sins, and rising from the dead again. To those of us who believe in the baptism of Jesus Christ and the shedding His blood, the Lord is saying that He has blessed us to be born again from all the sins of the world and given us true salvation. God the Father is telling us that His Son, Jesus, has fulfilled salvation by being baptized by John and shedding His blood on the Cross, and that He has saved those who believe in this salvation from the sins of the world.

From both testaments of the Bible, we must realize and believe that the Lord has blotted out all the sins of mankind once and for all with the baptism He received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross. Yet, worldly theology teaches that people are saved from their sins when they believe in the blood of Jesus, that they are being saved continuously, and that they will be

saved from their future sins also. Its adherents separate their sins into the sins of the past, present, and future. However, in the Bible, God speaks of the sins of mankind singularly as the sins of the world. And God is saying that Jesus shouldered all those sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John and completed our salvation on the Cross, transcending both time and space.

Therefore, those who try to be remitted from their sins by learning mankind's theological and philosophical thoughts remain sinners despite believing in Jesus, for they do not know the Word of Truth that the Lord has saved us from the sins of the world through the baptism that Jesus received from John and the sacrifice He made on the Cross. As God's creation, the human brain is limited in its faculty, and therefore without the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, no one can interpret the Word of God successfully no matter how hard he tries. The Lord is saying that if you try to understand the Word of God and believe in it according to your own thoughts while ignoring the written gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, you will fall into such a grave error before God that you will not be able to escape from darkness.

The Lord has saved us from the sins of the world through the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross, and by believing in this work of salvation, we have been saved from all our sins thanks to the grace of God. We have now come to understand from the written Word of God what the gospel of the remission of sins is. I give all thanks to God for giving us this Word of salvation. When we turn to the Word of the Old Testament, we can see God telling us through the sacrificial system that Jesus Christ, His Son, would come to this earth and save us from the sins of the world once and for all.

As we have done so to this day, we will continue to testify

to everyone what the sins of mankind are, and what the Word of salvation that can bring the washing of these sins is. We will testify that all human beings can be born again by placing their faith in the baptism that our Lord received from John and His blood on the Cross. Because we have been born again from our sins, when we look at those who listen to the Word of salvation preached by us, we can see them transformed as they receive true salvation. While preaching the Word of the water and the Spirit, we have seen the faces of those who hear and believe in this gospel light up like the sun. And such people have come to us looking for our help for living out their faith.

These new believers have reached out to us to seek our counsel, asking us how they should address the problems they are facing after receiving the remission of sins by believing in the Word of salvation. So, we have counseled them on faith, and in the process, we have turned into gospel witnesses preaching the baptism and blood of the Lord. Before I began my ministry, my original plan was to serve the gospel as a layman with the money I made. However, God did not allow me to pursue two different goals. That is why I am now standing before you today as someone who preaches the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit.

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 3:27-28, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." God the Father vowed and promised us that He would raise up His Son to be the everlasting Priest of this earth according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest (Psalms 110:4). When the time came, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth, was baptized by John the Baptist, died on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us, His believers, from the sins of this

world; and as a result, we have come to be born again from our sins through our faith in the Truth of salvation.

On account of our faith in the Lord's work of salvation, we have been reconciled with God the Father, and we have come to live as friends of Jesus Christ our Savior. We are the witnesses of the gospel preaching the righteousness of Jesus Christ throughout the whole world. We are living an evangelical life, carrying out the gospel work of salvation that He has entrusted to us. Jesus Christ calls us His friends because He has made His will known to us, and He has made us carry out the will of God. This, of course, does not mean that we have become equal to Him. So, knowing this, I hope and pray that we would all submit to the will of Jesus Christ our God and live as His faithful witnesses in this world.

The Lord treats us as His close friends. It is because He has broken down the wall of sin that had blocked us from God. Thanks to the baptism that He received from John and His blood, the wall of sin that had stood between God and us has been removed. We are now able to love our God through our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood. We are therefore able to live in communion with God our Savior.

Our God answers us whenever we call His name and pray to Him. He is the Savior who has delivered us from our sins once and for all. God has blotted out our sins justly, and by believing in His sacrifice, we have been saved from our sins. God is rejoiced to work with those who have the born-again faith.

### All Our Boasting Is in Jesus Christ

The Apostle Paul said, "Do we have anything to boast of ourselves because we have received the remission of sins into our hearts? No, there is none." Here Paul is saying that our salvation is found in the baptism that Jesus Christ received and the blood He shed on the Cross. He is telling us that we have now become sinless and righteous only because of the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John and the sacrificial blood He shed on the Cross. All of us, therefore, can boast of only the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

We praise the Triune God who has saved us. We have been remitted from our sins by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John and His sacrificial blood, and it is with this faith that we praise Him for His grace. The hymns we sing at the hour of worship praise God's righteousness that we have come to have in our hearts by faith. You and I praise God our Savior to express the joy of salvation that is in our hearts with our hymns.

We are of those who have received eternal blessings from God, boasting of Him who has saved us from all the sins of the world. We can express our faith by commending and praising God. We praise the righteousness of the Lord because we believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us from our sins by being baptized by John, dying on the Cross, and rising from the dead again. We are now able to praise Jesus for His mercy and love, for we believe in His work that has saved us.

The Apostle Paul told us that in our flesh we have nothing to boast of now. He also told us that we are to thank God for the salvation He has given us and live in joy. If there is an opportunity for us to boast of the Lord's work by faith, it is when we preach the gospel of salvation that our Lord has given us.

That is why the Apostle Paul said, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God" (Ephesians 1:1).

We should not forget our old selves when we were sinners. We have been washed from our sins and become righteous by faith all because we believe that the Lord shouldered our sins and was condemned for them through the baptism He received from John and the sacrificial blood He shed on the Cross. It is through our faith that we have been made righteous, for we believe that the Son of God who sacrificed Himself as our propitiation is our Savior. So, we can't help but testify that we have become God's workers thanks to His mercy.

The reason why we were able to realize and understand the Truth of the salvation of the water and the Spirit like this is because of the Word of revelation, in which God the Father manifested Himself as the Savior through the baptism that His Son received and the shedding of His blood. It is through our faith in the Lord's Word of salvation that we have come to receive the remission of sins into our hearts. We have been saved from all our sins by faith, thanks entirely to the gift of the remission of sins that God has given us.

That is why the Apostle Paul said that we have nothing to boast of in our flesh, for we have been saved by believing in the righteousness of God. It is not because of our own merits that we have reached salvation, but it is because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has delivered us from the sin of the world through the baptism He received from John and the price He paid with the sacrificial blood He shed on the Cross.

It is written in Romans 3:29-31, "Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the

*contrary, we establish the law.*" The Apostle Paul said here that God is not the God of the Jews only, but the God of the Gentiles also.

To save the human race, whom God the Father created, from all sins, He raised up His Son, Jesus Christ, as the everlasting Priest and made Him carry out the work of salvation to deliver us the sinners. And today, God wants this Truth of salvation to be testified to people all over the world, so that they may be saved from their sins by believing wholeheartedly in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood. The Jewish people could be saved by believing in Jesus as their Savior. Does this then mean that the Gentiles are excluded? No, the Gentiles can also be washed from all their hearts' sins once and for all by placing their faith in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John the Baptist and the sacrifice He made with His blood.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist to shoulder your sins and mine once and for all, died on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby given us, His believers, the everlasting remission of sins once and for all. It is therefore now possible for us to be at once saved from all our sins by realizing and believing in the righteousness of God. Accordingly, we are now able to show our gratitude to our God by placing our faith in His righteousness alone.

Does this then mean that we can void the Word of the Law of God? No, of course not! God is the God of the Word. We must therefore believe in the Word of our God and follow it even more faithfully. Since the Word of God is God Himself, we must fear this Word, praise His grace, and worship Him in our lives. This is because the Word of God is God Himself.

# There Are Some Christians Today Who Seek to Void the Word of the Law of God

There are many so-called "evangelicals" throughout the whole world nowadays. These people believe that the crucified Jesus alone has saved them from the sins of this world. They believe that the moment they believe in Jesus' blood of sacrifice on the Cross, they are freed from all their sins. Among those who hold this faith, there are some people who say that the Word of the Law of God is no longer necessary now that they have been saved from the sins of the world. They say that since Jesus has saved them from the sins of the world by bearing the curses of the Law on the Cross, the Word of the Law is no longer needed. While what they are saying does mean that human beings have been delivered from the curses of the Law, it is utterly mistaken to claim that the Word of the Law of God is no longer necessary.

The Word of God is God Himself to us. Even though some Christians say that they have been saved from their sins once and for all thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross, by no means does this vacate their need for the God of the Word. Such thoughts and beliefs are completely untenable. After all, just because we have been saved from our sins and are no longer our old sinful selves, this does not mean that we can once again drift away from Jesus Christ. This is akin to saying that since we are living in our own country as its citizens, the laws of the land are not needed and can be ignored.

Those who claim that the Word of the Law of God is not needed are just using His Word to pursue their own fleshly interests. They must admit their mistaken thoughts before God and turn around. It is an absolute must for us to wholeheartedly recognize every Word of God written in the Bible, believe in it, and follow it. Isn't this the case? While it is true that the Lord

has saved us from the curses of the Law, if we were to try to abolish the Word of God that points out our sins, we would surely have to be cursed just as it is written in His Word.

The Bible says, "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19).

God has revealed His justness with the Word of the Law, and to give salvation to the human race through His Word, He put on the flesh of man and became our Savior. It is with the Word of the Law that God speaks to human beings, His creatures, about their sins. And it is with the written Word that God has led sinners to be saved by believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus.

When we believe in Jesus, we must believe in the Word of His baptism and His blood on the Cross. If you believe in only Jesus' sacrificial blood on the Cross without believing in the baptism that He received from John, then you are standing against the Word of God. We must accept every Word of God into our hearts. We should not forget that we will otherwise fall into fallacy from misunderstanding God's Word and end up leading not only our own souls but also other souls to ruin.

Today, there are Christians who, even while professing to have been saved from their sins by believing in Jesus, claim that they no longer need to admit their sins based on the law of God because they have been remitted from the sins they commit while living in this world. Why do they make such a claim? It is because they think their sins have all ended. However, their understanding of the salvation that Jesus has given is completely

wrong.

The Apostle Paul said, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Paul said this because we all sin while living in this world, but we can realize such sins through the Law, and whenever we do so, the Word that Jesus Christ took away our sins through His baptism exercises its power to cleanse our hearts.

Like this, the Word of the Law of God is as effective as the Word of the baptism of Jesus, and it teaches what is right and wrong for our acts. Therefore, the Word of the God-given Law and the Word of salvation are both indispensable to all of us. Every Word of God is even more indispensable to the born-again. That is because God's Word is the guiding light that illuminates our path as we carry on with our lives in this world, helping us recognize darkness, and at the same time shining for us with the light of salvation. The Apostle Paul said this because every Word that God has spoken to us all is God Himself. The Word of God makes us realize that we are sinners before Him, and once we are born again by believing in the righteousness of God, it always illuminates our path ahead.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth over 2,000 years ago, was baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood and died on the Cross as the propitiation for our sins, rose from the dead again, and has thereby blotted out all the sins of His believers once and for all. Therefore, for those of us who have now been saved, the Word of God is the true Word of everlasting salvation. That is why God's Word is so indispensable to us.

Although, in our hearts, we have the Word that has saved us from our sins, we must live by believing in every Word of God. Even though we have been saved from our sins by believing in the righteousness of God, it is all the more important for us to always have His Word in our hearts and be led by Him, for it is through this Word that we have been saved. Every Word of God is forever alive for us, and accordingly, it is now reigning over all our hearts, thoughts, and souls. We must therefore live by faith, recognizing that God is the God of the Word. Believing in the written Word of God as our God, we must follow Him by this faith.

It is written, "On the contrary, we establish the law." The Word of the Law of God is His living commandment for us. Even though we have been saved from all our sins, God is not pleased if we do not admit the sins we commit before Him. This is because the hearts of the born-again are dwelt by the Holy Spirit along with the Word of God. God is saying to us, "You have been saved from the sins of the world. So how can you say that you no longer need My Word? This is akin to saying that you do not need Me anymore."

We have been saved from all the sins of the world through our faith in the Word of God. If, despite this, we were to live just for our flesh rather than following God's Word by faith, then we would be turning ourselves into evildoers before Him. Just as God told us to love Him and our neighbors as we love ourselves, we must live accordingly by faith. If we really believe that the Lord has saved us from our sins by being baptized by John and sacrificing Himself on the Cross as our propitiation, then we ought to live by placing our faith in His Word alone. None other than this is God's guidance that leads us to the Word.

We must never forsake the Word of God intentionally. If you were to forsake God's Word, you would be forsaking the very God who has saved you from the sins of the world. Through His written Word, God has made us realize our sins, led us, the sinners, to Jesus Christ, and blessed us to receive, through faith, the grace of salvation that has delivered us from the sins of the world once and for all. So let us thank God for His Word of

salvation that has enabled us to realize that His Son, Jesus Christ, shouldered our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and was condemned for our sins by being crucified as our propitiation.

By believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood, we have now been saved from all our sins. We are the believers whose faith is placed in the Word that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has become our everlasting Priest. Thanks to the true Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and the blood He shed, we have reached salvation from all our sins. And God has turned such people like us into witnesses preaching His righteousness. We have come to love our God, for we believe in His Word, and it is with the Word that God has saved human beings from the sins of the world and loves them. The Word of God has saved us from our sins, and it is also with the Word that God has given salvation into our hearts and blessed us to bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Obeying the Word of God by faith, we are now preaching the Truth of salvation throughout the whole world.

If anyone does not believe in the God-given Word and voids it instead, this person will make himself God's enemy. Every Word that God has given us is indispensable to all human beings. Regardless of whether one has been saved from his sins or not, everyone needs the Word of God. Just as God is alive now, all His Word is also forever alive for mankind.

To bear on His own body the sins of those who broke the God-commanded Law and their punishment, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John and shed His blood on the Cross. He has thereby saved mankind, making it possible for whoever believes in this Word of God to reach salvation.

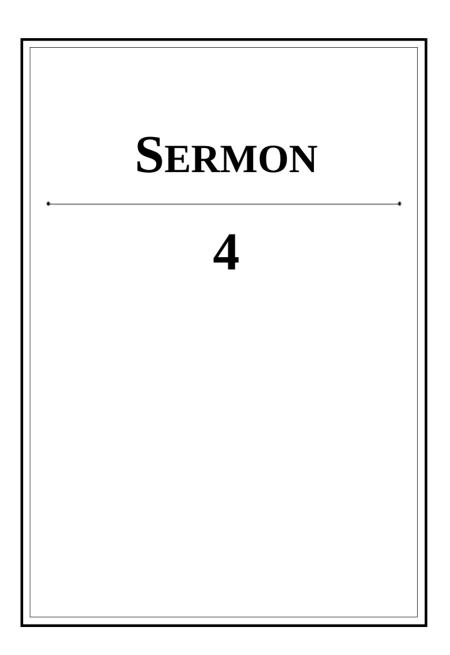
As God's children, we now have the duty to live a life that is worthy of being His people. We are living by trusting in the

Word of God, for we have been saved from all our sins by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received and His blood, and our existence is to please God. We must live a life that brings joy to God through our faith in His Word.

We have been saved from all our sins by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His blood on the Cross. When we look at how our hearts' sins have all been blotted out, we can see how sure the Word of salvation that we have found is. The more we hear the gospel of salvation from the Word of God, the more assured we are of our salvation. Jesus is God Himself, coequal to God the Father. The Son of God came to this earth as our everlasting Priest, was baptized by John and crucified, and sacrificed Himself as our eternal propitiation to save us from the sins of the world. We can only thank Him, for salvation is reached by faith alone. We must find in this gospel Word of salvation the confidence to be certain of our salvation. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has now saved us from the sins of the world once and for all by being baptized and sacrificing Himself on the Cross.

The Word of God makes it known to us that His Son, Jesus Christ, is the Savior who has delivered us from our sins through the baptism He received from John and the sacrifice He made on the Cross. We have received such wonderful salvation by believing in the Word of our Lord God who has saved us from our sins. So I give all my thanks to God. Hallelujah! The Word of God has given us the grace of salvation. We believe in this Word of God, and with our faith we praise and thank Jesus Christ, God His Father, and the Holy Spirit who is guiding us. Hallelujah!





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# Salvation Fulfilled According to God's Will

#### < Matthew 11:25-30 >

"At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.""

#### To Whom Does God Reveal His Salvation?

Let us begin by carefully considering Matthew 11:25-26 first from today's Scripture reading: "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.'" The will of God our Father was revealed as the following: He hides the true Word of salvation from the wise and prudent in this world, and reveals it to those who are like little children. Put differently, when Jesus

reveals His Truth of salvation on this earth, He is rejoiced to reveal the gospel Word of salvation that enables one to be born again to those who are like children, while He hides it from those with hardened hearts who consider themselves to be wise and prudent.

This is shown more clearly when we turn to Matthew 11:21, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes." Here, the Bible is saying that among those in this world who hear the Word of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, those who disobey the will of God and stand against Him by not believing that Christ is the Savior of mankind will face God's judgment.

Chorazin and Bethsaida here are some of the places where Jesus had performed many miracles. The inhabitants in these places did not believe when Jesus revealed Himself to be the Son of God through the miracles He performed on this earth. They did not believe with their hearts that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, nor did they believe in the work He carried out as the Savior.

The Lord therefore said in Matthew 11:23, "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day." A village called Capernaum is mentioned here, and this is where Jesus had performed many miracles, from curing Peter's mother-in-law from her fever to driving out evil spirits from the demonpossessed and healing the sick (Matthew 8:14-16). Even so, its inhabitants did not accept into their hearts that Jesus was the Son of God and the Savior of mankind.

Jesus said that these people would go down to Hades and take their sins with them, for they stood against the Lord by not accepting into their hearts that Jesus was the Savior of mankind.

We must be saved by accepting into our hearts the fact that Jesus is the Savior of mankind and shouldered the sins of the world by being baptized, along with His blood on the Cross. We must grasp that God the Father blesses those who accept into their hearts the work of salvation that His Son, Jesus Christ, carried out with His baptism and blood on the Cross.

It is written in Matthew 11:25-26, "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.'" From the Word that we are reading now, we need to realize that God the Father reveals the true Word of salvation that He has fulfilled through His Son to certain people but hides it from certain others. Being mindful of the fact that this Word is the will of God, we must be innocent as children before the Word of God.

Jesus Christ, our God, hides the God-given salvation from those on this earth whose hearts are not innocent, but He is pleased to reveal it to those who have an innocent heart. To those who are like little children, God has revealed the Word of the salvation that He is offering to mankind, but He has hidden it from those who consider themselves to be wise. We can only stand in awe of our Heavenly Father's plan of salvation.

When it comes to people who think themselves to be smart, God has hidden from them the Truth of salvation that His Son, Jesus Christ, shouldered the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism He received on this earth. This means God has made the way of salvation unknowable to those whose hearts are not innocent. What a marvelous and true plan of God! The salvation that God is offering is not given to anyone who challenges and stands against Him. Truly, our God is worthy to be worshiped.

God has granted the remission of sins to those who receive the baptism of Jesus Christ and His blood with a pure heart. In contrast, for those who refuse to accept the Lord's work of salvation with pure hearts, God has made it impossible to receive the remission of sins by faith. And God is waiting for them to judge their sins of disbelief.

To those who try to reach salvation from sin by relying on the Nicene Creed or new theological doctrines advocated by today's theologians, God the Father does not grant the salvation that He gives through His Son. He has hidden the Truth from such people so that they may not know that Jesus is the Savior of all mankind. This is what it means when the Bible says that God the Father has hidden the Truth of salvation and the washing of sins from those in this world who think themselves to be wise.

What kind of people, then, should we be before God? We should be like little children. We need to realize here that if we have an innocent heart like little children, we can be saved by believing that Jesus has delivered us from all sins through the baptism He received from John and His blood. Among those living on this earth, those who truly believe in the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John and His blood on the Cross are washed from their hearts' sins once and for all, and it is to these people whom God grants the salvation that they are yearning for so much.

Today, there are many highly educated Christians who are well-versed in philosophical teachings rejecting the God-given Truth of salvation and instead claiming to have been saved by believing in the creed of their own making or false doctrines. The Lord leaves such people to their own devices, letting their hearts remain sinful. They will be judged for their sins, for they believe that they have been saved from their sins by believing in man-made articles of faith or philosophical ideas.

Even though these people are Christians, they do not believe and instead reject that the Son of God shouldered the sins of this world through the Word of the baptism that He received from John and sacrificed Himself on the Cross as the propitiation for our sins. They do so because they believe in this world's false creeds or theological doctrines, and they think that the baptism that Jesus received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross, which constitute the Truth of salvation written in the Word of God, are inferior to their own thoughts and beliefs. So God sent liars to them and let these liars misguide them, so that they would not be able to know the Truth of the water and the Spirit, which is the Truth of salvation written in the Word of the Bible.

In fact, God the Father prepared His Son, Jesus Christ, as our everlasting Savior before the foundation of the world. So, having raised up His Son to be the everlasting Priest on this earth according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest in the days of the Old Testament, God the Father has saved those who believe in the work of the Son. Before the foundation of the world, God our Father made His plan of salvation to send Jesus Christ to this planet earth as our Savior. And today, God has blessed those whose hearts are innocent like little children to believe in the Truth of salvation revealed in His written Word—that is, in His Son Jesus Christ, who shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John and was condemned for our sins by being crucified.

God the Father made us born as the descendants of Adam, the forefather of mankind. However, long before we were born on this earth as Adam's descendants, God planned to raise up His Son as the everlasting Priest on this earth and make Him the Savior of the believers. We must grasp the profound providence of God the Father in raising up His Son to save mankind from

the sins of the world once and for all.

God the Father established His just sacrificial system for us, whereby the sins of mankind would be passed on to the body of His Son, Jesus Christ, for Him to be condemned for these sins. The sacrificial system of God the Father meant that Jesus would take upon the sins of mankind and blot out the believers' sins once and for all by being baptized by John. This is the Truth of salvation that the Triune God planned even before we were born in this world.

God the Father has given this Truth of salvation to those whose hearts are innocent like little children, and He has delivered them from the power of darkness and moved them to His Kingdom. For all those who believe in the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has saved mankind through the baptism that He received from John and the blood He shed on the Cross, God the Father has made them His people and blessed them to live forever in the Kingdom of the Savior God. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was raised up by God the Father to be the everlasting Priest on this earth according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest in the age of the Old Testament.

By placing our faith now in this Truth that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our Savior, we can be saved from our sins forever. God did not want human beings to be condemned by Him for their sins. On the contrary, God the Father has clothed all sinners in His merciful love so that they may be saved from all their sins by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His blood on the Cross. God has bestowed His merciful love on human beings and made it possible for them to be saved from their sins. God the Father has granted everlasting salvation to those who believe in the work of salvation that His Son carried out, for the Father wanted to save us the sinners through His merciful love and make us His

children.

Therefore, we are to live forever in the Kingdom of God by believing in the fact that His Son, Jesus Christ, was baptized by John and shed His precious blood on the Cross. We are now able to thank our God for bestowing us with His merciful love. We can reach our true salvation by believing that the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John and His sacrificial blood constitute our salvation now, according to the plan of salvation that God made for us before the foundation of the world.

# Thank God for Revealing His Salvation to Those Who Are Like Little Children

Those who have innocent hearts before God can be saved by accepting into their hearts the work of Jesus revealed in the Word of God. It is when our hearts are innocent before the Word of God that we can be saved by believing in the Truth of salvation revealed in God's Word. By believing that Jesus was baptized by John and crucified, which is the work of salvation written in the word of God, we are now able to be saved from all our sins.

This truth of salvation was accomplished in the providence of God our Father, who willed to save all sinners from the sins of the world through the baptism and blood of His Son. According to this plan to save us from the sins of the world and make us His children, God has saved us, the believers, from all sins. This Truth of salvation was planned for us by our God before the foundation of the world, and it is His true providence.

However, Christians these days do not believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us from all sins once and for all by being baptized by John and crucified as written in the Word of both testaments of the Bible, for they seek after the philosophical ideas of the world and Christian scholarship. The problem of sin therefore remains for their souls. This is because they do not believe in the work of Jesus Christ and reject it instead, which is the Word of God written in the Bible.

They must realize that they are drifting away from God because they do not believe in the Truth of salvation that He has given them. Such people are living in their sins, for they neither know nor believe in the Word of grace and salvation that the Son of God has given them to be born again of water and the Spirit. They will perish in body and spirit in the end. They must therefore step out of their own experiences, their own thoughts, and their faith in the philosophy of this world as the Truth of salvation, and they must instead believe that their salvation is found in the fact that Jesus shouldered their sins by being baptized by John the Baptist and carried them to the Cross.

People all over the world are now imbued in worldly culture and humanistic philosophical thoughts. Some ancient philosophers are revered as the greatest minds even now in the 21st century. It is because so many people today put man-made philosophical ideas above the Word of the Bible that they do not believe that Jesus, who came to this world as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest revealed in the Old Testament, is the Savior. They are on the road to perdition, for they prize and believe more in the philosophical idea and the words of lying theologians than the Word of God. That is why they are excluded from the Truth of salvation that Jesus Christ has saved mankind from all sins through the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross.

We must be saved from all our sins by placing our faith in the work of the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, the Savior who came to this world. We reach salvation only if we believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth to save us from the sins of the world, was baptized by John, shed His blood on the Cross, and has therefore delivered us from the sins of the world. It is such a tragedy that so many people today still remain unable to be saved from their sins all because they do not know the righteousness of Jesus, which is the work of salvation, nor do they believe in it with their hearts.

We need to realize here that God our Father has made the Truth of salvation unknowable to those who rely on worldly philosophy and think of themselves wise and prudent. The problem is that in their eyes, the philosophical ideas of this world are more trustworthy than the Word of God written in the Bible. That is why they are unable to grasp the true Word of salvation that God has given to all mankind.

Since these people trust and believe in the words of many philosophers and worldly religious leaders more than the Word of the Bible, they do not believe when the Bible says that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Ultimately, they are turning themselves into God's enemies. Because they think more highly of philosophical ideas and theological doctrines than the baptism of Jesus and His blood on the Cross, their sins remain intact in their hearts. The Lord will judge them for their sins, for they do not believe in His baptism and blood as their salvation that has blotted out their sins.

Now we must have a childlike heart before the Word of God, purely trusting in the Word of Jesus' baptism and blood for our salvation. We must now become God's people by believing in His written Word and receiving the remission of sins into our hearts. Even now, there still are many Christians whose hearts are not ready to accept the Word of God. Even though they read

the Word saying that Jesus has saved them from all sins through the baptism He received and His blood on the Cross, they do not believe in it, and therefore they are forever unable to be saved from their sins. That is why the Bible says, "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight." And that is why I am admonishing you to turn around and believe even now.

You must realize that knowing a lot about the philosophical and theological ideas of the world will not save you from your own sins. Anyone who wants to be saved must be willing to let their hearts hang on to and believe in what Jesus said when He told us to be born again of water and the Spirit. One ought to thus be blessed to be born again from all his sins. Christianity throughout the world has been tainted by both Catholic and Protestant theological ideas. Its adherents have founded their faith on their own theological and philosophical ideas. As a result, they have become Christian believers who remain unable to be born again from their sins.

If these Christians read the Bible and believe that the work of the baptism of Jesus and His Cross is the Word that has saved them from their sins, they, too, would be saved; however, because they believe in the words of the philosophers and theologians whom they trust in and rely on, they are living as fools. They must throw aside their own thoughts as soon as possible, return to the Word of God, and be delivered from their sins by believing in the baptism of Jesus and His blood on the Cross.

They must also believe that Jesus is God Himself, the Son of God, and the true Savior of mankind. Even though they are living their lives of faith while ignoring the Word of the baptism and blood of Jesus that enables them to be born again, I am still praying for Jesus Christ, our God, to save them from their sins also.

They must abandon their denominational creeds and theological ideas and believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord Savior, who shouldered the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John and sacrificed Himself for our sins as written in the Bible. Right now they are standing on the articles of faith that are espoused by their own denomination only. So, they must realize and believe that the work of the righteous baptism and blood of Jesus Christ written in the Word of God is the Truth of salvation. Since they believe only in the crucified Jesus, they are now rejecting the work of His baptism. Why do they not believe in the work of salvation that Jesus carried out by being baptized by John and taking away the sins of this world? It is because they believe in their own thoughts and the vain ideas that Satan is whispering to them more than they believe in God.

All of us ought to grasp and believe that the work of Elijah and the work of John the Baptist written and prophesied in both testaments of the Bible are the same work in God's sight. John the Baptist is the man who passed the sins of this world to Jesus' head once and for all by baptizing Him. John the Baptist fulfilled his role as the High Priest of this earth, while Jesus carried out His work as the High Priest of the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus is the Christ who fulfilled the work of saving mankind through the baptism He received from John, the precious blood He shed on the Cross, and His death and resurrection.

We must believe that Jesus is the Savior who shouldered the sins of mankind through the baptism He received from John and carried them to the Cross. As John the Baptist passed the sins of this world to Jesus' head once and for all by baptizing Him, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bore these sins on His body and sacrificed Himself before God the Father for our sins once and for all, thus saving us. Before God the Father, Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself as the Lamb of God and fulfilled His role as

the Savior. Therefore, through the role of John in baptizing Jesus and the role of Jesus in receiving baptism from John, we must believe in the work through which Jesus has saved us from the sins of the world.

For our sake, Jesus accepted the sins of this world through John the Baptist to be our propitiation. This means Jesus was condemned for our sins in our place by being baptized by John and crucified to death. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who has blotted out our sins for us. We must realize this Truth of salvation before God the Father and believe in the salvation that the Lord has given us with our hearts. And through this faith, we must be saved from our sins now.

We must believe that Jesus was appointed to priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek and has become our Savior. Jesus Christ came to this earth looking for us as the Savior through the body of Mary. Our Jesus wanted to take away the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, the representative of mankind. To be crucified and condemned for all our sins in our place, He wanted to make Himself our sacrificial offering for all of us. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us, the believers, by being baptized by John the Baptist, dying on the Cross, and rising from the dead again. And by believing in this Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were able receive salvation into our hearts.

### "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

Before God, we must believe that the Word of the baptism of Jesus and the Word of the blood He shed on the Cross constitute our salvation as written in the Word of God. We must believe that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John and was condemned for our sins once and for all by being crucified.

However, those who learned theological doctrines and philosophy believe that Jesus took away just part of the sins of the world, not accepting at face value the Word that says, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" This is because they believe in their own thoughts, experiences, and the words of philosophers and theologians on this earth more than the written Word of God.

If you are now relying on your own thoughts and do not believe that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist as written in the Word of God, then you will forever remain unable to pass your sins to the body of Jesus. You must realize here that if you cannot believe as written in the Word of the Bible, you cannot escape from the thought that the condemnation of sins awaits you. You cannot interpret the Bible as it is written because of your fleshly thoughts.

If you are unable to believe in the Word of God as it is written in the Bible, you will not be able to pass your sins to Jesus by faith, for you are bound to think that only the past sins you committed in this world are the sins of the world. It is wrong to think and believe that the sins of the world that the Bible speaks of refer to just past sins. If you do so, you will not be able to be saved from your sins, for you will see the Word of God trapped in your carnal thoughts, and therefore you will be unable to properly understand the work that Jesus fulfilled by being baptized by John and carrying the sins of the world.

Today, many pastors who studied theology extensively believe in God's Word according to their own thoughts. This is why such people find themselves still unable to be born again from their sins, why they are ministering in such a condition, and why they have ultimately come to minister according to their own thoughts. Some of these pastors are ministering without having read the Word of the Bible in its entirety not even once.

They think that Jesus took away only their past sins even when they read the Word of testimony in John 1:29, where John said regarding Jesus, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" As a result, they have come to misbelieve. While the Word of God writes that Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," they must think and believe that their lifelong sins are what is meant by the sin of the world. Since they think that only the sins they committed from the day they were born to the present belong to the sins of this world, they believe that Jesus took away just their past sins. They must throw away such thoughts of their own and believe that Jesus took away the sins of the world completely and forever. They are mistaken to think that Jesus took away only the sins they committed since they were born in this world to the present and the sins they inherited from their ancestors.

As they believe in the Lord as the Savior with such a misunderstanding, problems arise inevitably. That is why they think that when it comes to the sins they commit after they first believed in Jesus, they must try to wash them away by offering their own prayers of repentance. Like this, because they started off on the wrong foot when they first believed in Jesus as their Savior, they remain sinners before God at the present. After believing in Jesus, when they consider the "sins of the world," they think their past sins were remitted when they believed in the blood of Jesus, and all their future sins can and will be remitted by offering prayers of repentance whenever they sin and believing even more strongly in the Cross.

Because they believe according to their own thoughts like

this in complete contrast to the Word of the Bible, they are mistaken in their understanding of the sins of the world that Jesus took away through His baptism. They think and believe erroneously like this because they read the Word of God based on theological ideas. As they deviate from the Word of God by following their own experiences and thoughts, they end up drifting further away from Jesus, who has blotted out the sins of this world.

The Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1), and the entirety of time from the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth to the end of this universe is captured by the word "world." However, when Christians read the Bible saying, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), most of them tend to think that the world refers to just their past lives. So, they divide the "sins of this world" into past sins, present sins, and future sins.

They think only the sins they have committed until now are the sins of this world. And they think that the sins they are committing in their present lives and the future sins they have not yet committed are the sins that must be remitted away by believing in the blood of Jesus. Anyone who thinks like this cannot receive the remission of sins once and for all by faith. Since the complete remission of sins is beyond such people's reach even until death, they think they will receive the final remission of sins right before death. So, even though they believe in Jesus as the Savior, they come to believe that salvation is reached in several stages rather than once and for all by faith.

You must realize here that such people believe in Jesus only based on Christian doctrines, rather than believing that Jesus has saved them by accepting their sins once and for all through His baptism. When they read about the "sins of the world" written

in the Bible, they compartmentalize them into past sins, present sins, and future sins. All this time, you have misunderstood and misbelieved in what the Word of God says about the "sin of the world," and that is why you are still trying to receive the remission of your sins in stages by repenting. In other words, you are still holding on to your sins because you have misunderstood and misinterpreted what the Word of the Bible says about how Jesus accepted the sins of the world when He was baptized by John. Like this, when people consider how "Jesus took away the sins of the world" as the Bible says, they do not realize that our everlasting Priest shouldered and took away the sins of the world forever.

It is to save us from the sins of this world that Jesus came looking for us as our everlasting Savior. Having been born on this earth, Jesus took upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John at the age of 30, was crucified to shed His blood, rose from the dead again, and has thereby become our everlasting Priest for those of us who now believe.

The Lord wanted to save us from all the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross. Jesus came to this earth looking for us to blot out your sins and mine in the world, and therefore it is He who ministered as the everlasting Priest. Because He shouldered our sins, He was condemned for all our sins in this world by shedding His blood on the Cross, and He has saved those who believe in this work of the Lord from the sins of the world.

Therefore, it is absolutely imperative for us to have faith that Jesus has saved us through the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross. Only then can we say that we have received the Lord as our Savior by faith. Only if we grasp this can we come to have faith in the Lord as the Savior who has delivered us from the sins of this world. This is because the Word of the Bible writes that those who have faith in the baptism Jesus received from John and His blood are the ones who have been saved from their sins.

It is written, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12). We have come to be saved from the sins of the world by believing that the Lord Savior took away all our sins through the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and He shed His blood on the Cross. So we ought to thank the Lord. We can be born again of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has given to our hearts, reach salvation from all our sins, and become God's children. This is what the Bible is saying to us. From this moment on, we must have faith in the Word of salvation that our Lord has cleansed us from the sins of this world with the Word of the baptism He received from John, and we must reach salvation by this faith. We must be saved by believing that Jesus was baptized by John and shed His blood on the Cross.

### Jesus Has All Authority to Reign Over Heaven and Earth

We need to grasp the fact that the Jesus whom we believe in has all authority to reign over heaven and earth. This is written in detail in Matthew 28:18-20: "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." God the Father sent His Son to this earth, and the

Son has saved all sinners from the sins of the world and the condemnation of their sins once and for all by giving up His body to wash away our sins. That is why God the Father has given Jesus the authority to reign over heaven and earth.

To His Son also, God the Father has granted the authority in heaven and on earth. This means God the Father has clothed His Son in His glory, for the Son has delivered mankind from the sins of the world by sacrificing Himself as their propitiation. This is the glory that God the Father has given to His Son for making Him our everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek in the age of the Old Testament, and for fulfilling His duties.

God the Father has clothed His Son in His glory because Jesus has completed, through the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross, the work of the remission of sins that God has granted to mankind. Jesus wanted to save from the sins of the world those who believe in the work of salvation He fulfilled. God the Father sought to fulfill His will by making into His people those who believe in the work of the baptism that His Son received from John and the shedding of His blood. This was done so that Jesus Christ could be recognized as the same God as God the Father. God the Father entrusted the salvation of sinners to His Son and made Him fulfill it once and for all. And God the Father ensured that His Son would be glorified as the same God as Himself.

God the Father made His Son, Jesus Christ, carry out the work of salvation to deliver mankind from the sins of the world according to His will. Jesus could therefore receive all authority in heaven and on earth from God the Father. Jesus Christ was born in this world in obedience to the will of God the Father, and He has saved sinners from the sins of this world. As Jesus was baptized by John and crucified to death, we can receive the

remission of sins by realizing and believing that He is the Son of God and the Savior who has blotted out our sins.

The Lord commanded us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is why we baptize everyone who believes in Jesus as the Savior in the name of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is because the Triune God has saved us from the sins of this world once and for all. What we believe in is the Word telling us that the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross have saved us. The Lord was baptized to enable us to be born again from sin, and He has saved us from them by being crucified and bearing the punishment of our sins in our place. By believing in this Truth that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our Savior, we have been saved.

Jesus has received all authority in heaven and on earth from God the Father. This is because Jesus has completed our salvation by receiving baptism from John and bearing the punishment of sins on His body to deliver mankind from sins. To save us from all the sins of this world, Jesus was baptized by John and shed His own blood, and by rising from the dead again, He bore witness of the fact that He is the God of the believers.

It is for this reason that God the Father said in Psalms 110:1, "Sit at My right hand." God the Father has given all authority in heaven and on earth to His Son, for He wanted the Son to receive the same glory as His glory. God the Father wanted His Son to be glorified by us now as the same God. We should therefore not think that the authority of Jesus Christ and His glory are somehow lower than the glory of God the Father. We should instead give glory to Jesus, taking Him as our God just like God the Father. This is because Jesus Christ is as divine as God the Father.

When we pray to God, we lay our difficulties at His feet,

and we end our prayer by saying, "We pray in the name of Jesus Christ." We do this because Jesus Christ is our everlasting God, and He is also the Interceder of our prayer and salvation. It is because Jesus Christ is our Savior, our God, the Judge of mankind, and the King of the Kingdom of Heaven. God the Father tells us that His Son and the Holy Spirit are equally God to us. It is therefore fitting for Jesus Christ to receive the same glory from us now.

# No One Is Saved Except Those Whom the Son Wills to Reveal Him

Let us turn to Matthew 11:27 here: "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." What does it mean when the Bible says here that no one knows the Father except the one to whom Jesus Christ wills to reveal Him? It was God the Father's plan to save mankind from sin through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is only if we understand God the Father's plan of salvation in the work of Jesus Christ that we can believe in His plan and be saved from all sins. If we can grasp God the Father's plan, we can be saved through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Let's then consider here what is the will of Jesus Christ for us. The will of Jesus, our Savior, is for us to be saved from the sins of the world according to God the Father's providence and become His children. This is because it is only then that we can live together with God. For this to come about, we must be saved from our sins according to the will of God the Father, and only then is His will fulfilled.

For us to be born again from sins, we must find out what

kind of faith we need to have before God. We must be saved from all our sins before God, and this means we must have faith in the work that His Son, Jesus Christ, carried out by being baptized by John and taking away the sins of this world. Put differently, we must believe that Jesus Christ shouldered our sins through His baptism, shed His precious blood and died on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us from our sins and condemnation. Such faith is the faith that enables us to reach salvation according to His will. In short, the will of God the Father is fulfilled only if we receive the remission of sins by placing our faith in the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and His blood.

For us to know God the Father, we must grasp the work of Jesus Christ that has saved us from sins according to the will of God the Father, believe in it, and thus be saved. The Truth that brings salvation from our sins to us is the fact that Jesus Christ took upon the sins of this world by being baptized by John, was crucified while shouldering them, and has thereby become our everlasting Priest now. It is through faith in this Truth of salvation that we can be saved from all our sins. God the Father entrusted His Son with the work of saving mankind from the sins of this world. God the Father has saved the believers from their sins and death by making His Son receive baptism from John, letting Him be crucified and shed His blood while bearing the sins of sinners, and resurrecting Him from the dead once and for all. Therefore, it is now by believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood that we are saved from all our sins.

Because Jesus took upon the sins of the world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist when He came to this world, was crucified to shed His blood, and rose from the dead again, He has received all authority in heaven and on earth from God the Father. This is because God the Father wanted His Son to receive honor and worship as the same God. It is absolutely important for us to grasp this Truth and believe in it.

We have now been saved from our sins by believing with our hearts that Jesus Christ is the everlasting Savior and Priest of mankind, but this salvation was not received because of our own wisdom. That is because no one knows salvation from sin except for those to whom God the Father wills to reveal it. The word "reveal" means "to open and show," and God has revealed the meaning of His Word to those who believe in it with innocent hearts like little children, enabling them to believe with their hearts and reach salvation.

We were able to be saved because when we heard God's Word of revelation, we believed in it, realizing, "Oh! Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and crucified by shedding His blood to save us!" In other words, God opened and showed us the Truth of salvation so that we could believe in this Truth that saved us.

Everyone's memory is imperfect. Human emotions are also imperfect. Therefore, it is when people believe in their salvation according to what is written in the Word of the Bible that they can believe most accurately to reach salvation. To illustrate this with an example, any debtor who pays off his debt should keep the receipt showing that the debt has been paid off. This is because it is with this receipt that one can know for sure whether the debt has been paid off or not even after a long time has gone by. Sometimes people forget and wonder, "Did I pay off this debt? I think I did, but I'm not too sure!" Memories are fragile like this.

Even if one remembers and feels that the debt was paid off for sure, without the receipt showing this, he may have to pay it off again. When we settle our debts, we can know exactly how much we owe by looking at the receipts, as when and how much has been paid are recorded on them.

By what means, then, can we know exactly how we can be saved from all sins? When we come to understand, according to the written Word of the Bible, how the Lord has saved us through His baptism and His blood on the Cross, we can be saved from all sins through faith. We can be washed from our sins because it is written in the Word of the Bible that Jesus has saved us from our sins through the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the Word of His blood. It is by believing that Jesus is our God, and in the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed, that it is possible for us to be saved from our sins. Put differently, the Word of the Bible is the Word of God, and it is the definitive measuring rod of our salvation. That is why we say that the Word of God is the standard of faith and the measuring rod of salvation that enables us to be saved from sins. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, it is based on the Word of salvation written in the Word of God that we are delivered from our sins. This is because it is with the true Word that we can know exactly when, where, and how our salvation was completed.

When the Bible says, "No one knows the Son except the Father," it means that God the Father knows all about how His Son has become our Savior, for He sent His Son to this world, made Him receive baptism from John the Baptist, let Him be condemned and pay off the wages of our sins by being crucified and pouring out His blood, and has thereby enabled us to be saved by faith. God the Father sent His Son to be our everlasting Priest; this Son, Jesus, took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross; and therefore, whoever believes in the Lord's work is made sinless in his heart. By making His Son receive baptism to take

upon the sins of mankind and letting Him be crucified to death, God the Father has saved the believers from their sins and condemnation. So, God the Father knew all along that His Son was our Savior.

Now that God the Father has saved us from the punishment of the sins of this world by sending His Son to this earth, He has poured the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, into the hearts of those who believe in the work of Jesus. Therefore, as we are believers in Jesus' work, the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, and He is now testifying that Jesus is our Savior.

The Holy Spirit, who is God Himself, made the disciples of Jesus write the New Testament. And with the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is bearing witness in the hearts of those who believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has become our Savior now through His baptism and His blood on the Cross. The Holy Spirit, who is the Triune God, has opened the eyes of our hearts to realize the Word of salvation written in the Bible. By believing in the work of Jesus Christ, we have come to realize the profound will of God the Father. To save us from sin, God the Father raised up His Son as our everlasting Priest and made Him fulfill His duties. And the Holy Spirit has made it known to us that Jesus has saved us through His baptism and His blood on the Cross.

Through the work of salvation that Jesus, our Savior, carried out when He came to this earth, we were able to know the will of God, our Father. We have come to realize the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has washed us from our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist according to God the Father's plan of salvation. We have received salvation by believing in God the Father and the work of salvation that His Son, Jesus Christ, carried out.

Because we have been saved through faith in the gospel

Word of the water and the Spirit, we know for sure that the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit dwells in the hearts of those who have received the washing of sins, and therefore they can realize the Truth of salvation and believe in it also. So, thanks to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts, we can follow God's guidance. It is thanks to the Word and the Holy Spirit that we were able to be saved from our sins by believing in the baptism that our Lord Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist when He came to this earth and His blood on the Cross.

Jesus Christ has become the Savior of the believers by coming to this earth, being baptized by John the Baptist, being crucified, and rising from the dead again. This work of the Lord has completed our salvation according to God the Father's will for His Son, Jesus Christ. It was not done by Jesus Christ's own will, but in obedience to the will of His Father, enabling us to be saved by believing in His work of salvation. Jesus Christ took upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist according to the plan of salvation established by God the Father, gave up His body on the Cross, and has thereby saved us from sin now.

Jesus has saved us from the sins of this world, and this work was done in obedience and submission to God our Father's plan, making Him the Savior who carried out righteous work on this earth. When we realize and believe in the baptism and blood of Jesus, the breadth of our faith is widened, and we come to know and believe in our God's love even more profoundly.

#### Who Are Laboring and Heavy Laden?

Jesus said to us, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are

heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Born on this earth, all human beings are living in suffering, for they were already made sinners even though this is not what they wanted. Because of the sins they commit while living in this world, they are all carrying the burden of sin throughout their entire lifetime. This is because human beings commit countless sins while living on this earth. There is no one who does not sin while living in this world. Everyone commits sin in life.

Whether intentionally or unintentionally, we all commit many sins in our lives. So, when we see that our hearts are sinful before God, we are laden with guilt. Trying by ourselves to address the problem of the sins that are in our hearts is so hard and tiring that only someone who has experienced it knows just how hard it is. When this attempt fails, it is followed by extreme anxiety and pain, like panic disorder.

Panic disorder is one of anxiety-related disorders, where the patient suffers from extreme panic attacks for no particular reason. The fear that is provoked by our sins and the guilt we feel in our consciences is also extremely painful. Some people say that the fear of death that plagues them is so intense that they lose self-control. While the weight of this suffering may be felt differently by different people, all people struggle with it knowingly or unknowingly because there are sins in their hearts. And they try to address the problem of these sins. That is why people practice religion while living in this world, trying to escape from their sins through their religiosity. Although they try to wash away their sins through worldly religion, they still suffer despite being religious, for no religion of this world can solve away mankind's problem of sin. Their suffering continues relentlessly because of their sins.

If we want to be freed from the suffering of our sins, we must have faith in the Truth of salvation that Jesus was baptized

by John the Baptist and bore the condemnation of our sins by being crucified. This can be believed only if we understand the work of salvation through which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has blotted out our sins. We must accept that Jesus Christ's work is the Truth that has saved us from the sins of the world.

Jesus is saying to us, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus is calling us to come to Him so that we may be saved from all our sins. He has the power to solve the problem of our sins and transgressions, and He is telling us all to come to Him. We must realize that Jesus was raised up to be our everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. This is because we must believe that our eternal Savior is none other than Jesus, and we must come to His presence.

To be incarnated in the flesh of man, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born on this earth through the body of Virgin Mary. When He turned 30, He took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified to death, and rose from the dead again in three days; and as our Savior God for those of us who believe, He has blotted out all our sins and given us everlasting life.

Jesus is our eternal Savior, and He is also our everlasting Priest for us. We must therefore be saved from all sins by believing with our hearts that Jesus Christ is our Savior God, and it is such people who become God's own people. To you and me who believe, Jesus Christ is our everlasting Savior and our eternal King. This means He is God Himself for those who now believe. People do not understand fully that Jesus came as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest in the age of the Old Testament. That is why many people are suffering from their sins and remain unable to escape from this condition.

Jesus is telling us, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." People these days believe in just the crucified Jesus because they do not know that He took away their sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. However, you must realize here that if Jesus did not shoulder your sins and mine by being baptized by John, your sins would remain intact in your heart and you would not be able to be saved from them. If your sins still remain in your heart despite believing in Jesus, then you must realize that the suffering Jesus endured on the Cross is rendered completely useless to you.

That is why we must realize and believe with our hearts that Jesus took away our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. The Lord said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). To save you and me from sin, Jesus came to this earth, and to be our everlasting Priest, He was baptized by John the Baptist and crucified, thus becoming our Savior for those of us who believe. If we believe in Jesus without knowing the salvation of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the Cross, then we cannot receive true salvation into our hearts, nor can our hearts have peace.

Even if we all have the exact same Bible, only those who know and believe that Jesus is their Savior based on the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross as revealed in the Bible are saved forever from their sins. Shouldn't you and I receive God's blessings to be freed from our sins by believing in Jesus? The God-given blessings cannot be compared to any earthly blessings. Therefore, you and I must receive the everlasting remission of sins and be born again by realizing and believing in the Truth that Jesus has washed us from the sins of this world once and for

all with the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

We must live by the faith that we have received the remission of sins into our hearts by believing in the Word of baptism and the Word of the blood on the Cross. We must believe that Jesus is our everlasting Priest of salvation, for He has blotted out our sins once and forever by being baptized and shedding His blood. If we believe in the Truth of the baptism of the Lord and the shedding of His blood with our hearts, we can be freed from all our sins now and live in joy.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). By the bread of the flesh alone, no human being can live in peace even if every delicacy in this world is available for his enjoyment. People may be smiling outside, but if there is any sin in their hearts, sadness and the pain of sin follow inevitably. If, despite believing in Jesus, you still have not been remitted from all your sins in your life, then your eyes are full of sadness and your heart cannot enjoy peace, for the heart is always troubled and in pain.

Your soul will come to moan, "Oh, I will be condemned for my sins. I will be cast into hell." You will be sad like this because your soul is bound by sin, and you don't need anyone to point this fact out to you to realize it. Even if people around you respect you, your soul is engulfed in sadness. You may think that as long as you believe in Jesus, you can go to Heaven unconditionally even if you have sin in your heart, but the reality is different. That is why whatever little joy that you may find from worldly religion is only fleeting.

Therefore, we must believe in the fact that the Lord shouldered our sins through the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist, was crucified to shed His blood, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us. Those who have been remitted from their hearts' sins are rejoiced to have

received the everlasting remission of sins from God, for they are the ones who truly believe in Jesus as their Savior. That is why the Lord told us to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks for everything. We must know and believe that salvation and true everlasting life are found in the Word of the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and His sacrifice on the Cross.

## The Lord's Heart Is Gentle and Lowly

It is written in Matthew 11:29-30, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Jesus said here that He is "gentle and lowly in heart." But what should we look at to see that His heart is indeed gentle and lowly? We can see it and understand its meaning when we look at the fact that Jesus came to save mankind from sin. As we know, Jesus Christ is the eternal God, and He is the Savior of sinners.

All human beings disobeyed the Word of the commandments of God who created them and became sinners as a result. They drifted away from God and turned into sinners when they disobeyed His Word and sided with Satan. Having thus become sinners, human beings came to realize even more acutely that they need God's help in their lives. It is because of their sins that their relationship with God was undermined, and they became the subjects of judgment who must be rightly punished for their sins. However, God did not want to just judge sinners. On the contrary, God had mercy and compassion for us when we sinned and drifted away from Him.

Our God is the God of Trinity. We were made in the

likeness of the image of God. We can see that when we became estranged from Him, the very first thing our God felt was compassion for us, and He wanted to save us by bestowing us with His merciful love. This is because God the Father wanted to restore our relationship with Him by making His Son our propitiation for our sins. Because God the Father sent His Son to this earth and made Him the everlasting Priest, He made the Son shoulder our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist before being crucified. And God wanted us to realize that He gave us the love of the remission of sins and the grace of salvation.

This is why God said, "I am gentle and lowly in heart." God the Father is saying, "I made you born on this earth to save you from the sins of the world and make you My people, so that we may live together. I gave you the Law so that you may realize your sins, and that I may save you from your sins forever and make you My own people. I did not make you just to be My toy." Seeing that we are suffering over our sins, God wants us to realize that He is a compassionate God who is offering His merciful love.

Jesus Christ is saying to us now, "My heart is gentle and lowly. I lowered Myself and came to this earth as a Man like you. And to make you realize that I am your Savior, I was baptized by John the Baptist, died on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and have saved those of you who now believe from all your sins. I have therefore made it possible for you to be saved from all your sins, restore the image of God, and find rest for your hearts, all by believing in the true Word of salvation that I have given you. I am your Savior God, and you must be where you belong."

God the Father is saying, "Because I loved you, I had My Son born on this earth to give you true salvation. And I have made it known that I am your true Savior by making My Son

take away the sins of the world by being baptized by John and shedding His blood on the Cross. I want you to believe and know in your hearts that I am your Savior God. I am the God who has saved you from the sins of this world, and I want you to accept My salvation into your hearts now, so that you may become My people, I may become your God, and you may live with Me and enjoy the blessings of eternal life and peace."

Just as the Lord said, "You will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29), we have come to find peace for our hearts, for we have been saved from our sins by realizing and believing in God's love. When we receive the remission of sins into the heart, we can realize just how gentle God's heart is. That is because Jesus the Savior, our God, continues to be our Protector after we are saved from sin by faith, and He clothes us in love and true grace. It is also because He has made us into the workers of righteousness and enabled us to walk with Him in our lives of faith. From all this we can see just how gentle and lowly God's heart is. So, with our faith, let us all thank our Lord God.

#### The Lord's Burden Is Not Heavy

It is written, "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). Once we receive the remission of sins into our hearts, it is only a matter of course for us to serve God in our lives. We are living to spread God's special love and special gospel. Thanks to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has forever saved us from the sins of the world, and thanks to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are living with endless joy. We are only too happy to live with the knowledge of the will of God. We know that God poured the Spirit into our hearts for us to become His children. We are experiencing in our everyday lives that God

is giving us all the blessings that we need in body and spirit.

It is written, "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." The Lord wants to entrust us with the work of spreading the gospel. And when we serve His will by faith, the Lord says to us, "I will help you every time you ask Me. I am your Helper, and I will ensure that you are able to fulfill this work. You can carry out My work with My blessings. I will always help you, for I am right next to you." That is why the Lord said, "My burden is light." He is saying to us, "Your burden is not yours to bear alone. Your burden of spreading the gospel is borne together with Me." God is working in us now like this. This is what the Lord meant when He said, "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The Lord is giving the special blessings of Heaven to you and me, who have been saved from our sins, saying to us, "You are My children. You are My people. Call on Me, and I will answer you." This is because when we bow before the Lord and pray to Him, He will help us. The Lord is the God who helps the believers like this. He blesses our faith.

Therefore, those who serve the Lord receive far more blessings in their lives than those who do not serve Him. It is to give us heavenly blessings that the Lord has saved us from all the sins of the world. Words cannot describe just how grateful we are to God. What about you? Are you thankful to God? God is so wonderful to us that we cannot thank Him enough. As we carry on with our lives of faith, we must know what the Word of God is saying to us.

When we preach the gospel of salvation to people, those who are willing to believe in this Truth are all saved from their sins. All that we need to do is just spread the salvation that we have received by believing in the written Word of salvation. As long as we live by faith according to the will of the Father,

everything will fall into place. Our God has made this Truth of salvation known to those who are like little children. It is not because we are eloquent speakers or good teachers that we are saved from our sins. It is because we preach exactly according to the Word, proclaiming that Jesus Christ took away the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist in obedience to the will of God the Father, was crucified to death, rose from the dead again, and has now saved us, the believers, from all sins. We, too, could become God's children because we accepted into our hearts the Truth that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered all our sins through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

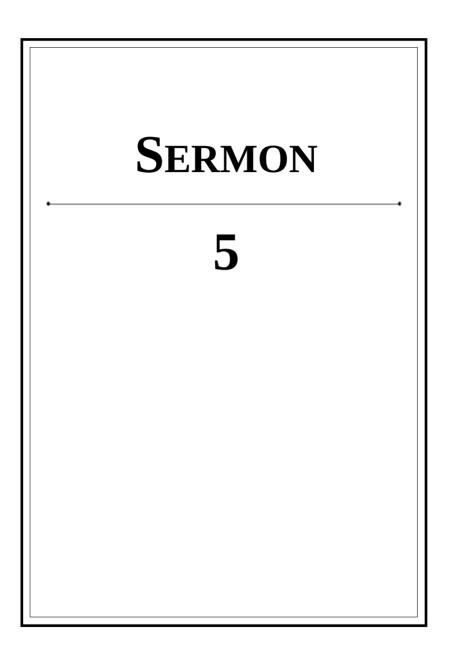
We cannot help but preach this gospel Word of salvation, for Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has commanded us to spread it throughout the whole world. Moreover, we are so grateful for our Lord's love that we are preaching this gospel of salvation by faith in obedience to our God. And we know and believe that the Lord is helping us. What a wonderful life is this? You should realize that it is none other than you, who have united your heart with our God, who are blessed by Him.

We are living with thanksgiving to our God, believing that the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed constitute our salvation. Those of us who rely on God and live by faith are living a blessed life, for the strength that God gives us is far greater than our own faculty. As we are living led by God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, every day is a happy day for us.

There are some people among us who try to follow the Lord by the strength of their flesh even after being saved from sin. The Lord is not pleased by such people. He is instead pleased by those who live by faith in His Word. Although following the Lord in our lives like this is not so easy, if we work to spread the gospel by placing our faith in God and His Word, our God will bless us.

Lastly, I thank and praise our Lord for coming as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek and blotting out your sins and mine. May God bless you until we meet again. Hallelujah! 🖂





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# Has the Lord Truly Given Us the Remission of Sins and Resurrection?

#### < John 11:1-42 >

"Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saving, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe.

Nevertheless let us go to him." Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do vou believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where

have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.""

### Today's Sermon Is on the Resurrection of Jesus

When Jesus came to this world, He took upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John in the Jordan River at the age of 30, and He has thereby blotted out our sins. And at the age of 33, He was crucified, shed His blood, and rose from the dead again, and He has thus granted the blessing of resurrection to His believers. This blessing of resurrection is written in the Bible, and people can participate in the Lord's resurrection by believing that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John and rose again from His death on the Cross.

However, even among those who believe in Jesus, there are some people who cannot believe in the Lord's resurrection, and as a result their hearts are troubled. There are some Christians who just can't bring themselves to believe that the Lord rose from the dead again. Even though such people do believe in the Lord as their Savior, they are unable to believe in His resurrection, and therefore they doubt their own faith and struggle with it. These people are incapable of having the faith of resurrection no matter how hard they try, for they have not been delivered from their sins by believing in the Lord, and therefore they do not have the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

If you are such a person, I hope and pray that you will take this opportunity to attain the faith that will address your sins. To do so, you need to pay close attention to the mystery of the baptism that the Lord received from John, and receive true salvation into your heart. Anyone who still has not been born again from his sins has even more reason to study and believe in the Word of the baptism of the Lord. Those whose faith cannot enable them to be born again are in fact found widely in today's church. The resurrection of the Lord is an incomprehensible truth if approached with human rationality and emotions. The truth that Jesus rose from the dead again can be understood only when one has faith in the Word of God.

Faith in Jesus' resurrection from death is a blessing that can be had only after one is born again from his sins. This is because the Lord's resurrection from death is beyond the realm of comprehension for human beings, who are mere creatures made by God, if they rely on their own reason.

Let's turn to John 11:1-4 here from today's Scripture reading: "Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.' When Jesus heard that, He said, 'This sickness is not unto death, but

for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

I wonder what our first reaction would be if we heard that our loved ones were gravely ill. If it were you, wouldn't you want to return to your loved ones as soon as possible to take care of them? However, the Lord said that the sickness of His beloved one was to reveal God's glory. We can see here that it was quite befitting for the Lord to say this, since He is the Savior who came to solve the problem of our sins and death.

## Our Lord Indeed Came to Solve the Problem of Our Death

Jesus knew Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, and they were all truly loved by the Lord. They understood the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John, and they were born again by believing in it with their hearts. Mary in today's Scripture reading was the woman who anointed Jesus' head with fragrant oil of spikenard and wiped His feet with her hair when He was having dinner with the disciples. Mary anointed Jesus with fragrant oil of spikenard as an act of expression showing her faith and beliefs. In those days, oil of spikenard was so costly that it would have been enough to pay for a wedding. Mary demonstrated her faith by anointing Jesus' head with a bottle of such costly fragrant oil and washing His feet with her hair.

However, Mary was heartbroken that her brother Lazarus fell ill and was dying from it. So she sent a messenger to Jesus to let Him know that His loved one was sick and dying, and asked Him to come as soon as possible. This tells us that Lazarus was someone who believed in Jesus the Savior. Hearing the news of Lazarus, Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for

the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." He said that Lazarus' sickness was to reveal the glory of God. Through the illness and death of Lazarus, whom He loved, Jesus was saying that He was the Lord of resurrection who would resurrect mankind from sin and death.

Not long after, Jesus heard the news that His beloved one was dead. He arrived at Lazarus' town along with His disciples after four days had passed since Lazarus' passing. Many people were already there, grieving with Lazarus' family and comforting them. When Jesus arrived, Martha met the Lord and said to Him while crying in grief, "If You had been here, Lazarus would not have died."

It is written: "Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world'" (John 11:23-27). We can see from the conversation between the Lord and Martha that they were speaking from different perspectives.

Whereas Jesus was saying that He Himself would raise Lazarus from death, Martha was saying that the Lord would resurrect Lazarus on the last day of this world when He returns for the second time. We can see here that we all need to believe not only that Jesus Christ has saved all sinners through the baptism He received from John and His blood on the Cross, but also that He is the God who resurrected dead Lazarus. In other words, Jesus wants us to realize and believe that He is the Lord who will not only resurrect and lift up into the air those who are asleep after being born again by believing in the remission of the

baptism of Jesus Christ and the shedding of His blood so that they may live with Him, but He is also the Lord who takes care of any and all problems that we might be facing now in the present world.

When we turn to John 11:23-27, we see Jesus trying to show Martha the fact that He is the God of resurrection. He wanted Martha to see that He was the Almighty who would bring dead Lazarus back to life, and to have the faith to give glory to God.

When someone passes away, the grief of the family is so great that the whole house is full of sadness. So, many visitors would come to the wake and try to comfort the bereaved family. Everyone is sorrowful before death, for everyone, once born, must die. As a result, while the people gathered at the wake are there to console the bereaved family, this provides them with an opportunity to think long and hard about their own death as well.

When human beings are born in this world, they are born with the sins of their ancestors inherited. Everyone is therefore made a sinner even without actually committing any sin. All human beings inherit sin when they are born in this world, and their death is also already predetermined. So they see that from the moment they were born, they have been running toward death. Like this, everyone's life is rendered meaningless before his death, and therefore everyone must be washed from his sins by believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. The baptism of Jesus and His blood are absolutely indispensable to every human life, for all human beings are doomed to die and go to hell for their sins.

To be delivered from their sins and death, all people must find some time to look toward the Lord and come to have the faith of resurrection. This is because human beings can have the faith of resurrection only after addressing their sins by placing their faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit.

## Do You Know How to Address the Problem of Your Sins and Death?

You need to think about where you can find the faith that solves away the problem of your sins and death now. If you want to have the faith of resurrection, it is indispensable for you to have the belief that Jesus shouldered your sins through the baptism He received from John, and that He was condemned for your sins in your place with the blood He shed on the Cross. You must believe with your heart that Jesus is the Savior God who has solved away the problem of your sins, death, and resurrection.

Now you must listen closely to the Word of the Almighty, placing your faith in the Lord who has taken care of mankind's problem of sin, death, and resurrection. This is because it is Jesus Christ who can address the problem of your sins and death. Even though everyone born in this world wants to live joyously and happily, the reality is far removed from this. All human beings are living tragically as slaves to death only to perish, for their hearts have the sins they inherited from their ancestors. So, if you realize that the Lord of resurrection has solved away the problem of your sins and death, then you will come to truly believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior with thanksgiving. You ought to give glory to God by realizing and believing that Jesus Christ has taken care of the problem of your sins and death.

My wish for all human beings is to get the problem of their sins and death addressed while they are still living on this earth by believing that Jesus is their Savior who took away the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John, was crucified, and rose from the dead again. We need faith in the baptism of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and His blood on the Cross precisely because no one can solve the problem of his sins, death, and resurrection by himself. Once born, all human beings are bound to grow old, fall ill, and die in the end. Even though everyone born in this world is trying to live a happy life, anyone whose heart is sinful is destined to suffer over his sins only to perish.

Ultimately, those who are living with their sins remaining intact in their hearts will be a failure in life, for there is no future for anyone who has any sin. It is inexorable for all sinners to grieve over their sins, and therefore they must find Jesus through faith, who was baptized by John, shed His blood on the Cross in our place, and rose from the dead again to save mankind from sin. This is because Heaven, where God is, can be entered only by those whose hearts are sinless. All of us were born in this world as sinners, and those of us who have not been washed from their sins yet need Jesus, the Savior, even more.

Jesus was baptized by John, shed His precious blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. We can be washed from our sins only if we believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord who took away your sins and mine once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist and solved them away by being crucified and shedding His blood. With the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood, the Lord has washed away our sins and solved away the problem of death for us, and we must believe in this Lord as our Savior. It is then that we can receive the new life of resurrection from the Lord to enjoy everlasting life.

However, those who fail to address their sins by faith through the baptism of Jesus and His blood will be imprisoned in darkness rather than living with the Lord, for their hearts remain sinful.

## The Lord Has Given Us the Remission of Sins and Resurrection as Gifts

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Who in this world can ever say that he himself is the way to Heaven? We must realize and believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of sinners who grants salvation to whoever believes in Him. There is no Savior in this world apart from Jesus Christ who can deliver sinners from sin. Since Jesus Christ alone is the Savior of mankind, it is He who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, shed His blood on the Cross, died in our place, and rose from the dead again, thereby becoming the Savior.

Do you know that Jesus Christ is your true Savior? Do you know that He is the Lord of life who gives not only salvation to His believers but also resurrection from death? And do you believe in Him? Jesus told us that He Himself is the way for us to be saved from sin. When Jesus said to us that He is the way, He was saying it to all the sinners who are now dying because of their sins. This was made possible because Jesus accepted the sins of mankind on His own body once and for all by being baptized by John. He is telling us that we must become people of faith by believing that He shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross as a sacrifice for us.

The Lord is saying to us that to believe in His work of salvation that delivers us from the sins of the world is the way to receive the remission of our sins. As God Himself who has the power to solve away mankind's problem of sin and death once and for all, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is telling us that we can now be saved by faith.

We were all born in this world as Adam's descendants. Adam and Eve, the ancestors of mankind, became sinners when they fell into Satan's temptation and sinned. Having been born in this world as the descendants of Adam, we are destined to live in sin until we go to hell, the final destination of death. As we have inherited our ancestors' sins intact, we are sinners before God, and we are doomed to live as slaves to death. That is why human beings, who are all sinners, must be saved by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus, their Savior, received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross. The human race must reach salvation by believing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism that He received from John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross according to the plan of the Triune God and His providence.

We must believe with our hearts that the Lord is our everlasting Savior, and we must thus receive true salvation by this faith. Whoever has any sin in his heart must be washed from his sins by believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, which constitute His work of salvation. Through faith, we must restore our relationship with God that had been estranged because of our ancestors. When we believe in the work of salvation that Jesus Christ carried out by being baptized and condemned for our sins, it is then that we can truly be washed from our sins before God.

It is absolutely imperative for us to believe that Jesus Christ, our Creator, shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized and shed His blood on the Cross in our place. Through Jesus' work, we must grasp and believe in what He meant when He said to us that He is the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus indeed carried out the work of His baptism and blood to save sinners from the sins of the world, and that is why He is telling us to

believe now. He is saying to us that He fulfilled the work of salvation with His own body by coming to this earth, being baptized by John the Baptist to take upon the sins of sinners, shedding His blood on the Cross in our place, and rising from the dead again, and that He has thereby saved us, the believers, once and for all.

We must believe in the work of salvation that Jesus carried out with His baptism and blood, and by this faith, we must be saved now from all the sins that are in our hearts. We must believe in the fact that we can receive salvation from all our sins now through Jesus the Savior, who was baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. Faith in this truth is the way to be saved from sin. We must have the faith that Jesus is the true Savior, the real Truth, and the Messiah who gives us true life.

When we were dying for our sins, Jesus took them away once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and shed His precious blood on the Cross, and He is the Savior who has delivered us, the believers, from sin. By being baptized by John on this earth and shedding His blood on the Cross, Jesus became the Savior who not only washed away our sins once and for all, but also was condemned for them on the Cross in our place.

That is why the Lord said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Because we were perishing for our sins, the Lord had compassion for us, and He Himself became the Savior of the believers by being baptized, shedding His blood, and rising from the dead again. Even though we were destined to die for our sins and be condemned for them, our Lord came to this earth, was baptized by John the Baptist, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead again, all to fulfill the work of salvation once and for all to bring true deliverance to us.

We must be washed from our sins by realizing and believing that the Jesus who came to this earth is the Savior who shouldered our sins through baptism. To wash away our sins and be punished for them, Jesus shed His blood and died on the Cross in our place. He has thereby become our Savior, and we are now able to reach salvation by believing in this. So we thank the Lord, placing our faith in His love and sacrificial work. We ought to thank the Lord for His work of salvation, for He has breathed new life into our souls that had been dead because of sin. Those on this earth who are sinful will be judged justly for their sins and cast into hell. However, the Lord washed away the sins of the world by being baptized in our place, and He bore the condemnation of our sins by being crucified to death. Through this process, He has saved us from the sins of the world and judgment.

From the day we humans were born in this world, we had no choice but to die for our sins. However, because Jesus, the Savior of sinners, took away all our sins by being baptized by John in the Jordan River, He was crucified, shed His precious blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again, thereby saving us, the believers. We are therefore able to be saved by believing wholeheartedly in the true Word of salvation that the Lord has given us, and so we thank our Lord with our faith. However, we need to realize here that if anyone leaves out and does not accept into his heart any of the work that the Lord carried out to save us from sin—that is, either the Word of the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist or the Word of the crucifixion by which He was condemned for our sins—then this person's faith will be rendered in vain.

Even for those who have been saved and born again from their sins by faith, in time, they will face physical death. However, such people will be resurrected from their sins and death to live forever with the Lord, for they believe in the work of our resurrected Lord. Because the Lord came to this earth, was baptized, and bore the condemnation of our sins by being crucified to carry out the work of salvation that blots out our sins, we were able to be born again from sin and become God's children by believing in His work with our hearts. The Lord will bless those of us who believe in His work to partake in the first resurrection. And He will lift us into the air to live with Him. As those who have received the remission of sins, we will be resurrected to enter and live in the Lord's Kingdom. This is God's blessing that is found in the resurrection and rapture that will unfold on the day the Lord returns to this world.

We had been dead in sin, but to save us from all sins, the Lord was baptized by John, shed His blood to death on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby given new life to those of us who now believe. The Lord is therefore our Savior God, and He is also the God who has given us new life and resurrection.

On account of our faith in the baptism that the Lord received from John and His blood, we have been saved from all our sins, and by believing in this Truth, we are able to enter the Kingdom of the Lord. Through the work of the baptism that He received from John the Baptist, the Lord accepted the sins of this world once and for all, He was crucified and shed His precious blood on the Cross, and He rose from the dead again; and by His power, He will resurrect those of us who believe in this. At the same time when we believe in the salvation of the remission of sins that the Lord has given us, we must also believe that He rose from the dead again on this earth. Because the Lord was baptized by John for us, died on the Cross in our place, and rose from the dead again for us, we believe that we will also rise from the dead again as we believe in His work.

#### Let Us Examine the Apostle Paul's Faith

It is written in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17: "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

The passage here is speaking of the resurrection and rapture that will happen when the Lord returns. In the last days of this world, believers will be martyred, and this will be followed by the Second Coming of the Lord. At that time, majestic resurrection and rapture will come to those who are asleep in their tombs after being born again by believing in the righteousness of the Lord while on this earth and those who survive the end times.

Verse 16 says, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first." There are countless people living in this world, and some of them have been saved from their sins by realizing and believing in the Truth of the baptism and blood of Jesus. When the Second Coming of the Lord arrives, these people will partake in the first resurrection and be lifted up to the Lord's Kingdom to live with Him. They have been saved from their sins by faith, for they

believe that Jesus came to this earth, took upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist at the age of 30, and went to the Cross. Since they believe in the fact that Jesus took away the sins of this world and was condemned for them by being crucified, they have reached salvation by faith. The Apostle Paul is telling us here that those in this world who have been born again by believing in Jesus will partake in the first resurrection and rapture.

What we should realize here is that martyrdom is something that those who have been saved from all their sins will face during the seven-year Great Tribulation that God spoke of. This will happen in the middle of the seven-year Great Tribulation near the end of this world. At that time, the righteous will experience bodily resurrection and rapture upon our Lord's return. For those who will be resurrected and raptured by the Lord in the end times, their faith is placed in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross as their salvation, and they are the ones who have received the remission of sins once and for all. With the trumpet sound of the Lord's Second Coming, they will be lifted up to the air and live with Him.

For you to partake in this, your heart must have faith in the baptism and blood of the Lord. For those who have been saved and born again from their sins, resurrection and rapture will come at the same time as the Lord's resurrection at the end of the seven-year Great Tribulation. And the born-again will be blessed to partake in our Lord's wedding feast in Heaven. On the last day when the Lord returns, with the sound of His trumpet, the born-again will be blessedly taken away to the Lord's Kingdom by His power of resurrection.

The Lord also speaks of those who will partake in the second resurrection, and these people will face the judgment of the white throne, for even though they believed in the Lord, they waited for Him while their hearts remained sinful. In contrast, for those who believe in the fact that the Lord took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist in this world, was crucified, and shed His precious blood, they have been born again from their sins, and therefore the Lord will resurrect them from death and at the same time lift them up to the air, granting them the blessing to live with Him forever.

Therefore, even though we were once born in this world as sinners destined to hell for our sins, those of us who believe that the Lord came to this world and has saved us from all our sins through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross will be blessed to live again with our Lord. For us who had been sinners, the Lord was baptized by John the Baptist, paid off the wages of our sins once and for all with His precious blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again; He has granted true salvation, true resurrection, and true rapture to those who believe in this; and we can't help but thank Him with our faith.

#### We Are Rejoiced to Do What Pleases God on This Earth

We are living by faith, believing that the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross when He came to this world constitute our salvation. Seeing how iniquities are deepening in this world evermore, we are compelled to pay even more attention to the Word of resurrection that our Lord spoke. We can feel in our everyday lives, "Oh! We are all seeing the day nearing us when we will see the Lord! Even though our outward selves are aging, thanks

to the salvation that the Lord has given us, not only have we been born again, but the hour is nearing when we will also be resurrected to enjoy new life."

How blessed is it that we will rise from the dead again and meet our Lord? Our hearts and souls are filled with true hope, for the Lord's resurrection will bring the blessings of true resurrection to you and me also. Because the blessings of resurrection that the Lord will give us are everlasting blessings waiting for us, we can't help but thank the Lord. And our hearts are even more filled with joy, for the day is nearing us when the blessed Word that the Lord has given us will be fulfilled. Looking at the reality that confronts us now, we are reaching a more profound understanding of the prophecies written in the Word of God.

We believe that the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross constitute our salvation, and at the same time, we are grateful to the Lord that He will resurrect our bodies from death and give us new life. However, some of you still do not believe in the Word of the baptism and blood of Jesus with your heart, which is the Word of salvation that enables you to be born again from your sins. If you pass away without believing with your heart like this, then it will not end with just physical death, and instead you will face the eternal condemnation of sin. Realizing this, you must turn around and believe. Days of everlasting suffering are awaiting sinners, for they will be condemned for their sins after death.

What a tragedy would it be if you were punished forever for your sins for failing to realize and believe with your heart that the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and His blood constitute your salvation? That is why you must be delivered from all your sins by believing in the baptism of the Lord and His blood on the Cross while you are still alive on this

earth, and be ready to receive Him when He returns.

Even now, some people are perishing while clinging to their sins by refusing to accept that the baptism that the Lord received for us and the blood He shed on the Cross constitute their salvation. As a saving goes, "Better a live coward than a dead hero," for those who have left their souls alone to be condemned for their sins, life in this world may be better for them, but they will be cast into hell in the end. Our goal, therefore, is to preach to such people that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, so that they may come to have the faith to pass their sins to Jesus' head. We have the duty to preach the gospel to them so that they can receive the remission of sins by believing with their hearts that Jesus shed His blood and died on the Cross in their place while shouldering their sins with the baptism that He received from John the Baptist. This is because no matter how wretched our lives in this world might be, what happens after we depart from the world is a far greater problem.

As such, we must accept the remission of sins into our hearts by believing in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and the shedding of His blood, and ensure that we can happily enter the Lord's Kingdom. Had Jesus not been baptized, not shed His blood to death on the Cross, and not risen from the dead again, then there would have been no resurrection for us on this earth, either. We must therefore believe that Jesus came to this earth, washed away our sins by being baptized by John, and rose from the dead again. The Lord has blessed us to be saved from the sins of the world. We should realize that just as the Lord rose from the dead again, He will resurrect us, the born-again, to enjoy everlasting life. That is why we must believe in Jesus' resurrection as our resurrection. By believing in the Word, we must receive salvation from our sins and new

life.

All of us have now been saved from all sins by believing that Jesus Christ is our Savior who offered Himself as our propitiation through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross. And just as the baptized Jesus rose from the dead again, we, too, will rise from the dead again and live forever with the Lord amid everlasting blessings.

Since we have been remitted from our sins once and for all by believing in Jesus Christ's baptism of redemption and His blood on the Cross, we are blessed to partake in the Lord's resurrection also. It is by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that we are made God's children and receive the blessings of Heaven. Moreover, we will also rise from the dead again just like the Lord and enjoy everlasting life. Those who have become the Lord's sheep by believing in the baptism that He received on this earth and His blood on the Cross are able to live with His protection, love, and blessings.

From where do the righteous' blessings come? They come from faith in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and His blood. The Lord has saved us from all the sins of this world, and it is by believing in His baptism and blood that we are saved once and for all, become God's children, and receive the boundless blessings of resurrection and eternal life from the Lord to live forever.

We are the true Christians who have been saved from all sins through our faith in the righteousness of the Lord. We are the happiest of all, for our hearts have faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross. Having received the remission of sins by believing in the righteousness of Jesus, we are to live for the gospel until the day we die, and we can endure countless difficulties by faith, for we will be resurrected to live again with our Lord.

The Lord came to this earth to bless us, the believers in His baptism and blood, to be born again and to give us life of resurrection. The Lord Himself was baptized by John the Baptist, and He rose again from His death on the Cross. Because our Lord rose from the dead again like this, those of us who believe in His work as the work of our salvation believe that we will also rise from the dead again. We are happy and rejoiced to live with the Lord on this earth, for we were able to be born again from our sins by faith. You and I will be resurrected from our bodily death and live forever with the Lord. We have faith in the salvation that Jesus Christ has given us to be born again. We believe in His resurrection, and as such believers, we are the happiest people in this world and the heavenly realm as well.

Everyone must receive the remission of sins and be born again by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the precious blood He shed on the Cross. The human body is bound to grow old, fall ill, and die. However, it is just our bodies in this world that are aging. In contrast, our hearts are always with the Lord, and thanks to our faith, we are living full of hope. The hearts of the righteous are always young. The righteous are rejoiced and grateful to live with the Lord, for they are living by believing in the Lordspoken Word. We believe that the Lord is our Savior who shouldered our sins by being baptized, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again; and therefore we are now able to live with hope for Heaven.

## The Holy Spirit Is Always with Us, the Believers, in Our Hearts

Jesus Christ is the God who has saved us from the sins of

this world, and the Holy Spirit is the God who, being always alive in our hearts, helps us, the redeemed. The Word of the baptism that the Lord received for us and the Cross that He bore is granting salvation to the hearts of those who believe in it now. Therefore, for those who have now been delivered from all their sins by faith, sadness has disappeared from their hearts and there is only everlasting peace. While living in this world, we are carrying out the Lord's work, and on account of our faith, we will go to the presence of the Lord and live forever with Him. The righteous are living in peace, and after their death, they will be resurrected by the Lord to enjoy eternal life with Him. We do not have to worry and lament about falling into hell for our sins.

It is said that when one is about to pass away, he is visited by an emissary of death. Some people even wave their arms as though they were trying to resist him, perhaps because they see a terrifying figure right before their last breath. In my ministry, I have attended the deathbed of numerous believers, and their faces looked peaceful, like they were now meeting their beloved Lord after living a truly happy life before God. These people had faith in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross. Even at death, their faces showed they were at peace, like they were asleep in the Lord's arms. Like these believers, those who are born again now and thereafter live for the Lord's gospel will also be embraced into the Lord's arms.

When we go to the presence of our Lord after living for the proclamation of the gospel on this earth, we will meet our Beloved and live happily forever. Until the last day of our lives in this world, we will do everything we can to preach the gospel of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given us. This is because we believe that after laboring diligently to spread the gospel in our lives and enjoying the peace the Lord has given us, on the day when we finish the work that the Lord has entrusted

to us, we will be embraced into His arms to live forever and enjoy everlasting blessings.

There are so many people in this world who remain unable to be washed from their sins because they still do not know the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John, so we have much to do for these people. We must preach the gospel of the water and the Spirit to them, so that they may be saved from their sins. Among these people are many Christians who, despite professing to believe in Jesus as their Savior, are being spiritually defrauded because they do not know the proper meaning of the baptism that Jesus received from John. It is our hope and prayer that like us, these people will also come to live by placing their faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has given them, and to thus receive His blessings.

The hearts and souls of the born-again are now at peace. This is because the Lord is our Savior even unto our bodily death, and He is also the Shepherd in our lives. The Lord promised us, "I will be with you until the end of this world." The Lord is with us not only in this world, but He will also be with us forever after our bodily death. We are living without any fear, for the Lord told us that we will live with Him forever in His Kingdom even after we die in our flesh. With my faith, I thank our Lord for giving us such blessed Word of regeneration.

There is so much that we need to do to spread the gospel while living on this earth. We are now living in the age of famine. The global economy is deteriorating more and more. Every nation is gripped by the fear of war. The fact that the economy is in trouble now shows us that everyday life will only get harder in many ways. Living in such an age, we still have much work that remains to be done to spread the gospel. We must therefore devote every ounce of our strength to the Lord and complete all

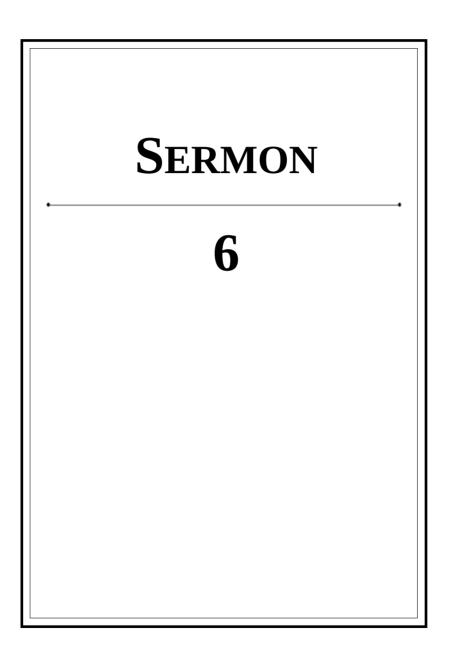
the work that He wants us to complete before going to His presence. As times become harder and harder like this, I have even more compassion for those who still have not met the Lord. The shadow of death is casting over their faces even deeper. I feel so sad whenever I see such people. That is why we are trying to preach the gospel to every soul throughout the whole world. These days there are so many church leaders in this world who are exploiting their congregation for their money and souls to pursue their own greedy desires. Even though these Christians are being exploited so much both materially and spiritually, they are the only ones who do not realize it. Unless people believe wholeheartedly in the Word of regeneration that Jesus has given them and hold steadfast to it, they are bound to be defrauded both in body and spirit.

Therefore, we must preach the gospel of the water and the Spirit throughout the whole world. To do so, we must live out our faith in our everyday lives so that the Lord's gospel may be spread. Together with our coworkers from around the world, we are now preaching the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that holds the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross. The gospel Word that we are preaching enables everyone to be born again of water and the Spirit, and I am grateful that this gospel Word is now reaching people all over the world through our paper books, e-books, and audiobooks.

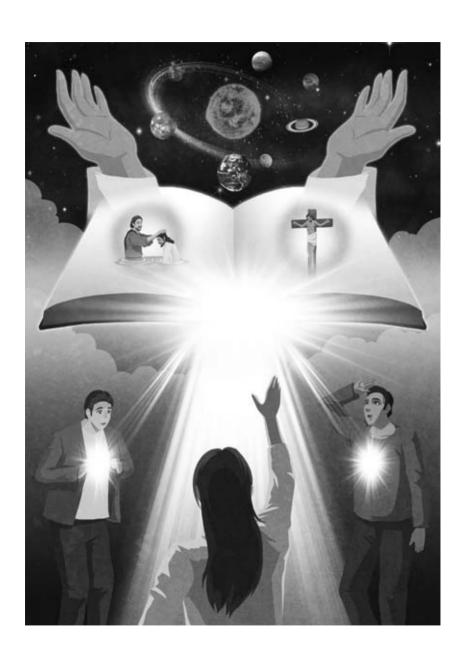
Many of the people who received and read our books have found the true gospel Word of regeneration and reached salvation from their sins by faith, and they are sending us their testimonies of salvation. Sadly, however, there still are many people who have never heard of the gospel of the water and the Spirit, not even once, through any books or other means. For the sake of such people, we need to bring the news of salvation to every corner of the world through various means, from video sermons that preach the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit to ministry newsletters and paper books. We need to work with the realization that the Triune God wants people living all over the whole world to be saved from all their sins by faith through the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that you and I are spreading.

Today in this hour, we have worshiped the Lord with thanksgiving, believing above all else that He has washed away our sins and granted us the resurrection of our bodies. Having the faith that pleases the Lord, we ought to live in obedience to the preaching of the gospel, and we ought to also live by faith, giving thanks and glory to the Lord. With my faith, I give all thanks and praises to Jesus Christ our Savior, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!





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## Receive God, Who Is the Word

< John 1:1-18 >

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me." And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only

## begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."

When we know God, who is the "Word," trust Him, and follow Him, we can realize who God really is and believe in Him unwaveringly. The Bible says, "He was in the beginning with God." This passage tells us that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all together in the beginning. It is also written, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." The pronoun "Him" here refers to Jesus Christ, who came to this world as God Himself, who is the Word. That the world was made by Him means that all things were made by Jesus Christ.

We are grateful that, thanks to the Apostle John's testimony, we can know God the "Word," and we can also believe in His work. John 1:2-3 says, "He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." From John 1:1, John is bearing witness of the work of the "Word." The Apostle John is teaching us that the "Word" alone created all things.

Through the Word testified by the Apostle John, we have come to realize that everything visible to our eyes was created by Jesus Christ, who is the "Word." Thanks to the Apostle John's witness, we have also come to believe in the Word with our hearts, and we are all grateful for this. It is even more wonderful that through the Word written in John chapter 1, we can realize that Jesus Christ is the God who made us, and we can also believe in Jesus as our Savior with our hearts. We can see now that the universe we see with our eyes was created by the "Word."

## The Word Is the Light of Life

John 1:4 says, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." From this Word, we can be grateful for the work of Jesus Christ, who came to deliver mankind, who had fallen into sin, from their sins. It is telling us that Jesus Christ has given new life to those who believe in the work of salvation that He carried out on this earth.

Let us ruminate again on the Word of John chapter 1. It is written in John 1:1-3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

We can see here that all things were made by the "Word," and that this "Word" is God Himself who created the universe and everything in it. Without the Word written in the Bible, we cannot know who made this world. Unless we were told through the Bible that the "Word" made this universe, how could we have believed that Jesus Christ, the Word, is our true Savior? It is because the Apostle John testified that God the "Word" made the universe and that, through this Word, we are now able to know and also believe in God's work. Therefore, if we want to believe in God the "Word," then we must believe in the Word through which God revealed Himself, and it is then that we can reach true salvation.

It is written, "The Word was God." When God revealed Himself through the Word of the Bible, we could realize and believe that the "Word" was God Himself. The Bible says, "The Word was with God, and the Word was God." We are grateful that God revealed Himself through the written Word, for it has been made possible for us to enter the dominion of His Word by accepting Him into our hearts.

Let us now turn to Genesis 1:3-4 in the Old Testament. Here again, we can see the work of God the Word. "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness." From this passage, we can see that the "Word" created the universe and all things in it. God said in Genesis chapter 1 also that the "Word" made everything in the universe, and He saw that it was good.

The Apostle John also testified that the "Word" was with God His Father. This "Word" is our God, for He made all things in the universe and mankind. It is because the "Word" said, "Let there be light," that light came into existence where there had been nothing but formlessness and void. From this Word, we have come to realize that Jesus came to this world as the incarnated "Word" to carry out His work of saving us from the sins of the world. And we can also see that He divided the light from the darkness in this world. This means that God our Savior, who is the Word, has divided people into those who believe in the work of the Word and those who do not.

The Bible writes that when the Word said into the formless and the void, "Let there be light," there was light. This tells us that today, sinners can be washed from all their sins once and for all by realizing Jesus Christ's work of salvation, who is the Word, and believing in it with their hearts. That is why the Word says that He divided the light from the darkness. This Word shows the work of the baptism that Jesus, who shines the light of salvation in this dark world, received from John, and those who believe in this Word have come to be delivered from their sins.

Therefore, if we want to believe in the work of the Savior with our hearts, we must do so with a clear understanding of the work of the Word, which is the basis of faith. In other words, we must be washed from all sins by believing in the work of God,

who is the "Word." Our faith must be founded on the Word. In simple terms, this means that as Jesus is the Word, the basis of our faith must be found in His work, and we must be saved by believing in this work with our hearts. Without the "Word," we cannot have any basis for our faith. That is why we must believe in our God, who is the "Word," follow Him, and obey His will.

## From What Can We Know How This Planet Earth Was Made?

On what basis can we say that God made this planet earth and the universe? We can know this by believing with our hearts, for God, who is the "Word," writes that He made them by His power. Thanks to our faith in God the Word, we can see how this universe was made. Because we have the knowledge of God the "Word" and faith in Him, we believe that He not only made the universe but has also saved us from all our sins. Thanks to the work of His baptism and the shedding of His blood, we can have the conviction of salvation by faith. If there were no written Word, it would have been impossible for us to have any confidence in our salvation.

Scientists say that the planet earth started with a single-celled lifeform like Amoeba or Paramecium. Advocating evolutionary theory, they claim that reptiles and mammals speciated from fish, some of the mammals speciated further into apes such as monkeys and chimpanzees, and in this process, primates including humans emerged, evolving into what we look like today. We can see, however, that this is fundamentally different from what the Word says, which tells us that God the Word made each species separately. If everything in this world were to evolve continuously as claimed by these scientists, then

this world would have turned into an unpredictable, chaotic world as it would keep on changing.

In the beginning, God, who is the Word, made all creatures in the universe according to their kinds (Genesis 1:1-31). We must believe with our hearts in what God the "Word" says exactly as it is. God said that He made all lifeforms on this earth according to their kinds. As argued by today's evolutionists, it is possible for God-made creatures to change depending on the environmental factors that different species face. However, such changes are limited to only minor variations on the surface, and the fundamental nature of lifeforms created by the Word remains the same. The "Word" is telling us that He made everything that we are seeing now, so what clearer evidence is there than this Word in which we believe?

In the beginning, the "Word" made two great lights: the greater light and the lesser light (Genesis 1:14-18). And He made all the stars in the heavens. It is the Word that made all this dominion of nature. And we believe as written in the Word of the Bible. Nowhere in the Bible is evolutionary theory found. We ought to therefore believe in the truth that God the "Word" created the universe for our progress of faith.

We can believe with our hearts that the "Word" made this universe and mankind because this is written in the Bible. Only the Word written in the Bible tells us about the God who created everything in the universe and mankind. We can believe in God because this beautiful universe and all things in it that we see with our eyes were made by God the "Word."

#### In Him Was Life

Turning to John 1:4-5, the Bible writes, "In Him was the light, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." It is written here that the life was in the "Word," and this life was the light of men. The "Word" became flesh to look for us and carried out the work of salvation to deliver us from the sins of the world. The Bible is saying here that the Word is none other than Jesus Christ Himself.

Because Jesus Himself took upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, He could be crucified and save His believers from their sins. This means He is the Savior who can give true salvation to the believers. We can see this from the Word in Genesis 1:1-3 also: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."

Everyone's heart was confused from the moment one was born on this earth. Like this, the human heart was always void with iniquities hidden deep inside, and that is why God the Word came looking for sinners, was baptized to take away all the sins of the entire world, and shed His blood to bear the condemnation of sins, thereby saving the believers from their sins.

The Bible says that the Triune God created all things in the universe and mankind. However, deceived by God's enemy, Adam and Eve fell into the temptation of sin and came to face death. The angels standing against God made mankind, His creature, drift away from Him. However, God the Father prophesied that He would restore mankind by sending His Son as the Savior who would save them from sin once and for all.

Jesus Christ is the true Savior who delivers all sinners on this earth from the sins of the world. By being baptized by John the Baptist to carry out this work of delivering the fallen man from all the sins of this world once and for all, Jesus could take them away once and for all, He was also crucified to shed His blood on the Cross, and through His resurrection, He could give true salvation and new life into the hearts of those who now believe.

# We Must Believe in Jesus with the Knowledge of the Ministry of John the Baptist

It is written in John 1:6-7, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe." God the Father sent the representative of mankind to this earth six months prior to sending His Son, Jesus Christ, and this man was none other than John the Baptist. Without the testimony of John the Baptist, it is impossible for us to know that the work of Jesus is the work of salvation that has delivered us from iniquities.

We know the fact that Jesus took upon the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism He received from John when He came to this earth, and this is all because John the Baptist carried out his ministry by baptizing Jesus in the form of laying his hands on the head of Jesus. No matter how gifted one may be, no human being can know on his own that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. This is because without Jesus' work of baptism written in the Word of the Bible, we cannot realize the fact that all our sins were passed onto the body of Jesus. That Jesus had to be crucified to death was also because

He had accepted our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist, and therefore it was to be punished for these sins.

When we turn to Luke chapter 1 in the New Testament, we see an angel appearing before Zacharias the Priest while he was ministering sacrificial rituals and saying to him, "Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, and you shall name him John. He will turn many people back to God" (Luke 1:8-16). We should remember that, like this, the birth of John the Baptist on this earth and Jesus' coming to this earth as the Savior of sinners are all written in the Bible.

We must realize and believe that the work of the baptism that John the Baptist, the son of Zacharias, gave to Jesus and the work of the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross are interrelated. It is very important for us to understand the reason why the Bible writes about the work of John the Baptist before speaking of the work of Jesus. The Four Gospels in the New Testament begin with the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and record His death on the Cross and His resurrection from death. They testify that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world and carried them to the Cross because He took them away once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:29; John 19:17-35).

The Four Gospels bear witness of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. This is because our sins would be passed onto the body of Jesus only if He took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. It is because Jesus could be crucified and condemned for the sins of mankind only if He received His baptism from John the Baptist. The Bible writes that Jesus went to John the Baptist when he was baptizing the people of Israel for repentance. When Jesus sought to be baptized, John objected and said, "Why are You asking to be baptized by me when I need to

be baptized by You? But Jesus said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

John the Baptist could fulfill his ministry of baptizing Jesus, the Savior of mankind, and thereby passing the sins of humanity to His head. This is all written in Matthew 3:13-17. "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:16-17). This means that Jesus took away the sins of this world when He was baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus was baptized by John to fulfill the first work that would wash away the sins of mankind. Because Jesus Christ shouldered the sins of mankind through His baptism like this, all that remained of His work of salvation was the shedding of His blood and death on the Cross, and His resurrection.

# It is Because Jesus Was Baptized by John the Baptist That He Could Save the Believers by Being Crucified and Shedding His Blood

Let us now turn to John chapter 19. Here, the Bible tells us how Jesus was crucified, shed His blood, and died on the Cross because He had taken upon the sins of this world through His baptism. When Jesus passed away on the Cross, one of the Roman soldiers at the time pierced His side deeply with a spear, to verify that He was indeed dead. The Bible writes that blood and water came out of His side then.

It is written: "Therefore, because it was the Preparation

Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe" (John 19:31-35).

It is said that when one dies, the blood and the water in the body do not mix and get separated instead. After Jesus was crucified while shouldering the sins of this world that He had taken by being baptized by John the Baptist, a Roman soldier pierced His side, and blood and water came out of His body. The Apostle John is testifying here that the precious blood and water of Jesus constitute the true testimony of the salvation of mankind, for he knew that Jesus had taken upon the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

John, a disciple of Jesus, said, "And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe" (John 19:35). When Jesus came to this world, He took away all the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist in the Jordan at the age of 30, He was crucified, shed His blood and died on the Cross. Seeing His blood and water coming out of His body, John the Disciple bore witness of our salvation. The blood and water that came out of the body of Jesus testify that because He took upon all your sins and mine in this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, He was crucified and shed His blood to be punished for these sins. In other words, by pouring out the blood and water that were in His body, Jesus

affirmed our salvation for those of us who now believe.

That water and blood came out of the side of Jesus testifies that He took upon the iniquities of sinners in this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist when He came to the world, and that He sacrificed Himself as our propitiation for our sins by being crucified and shedding His blood on the Cross. This Word proves that Jesus has become the Savior by being baptized by John the Baptist, pouring out His blood on the Cross, and sacrificing Himself as the propitiation for all the sins of mankind. Therefore, we must now be washed from all our sins by believing that Jesus offered Himself as our propitiation through His baptism and blood. We must realize and believe that Jesus was not only baptized by John but also shed His precious blood to bear the condemnation of our sins.

Having come to this world to save sinners, Jesus carried out His righteous work by being baptized by John the Baptist, the greatest of those born of women, and pouring out His blood and water. And through this work, He has guaranteed us your salvation and mine. It is through the baptism Jesus received on His body and the blood He shed in this world that He has saved us as the everlasting propitiation of all mankind. Through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus accepted all the sins of mankind once and for all; by giving up His body on the Cross, He was punished for all your sins and mine in our place; He rose from the dead again; and He has thereby become our Savior.

Therefore, we must have the belief that the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist on this earth and the blood He shed on the Cross were the wages of our sins and the Truth of salvation. We must believe that Jesus came as the propitiation to wash away the iniquities of sinners, and that He has solved away all our sins through the baptism He received from John the

Baptist. We must believe that Jesus is the One who has completed the work of salvation once and for all to deliver us from the sins of this world. We must therefore understand and believe properly in the work of the baptism that John the Baptist gave to Jesus, and we must believe that the sacrifice Jesus made by shouldering our sins and being crucified to death was to be the propitiation for our salvation.

It is written, "He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light" (John 1:8). John the Baptist is not our Savior, but the man who came to bear witness of the work of Jesus Christ the Savior, who accepted the iniquities of sinners when He came to this earth. John is the man who, as the representative of mankind, baptized Jesus, the Savior of mankind. His work was passing all the sins of mankind in the world to Jesus' head. We must realize that when John the Baptist baptized Jesus, all your sins and mine were passed onto the body of Jesus once and for all. The essence of this baptism was the righteous work that Jesus, the Savior of mankind, who is the "Word", carried out. Jesus came to this earth incarnated in the flesh of man through the body of Mary, He accepted all our sins on His own body once and for all through the work of the baptism that He received from John the Baptist in the Jordan River, and John the Baptist is bearing witness of this fact.

The Bible says, "He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light." This Word tell us that it is because John the Baptist baptized Jesus that Jesus could shoulder the sins of this world, be crucified, rise from the dead again, and ascend to Heaven. You and I must therefore be remitted from all our sins by believing with our hearts that Jesus took them away by being baptized by John the Baptist. We must realize that our sins were passed onto the body of Jesus through His baptism. And we must believe that Jesus paid off the wages of our sins by being

crucified and shedding His blood, and we must be washed from all our sins. We must now realize that all our sins were passed onto Jesus through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. And we must believe that Jesus is the Savior who was crucified and shed His blood of life for us.

## Jesus Christ Is the True Light

It is written in John 1:9-13: "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His<sup>J</sup>own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the<sup>J</sup>right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Jesus and His work are written as the "true Light" in the Word of the Bible. Why does the Bible refer to Jesus as the true Light? It is because Jesus, the true Light of mankind, accepted and shouldered the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism John gave Him, and He was condemned for the sins of mankind once and for all by being crucified and shedding His blood on the Cross. Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, was incarnated in the same flesh as yours and mine, took away the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, shed His precious blood on the Cross, and has thereby become the Savior who has delivered mankind once and for all from the sins of the world.

However, it is written in John 1:10-11, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive

Him." Put differently, people are living as sinners because they do not know the work of Jesus Christ, who came to this world as the Savior. They do not realize the work of Jesus Christ, who came to save them from the sins of the world. Many people remain sinners and are living as such because they do not know that Jesus Christ, who came to this world as the Savior of sinners and took on human flesh, is their Savior.

## Let Us Know and Accept the Work of Jesus into Our Hearts

The Bible says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). Jesus, the Son of God, was born on this earth long ago, took away the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, shed His precious blood while shouldering the sins of the world, rose from the dead again, and has now saved us, the believers, from the sins of the world. We ought to therefore realize and believe in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the Savior, and thus bring joy to God.

To those of us who now believe in His baptism and the shedding of His blood, Jesus has given the right to become children of God. This means that Jesus has given the right to become God's true children to those who accept into their hearts the Truth of salvation that Jesus has fulfilled with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross. From now on, everyone must receive the remission of sins into the heart by believing in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, who was baptized and shed His blood for us.

Jesus is God Himself, who is the "Word" in essence. By the

power of the Word, He created the universe and all things in it, and He also made your ancestors and mine. Because the Triune God made human beings in His image, when they sinned and drifted away from Him, He had the proper plan of salvation to become our Savior. All of us ought to be grateful that we were able to receive the right to become God's children in Jesus Christ by believing in His baptism and His blood on the Cross. All this work of salvation was planned by the Triune God before the foundation of the world, and when the time came, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth and made Him receive baptism from John the Baptist and be crucified; and as Jesus carried out this righteous work, God fulfilled His will in the hearts of those who believe.

When His people fell into Satan's deception and sinned against God, Jesus Christ did not forsake them. Instead, He came looking for you and me, and He has saved us from sin through the true gospel Word of salvation. He went to John who was baptizing in the Jordan River, took upon the sins of this world by being baptized, shed His blood on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby given us true salvation. Therefore, those of us who believe must realize that we can receive the right to become God's children by believing in the righteousness of Jesus. That is why the Bible says that to those who receive Him—that is, those who believe in His name—the Lord has given the right to become children of God.

## God's Children Are Made Neither of Blood Nor of the Power of Religion

John 1:13 says, "Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." This passage

means as follows. To save mankind from the sins of the world, Jesus Christ had to be baptized by John the Baptist. He shed His blood and died on the Cross, rose from this death again, and to those who believe in this, He has given the remission of sins and the blessing to become God's children. This means if we accept the righteous work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, into our hearts by faith, we can receive the grace to be saved from all our sins once and for all.

All nature in this world, and even the angels that are not visible to our eyes, are not God's people but just creatures. As we know, Jesus Christ came to this earth incarnated in the flesh of man, took upon our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified while shouldering these sins of the world, shed His precious blood to death, rose from the dead again, and has thereby given the gift of everlasting salvation to everyone who now believes in this Truth. Therefore, if we believe with our hearts that Jesus Christ took away our sins through His baptism and was punished for them, then it means that God has given the right to become His children to those of us who believe in the true Word of salvation.

The blessings of salvation that God has given us like this are not received of blood, but they are given to those who believe that Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. By believing in the righteous work of Jesus Christ our Savior, we can now be blessed to become God's children forever.

When mankind fell into sin by disobeying the Word of God, Jesus carried out the work of salvation by being baptized and shedding His blood to save humanity from sin. It was to take upon all the sins of this world on His body once and for all that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17). So let us believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the

Baptist and His blood on the Cross as our salvation, accept into our hearts the blessing to become God's children, and receive the blessings that belong to Heaven!

#### The Fullness of Grace Granted to the Believers

It is written in John 1:15-16, "John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, "He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me."'And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace."

The Son of God, who is the Word, came to this earth as the Savior through the body of a virgin. To take away your sins and mine, Jesus was baptized, and He rose from His death on the Cross. To those who believe in the work of salvation that He fulfilled on this earth, He has given the blessing to become God's children. The Lord has given the blessings of salvation to those who believe in the true Word that He has blotted out the sins of mankind with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross.

Thanks to the full grace of salvation that the Lord has given us, we are now able to be saved from all our sins once and for all. It is therefore by believing in the righteousness of Jesus Christ that we become God's children. And it is by placing our faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ that we are to enter the Kingdom of God and live with the Lord forever. What an amazing blessing this is! We have now come to live together with God and enjoy the glory of Heaven. This is the full grace of salvation that God has given to those who believe in His righteousness.

# The Law Was Given through Moses, but the Grace of Salvation Was Granted through Jesus Christ

Verse 17 says, "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Moses is the one who received the Law from God and relayed it to mankind. The Law is teaching us what our sins are. God is saying that all human beings are sinners, for they were born on this earth as sinners and are incapable of living according to the God-given Word of the Law.

However, the full grace of salvation that the Lord has given us is granted to those who believe in the work of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is offering the grace of true salvation to those who believe that the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross constitutes their salvation. The Lord is testifying that whoever believes in His baptism and His blood on the Cross with their heart can be saved from all sins once and for all. So, by believing in the baptism that the Lord received from John and His blood on the Cross, we are able to receive the remission of all our hearts' sins once and for all.

Jesus came to this earth in the age of the New Testament, took upon the sins of mankind on His own body once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist to accept the sins of the world, sacrificed Himself as the everlasting propitiation of mankind by offering His body to God the Father by being crucified and shedding His blood while shouldering the sins of this world, and has thereby given true salvation to those who believe. Because Jesus Christ shouldered our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist in the Jordan River, He was able to be crucified, shed His blood, die in our place as the propitiation for our sins, rise from the dead again,

and thereby give true salvation to those who believe in this.

### We Have Not Seen God with Our Own Eyes

John 1:18 says, "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." No one has seen God with his own eyes. However, because Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, took away our sins once and for all through the baptism He received on His body, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again, we are now able to meet our God by believing in this Truth of salvation. By placing our faith in the righteous work of the baptism that Jesus received on this earth and the blood He shed, we have now come to be saved from all our sins. Through His only begotten Son, God the Father has revealed Himself to us as the Savior who is now offering us true salvation.

To reveal to us that He is the Savior of sinners, Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. As a result, it has been made possible for us to become children of the holy God by believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus. Through the baptism He received on this earth, Jesus Christ has shown us that He is the true Savior of sinners. This work manifests and demonstrates to us who God really is. To sinners, He is the just Savior God, and to the believers in the baptism and blood of Jesus, He is the God who bestows His merciful grace. He is the Savior God who has revealed Himself to us as the just and merciful God.

Incarnated in the flesh of man, God the Word came to John the Baptist, was baptized by him, shed His blood on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and testified that He is the true Savior for you and me. Do you now accept into your heart the baptism

of Jesus and His blood on the Cross as your salvation? At this hour, I am testifying to you the true Word written in the Bible. You and I must listen to the written Word of the baptism of Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross, and we must also believe in it and recognize that the Lord has given us true salvation. If you accept into your heart the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross as written in the Bible, you will be saved from all the sins of this world once and for all and become righteous.

#### We Must Receive Jesus Christ into Our Hearts

It is written, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). I have testified to you the Truth of salvation written in the Bible. I have now testified to you that God, who was the Word in the beginning, took on human flesh to save us from sin, took away your sins and mine once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and carried them to the Cross. In other words, I have borne witness of the fact that Jesus Christ, the Creator Himself, was baptized by John the Baptist to become our Savior, and He took upon all the sins of this world on His body once and for all. I therefore admonish all of us to accept into our hearts, by faith, that Jesus has become our Savior now by being baptized by John the Baptist and bearing the condemnation of our sins once and for all by being crucified.

We must believe in the Lord Jesus, who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John, was crucified while shouldering them, said, "It is finished," and rose from the dead again. I am now preaching to you the true Word of Jesus Christ that brings real salvation to the believers. If you want to be washed from your heart's sins, then you must believe with your heart now that the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross constitute your salvation. To blot out our sins once and for all, Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross, and we must receive Him into our hearts as our Savior now.

God the "Word," Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth, was baptized by John the Baptist, was condemned for our sins, and rose from the dead again. He has promised that He will give true salvation to whoever accepts this true Word into the heart. Because Jesus Christ was baptized to take away our sins, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead again, He is offering true salvation to those who now believe in Him and His work as their salvation.

We must believe that Jesus Christ, who took upon our sins in the Jordan River through His baptism, and who was also punished for our sins by being crucified, is our Savior. Do you believe that Jesus Christ, our God who is the Word, has saved you and me from the sins of the world and become our everlasting Savior through the baptism He received once from John and His blood on the Cross? I am bearing witness of the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit continuously and repeatedly to you, lest you have a hard time believing in this Truth of salvation. That is why I am testifying to you the Word of the righteousness of God in such detail.

I have, so far, preached to you that the "Word" was incarnated and has become our Savior. After taking upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus was crucified, and He poured out the blood and water that were in His body. We must accept into our hearts the Word of the baptism that Jesus received when He came to this earth and His blood on the Cross. We must believe now with our

hearts that the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood constitute the Word of our salvation, and by this faith we must have the conviction of our salvation.

In the age of the Old Testament, to be remitted from their sins, the people of Israel passed them to their sacrificial animal by laying their hands on its head according to the Godestablished sacrificial system, drew its blood, put the blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and burnt the remaining flesh by fire. In this way, they were able to be saved from their sins through faith. In the age of the New Testament, Jesus came to this earth, took away the sins of the sinners of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, shed His precious blood on the Cross, and has thereby enabled those who now believe to be delivered from all the sins of this world.

This Truth of salvation that God has given us is also revealed clearly in the sacrificial institution of the Day of Atonement from the age of the Old Testament. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest prepared two goats. To one of them, he passed his sins and his household's sins and sacrificed it to God. For the sins of the people of Israel, he passed them to the remaining goat by laying his hands on its head, drew its blood, and sprinkled the blood seven times on the mercy seat. In doing so, he was able to blot out all the yearly sins of the people of Israel once and for all.

The Word prophesied in the Old Testament like this was fulfilled once and for all in the age of the New Testament, when Jesus Christ came to this earth, took away the sins of the world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, shed His blood to death, and rose from the dead again; and salvation has been fulfilled to those who believe in this Word. In other words, we are now able to be saved from all our sins by believing in this gospel Word of salvation.

You must wash away your sins now by believing that John the Baptist passed the sins of mankind to the body of Jesus by baptizing Him. You must believe that Jesus, whom John the Baptist bore witness of, is your Savior. Do you believe that Jesus is the Lamb of God who carried the sins of this world by being baptized? We must be saved from all our sins by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the Cross, according to the Word of God written in the Bible. The Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed when He came to this earth is the true light of salvation for you and me now. Jesus is the true Light who has driven out the dark sins of this world once and for all.

Today, whoever believes that God, who is the "Word" revealed in the Bible, is the Lord who saved us from all sins when we were sinners, can be saved.

#### The Grace That God Has Now Granted to All of Us

In the ancient age of the Old Testament, the Word of God was written on a writing surface made from reed, called papyrus. Dried lambskins and goatskins were also used to record the Word of God. Israelites wrote the Word of God on lambskins for preservation, and they also made copies and stored them. As the original text and copies of the Word of God were discovered in their well-preserved state, it was passed down to us living in subsequent times. That is how we were able to encounter today the Word relayed by God's servants who lived in the age of the Old Testament, and how we were able to be saved from all our sins by believing in it with our hearts.

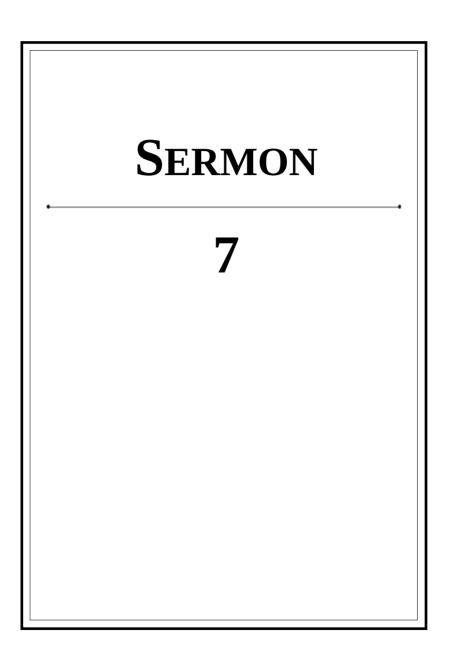
Today, we are reading the Word of God from the Bible in one volume. If there were no written Word of the Bible, we would not have been able to know who God is. That is why God gave us His written Word, teaching us with this Word that Jesus has saved us from sin through His baptism and blood. So that we may realize clearly what the Truth of salvation is and believe in it, the Lord wrote His work of the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His crucifixion, and through the Word, He is telling us that He has saved those who believe in this work from all sins. Since we cannot trust oral traditions passed on from lip to lip, we must be saved by believing, through the written Word of the Bible, that Jesus is the Savior who has washed away our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood. It is then that we come to realize that true salvation comes into our hearts.

The God-spoken Word that His servants compiled into New and Old Testaments is the Word of the Bible that we are reading today. We must be saved from our sins by ruminating on this Word of the Bible and believing in it with our hearts. God had His servants work tirelessly to show the Bible, His Word, to His people, so that they may receive the remission of sins into their hearts and be saved. Therefore, we must believe that the righteous work of Jesus that God spoke to us is our salvation now. Jesus Christ has given the Truth of salvation to our hearts now through the written Word of God, and we must receive the remission of sins and become God's children by believing in His baptism and blood.

Having read the written Word of God, we must receive the remission of sins by believing that the work of the baptism Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross was for the washing of our sins. Those whose hearts believe unwaveringly in the baptism of Jesus and His blood on the Cross as the Truth of the remission of sins have become God's people.

However, because all human beings were born with the flesh, they follow their own carnal lust rather than believing in the written Word of God. The reality is that, as a result, so many people have lost their way. It is not too late though. Even now, we must cast aside our own fleshly lust and be saved from all our sins by believing in the Truth that the Lord has spoken to us as our salvation—that is, in the baptism that Jesus received from John and His blood on the Cross. We ought to inherit the Lord's Kingdom by placing our faith in the Truth of salvation prepared by our Lord. We must receive the remission of sins along with everlasting life by believing in the Word of God that He has given to all of us. We must realize what the written Word of God is telling us, and we must follow this Word by faith.

Because the "Word" is God, we must reach salvation by believing in every Word that the Bible says about how Jesus took away our sins and was condemned for them. For the "Word" written in the Bible is God to us, we must follow Him by believing in the Word He has spoken to us, and we must wait for Him by faith. When we deny our carnal thoughts and follow the written Word of the Lord by faith, it is then that true salvation and the true hope of Heaven abound in our hearts. The Lord blesses those who have received the remission of sins by believing in His Word to live their lives of faith in joy with the fullness of the Spirit. We ought to believe that the remission of our sins has been fulfilled with the written Word of baptism and blood, receive the God-given blessings of salvation, and follow the Word. For those who follow the Word of God by faith like this, the Lord will bless them to receive the remission of sins into their hearts, enter the Kingdom of God, and be glorified. This is the blessing that is received by those who have the true faith.  $\square$ 



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## The Lord Wants Us to Be the People of Faith Like Joseph of Arimathea

#### < Luke 23:50-56 >

"Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near. And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment."

#### Introduction

In today's Scripture reading, we see Joseph of Arimathea standing before Governor Pilate. "Arimathea" here refers to a city. Why does the Bible specifically mention the name of this city? It is the Prophet Samuel's ancient home, where he used to live and worship God. Joseph of Arimathea was well-aware of the fact that Jesus had shouldered the sins of this world and

washed away the sins of mankind with the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

Joseph of Arimathea was unafraid of revealing his faith clearly for the whole world to see. When we look at Joseph of Arimathea, it is like getting an early glimpse of the age of the Antichrist and seeing the courage of those who believe in the baptized Jesus as their Savior.

Joseph of Arimathea asked Governor Pilate for the body of Jesus, saying to him, "Governor, return the body of Jesus to me. I will lay it in my tomb carved out of the rock." From Joseph's burial of Jesus' body in his tomb of rock, we can see the fulfillment of the Word of prophecy from Isaiah 53:9 saying that Jesus would be buried in a grave of the rich.

# There Was Someone Like Joseph of Arimathea During the Age of the Old Testament Also

The Prophet Elijah in the age of the Old Testament was a man who demonstrated to the idolators of his time that the Lord God was a living God. However, when he was fleeing from persecution by King Ahab's wife Jezebel, he said to God, "Lord, I am the only one left who fears You, and these people are trying to kill me." The Lord God then said to him, "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal" (Romans 11:4).

This Word shows us that even today, there still are many people left in this world testifying that the baptized and crucified Jesus is our Savior. Starting with the appearance of the Antichrist in the end times, I believe we will see many more people of faith arising, like Joseph of Arimathea who buried the body of Jesus. That's because the Bible reveals that when the

end times arrive, there will be many believers enduring martyrdom by their faith in Jesus Christ.

In this age also, God has hidden many born-again believers everywhere in the world. We believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the shedding of His blood as our salvation. Just as God said to Abraham in the Old Testament, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. So shall your descendants be" (Genesis 15:5). I believe that many more people in these end times will come to believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross as the salvation of mankind.

Do you believe that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized? Do you believe now that the Word of the baptism of Jesus and His blood on the Cross constitute your salvation? If you do indeed believe in the baptism and blood of Jesus as the Word that has washed away your sins and taken care of their condemnation, then you have already been saved and born again from all your sins once and for all. Whether or not people have been born again is known by looking at their faith in the work of Jesus and seeing if they believe that He took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. If they still have any sin in their hearts despite believing in Jesus, then we know that they have been neither saved from their sins nor born again yet. Such people are no more than religious practitioners belonging to worldly religion, not the born-again whose souls have been saved from their sins. They are merely living a religious life, believing in the Cross alone just as taught by their own denomination. Because they believe only in the crucified Jesus as their Savior, they have never had any of their sins washed away.

In contrast, those who believe in the baptism that Jesus

received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross as their salvation belong to God's "invisible Church." Such believers whose faith belongs to the God-given, invisible Church in this present age are of those who have been washed from their sins, for they believe that the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the shedding of His blood is the Word of their salvation. Anyone who has this kind of faith simply cannot belong to the religious in this world.

Those who belong to the "invisible Church" believe that Jesus is the Savior who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and by this faith they have been washed from all their sins. For these members of the "invisible Church" that only God can see, their faith is placed in the fact that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. They belong to the gathering of the born-again. Put differently, those who belong to this gathering are believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, whose faith is clearly distinct in God's eyes from that of the religious in this world.

These believers have now been saved from all their sins, for they believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood. There is an exclusive gathering open to only those who have been saved from their sins by this faith, and whoever belongs to this gathering is someone who believes that the Lord shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. The gathering of such believers is the gathering of those who belong to the invisible Church.

The leaders of the Early Church knew and believed that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. And they also had the faith that the Lord was crucified in their place precisely because He had shouldered the sins of this world through His baptism. Although the invisible

Church cannot be seen, this does not mean it has no leader. For example, the Apostles Paul, Peter, and John were all leaders of the Early Church, and they all had the faith that belonged to the God-spoken, invisible Church. They all lived with the testimony of salvation, bearing witness of their faith in the Lord's baptism and blood. And they were all able to follow and carry out the will of the Lord in their lives despite facing so much hardship. These leaders of the Early Church era believed that Jesus the Savior took away the sins of this world by being baptized and was crucified for them, and they shared the bread of faith with the Lord's flock. Thanks to their testimony, many people were saved by believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus, and these saints also belonged to the invisible Church and lived in unity with the Lord.

Just as Joseph of Arimathea believed that Jesus took away all the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received, today, we, too, believe that the Lord is our Savior who has delivered us through His baptism and His blood on the Cross. As such, we will always do our best to preach the gospel for the rest of our lives on this earth. The act of faith shown by Joseph of Arimathea here reminds me once again that this will be our act of faith when we face similar circumstances in the end times.

The faith of the martyrs who will arise in the age of the Antichrist is one that is placed in the Lord, believing that Jesus accepted the sins of this world once and for all on to His own body through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross. To be a martyr in the end times is possible only for those who believe in Jesus as their Savior, who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and was crucified. Thanks to their faith in the Word of the Lord, such people can endure persecution even unto martyrdom. They give all glory to our Lord, and their faith is

more than enough for them to enter His Kingdom. It is my hope and prayer in these end times that all of us would be the people of faith like Joseph of Arimathea.

# Joseph of Arimathea Was a Saint of the Invisible Church to Come

Joseph of Arimathea in today's Scripture reading may be described as an antitype of the saints of the invisible Church. There are two kinds of believers in this world. One type is the people of faith, and these believers have been remitted from all their sins once and for all by believing in the baptism of Jesus and His blood. The other type is the religious, who believe only in the crucifixion of Jesus as their salvation. Such people do not accept into their hearts the work of salvation that Jesus completed by being baptized by John the Baptist and taking away the sins of this world, nor do they believe in this work. In the days to come, the divergence in the outcome of faith for these two types of believers will become patently clear.

One type of churchgoers today is religious practitioners, who belong to a worldly religion. They do not believe that they will be condemned by God for their sins. They are content to live in harmony with this world. They refuse to be washed from their sins by believing in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and His blood. We call such people religious practitioners, or worldly Christians who have not been born again.

Such sinners are found not only among the laypeople, but also among the religious leaders. When Christians look at their religious leaders, they tend to think that these leaders have been delivered from their sins and born again, but in reality this is not the case. The religious leaders who belong to this world think that even if their sins remain intact in their hearts, they can address this problem with the doctrine of incremental sanctification or the doctrine of justification. So, they believe only in their own theological doctrines, just like their congregation. They are living as sinners always, for they do not know that the Lord has brought the remission of sins to mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist, taking away the sins of this world, and shedding His blood on the Cross. As a result, these worldly religious leaders remain in their sinful state just as their congregation remain sinners.

We say that such people have not been born again yet. However, the Lord is telling us that He is the Savior who took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and He is also telling us all to believe in this amazing Truth of salvation. Our regeneration is possible only by faith, by believing in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and the shedding of His blood. The baptism that the Lord received and the blood He shed for our sake constitute salvation for the people of faith who believe in this Word. These are the people of faith who have truly been born again from their sins by believing in the baptism of the Lord and His blood. The Lord said to Nicodemus that one must "be born again of water and the Spirit." With this, Jesus is telling us to be born again by believing that He shouldered the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

Today, the saints of the invisible Church are not found in the flamboyant megachurches of this world. These saints do not need a flashy church building; they can worship together anywhere they are gathered. In their hearts is the faith that Jesus is their Savior who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood to death on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. As they have received the remission of sins into their hearts by believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus, they are now able to preach the God-given Word of salvation to everyone throughout the whole world.

These saints are living out their faith freely unfettered by the religious practitioners of this world. As they believe only in the salvation that Jesus has fulfilled with His baptism and blood, they are living for the spreading of the gospel in this world. Their purpose in life is to live in obedience to the will of the Lord by trusting in our Lord's baptism and blood, and then enter His Kingdom.

Those who belong to the God-established invisible Church are following the guidance of the Holy Spirit while sharing true fellowship of faith with one another. They seek to follow the will of the Lord exactly as it is shown by their leaders. Like this, the saints of the invisible Church desire to emulate their leaders' faith and live under a spiritual order. In other words, they are led by the leaders of the invisible Church that is guided by the Holy Spirit, and they are living not by their own will but the Lord's will. And the leaders of the invisible Church are those who teach and guide the saints with the Word of God so that they may know what the will of the Lord is.

In the days to come, we will see many more people in this world coming to belong to the invisible Church established by God. Thanks to their faith, the saints belonging to the invisible Church will come to see the gospel being spread all over the world through their leaders, and they will also come to follow the will of the Lord. Like this, those who are led into the Godestablished invisible Church are those who are truly rejoiced to follow the Lord's will in unity. Placing their faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His Cross, they

seek to dedicate their lives to the proclamation of the Lord's gospel, and it is clear to everyone that they are God's people. They are the ones who have been saved from all their sins once and for all through their faith in the baptism and blood of the Lord.

### The Apostles' Faith Was Placed in Jesus' Baptism and Blood

The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Explaining what living by faith meant for him, the Apostle Paul is speaking of two things here. First, Paul believed that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized, and therefore all his sins were also passed onto the body of Jesus. He is speaking of how he believed that he had died with Jesus on the Cross and risen from the dead again, and that he was now living with the Lord by this faith. Second, Paul says that because Jesus loved him and gave His body for him, he was now also living for the Lord by faith in Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul is confessing his faith here, saying that it is because Jesus loved him that He took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist; and therefore, believing that he, too had died with Jesus Christ on the Cross and risen from the dead again with Him, Paul was now living the rest of his life for the Lord. That is why the Apostle Paul is saying that he was living by faith, believing that he had been baptized with Jesus, died with Jesus, and risen from the dead again with Jesus. And he is also saying that because he had

faith in the baptism and blood of our Lord, he could do anything and work with the Lord anywhere if it meant spreading the gospel.

Like this, because you and I have also been saved from the sins of the world through our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood, from now on, we can all live for the proclamation of this gospel wherever our Lord sends us. Just like the Apostle Paul, we, too, can offer ourselves to the Lord and carry out His desire to spread the gospel of the water and the Spirit. To do so, we must first give up ourselves.

We are compelled to live the life of faith that the Lord wants us to live because we now have the same faith that the Apostle Paul had. Paul's testimony of salvation makes it clear that he was saved by believing that Jesus the Lord shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, and rose from the dead again. It is because Paul had been saved by such faith that he dedicated his life to the spreading of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Because we believe in the Word of the baptism of Jesus, we, too, have come to pass our sins on to the body of Jesus by faith, and therefore, we are now able to live out this faith of ours and dedicate the rest of our lives to the spreading of the Lord's gospel.

It is absolutely imperative for our hearts to believe that Jesus bore the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. And we must have faith that Jesus was crucified to death in our place. We must place our faith in the love with which the Lord sacrificed Himself for us as the propitiation for the sins of mankind. It is then that we are able to devote the rest of our lives to the spreading of the Lord's gospel. By believing in the Word of the baptism of the Lord and His blood, we must now pass our sins on to the body of Jesus by faith.

We were able to be saved from all our sins because we believed wholeheartedly in the Truth that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, took them to the Cross, and sacrificed Himself as the propitiation for our sins by being crucified in our place. Therefore, just like the Apostle Paul, we are now able to walk with the Lord by faith.

For today's Christians to be called the purest Christians by the people of the world, they must have faith that Jesus washed away all our sins and was condemned for them with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood. The real Christians are those who believe with their hearts that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to shoulder the sins of this world, and they are the ones who believe that it is precisely because Jesus was baptized that He was punished for our sins in our place by shedding His blood on the Cross. Such believers can say that they have truly become God's people.

The fact that we are the true Christians means that we have received the remission of sins by believing in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and His blood, and we are living according to the guidance of the Word of God. Because we have now been washed from all our sins once and for all by our faith in the Word of the baptism through which Jesus took away the sins of this world once for all, we are the people of faith who also believe that the Lord was condemned for our sins in our place.

This Word of true salvation—that is, Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, and has thereby completed mankind's salvation once and for all—is written in the Bible in detail (Matthew 3:13-17, John 19:1-30).

#### **How Is the Faith of Today's Christians?**

Christians these days base their faith on the Apostles' Creed, but it is critical for us to realize that this creed is missing the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and through which He took away the sins of this world. This fact is something that all those who believe in Jesus as their Savior today ought to remember and ruminate, and they must examine their faith. If you still have not been able to pass all your sins on to the body of Jesus despite believing in Him as your Savior, it is because you have believed in the Cross alone without realizing that the Nicene Creed from AD 325 emphasized just the Cross and left out the Word of the baptism of Jesus.

Moreover, even the Protestants today do not know the Truth of baptism, that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. This is because they follow the Nicene Creed and have turned into worldly religious practitioners. Deceived by the makers of the Nicene Creed, Christians today may be said to have pseudo-faith. They have all been influenced by the Nicene Creed so much that even to this day, they remain stuck in its deception and believe erroneously as a result.

Even though Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, because Christians' today have not heard this Truth of baptism, not even once, they could not have believed in it, either. Even now when they hear the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, they cannot understand it easily, and as a result they are still living as sinners. Such Christians must realize that they have not yet passed their sins to the body of Jesus by believing in His baptism. You must realize here that because you do not understand how Jesus washed away your sins with the baptism He received from John

the Baptist, you cannot believe in it, either. Ultimately, the fact that your sins remain unwashed means that your heart remains guilty of sin.

The creators of the Nicene Creed, Emperor Constantine and his followers, emphasized and stressed only Jesus' work of crucifixion, and in doing so, they prevented His baptism from being testified to people. With the Nicene Creed, they worked to ensure that no one would realize the work of baptism, that Jesus Christ our Lord took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. They should have repented of their sins before God and men, but they failed to do so. That is why so many people are still carrying their sins only to stand before God as sinners.

By coming up with the Nicene Creed, they prevented not only the people of their days but also everyone in the future from passing their sins on to the body of Jesus. Producing the Nicene Creed at the First Council of Nicaea as commanded by Emperor Constantine, they left out the biblical fact that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, blinded others with this omission, and ended up committing the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit before God. They should have turned away from their sin and believed in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist.

As we know, most Romans were polytheistic believers, so it was not that hard for them to believe in Jesus also if only the baptism He received from John the Baptist was left out of the Nicene Creed. The Romans could not accept Jesus, who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, as their only Savior. When Constantine gave legal recognition to Christianity, his subjects could not accept the Truth that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

Think about it again for a moment. The Romans were polytheists. So, given their polytheistic beliefs, even if their emperor commanded them, how could they abandon all the countless deities that they had believed in, from Sol to Zeus and Aphrodite, and accept Jesus the Savior of mankind as their only God, who bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist? Even though Christianity was eventually adopted by their emperor as the state religion of Rome, their belief system made it intolerable for them to throw aside their old gods and believe only in Jesus as the Savior who washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. They just could not bring themselves to acknowledge Jesus as their Savior, who took away the sins of this world once and for all and bore the sins of mankind on His own body by being baptized by John the Baptist.

Consequently, the Romans agreed and took part in omitting from the Nicene Creed the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, establishing the most universal and polytheistic religion in this world, and keeping their beliefs in this way. By making the Nicene Creed, Constantine the Great, who was the Roman emperor at the time, successfully turned Christianity into one of the many religions of this world. This, however, meant that he committed a grave sin against God. By turning Christianity into a polytheistic religion, he laid the foundation singularly to not only keep his own political power but also make himself a religious leader of the world.

Emperor Constantine therefore ended up establishing a syncretic religion by omitting from the Nicene Creed the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized, and by drawing Jesus into the polytheistic religion in which the Romans believed. As the emperor of Rome and a politician as well, he did this for his subjects, pulling

Christianity into the polytheistic religion they believed in and maintaining their syncretic, polytheistic religion. Although he may be revered within his polytheistic religion for generations to come, inside the Kingdom of our God, his faith was not approved by Him contrary to his wishes. By leaving out the Word of the baptism Jesus received from John the Baptist from the Nicene Creed and incorporating Christianity into his own polytheistic religion, he ended up misleading generations after him to believe in a half-Christianity. He did something that no human being should have ever done.

However, many people are committing even a greater sin than Constantine, and these are the people today who are refusing to believe that Jesus the Savior of mankind took away the sins of this world and washed them away once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and are thus rejecting His love. By doing so, they have turned themselves into evildoers committing even more wicked sins than Constantine. You must not reject the work of Jesus like such polytheists—that is, you must not refuse to believe in the Word of Jesus, that He shouldered the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. If you truly yearn to be born again of water and the Spirit, then I beseech you to believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and in the Word of the Cross. It is my sincerest hope and prayer that the blessings of the God-given salvation will be with you always.

When I traveled to Mongolia on a mission trip, I saw polytheistic practices with my own eyes. In that trip, I had a chance to visit the home of a professor at a Mongolian university. I was invited by the professor, and when I got to his home, I saw a portrait of Jesus hanging on the wall of the living room. So at first I thought he was a Christian, but I was surprised to see a

portrait of a Buddhist monk hanging on the opposite wall. While there are some historical records saying that some Mongolian rulers were Christians, but in reality, they were polytheists. The Mongols were a warring nation, and wherever their armies went, they accepted and incorporated whatever deities they came across in their conquered lands into their own religion.

Roman Emperor Constantine was also such a man. That Constantine was a polytheist can be easily seen from the Nicene Creed of his making. He came up with this creed because he just could not accept into his heart the fact that Jesus the only Savior of mankind took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. So, to turn Jesus into just one of the many deities that the Romans believed in, he left out Jesus' work of baptism and incorporated Him into their own polytheistic religion. So, the Romans did not have much trouble accepting Christianity as an extension of their polytheistic religion, and that is why we can say that in God's sight, they were not real believers.

You should now understand why it is that Emperor Constantine omitted the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist from the Nicene Creed. It is for this reason that his followers are claiming that their polytheistic religion is the most universal religion in this world. The problem, however, is that countless people living on this planet think mistakenly that they believe in and serve Jesus as their only God. They should realize here that they do not actually believe in Jesus alone as their Savior.

The Catholics are now leading the ecumenical movement around the world. This is because their goal is propagating polytheism. These people refuse to recognize Jesus as their only Savior, rejecting that He took away the sins of this world and washed them away once and for all by being baptized by John

the Baptist. Even though Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, they left His love out of the Nicene Creed in their desire to accommodate and believe in everything in this world.

The Catholics are not alone in their ignorance. Today's Protestants are also ignorant of the power of the baptism of Jesus, and they are unable to believe that Jesus bore the sins of this world and washed them away once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Their faith is the same as the faith of the polytheists, and they are living in this world as religious practitioners. The First Council of Nicaea was held in AD 325, and as it is 2023 now, around 1,700 years have gone by since then. To incorporate Jesus into their polytheism and bring unity to his subjects, Emperor Constantine and his followers allowed them to believe in only the Cross of Jesus.

They omitted from the Nicene Creed the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist so that they did not have to accept Jesus, who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, as their God. So, even the Protestant believers today, who are the descendants of the Reformers, believe in Jesus as their Savior while leaving out the Word of baptism that Jesus shouldered and washed away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. This is because they believe in and follow the exact same Nicene Creed that the Catholic Church established.

As a result, even today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Christians still do not know the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and they are abiding in Christianity only as religious practitioners. When today's church leaders stand behind the pulpit and preach, they cannot preach to their congregations the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, for they

themselves do not know this work of Jesus. Consequently, today's laypeople are also living as sinners and living a merely religious life, even though they believe in Jesus. Despite believing in Jesus, because these Christians do not know the fact that Jesus bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, they are still living in this world as sinners.

Although these Christians do not know that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, they all take a great deal of pride in the fact that they attend a Reformed church. However, it was impossible to hide forever their sin of leaving out the Truth of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist from the Nicene Creed established by Emperor Constantine. Ultimately, the Truth of baptism, that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, has been revealed to the whole world now at this point in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through those of us who have been born again by believing in this Truth of salvation. It is finally known now how they have misled so many people to fall into worldly religion for such a long, long time, spanning 1,700 years.

Now that we know how they omitted from the Nicene Creed of their own making the work that Jesus fulfilled by being baptized by John the Baptist and thus shouldering and washing away all the sins of this world, and how they have misled everyone today into a polytheistic religion, we can feel a huge burden being lifted off our chests. The more we think about it, the more we can see how so many Christians and people today are so foolish. But, fortunately for us, we have now come to realize that Jesus bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and we have been washed from our sins and born again by believing in Jesus again as our Savior.

The more I think about it, the more amazing it is that they

were able to hide for so long the Truth that Jesus washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. The more I realize, the more stunning their deception is in making it impossible for people to have faith in the Truth that Jesus bore and washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

From the very founding of the Nicene Creed in Late Antiquity, they advocated Jesus' work of crucifixion alone and twisted the Truth so that no one would know that Jesus washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. They probably didn't even know that they were committing such an evil sin. So they did not feel any guilt in their conscience. Showing themselves off to everyone in this world as if they were true Christians, they acted like they believed only in Jesus, but in reality, they all secretly kept their polytheism. And now, they have become leaders of a massive religion misleading people all the world to believe in a polytheistic religion.

Even those who launched the Reformation toward the end of the Middle Ages didn't know the secret of this polytheistic religion. As a result, they, too, turned into religious practitioners who believed in just the crucified Jesus, ignoring the Truth that He took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Ultimately, they also inherited the faith of the Nicene Creed and turned into polytheists, and to this day they have led their lives as long-corrupted religious practitioners. Like this, for 1,700 long years, Christians all over the world have lived trapped in a worldly religion, all the while omitting from the Apostles' Creed the Truth that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

Emperor Constantine gifted the saints of the Early Church with religious freedom, but the consequence of accepting this religious freedom was terrible for the saints of the Early Church and Christians all over the world. They ended up drifting away from the Kingdom of God, unable to grasp the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. As a result, they turned into believers in a religious gospel, believing in just the Cross of Jesus. In the end, the saints of the Early Church and today's Christians alike agreed with those who omitted the Word of the Truth that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and they ended up belonging to this world's religion. From then on, when people believed in Jesus, they believed only that Jesus shed His blood and died on the Cross, not knowing that He took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and they fell into the religion of this world.

Constantine and his followers emphasized faith in the Cross of Jesus, and because of them, people came to believe in the crucified Jesus alone as their Savior only to perish. To plant the faith of their own polytheistic religion in the souls of even Christians, they came up with the Nicene Creed, and they were responsible for turning Christian believers into mere religious practitioners. They are the ones who, by making the Nicene Creed the foundation of faith for today's Christians who believe in Jesus as their Savior, ultimately led them into the polytheistic religion.

With the polytheistic religion of their making, they sought to deceive and rule over everyone. By leaving out the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and imprinting only the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross as the Truth of salvation in today's Christianity, they created a nearly perfect polytheistic religion and succeed in achieving their goal. They misled many people to drift away from the light of the Truth of salvation. This is the process by which today's Christians turned into polytheists, and it also explains why it is that they are turning ever more

corrupt these days.

Today, the participants of the First Council of Nicaea including Emperor Constantine are remembered for their success in establishing the largest polytheistic religion in this world. The first thing they did to make this polytheistic religion was omitting from the "Nicene Creed" Jesus' work of love, that He took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and writing instead that Jesus became the Savior just by being crucified. In this way, they ended up excluding from Jesus' work of salvation the fact that He bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

To prevent people from knowing the work of baptism that Jesus fulfilled by shouldering and washing away the sins of this world with the baptism He received from John the Baptist, they established a giant polytheistic religion through the Nicene Creed of their own making. To give credibility to their polytheistic religion, they had the theologians of their time whose faith was religious, participate in the First Council of Nicaea. With these theologians' participation, they made it look as if the polytheistic religion of their own making was credible. What they did was indeed standing against the work of the baptism of Jesus. It still amazes me to see that with the Nicene Creed, they were able to hide from this world the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist.

All religious doctrines, no matter who their advocates are, ought to be compared to the Word of both Testaments and confirmed before we decide whether to believe them or not. It is when we are thoughtful like this about our faith that we can believe in Jesus as the Savior who took away the sins of this world and washed them away once and for all with the baptism He received from John the Baptist. It is then that we are made the true Reformists of this world who believe that Jesus

shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

Today, all of us must at once wash away all the sins that have remained in our hearts by believing that Jesus bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and washed away our sins with this baptism. We ought to realize now that those who came up with the Nicene Creed in Late Antiquity and sought to deceive us all with this creed were polytheistic believers pursuing their own goals, and that they rejected Jesus the Savior who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Realizing this fact, we ought to now believe in the Truth that Jesus Christ shouldered and washed away the sins of this world with the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and we ought to be grateful to be saved from all our sins by this faith.

The makers of the Nicene Creed may have successfully established the polytheistic religion that they sought to create, but they were rendered unable to partake in the Kingdom of the Lord. To establish their own polytheistic religion, they left out the work of salvation that Jesus did by bearing the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. As a result, they ended up selling their souls for a worldly religion. Their polytheistic religious practices have also led people today to believe in Jesus as their Savior but only religiously, and to thus be unable to be washed from their sins. At that time, they probably didn't even realize that what they were doing was committing the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit in God's sight.

When the time came, the Triune God sent the Son of God to this earth, made Him receive baptism from John the Baptist, and let all the sins of this world be passed onto the body of His Son. God the Father did this because it was in His amazing plan

of salvation to deliver every sinner from the sins of this world. That is why all of us are now able to be washed from all our sins by believing in the work of the baptism of Jesus, that He took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

The polytheistic believers left out the baptism of Jesus from the Nicene Creed, so that no one would know the plan of salvation that God established to deliver mankind from the sins of the world and the work of salvation that Jesus carried out by shouldering the sins of this world through His baptism. Fortunately, however, all of us have come to know the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, believe in it with our hearts, and reach our salvation by this faith. How could we not be rejoiced that God passed the sins of this world to His Son, and how could we not believe? None of us should ever fall for the polytheists' deception and end up rejecting, along with them, the fact that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

Those who have been born again by believing in the Word of the baptism of Jesus now have the duty to make the real Truth of salvation known to the hearts of those who have fallen into the deception of the polytheistic religion. I hope and pray that even at this very moment, you would turn around from the polytheistic faith that you have known and held from the Nicene Creed; admit your sins before God; believe in the Word that Jesus Christ the Son of God came to this world, took away the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and went to the Cross; be washed from all your sins with this faith; and to thus bring joy to our God's heart.

We have every confidence that multitudes will come to be saved from their sins from hearing this amazing mystery of the Word of baptism, that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. From now on, whoever believes in the work that Jesus carried out by being baptized by John the Baptist and shouldering the sins of this world, and whoever unites himself with the Word of salvation by this faith, will be delivered from all his sins and condemnation. From now on, all the descendants of the Protestant Reformers must also be saved by returning back to faith in Jesus' work of baptism, that our Lord bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. With the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus Christ shouldered and washed away all your sins and mine once and for all. Let us all believe in this love of salvation and put on His grace to be saved.

Those who are now standing against God's love by refusing to believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist will be treated as someone blaspheming the Holy Spirit before God the Father. Jesus, our Savior who bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, is calling you and me, and I hope and pray that we would all answer this call with faith.

### The Reformation of the Protestant Faith Must Continue Even Now

Today, the reformation of faith must begin again from believing in not just the Lord's Cross, but the Word that Jesus took away the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist. This is because today's Christians do not believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that the apostles of the Early Church era believed in, and they have therefore not been born again yet. This is why we must know and believe the Truth

that Jesus bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Christianity in the present time bases its faith on the Nicene Creed, which omits the work that Jesus carried out by being baptized by John the Baptist and thus shouldering the sins of this world. If you believe in just the Cross of Jesus like this, then it means you are no more than a worldly religious practitioner and you will be condemned for your sins.

While we are still living in this world, you and I must reach salvation by believing in the Truth of salvation that the Lord took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Shouldn't you also return to the Word of the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist? Shouldn't you also be born again by this faith and let your heart enjoy the peace that our Lord is giving you? Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and it is my sincerest hope and prayer that you, too, would be blessed to be born again by believing this Jesus. We must not render the work of the baptism of the Lord and His Cross in vain.

At this point, one thing that we should pay particular attention to is the Reformation movement launched by the Protestants toward the end of the Middle Ages. The Protestant reformers were reduced to worldly religious practitioners, for they still believed in the Nicene Creed established in AD 325 by a polytheistic state. Influenced by the polytheistic faith of their time, they remained religious practitioners. Because they accepted into their hearts Jesus' Cross alone, just as the polytheistic religion believed in the Cross only, they also remained practitioners of a worldly religion. They lived as sinners, since they did not believe equally in the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. In the end, the Protestant reformers established another religion that was the same as the polytheistic religion, and as a

result their followers today have also come to ignore the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist.

After the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, led by the apostles and church fathers, the saints of the Early Church believed that Jesus bore the sins of mankind through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and they lived by this faith that had saved them from their sins. Even though they were persecuted heavily by Roman emperors for 250 years, they still kept their faith in the baptism of Jesus and His blood. The saints of the Early Church were saved by believing in the gospel preached by the apostles—that is, they believed in the fact that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Because they were saved from their sins by knowing and believing that the baptism of Jesus and His death were Jesus' work that saved them, they did not betray their faith and defended it unto martyrdom even as they faced untold persecution by the Gentiles.

When the Edict of Milan in AD 313 gave Christianity legal recognition, the saints of the Early Church were able to escape from the persecution they had faced for their faith. With the adoption of the Nicene Creed under Emperor Constantine, however, they could no longer keep their faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood, which had been at the core of their creed until then. Put differently, their freedom of faith was now restricted.

For this reason, the Protestant Reformation launched in the 16<sup>th</sup> century should have led to a faith that was different from the polytheists' faith in the Cross alone. The believers in the polytheistic religion had come up with the Nicene Creed to eradicate the Word of baptism believed by the saints of the Early Church, that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. The Nicene Creed emphasized faith in Jesus' Cross alone. Therefore, the advocates of the

Reformation movement in late Middle Ages should have looked at Emperor Constantine's polytheistic religion to locate the reason why the priests of the universal church at the time were so corrupt. Restoring the work of Jesus that had been omitted from the Nicene Creed, they should have believed that He took away the sins by receiving baptism from John the Baptist just as written in both Testaments of the Bible.

Since the faith of the apostles of the Early Church was completely different from Emperor Constantine's polytheistic faith, the Protestant reformers should have returned Christianity back to faith in the Word of baptism that Jesus bore and washed away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Yet, far from understanding and believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, they still kept the same polytheistic faith in the Cross alone and sacrificed themselves for the cause of the Reformation. Even they could not grasp the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist.

So, when we look at today's churches founded by the descendants of the Protestant reformers, we can see that they have the same faith as the polytheists, for they are testifying only Jesus' blood on the Cross, being completely ignorant of the Word of baptism that Jesus shouldered and washed away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. This is why, led by the descendants of the Protestant reformers, it was inevitable for Christianity today to be corrupted spiritually and reduced to a mere religion. Just like the polytheists, they believe in Jesus' blood on the Cross alone and are spreading this faith all over the world. They are therefore no more than religious practitioners who believe in polytheism, and they need to realize that they can't help but live in this world with even deeper spiritual corruption.

Even now, despite believing in just the Cross of Jesus, they think they are not living like the polytheists and do not believe like them. So, they see no need to believe in the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. They are going about with their lives uninterested in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist to deliver us from the sins of this world. They do not know why Jesus had to be baptized by John the Baptist, and why they must believe in this baptism of Jesus. What might explain this? It is because they do not know the Truth that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and that all the sins they are committing now were also passed onto Jesus.

Why can't these people see the need to believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist? It is because they themselves are trapped in the polytheistic Nicene Creed and believe only in the Cross of Jesus. It is because they do not know what a great sinner they are now before God. It is because they are drowning in the dogma of polytheistic religion—that is, the doctrines of worldly Christianity. It is because they believe blindly in such doctrines as the doctrine of justification, the doctrine of incremental sanctification, and the doctrine of repentance. Today, those professing to believe in Jesus as their Savior have in fact fallen into polytheism. This why they are refusing to accept into their hearts the Truth of salvation that Jesus bore the sins of this world on His own body and took them away once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

If today's church leaders themselves believed in and testified the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, they would not have led their congregations to a dead faith using man-made methods. So, the religious leaders must now also believe with their hearts that the

Jesus who bore the sins of this world and washed them away once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist is the Savior, receive the remission of sins, and carry out the Lord's work until the day they go to His presence. All of us must address the problem of all our sins now, by placing our faith in the Lord who has brought the washing of the sins of mankind through the baptism that He received from John the Baptist to take them away.

Unless you do this, you will remain stuck in your situation as a polytheistic believer whose heart is always guilty of sin. To avoid this, we must now accept into our hearts the Word of baptism, that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. It is absolutely imperative for us to believe in the Lord Jesus who shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and to thus make sure that our faith is like that of the truly born-again, not of the polytheists.

From the very first moment we believe in Jesus as our Savior, all of us must build our house of faith on the knowledge of the water of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross. One thing we must remember here is that we cannot escape from all our sins if our understanding of Jesus is limited to what the polytheistic religion is teaching, that He shed His blood and died on the Cross. The Truth that we now know from the Bible is that Jesus washed away our sins once and for all by bearing the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. In other words, we must know and believe that because Jesus shouldered our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist, He washed away the sins of this world once and for all, and He bore the punishment of our sins on the Cross in our place. When we accept into our hearts and believe wholeheartedly that Jesus has

saved us from our sins through His baptism and blood, it is then that we can be freed from all our sins.

To do so, we must understand and believe properly in the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist to bear the sins of this world, which is the Truth of salvation that was omitted from the Nicene Creed in Late Antiquity at Emperor Constantine's instruction. We must correct the Roman emperor's error in omitting the work of the baptism of Jesus, and we must have the right faith. We can turn to Matthew 3:13-17 to find the conviction of faith to see and believe that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

# "Permit It to Be So Now, for Thus It Is Fitting for Us to Fulfill All Righteousness"

To begin His public life, Jesus went to see John the Baptist who was baptizing multitudes in the Jordan River. At first, John the Baptist declined to baptize Jesus, but Jesus commanded Him to do so, saying to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). It is at this time that Jesus accepted all the sins of mankind passed onto Him through His baptism. And it is after this that Jesus bore the condemnation of our sins in our place by being crucified, thus saving His believers from their sins.

It was possible for Jesus to be condemned on the Cross precisely because He had shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist three years prior to His death on the Cross. Jesus could be crucified to death because He had gone to John the Baptist and received baptism from Him to accept the sins of this world three years

before His crucifixion. In short, Jesus was crucified in our place as our propitiation because He had borne the sins of this world on His body by being baptized by John the Baptist.

However, in AD 325 when Emperor Constantine summoned the First Council of Nicaea and promulgated the Nicene Creed, he left out the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and through which He took away the sins of this world once and for all, and with this omission he corrupted the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. Constantine corrupted Jesus' work that took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and he left out the Truth of the baptism of Jesus. The fact that Jesus the Savior of mankind shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist meant that He was the only Savior of mankind, but this was unacceptable for Constantine's polytheistic religion, and that is why he rejected Jesus' work of baptism.

Those who believe that Jesus is the Savior who shouldered and washed away all the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist can always be saved from their sins by faith. Since Constantine knew that the unique Truth of salvation that washes away the sins of mankind was contained in the Word of the baptism of Jesus, to keep his beliefs, he had no choice but to leave out the work of Jesus from the Nicene Creed. If he had not omitted from the Nicene Creed the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, people all over the world would have now accepted the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that delivers them from their sins. This would have made it impossible for Constantine to expand his own polytheistic religion, and that is why he left out from the Nicene Creed the Truth that Jesus bore the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

As a Roman, Emperor Constantine was a polytheist just like his ancestors. If he were to accept into his heart the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, he would have become the first Roman emperor to be saved from his sins. But, this would have meant having to abandon his polytheistic beliefs that he had had all his life, and that is why he omitted the Word of the baptism of Jesus from the Nicene Creed. To incorporate Christianity into his own polytheistic religion, the first thing he had to do was leaving out from the Nicene Creed the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. This is because unless he omitted the Word of the baptism of Jesus from the Nicene Creed, the policy of imperial unity that he was pursuing would have ended as a failure.

So, as Constantine found it imperative to omit from the Nicene Creed, whose making was presided over by him, the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. If he had accepted into his heart Jesus' work of baptism through which He bore the sins of mankind, he would have been the first Roman emperor among those who were delivered from all the sins of this world. At the same time, however, he would then no longer have been able to carry out his priesthood to worship the sun god as a polytheistic believer.

As a worshiper of the sun god and also a priest of this religion, Emperor Constantine could not throw away his faith. So, he did not want to believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood. On the contrary, he worked diligently to pull Christianity into his own polytheistic religion and spread this religion all over the world. The Lord Jesus said to all His believers, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). From the very beginning, Emperor Constantine had no

desire to abandon his own sun god and believe in Jesus as his Savior, and as a result, he drifted far away from the salvation the Lord was offering him.

As the Protestant reformers were influenced by Constantine, today's Christians who are their descendants have been reduced to polytheists as well, for they also believe in Jesus while leaving out the work of the baptism that He received from John the Baptist to take away the sins of this world. Even though Constantine claimed that the Nicene Creed was built based on the faith of the apostles of the Early Church, his actual purpose in life was spreading his own polytheistic religion throughout the whole world. So, he turned himself into a religious leader, misleading today's Christians under his influence to believe in the same polytheistic religion that he believed in. This is an undeniable fact of Christianity today, and every Christian ought to admit it.

Christians today who do not know how the Nicene Creed came about are following in Constantine's footsteps and committing the same sin that he committed. That is why just like Constantine, they have also left out from their faith the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist to take away the sins of this world. Today's Christians are also living as religious practitioners who believe only in the Word of the Cross, while the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and through which He shouldered the sins of this world is missing from the Apostles' Creed that they recite. The consequence is that Christians today do not actually believe in and follow Jesus, and instead they believe in and follow worldly religion. Unless this is addressed, their spiritual corruption will reach the heights and they will ultimately face destruction.

Today, those who have built their faith on the foundation of the Apostles' Creed believe in Jesus while leaving out work

of His baptism. In the end, these Christians are trapped in the same condition as the polytheists, and their souls are perishing equally. Therefore, Christians today must accept into their hearts the work of Jesus that was left out of the Apostles' Creed, that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and with this faith they must bring joy to God. Otherwise, they will continue to believe in Jesus while leaving out His work of baptism, following the footsteps of the polytheists of the past who believed in the Nicene Creed of their own making. The sin they are now committing is the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit before God, and unless they turn around from this sin, its remission will of course remain out of their reach.

When God looks at them, He sees them committing the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. Even though Jesus was baptized to save the sinners of this world from their sins, since these people do not believe in the Word of this baptism, they have rendered themselves unable to be washed from their sins forever. Therefore, they must believe now that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and they must be washed from their sins by this faith in Jesus' work. They must all turn around their sins and believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood.

What all of us must realize now is this: because Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, we can all be washed from our sins by placing our faith in the work of Jesus. What we must realize and believe is that the very first work Jesus Christ carried out to solve the problem of the sins of mankind was the work of baptism—that is, He shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Three years after being baptized by

John the Baptist, Jesus was crucified while shouldering our sins that He had borne through His baptism, and He died on the Cross for our sins in our place.

Having come to this earth, Jesus Christ was baptized to bear the sins of mankind on His own body, and that is why He could take away our sins and die on the Cross in our place as our Savior. Had Jesus not carried out this work to take away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, you and I would be making only a religious confession of faith, saying that Jesus is our Savior even though our sins remain in our hearts. The condemnation of your sins and mine would then be remaining with us.

#### "The Wages of Sin Is Death" (Romans 6:23)

The wages of sin is death. This is the God-spoken, just Law. Therefore, when we believe in Jesus as our Savior, if we do so while leaving out the fact that He bore the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist, we will remain sinners always. If you were now trying to believe in the crucified Jesus without the work of the baptism He received from John the Baptist, what would happen to your heart? The more you believe like this, the more of a sinner you will become, for you will be guilt-ridden for the sins that you commit while carrying on with your life in this world. This is because you cannot help but continue to sin as long as you are living in this world. That is why we must be washed from all our personal sins by faith, by realizing and believing that our Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

If Christians today had believed in Jesus even slightly earlier as their Savior who took away the sins of this world by

being baptized by John the Baptist, they would have given more glory to God while living in this world until they entered His Kingdom. The Kingdom of God would then have come to this earth. If all of us believed in Jesus as our Savior who shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, all of us would have received the remission of sins once and for all by our faith and come to praise our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.

The polytheistic believers in today's Christianity believe in the Nicene Creed made by their ancestors. They have turned themselves into religious practitioners committing the greatest sin against God. They are hindering God's work that has saved mankind from their sins. We can say that they are committing an indescribably terrible sin by obstructing the work of the baptism of Jesus. God loves everyone. God the Father will judge on the last day all those who are hiding the work of the baptism of His Son Jesus and hindering it from being revealed and made known to everyone in this world. They are working to prevent people from realizing that Jesus washed away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. From now on, therefore, we should no longer be deceived by them, believe in Jesus as our Savior who shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and be washed from all our sins once and for all now as the people of faith.

God's enemy Satan made the makers of the "Nicene Creed" leave out the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, and use the creed to achieve their own goals. To fulfill their own carnal lust, they omitted from the Nicene Creed the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, and they misled countless people to believe only in the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross and the suffering He endured. However, the Lord will make sure that the work that they did to hide the Word of the baptism of Jesus would no longer have any

effect on Christians.

Long after the passing of Late Antiquity, even the Protestant reformers in the 16<sup>th</sup> century were still influenced by the Nicene Creed, and they, too, were devoted to believing in just the Cross while hiding how Jesus washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and how people can be born again of water and the Spirit. As a result, Christians all over the world today have come to know and believe in Jesus' Cross only. By placing their faith in the Cross of Jesus alone, their souls have been deceived and they remain completely guilty of their sins.

There is a Korean proverb that says, "Hate the sin, not the sinner." In the same vein, I do not want us to hate any sinners. My goal here is to help those who want to believe in Jesus realize the fallacy of the Nicene Creed, as it was established only to fulfill its makers' own carnal lust, and, from the perspective of someone who has been born again of water and the Spirit, it is a deeply flawed creed. In other words, I want you to realize the fact that even though Jesus took away and blotted out the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, this was left out of the Nicene Creed by its polytheistic creators. To be more concrete, let us hate the sin that these people committed, but not the people themselves. They were following their political ambition when they omitted from the Nicene Creed the Word that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

Because of the sin that the makers of the Nicene Creed committed by leaving out from the Truth of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, the Truth of the washing of sins, from then on, the number of people who knew this Truth and were washed from their sins was drastically reduced. From then on until now, everyone born in this world came to know

only the crucifixion of Jesus, and consequently believe in the polytheistic religion and suffer spiritual death. For the Protestant believers who now belong to this worldly polytheistic religion, no matter how hard they try to be good Christians, they are ultimately incapable of understanding from the written Word of God that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and therefore it is impossible for them to be delivered from their sins. But, it is not too late. Even at this very moment, they can and ought to be born again of water and the Spirit and receive the remission of sins by believing in the Truth that Jesus bore and washed away their sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

With the Nicene Creed, Emperor Constantine used Christianity to come up with the most universal religion that could bring unity to his subjects and serve his political purposes. This is the reality of the polytheistic religion that exists today in this world. Omitting from the Nicene Creed the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist to take away the sins of this world, Constantine created the most universal and polytheistic religion in this world, and he drew in countless souls all over the world. Through this polytheistic institution, he made himself the head of a world-wide religion, and he successfully achieved his goals by using Christianity.

Today also, Christianity is dominated by religious leaders with such faith. Abiding in the polytheistic religious doctrines of their own making, they have left out from the Nicene Creed the true Word that Jesus washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and they are emphasizing only the Cross of Jesus and teaching their congregations to believe in it alone. So, with their polytheistic religion of the Cross, they are bringing spiritual confusion to today's Christians who believe in Jesus as their Savior. With the most universal religion of their

making, they believe that Jesus' Cross alone constitutes salvation, and they pretend as if they have been saved from all their sins. They are driving everyone all over the world into their polytheistic religion.

That is why all of us must stand against them, placing our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior who took away the sins of this world and washed away our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus has solved away the problem of all our hearts' sins with His baptism, and we must believe in this Jesus as our Savior. We must reach our salvation by believing wholeheartedly that our Lord who took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist is our Savior. In this way, no matter when our Lord returns to this world, we must be ready to stand before God as those who have received the remission of sins by believing in Jesus as our Savior who washed away all the sins of our hearts with the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

## Today's Anti-Christians Must Also Believe in This Truth

Today's anti-Christians are those who are living their lives of faith without realizing that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. These are the people who, influenced by the Nicene Creed and not knowing that Jesus accepted the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, tried to lead their lives of faith by believing in Jesus' Cross alone, got hurt, and gave up on church life as a result. Because they do not know that the Lord Jesus bore the sins of this world once and for all and washed them away once and for all by being baptized by John

the Baptist, they ended up giving up on their religious lives. This happened because they believed in the Christian doctrines taught by the polytheistic religion.

The Nicene Creed that they believed in is a polytheistic creed that was created in the First Council of Nicaea presided over by Emperor Constantine in AD 325, long before any of today's Christians were born in this world. Left out of the "Nicene Creed" promulgated at the First Council of Nicaea was the biblical Word that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. This creed became the keystone that generated today's Christianity and the universal church. It also exerted a great deal of influence even on the Reformation by the Protestants, and came to form the core of their beliefs.

Created by polytheistic believers, the Nicene Creed is so entrenched that today's Christians can neither avoid being influenced by polytheism nor reject it no matter how hard they try. This is because today's Protestant churches were founded by the reformers of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and these reformers had adopted the Nicene Creed as the essential foundation of their faith. It is no exaggeration to say that Christianity today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was built by the Protestant reformers under the influence of the Nicene Creed, and that it was built on the doctrines of these reformers' making. In short, from AD 325 to this very day in 2023, all Christians laid the foundation of their faith and build their churches on the Nicene Creed promulgated at the First Council of Nicaea. That is why churches today find themselves unable to avoid the influence of the Nicene Creed even if they try.

For example, if you were now to go to your church and listen to the sermon preached by your pastor in the hour of worship, you will be listening to a sermon given by someone

under the influence of the Nicene Creed. This is because your church leaders who are teaching you and feeding you with spiritual food have already been influenced by the Nicene Creed, and their sermons are grounded in this faith. If some of you have turned into anti-Christians after trying to live your lives of faith in this kind of an environment, this came about because your faith in the Nicene Creed has now been exhausted. And those who have turned into anti-Christians like this are models for those who will follow them and become the same as them. In not-too-distant future, they will come across other former Christians who, influenced by the Nicene Creed and disappointed in their lives of faith, ended up leaving their church.

What, then, must we know and believe about Jesus with our hearts to be saved? You can be born again when you believe that the Jesus who took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist is your Savior. I hope and pray that you would from now on understand that you are saved from all your sins by listening closely to the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and believing in it. The Word of salvation that enables everyone to now be washed from his sins is the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and through which He took away the sins of this world once and for all.

In both Testaments of the Bible, it is written in numerous passages that the sins of mankind are washed with water in God's sight. In the age of the Old Testament, the Bible writes that the water of the basin in the Court of the Tabernacle is what cleansed the body of the priest. Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a leper, but when he heard about the Prophet Elisha from a young girl serving his wife, he went to see him, dipped his body in the Jordan River seven times as Elisha told him, and was healed from his leprosy. (2 Kings 5:1-14).

Throughout Leviticus chapter 4, the Bible mentions the "laying on of hands" when speaking of the sacrificial system, saying that sinners must lay their hands on the head of the sacrificial animal set by God and thus pass their sins on to it.

When we turn to the New Testament, we see Jesus taking away all the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. We see the Word of baptism, in other words, telling us that Jesus shouldered all the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13-17). The Bible shows us that the washing of sins for everyone living today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was fulfilled by Jesus by bearing the sins of this world once for all through the work of the baptism He received from John the Baptist. The Lord is now showing us the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world and washed them away once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, the representative of mankind, and He is telling us that this Truth is the greatest Truth of the remission of sins.

## The Place Where Jesus Shouldered Your Sins Is the Jordan River

It is written in Matthew 3:15-16, "But Jesus answered and said to him, 'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him." By being baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus shouldered the sins of this world, and this means He bore and washed away all your sins and mine for all of us living in this world now. Referring to

the righteous work that Jesus carried out by being baptized by John the Baptist and thus shouldering the sins of mankind, going to the Cross, and shedding His precious blood to death, the Bible says that this is "all righteousness" of God. Today, people do not know the fact that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and as a result they are suffering under the weight of their sins even now. It is because you have been under the influence of the makers of the Nicene Creed that you have drifted away from Jesus.

Today's churchgoers who do not realize that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist are still living bound by their sins. This is because they have been taught to believe in the Nicene Creed of AD 325 while leaving out the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. Yet, despite this, they do not even know that they have been deceived by the ideas of the Nicene Creed, and that is why they remain sinners spiritually. More and more Christians these days are devoting themselves to their religious lives without realizing that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and that He has cleansed away all their present sins once and for all.

Many Christians end up turning into anti-Christians because they believe in Jesus without knowing the Truth, omitted from the Nicene Creed, that Jesus accepted the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist. In other words, it is because the Nicene Creed, which makes it impossible for you to pass your sins to Jesus, came to constitute the foundation of faith for churches in this world. Even as you believe in Jesus as your Savior, you have always lived as a sinner to this day, and yet you have thought mistakenly that all this spiritual problem is your fault. You are living as a sinner always, only to perish, because the Nicene Creed is preventing you from passing all

your sins to Jesus by believing that He accepted them through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. This is why the Christian religion today is a religion that believes in just the Cross, all the while distorting the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and through which He took away the sins of this world.

Pastors these days are preaching to their congregations to receive the remission of sins just by believing in the Cross, without knowing the fact that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. So, not only have they failed to be washed from their own sins, but their ministry is also preventing their congregations from obtaining the washing of their sins by placing their faith in the baptism of Jesus. Even though they call themselves pastors and claim to be preaching the Word of God, in reality, they are incapable of preaching Jesus' work of baptism to their congregations, for they themselves do not know that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

These pastors are no more than believers in the religion of the Cross alone, for they do not even know the fact that the Nicene Creed is missing the Truth that Jesus washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. As a result, they have no detailed knowledge of the reason why Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, and with this ignorance they are now leading their congregations into darkness also. It breaks my heart to see the whole world today is so full of such religious leaders preaching just the Cross of Jesus. I pray to the Lord to instill our hearts with compassion for these people.

In such worldly, religious churches that preach just the Word of the Cross, no one can teach that the Lord took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the

Baptist, and therefore the congregations are also living every day as sinners. Countless church leaders and laypeople are now living a religious life in vain, for they do not know the amazing Truth of salvation. They are just living a religious life with their zeal, oblivious to the fact that Jesus is the Lord who bore the sins of this world though the baptism He received from John the Baptist and saved every sinner in this world once and for all its sins.

Those of us who believe in the Truth that Jesus bore all the sins of this world on His body through the baptism He received from John the Baptist must now preach this gospel throughout the whole world. It is when we fulfill our duties as witnesses that all the people in this world can also come to realize and believe that Jesus accepted all their sins once and for all through His baptism, and to thus receive the remission of sins into their hearts. This is why God's Church preaches the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist every time we worship our Lord. For Christians whose hearts are sinful and non-Christians alike, everyone must believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and always live by this faith.

The Lord is telling us in John chapter 3 that we must "be born again of water and the Spirit." He is telling us that faith in the Jesus who took away the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist is the faith that enables us to be born again of water and the Spirit. From AD 1 to AD 33, Jesus completed all the work of salvation to deliver all sinners from every sin by bearing the sins of this world through His baptism and shedding His blood on the Cross. Contained in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist is all the righteousness of God, who shouldered and washed away the sins of this world.

The Lord's work of saving and delivering us from our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist began with the birth of Jesus Christ the Savior in this world, coming to the earth incarnated in the flesh of man through the body of Mary. And at the age of 30, Jesus began His public life by being baptized by John the Baptist and thus bearing the sins of mankind on His body once and for all. The work that Jesus carried out by taking away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and bearing all the condemnation of all our sins in our place, is the real Truth of salvation.

It is written, "For thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). The Bible writes that it was fitting for Jesus to shoulder the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. It was in the Lord's plan of salvation established for mankind even before the foundation of the world for Jesus to cleanse mankind from the sins of this world once and for all with the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and it was also the way to reveal the true God. By placing our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, we are now able to receive the washing of sins into our hearts and be crucified with Jesus Christ.

That Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist constitutes the righteousness of God, and it is what has saved His believers. Therefore, it is by being baptized by John the Baptist, dying on the Cross, and rising from the dead again that Jesus has become the Savior of all who believe in this Truth. When we believe in this Truth of salvation with our hearts, this, too, constitutes the righteousness of faith that enables us to reach salvation now in God's sight. It is by believing in the Word of the baptism Jesus received from John the Baptist that we come to have the faith that brings salvation into our hearts.

It is through the baptism He received from John the Baptist that He took away the sins of mankind once and for all. It is because He went to John the Baptist and received baptism from him to bear the sins of mankind that the Lord was condemned for our sins and put to death in our place. Like this, the Lord has now become our Savior by His baptism and blood. Through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus was able to accept your sins and mine once and for all.

The saints of the Early Church could become our Lord's disciples on account of their faith, knowing and believing that Jesus went to the Cross and shed His blood because He had shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. For us to become like the disciples of Jesus now, we, too, must have faith in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. The disciples of Jesus believed in His baptism, and we ought to also inherit their faith and become Jesus' disciples to the Lord's pleasure.

Through our faith in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood, you and I have now been saved from all the sins of this world. What we must realize here is that we are now able to help others become Jesus' disciples and follow in His footsteps, for we have been saved from all our sins by believing in Jesus our Savior with our hearts, who took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Now that we have been saved by believing wholeheartedly in the Word that Jesus has delivered us from all the sins of this world through His baptism, we are to lead our lives as the Lord's disciples. By believing in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist, we have not only passed all our sins to the body of Jesus, but we now have the duty to help all those who hear the gospel we are preaching pass

all their sins to His body also.

Even though our true faith is not seen in the eyes of the flesh, we have been born again from all our sins by believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed. Now that we believe in the Lord's righteousness, we have become witnesses testifying this righteousness of the Lord in our everyday lives. Because we have faith in the baptism of the Lord, His blood, and His resurrection from the dead, we can all live an ever more blessed life by this faith in our Lord's righteousness.

The faith we now have in the resurrection of the Lord, and in the fact that Jesus took away your sins and mine through the baptism. He received from John the Baptist, is forever unchanging. We still continue to carry out the Lord's work by our faith in His righteousness, and our only purpose in life is preaching the Lord's baptism and resurrection to the best of our abilities, even beyond the limits of our flesh. And now, placing our faith in the written Word of the Lord, we are carrying on with our lives hoping only for the Lord's return until the day our bodies are transformed to enter His Kingdom. Through our faith in the baptism of our Lord, we can now die on the Cross with Jesus Christ and rise from the dead again with Him.

By believing in the baptism of Jesus Christ, we are to be washed from all our sins, die on the Cross with Him, and rise from the dead again with Him. While living in this world, whenever we pray to the Lord, we can get all our problems solved by trusting in the Lord. By giving us faith in His baptism and blood, the Lord has given us the faith that enables us to be freed from all the sins we commit while living on this earth. By believing in the true Word that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, we have been saved from all sins.

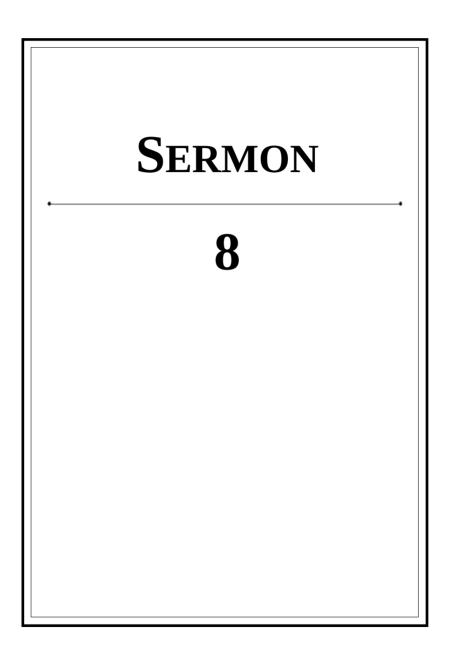
Enoch, our predecessor of faith, is said to have gone to the Lord without facing death on this earth. As long as I am alive, I will preach this gospel of baptism to everyone throughout the whole world, proclaiming that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all through being baptized by John the Baptist. Together with you, I will live by trusting in the baptism of the Lord and His blood until I stand in His presence. As someone who has faith in the baptism and resurrection of Jesus, I believe with every conviction that the most blessed life awaits you and me alike.

When Jesus came to this earth, He said, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working" (John 5:17). And as Jesus said to the Samaritan woman in John chapter 4, I believe that it is my work to preach to the entire human race the Word of the baptism Jesus received from John the Baptist when He came to this earth. The Lord said that His flesh is the bread of life for mankind. Once, when the disciples bought some bread in a town and offered it to Jesus, the Lord said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know" (John 4:32). For those of us who believe in the Lord's baptism, the work that Jesus carried out by bearing the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist is our food.

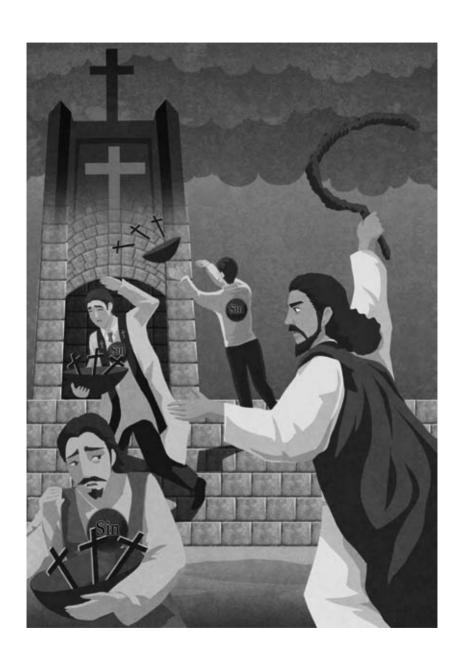
We now have the faith that passed the sins of this world to Jesus through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, but what would happen if we were not to serve the Lord's work? When we carry out the Lord's work, we feel satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment from the completion of His work, and we rejoice beyond description thanks to our Lord and the Holy Spirit. We have the Holy Spirit in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is pleased by us when we spread the work of salvation that Jesus completed, preaching that He accepted our sins through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Even though our

bodies may be weary, the Holy Spirit brings endless joy into our hearts. Thanks to the work you and I are doing to preach the Word of the baptism through which Jesus bore the sins of this world, and the Word of the Cross, countless souls in this world will be blessed to receive salvation.

With my faith, I give all my thanks to the Lord for taking away our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, rising from the dead again, and blessing us His believers. I hope and pray that you and I will also live by faith like Joseph of Arimathea, rise from the dead with the Lord, and enter His Kingdom to live forever. Hallelujah!



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### The Lord Has Cleansed Our Hearts

< John 2:13-22 >

"Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, 'Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!' Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.' So the Jews answered and said to Him, 'What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' Then the Jews said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said."

### The Lord Wants to Cleanse the Temple

Today's Scripture reading tells us that the Word of the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist on this earth and His Cross constitute the light of this world. It is written in John 1:9, "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world." The "true Light" here speaks of the Light of Truth that is "trustworthy, without any falsehood, pure, and truthful." In other words, the true Light is the complete opposite of any man-made light, and it refers to the pure, veritable, and perfect light of salvation.

The origins of today's Christianity are traced back to the Protestant reformers of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. These reformers' faith, however, were rooted in the Apostles' Creed rather than the true Light. Historically speaking, the basis of the Apostles' Creed lies in the Nicene Creed. Although its adherents claim that the Nicene Creed is a confession of faith that inherited the faith of the apostles of the Early Church, in reality, it destroyed these apostles' faith. The Nicene Creed was a fabricated creed, for it left out the Word of the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and through which He took away the sins of this world.

Satan, God's enemy, realized that the purpose for which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had come to this earth and been baptized by John the Baptist was to save all mankind from the sins of the world. So, Satan sought to undermine God's plan by using human beings and making them come up with the Nicene Creed. When Satan stands against God, he uses people who do not fear Him. So we need to realize here that there are certain people who are used by Satan. It is now incumbent on us to correct and undo this blasphemous and evil deed. The work of the baptism of Jesus constitutes the righteousness of God, and it is our duty to let people know and believe in this work properly.

From now on, all Christians ought to believe that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, be washed from their sins, and live

a life of faith that brings glory to God. Using the Nicene Creed to prevent the faith of the Early Church from spreading all over the world, Satan left out the Word of the baptism of Jesus, that the Lord took away the sins of mankind through His baptism. Put differently, the devil took a preemptive measure to hide this Truth of salvation, so that no one would know the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. Therefore, it is imperative for us to now believe in the Truth that Jesus Christ took away all our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist, and to thus reach our salvation even at this very moment. This is because no human being can ever be delivered from all his sins without faith in the Truth of salvation through the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist. All of us must grasp this fact and believe in it.

We need to realize that Satan used the makers of the Nicene Creed as his instruments to omit the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. This means the devil used these people to mislead everyone to the way of destruction.

It is for this reason that, today, I wish to preach to you in detail the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, as I am a follower of the Reformed faith. I would like to bear witness of the Truth to you, explaining in concrete terms how Jesus washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Through the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, He took away all the sins of mankind once and for all in the most just way, and He died on the Cross while shouldering these sins on His body. This work is what brought comfort to God the Father and soothed His heart.

This is because the Son of God shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized and was condemned for our sins in our place, which should have been borne by us human beings. It is from His Son's baptism and the shedding of the Son's blood that

God the Father found appeasement for His heart, saying, "Had My Son not been baptized and shed His blood, I would have had to condemn mankind for all their sins, but I no longer need to do this." In this way, God's heart was mollified.

I am now preaching to you the Truth of salvation that the Lord has given us. I am telling you with every confidence that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and without this Word of baptism, there is absolutely no way for you to be washed from your sins. This is because by believing in just the crucified Jesus as taught by Christianity today, we cannot wash away our sins. Jesus Christ has come by baptism and blood, and it is only if we believe in Him as our Savior that that we can truly be washed from our sins.

Jesus has saved you and me from all the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and I want you to be born again and receive everlasting life by believing in the gospel of salvation while you are still living in this world. I want you to realize the fact that you can pass all your sins on to the body of Jesus by placing your faith in His baptism, by believing that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. And I want you to believe with thanksgiving that Jesus, who was condemned for your sins in your place while shouldering them once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, is your Savior.

The baptism that Jesus received when He came to this earth and the blood He shed on the Cross constitute the sacrifice of salvation that He offered to save all mankind from all sins. So, I thank the Lord for being baptized by John the Baptist, shedding His blood on the Cross, and thus making Himself mankind's propitiation. Since I believe that Jesus took away the sins of this

world by being baptized by John the Baptist, I am a born-again man in God's sight. That is why I am preaching the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit to you now.

#### What I Wish for You

I have a singularly critical fact that I wish to tell you in this present age: By believing in and following the Nicene Creed, today's descendants of the Protestant reformers believe in Jesus while omitting His baptism, and by believing in the Word of the Cross alone while leaving out the Word of the baptism of Jesus, you cannot wash away your sins once and for all. Just as it is written in Matthew 3:13-17, Jesus has fulfilled the righteousness of God by being baptized by John the Baptist and thus taking away the sins of this world once and for all, and I want you to believe in this baptism of Jesus. By now placing your faith in the fact that Jesus accepted your sins on His own body by being baptized by John the Baptist, you can be washed from all your sins.

Is your faith now placed in the baptism of Jesus, or is it placed only in the crucified Jesus? Right now, all of us are descendants of the Protestant reformers. This gives me all the more reason to ask you to return to the right faith and believe in the work of Jesus that was left out of the Nicene Creed, which is that Jesus bore the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Even though we are descendants of the Protestant reformers, from now on, let us be washed from all our sins by believing in the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Let us receive the grace of salvation that the Lord is offering us. And through our faith in the baptism of Jesus, let us

pass our sins to Him and launch a new reformation of faith for this age.

Over the last couple of years many people have died from COVID-19 or are suffering from its effects. There also have been more and more Christians leaving their church without much hesitation. While this is in part explained by pandemic-related government policies such as social distancing requirements that restricted large gatherings, what made these Christians struggle even more is the fact that they could not solve the problem of the sins that were in their hearts. Christians these days are in such a poor spiritual condition that they do not even have the conviction of their own faith. So, they end up abandoning their church and have no choice but to try to guide themselves. It cannot be denied that these Christians are the lost sheep.

The task before us now is guiding such lost souls to the Word of the baptism that our Lord received from John the Baptist. We have the duty to teach them the fact that Jesus shouldered their sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. We must guide their faith to the right direction, so that they would believe in the Word of the baptism of Jesus. This is what God wants from us, and it is His heart's desire.

Today's Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can now be washed from all the sins that are in their hearts thanks to the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. I believe if only their hearts have the desire to be washed from their sins through faith in the baptism of Jesus, they will be more than able to overcome the virus that has now spread throughout the whole world.

However, because so many Christians around the world today have no faith in the Word of the baptism of Jesus, they have no conviction of salvation about the washing of their sins either. This is why whenever the fear of COVID-19 rears its head, their hearts are overwhelmed by terror. However, those who have been washed from their sins through the Word of the baptism of Jesus and His blood have the Lord in their hearts, and therefore they do not wander anymore. What you need to realize here is that these believers, too, were able to get the problem of their sins solved in these end times because they had met someone who preached to them the Word of baptism and taught them that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. If only this were to come about, everyone can have the faith to truly follow in the footsteps of the apostles just like the saints of the Early Church.

## Why Were Christians Bound to Live Trapped in Their Sins?

The very first reason why so many Christians had no choice but to live trapped in their own sins is because they had never heard the Truth of baptism, not even once, that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world and washed away everyone's sins with the baptism He received from John the Baptist. As a result, the more time passed by, the more sinful they became as the problem of their sins was never addressed. Precisely because most of them were turning into even worse sinners, the Word of the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist is absolutely indispensable to them. After all, they are now perishing because of their sins.

Jesus is the Savior who has washed away the sins of this world with the baptism He received from John the Baptist, but because these Christians have not met Him yet, they are still unable to get the problem of their sins solved by faith. Owing to

the sins that remain in their hearts now, they eventually end up giving up on their lives of faith. Therefore, we all need to turn our eyes away from the religion that we have believed until now, gaze upon the Word of the baptism that the Lord received, and look toward His love that has washed away our sins. The day of the second coming of the Lord is nearing this world day by day, but if you yourself do not believe in the Truth that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, how could your heart not be fearful?

You must accept into your heart the Truth that you have never heard until this very moment—that is, the Truth that the Lord took away your sins through His baptism. Your heart must thus be made sinless, and you must receive the Lord as a sinless person when He comes again. This is why I am preaching this Truth to all the religious people who must face the day of the second coming of the Lord, urging them to believe in the Word of the baptism that the Lord Jesus received.

The Word of the baptism of the Lord and His blood is not the light of false doctrines that only sinks our ship of faith. Instead, it is the Word of Jesus that delivers mankind from all sins and guides us to the safest harbor of salvation. Jesus Christ Himself is the Truth, bearing witness of the baptism of true salvation and of the true remission of sins to all those who are now perishing because they have not found the Truth of salvation in this world yet. With the light of salvation that the Lord is shining on us, He is illuminating all those who are trapped in the darkness of sin with the true light of life. The Lord Himself is the Word of salvation that lights up sinners with the Truth of salvation. To illuminate us with the light of salvation, the Lord Himself took away the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist and was crucified in our place. He is the Savior who came looking for us on this earth to

bring salvation to us.

The "true Light" in John 1:9 is telling us that Jesus came looking for the sinners who had been trapped in the darkness of sin from the foundation of the world, and that He has now become our Savior by taking away your sins and mine through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. You are now hearing the Word that illuminates everyone in the 21st century with everlasting salvation. I want all of you to find this true light of salvation by believing that the Lord Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Jesus Christ is the Savior who shouldered all the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and was condemned for all our sins by laying down His body and shedding His blood on the Cross. To save mankind from all the sins of the world, the Lord took away their sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and bore their condemnation.

# The Lord Is Shining the Light of Salvation on the Religious People Who Are Trapped in Sin

Today's Christians are living as sinners even though they believe in Jesus because they are unable to grasp the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, which was left out of the Nicene Creed that was adopted at the First Council of Nicaea in Late Antiquity. We need to realize here that the crucified Jesus that these Christians believe in now is based on the articles of faith that were created at the time of the First Council of Nicaea. The Truth of the washing of sins, that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, is missing from the Nicene Creed. As a result, countless

Christians have fallen for its deception and are living as sinners even to this very day in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Apostles' Creed that you recite out of memory as your confession of faith is based on the Nicene Creed, and it has misled you into believing in Jesus while leaving out the fact that He shouldered the sins of this world and washed them away once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. This is why so many Christians today are still living as sinners even though they all believed in the crucified Jesus as their Savior. It is inevitable for people with such faith to eventually reach the conclusion that they have never washed away their sins with the Truth of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. Ultimately, it is impossible to wash away anyone's sins by relying on faith in the Nicene Creed.

The contents of the Nicene Creed, which has confused so many souls and misled them away from the Truth of being born again, are as the following: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of the heavens and the earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,..." When we look at the faith of the apostles of the Early Church through the Word of the Bible, we can see that their faith was placed in both the baptism and blood of Jesus, believing that He took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Therefore, if our hearts now believe as the apostles believed in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received and His blood, then we, too, will be washed from all our sins.

If the Nicene Creed were written in such a way to properly reflect the faith of the apostles of the Early Church, all of us would have received the washing of sins into our hearts by believing in the baptism of Jesus who took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

However, the Nicene Creed leaves out the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, and it only records that the Lord suffered under Pilate and was crucified to save us. This is why, even to this day in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, so many people have been unable to receive the remission of sins by believing in the Word that Jesus accepted the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

Therefore, you and I must now believe in the baptism and blood of Jesus, that He took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Christians today have turned into worldly religious practitioners because they believe only in Jesus' Cross as taught by the Nicene Creed, with the baptism of Jesus left out of their hearts' faith. If you have believed in Jesus all this time while leaving out the Word of His baptism from your heart, you must now be washed from your sins and reach salvation by placing your faith in the baptism of Jesus. If you believe in Jesus' baptism, you will be called into the sinless people of the Lord, for you will be washed from all your sins. Thanks to your faith that the Lord moved all your sins and mine to His own body once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, you will be made righteous. Now is the time for all of us to have the faith of the righteous whose hearts are sinless.

It's written in today's Scripture reading, "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world." The "true Light" here is the complete opposite of falsehoods, and it speaks of the fact that Jesus moved the sins of mankind to His own body through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. The Lord is the true Light of salvation for all sinners. Jesus Christ has given true salvation to those who believe in the baptism He received from John the Baptist. To all those who believe in the Truth that Jesus Christ shouldered the sins of this

world through His baptism, the Lord has brought true salvation.

Even in secular armed forces, there is a reason why some military commanders are highly respected by their soldiers. Such commanders are respected not only because their achievements are worthy of admiration in their soldiers' eyes, but also because they have shown genuine care and love for their subordinates. Seeing the bravery of such commanding officers, the soldiers serving under them come to respect them naturally and follow them loyally. Like this, we believe in the baptism of Jesus Christ—that the Lord took away our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist—because He received the baptism that has saved us from the sins of the world.

When our ancestors fell into Satan's temptation and became sinners, Jesus Christ Himself came to this world to save His people from their sins. To take away the sins of mankind, the Lord shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, was crucified to shed His blood on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby brought salvation to all those who now believe in the Lord's righteousness. It is through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood that Jesus Christ has saved us from the sins of the world. This means Jesus has now allowed us to reach salvation by believing in the righteousness of God that He has fulfilled with His baptism and blood. And this is the providence of God the Father bestowed on all those who believe in the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We were all sinners who couldn't avoid but be condemned for our sins. However, Jesus has now saved His believers from all sins once and for all, for He Himself shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and was punished for these sins on the Cross. Even though we rightfully deserved to die for our sins, we have been saved because we believe that the Lord took away our sins through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross. To be our propitiation, the Lord shouldered the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, the greatest of those born of women. It was to move all the sins of mankind to His own body that the Lord was baptized by John the Baptist. That is why we have reached salvation from all our sins by believing in the baptism of the Lord and His blood.

The Lord is saying to us, "When your ancestors Adam and Eve fell into Satan's temptation and became sinners, I decided to wash away all your sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist to deliver you from all your sins. According to this plan of salvation I made for you, I was baptized by John the Baptist and moved all your sins to My own body. I was thus able to be condemned for your sins on the Cross in your place. From now on, you can not only pass all your sins to Me by believing in the Word of the baptism that I received from John the Baptist, but also be washed from all your sins according to the law of salvation that I planned."

## John the Baptist Passed the Sins of Mankind to Jesus

John the Baptist was born as a son of Zacharias the High Priest six months before Jesus was born (Luke 1:5-17). When John the Baptist was baptizing people in the Jordan River, Jesus came looking for him to be baptized by him and take away the sins of this world. John the Baptist was born in this world to carry out this work of baptizing Jesus and thus passing all the sins of mankind to Him once and for all. It is therefore on account of the baptism Jesus received from John the Baptist that

He was able to accept the sins of mankind once and for all, be crucified, and shed His blood on the Cross.

Because Jesus shouldered all the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism John the Baptist gave Him, He was condemned for the sins of the entire human race in our place by being crucified and shedding His blood to death, and He has thereby become our Savior. In this way, the Lord can deliver whoever believes in all His works of salvation with the heart from every sin of this world.

John the Baptist was a witness of Jesus carrying the sins of the world, testifying in John 1:29, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Jesus Himself bore witness of John the Baptist as well, saying, "Among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:10-11). Although John the Baptist was sent to this world as a descendant of a household of the High Priest six months before Jesus, Jesus testified that he was the greatest of all those born of women (Matthew 11:11).

Jesus was therefore able to shoulder all the sins of this world on His own body through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. And thanks to the blood He shed on the Cross, He was able to bear the punishment of our sins in our place and pay off their wages. We have now come to realize that the baptism that John the Baptist gave to Jesus the Savior of mankind was the work of salvation that passed our sins onto the body of Jesus. Thanks to the testimony of John the Baptist, we have also come to realize that Jesus is the Lamb of God who carried the sins of this world. It is then incumbent on us to grasp that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist on this earth, realize that we can receive the true blessings of salvation by believing in this righteousness of Jesus, and thank Him for it.

#### We Must Now Throw away the Religious Beliefs We Have Held to This Day

Living in this sinful world, we are now able to realize that Jesus our Savior took away all the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. And we are also able to receive the blessing to be born again from our sins by believing in our Lord's work. We can realize that Jesus Christ is the Savior who took away the sins that were in our hearts and washed them away through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. By placing our faith in the Word that constitutes the righteousness of God—that is, in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross—we can be saved from all our sins and thank the Lord.

At the very moment we realize that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, we can all be born again. The moment we grasp and believe in the work that Jesus carried out by taking away all our sins, we can be washed from all our sins. It is therefore by believing in our Lord's work of baptism that we are saved to become God's children. We can reinforce our faith with the knowledge that Jesus Christ received baptism from John the Baptist on His own body. We have now come to realize and believe that Jesus shouldered all the sins of this world once and for all. From now on, we can all be grateful for the salvation that we have received once and for all from all the sins of this world, for we know what the righteousness of Jesus is by faith.

The Truth of salvation is that we are saved from our sins through faith in the baptism of Jesus. For us to reach salvation from our sins by believing in the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we must first realize that all the sins of this world were passed onto Him through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. It is written in Hebrews 10:16-18: "'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,' then He adds, 'Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.' Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin."

We need to realize here just how indispensable it is for us to have faith in the fact that Jesus took away the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Faith in the righteousness of God is all the more indispensable, for we cannot be washed from all the sins that are in our hearts without the Truth of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. Everyone has a conscience, and this conscience can obtain the washing of sins only by believing that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist; and that is how we find peace for our hearts. It is, in other words, by believing in the Truth of salvation that our Lord has fulfilled that we can receive His grace of salvation. We must therefore remember that we have received the washing of sins into each of our hearts through our faith in the baptism that our Lord received from John the Baptist.

When we walk into a dark room, we can light up the whole room with just a small light by turning on the switch. Likewise, thanks to the work Jesus carried out by shouldering all the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, we can be washed at once from all the sins that are in our hearts by faith. As every sin in this world was passed onto the body of Jesus through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, for those of us who believe, all our sins can be washed away and our hearts can shine brightly. Because we believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the

Baptist to bear all our sins and of the Cross, we can believe in the washing of our sins with every conviction.

Our salvation was fulfilled because Jesus shouldered all the sins of this world once and for all on His own body through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and was condemned for our sins in our place. Therefore, by placing our faith in this fact now, we can be washed from all our sins in our lives. If we accept the Word of salvation into our hearts by faith today, that Jesus washed away the sins of this world with the baptism He received from John the Baptist, then our hearts can be remitted and cleansed from all the sins of this world once and for all. We can be washed from all our sins in the world once and for all and reach our everlasting salvation if we just accept the Word of the baptism that our Lord received from John the Baptist into our hearts by faith.

All of us can be washed from the sins of this world once and for all thanks to the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. It is therefore absolutely imperative for us to believe in the baptism of Jesus and His blood with our hearts. We can all be delivered from all our sins and become God's own children. By placing our faith in the Word of the baptism that our Lord received from John the Baptist, we can be washed from our every sin. That Jesus, upon being baptized by John the Baptist, shouldered the sins of this world is written in Matthew 3:15-17: "But Jesus answered and said to him, 'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

From this passage we were able to realize the fact that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and we were also able to be saved from our sins by faith. I give all thanks to the Lord for making it possible for us to reach salvation through faith in this Truth of salvation. We have come to grasp when and where Jesus shouldered our sins once and for all, and we have also been saved by believing it. We were able to pass our sins to the body of Jesus once and for all because of our knowledge of and faith in His baptism, and we have therefore been washed from our sins.

We can receive the washing of sins by believing the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. Our faith in the Word of the baptism that our Lord received from John the Baptist and of the Cross is what has saved us from our sins, and with this faith, we can stand against Satan and defeat his attack. When we are attacked by Satan in this world, we can overcome him with our faith in the baptism that Jesus received and the blood He shed. We can then call our lives of faith a success. If, in contrast, we do not receive the washing of sins by refusing to believe in the baptism of Jesus and His blood on the Cross, then our lives of faith would be a failure.

The Bible teaches us clearly in Matthew 3:13-17 that Jesus took away all our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Accordingly, we can now be washed from all our sins and receive everlasting life by believing that Jesus shouldered them all by being baptized by John the Baptist. It is only fitting for us to become the people of faith, believing that Jesus was crucified and shed His precious blood to be condemned for our sins in our place.

As written in Matthew 3:13-17, thanks to the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, you and I

were able to be saved from the sins of this world once and for all. When we realize and believe in the fact that Jesus took away our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, we encounter the holy Lord and are born again. We can be washed from all our sins only if we believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus, our Intercessor of salvation, received from John the Baptist.

We can now realize that all your sins and mine were passed onto Jesus thanks to the work of the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Faith in this Truth is indispensable to us. If we want to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we must believe in the Word of the baptism He received and the blood He shed for us, remember it, and ruminate on it in our hearts. It is then that we are able to understand what the Lord meant when He said to us, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). We can realize that Jesus Christ was speaking of the Truth that He took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist.

We can believe that the sins of this world were passed onto the body of Jesus through the baptism that He received from John the Baptist. By believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, we must obtain the true testimony of our salvation. This is because Satan can attack us anytime and anywhere. That is why we need the faith that the Jesus who was baptized by John the Baptist is the Savior who shouldered our sins and was condemned for our sins on the Cross. There is otherwise no way for us to resist Satan's attack. We must have the shield of faith, believing in the Word of the baptism that our Lord received. Unless we have this faith now, our souls will be decimated in the end. Our lives of faith will also end as an abject failure.

We must therefore believe that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. We must believe in the fact that all the sins of mankind were passed onto the body of Jesus. We must grasp and believe that the baptism and blood of Jesus constitutes the Truth of our salvation. When we believe in the Truth of salvation that the Lord has fulfilled for us and we thus build the altar of faith on the foundation of salvation that the Lord has built, it is then that our faith can stand even more firmly on the true Word. Those who have this kind of faith can live a successful life of faith before God.

By believing that Jesus has cleansed away the sins of this world with the baptism He received from John the Baptist, all of us can be completely washed from our sins. Because Jesus took away our sins through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, whoever believes in this Truth can realize that he has been cleansed from all his sins. This is because to believe that Jesus shouldered all the sins of this world once and for all and washed away our sins once and for all with the baptism He received from John the Baptist is to believe in the Truth of salvation. Through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, the Lord shouldered our sins once and for all on His body, and He was crucified. Therefore, it is only when we know that the Lord offered Himself as our propitiation that we can also know that we have been saved from all sins.

### Jesus Has Made It Known to Us That He Took Away Our Sins Once and for All by Being Baptized by John the Baptist

When we believe in the Lord with the realization that He was baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified to death, and rose from the dead again, it is then that we come to know that

we have been truly saved and born again from our sins. Thanks to the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, we are now able to pass all our sins to Him.

Jesus is the Savior who carried out the work that enabled Him to accept the sins of this world, your sins, and my sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. We can all therefore be washed from our sins now by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. The evidence that we have now found the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ is the fact that we know and believe that Jesus has saved all of us once and for all from the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

By being baptized by John the Baptist, our Lord Jesus washed away all the sins that were in our hearts once and for all. The true light of salvation the Lord is shining on us is not restricted to just certain individuals. Instead, the Lord is shining it on everyone living on this earth. Jesus did not come just for the rich in this world, nor did He come just for the poor. He came looking for us only to shoulder and wash away our sins with the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and to give the everlasting remission of sins to everyone who now knows and believes in this fact. By bearing every sin of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus was able to wash away His believers' sins once and for all.

Therefore, all of us must now admit that we were guilty of sins before God and thus destined to hell, and we must believe that the Lord was baptized by John the Baptist. Because of the sins we inherited from our ancestors, by our fundamental nature we were all sinners before God, and because of our sins, we could not help but face God's judgment. So, all of us needed the grace of salvation that Jesus Christ was offering to us all. From

now on, we must believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received to shoulder all our sins and wash them away, and we must receive remission of sins by this faith. Without any exception, we were all destined to hell for our sins, but to deliver such people like us from the sins of this world, Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist and even bore the condemnation of our sins.

The Lord knew that we were sinners whose hearts were full of iniquities. That is why He was baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross to be condemned for our sins in our place, thereby fulfilling the remission of our sins once and for all. This righteous work is the fact that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood and died on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. The baptism that Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist was to take away our sins, and the blood He shed on the Cross was to be condemned for our sins in our place.

The baptism that Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and the crucifixion He suffered constitute the righteous work that the Lord carried out to address your sins and mine and their condemnation. Moreover, the Lord is testifying that faith in His baptism and blood, which are His righteous works, is the most godly and beautiful faith. From now on, all of us must therefore believe in the righteous work of Jesus the Savior who has delivered us from our sins, and thank Him with this faith.

The Lord's hand of deliverance that has brought salvation to us is his baptism—that is, He took away our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. By being baptized by John the Baptist to accept the sins of this world, Jesus Christ was able to cleanse away our sins once and for all. And the Lord has given salvation to all those who seek to be saved from their sins by believing in this fact with their hearts. The wisdom of salvation that the Lord has given us is to bring salvation to

everyone living in this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and thus taking away the sins of this world. Having decided to save those who believe in the goodness of His baptism and blood, the Lord took the sins of this world upon Himself by being baptized by John the Baptist, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead again.

The Lord is the Savior who has brought true salvation to all those who believe in the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed. God the Father planned the salvation of mankind in His wisdom, and this wisdom of salvation was for Jesus Christ the Son of God to take away all the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and be condemned for them by shedding His blood on the Cross, and for whoever believes in this Word to receive the grace of salvation and become His child once and for all.

This true salvation was planned by God the Father in Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world. None other than this is God's wisdom of salvation for us, and it is the Truth that enables us to receive the washing of sins by faith. Through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all, and He has brought true salvation to those who believe in the death that He suffered for us in our place and His resurrection. God the Father has given salvation to His believers by paying off the wages of death, which are the wages of our sins, with the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross. To those who believe in the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ, God the Father has given the right to truly become His own children. It was in God's wisdom to bestow us with such salvation.

## The Lord Has Saved Us from the Sins of the World Once and for All

Through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, the Lord took away the sins of this world once and for all, and by shedding His blood on the Cross, He paid off the wages of our sins. For those who believe in this work of salvation, it is on account of their faith that the Lord has brought the salvation that He wants to give them. Therefore, it is only fitting for us to give wholehearted thanks to the Lord our Savior. Those who now believe that Jesus is the Lord Savior who took away the sins of this world by being baptized and was crucified have been washed from all their sins and received the right to become God's children, and this, too, is God's wisdom. Because the Lord has enabled us to be delivered from all our sins now by believing in His baptism of the washing of sins and His blood on the Cross, we can be delivered from all our sins and receive the blessings of salvation by believing in the baptism of Jesus and the shedding of His blood.

All of us have now received the salvation that God the Father has permitted to those who believe in the baptism that His Son received and the condemnation of sins that the Lord bore on the Cross. Of all the people born in this world, is there anyone else who has received such a wonderful blessing from God as we have by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the Word of His blood? No, of course not! Thanks to the grace and blessings we have received from our Lord, we have all come to have the faith that enables us to give thanks to Jesus Christ and praise Him. By believing that the baptism the Lord received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross were the sacrifice that He offered for the punishment of our sins, we were able to

reach salvation from all our sins. If we have indeed been saved from all sins by believing in the gospel Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and of the Cross, it means we are the happiest people who have achieved the purpose for which we were born in this world.

Soldiers fighting and risking their lives together in the battlefield call each other comrades-in-arms. Their camaraderie is not something that is built overnight. Such camaraderie is built over a long period of military service, and it is not forgotten for the rest of their lives. Like this, Jesus Christ Himself came to this earth to save human beings made in the likeness of His image from their sins. And when He reached the age of 30, He went looking for John the Baptist and took away all the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized to bear the sins of this world. He was then crucified to death and rose from the dead again, thus completing salvation. So how could we not believe in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, and how could we not believe in His love of salvation? We can never forget the salvation from our sins that the Lord has given us through the baptism He received and the blood He shed for us.

Because the Lord was baptized to save us from the sins of this world, we can realize now that our sins were passed onto the body of Jesus, and by this faith we are also able to be washed from all our sins and become God's children. Given this, how could we reject our own salvation by refusing to believe in the baptism of Jesus and the shedding of His blood with our hearts? Jesus paid off the wages of our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood, and all of us ought to be saved from all our sins by believing in His righteousness with our hearts.

Our Lord is the Savior who shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist

and was condemned for our sins by being crucified and shedding His blood. Therefore, by placing our faith in the righteous work of our Lord, we can reach salvation from all our sins once and for all.

### The Lord Is Speaking to All of Us of True Salvation

Having been baptized, died on the Cross, and risen from the dead again in three days, Jesus is now sitting on the right side of the throne of God our Father. However, the Lord will return to this world again as the Judge of all sinners. He will come again to this world as the Judge to condemn the sins of all those who do not believe in His grace of the remission of sins—that is, the righteousness of the Lord who took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

Therefore, it is imperative for us to believe in the salvation that Jesus has brought to us by shouldering the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and shedding His blood on the Cross, and to wait for the Lord's return as such believers. And from now on, we ought to be rejoiced to worship the Lord with thanksgiving and praise, trusting in His righteous work of salvation. We ought to thank Jesus Christ by placing our faith in the Truth that He has solved away our sins once and for all with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood. Our Lord will then be rejoiced by us and bless us for this faith of ours in the work of the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

Placing our faith in the righteousness of our Lord, let us all bow before Him and thank Him. Let us give thanks, glory, and praise to our Lord forever, believing that He took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and paid off the wages of our sins with the precious blood He shed on the Cross while shouldering them. Hallelujah!

The Lord is saying to us, the believers in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit: "To save you from the sins of this world, I shouldered them all once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, the representative of mankind. And by being crucified and pouring out My blood, I paid off the wages of your sins once and for all. So, believe in this Truth of salvation now and receive the remission of your sins once and for all."

The Lord continues on to say to us, "Believe therefore in My salvation, that I took away the sins of this world through the baptism I received from John the Baptist, and that I have now delivered you from all your sins by being crucified and shedding My blood on the Cross. You will then be washed and saved from all your hearts' sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit into your heart for believing in My salvation. The Holy Spirit is a gift of salvation that is given to everyone who believes in My baptism and blood that paid off the wages of all your sins." (Acts 2:38).

### The Gospel of the Water and the Spirit Is the Truth of Salvation

Jesus came to this world to save all sinners from their sins. The baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist was the beginning of the work of salvation manifesting that the Lord took away the sins of this world once and for all as the Savior. The Lord laid down His body on the Cross because He had accepted the sins of mankind and shouldered them once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. The baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist was to take away the sins

of every sinner. And the blood that He shed on the Cross was to bear the condemnation of your sins and mine. It is by believing in this work of salvation, in the baptism and blood of the Lord, that we can all be delivered from every sin.

Christians today who believe in the Nicene Creed remain unable to escape from their sins. They believe that coming before the Cross of Jesus with their own religious doctrines made of man's thoughts is the true way to be saved from their sins. However, they need to realize that such religious doctrines are all about believing in the thoughts of mankind; it is not what it means to believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given. These Christians probably know better than anyone else that they can never be washed from their sins in this way.

All of us must realize now that we can be forever washed from our sins once and for all by believing in the Word that constitutes the righteousness of God and the Truth of salvation—that is, the Word that Jesus took away all the sins of mankind through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and was condemned for them. When our God created the heavens and the earth, He made everyone in the likeness of His image. This is why God says that man is the lord of all creation in this world. We need to realize here that God had a purpose for making human beings in the likeness of His image. The purpose for which God created human beings when He made the heavens and the earth was to make them His own children and live with them.

When God created the heavens and the earth, God made man for the purpose of giving the washing of sins to the human race through His Son, Jesus Christ. So, when mankind fell into sin, God drove them out of the Garden of Eden, but at the same time He had already prepared a way for them to return to Him and abide by Him. This way was the way of salvation that would enable them to return to God the Father by reaching salvation through the baptism and sacrificial blood of His Son. Therefore, because God loved this world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, all of us can now be saved by believing in the baptism and sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God, which constitute His righteous work. It is written, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Having established a majestic plan of salvation for mankind, God sought to fulfill His will through His Son. When the time came, God the Father sent Jesus Christ to this earth and made Him receive baptism from John the Baptist, and Jesus was thus able to take away all the sins of mankind and wash away the sins of His believers. God the Father had made His plan of salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ, to deliver sinners. Because God created the heavens and the earth and made mankind, He has made it possible for all human beings to be saved from all their sins now and become His own children by believing in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

To deliver everyone from every sin of the world, God had prepared the salvation of mankind through His Son. That is why His Son, Jesus Christ, was able to accept the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. God had planned beforehand to have His Son, Jesus Christ, take away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and God fulfilled this plan. And from now on, if anyone wishes to be washed from his sins, God has enabled all to be saved once and for all by believing that our Lord took away the sins of mankind through the baptism He received on this earth from John the Baptist and the sacrifice He made. God the Father

has opened the blessed way for all mankind to reach true salvation by believing in the righteous baptism of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His sacrifice.

### Let Us Be Saved by Believing in the Baptism of the Lord and His Sacrifice

All this time, the religious doctrines of worldly Christianity have taught us to believe in the Nicene Creed. Let us cast these doctrines aside now, and let us return to faith in the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and His sacrifice! We must all return to the true Word of God written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, see how Jesus Christ took away the sins of mankind through the baptism He received from John the Baptist to fulfill the Old Testament's Word of prophecy, believe in His amazing love, and with this faith wash away our sins. We must believe now that the Lord has saved us from our sins through His baptism and His sacrifice on Cross. Let us, in short, all return to the Word of God and reach our salvation by believing that all our sins were washed away once and for all and their condemnation completed thanks to the baptism that our Lord Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and the sacrifice He made on the Cross.

For around 1,700 years from the First Council of Nicaea in Late Antiquity until now, Christianity has been drifting away from the Truth that Jesus washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and it has been trapped in a worldly religion made of man's fleshly thoughts. While the promulgators of the Nicene Creed who misled so many Christians into believing this creed may ask when they had ever left the Word of God, the creed adopted in AD 325 has been the

core doctrinal basis of Christianity, and its believers have drifted away from the faith that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Realizing this fact, we must believe in the salvation that Jesus has brought to us by bearing our sins through His baptism.

The Word of the baptism of salvation was omitted from the "Nicene Creed" that the philosophers and theologians of the time had produced together. They left out the Word of the baptism that Jesus received on this earth to save mankind from the sins of the world, and they created a document that departed from the Truth of salvation completely. The makers of the Nicene Creed argue that Jesus blotted out the sins of mankind by being crucified, but missing here is the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. As a result, Christians professing to believe in Jesus end up remaining sinners just like any other religious practitioners in the world.

I am therefore telling you that you must recover the pure Truth of salvation by believing that the sins of this world were passed onto Jesus once and for all through the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Because Christians today have inherited and believe in the Nicene Creed, they must now return into the faith that Jesus has saved us from the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist. In the Christian religion today, your ears have probably never heard to this day, not even once, the Word of salvation that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. You must therefore now understand the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, thank Him for His labor, and believe in Him. The fact that your heart is still sinful is the evidence demonstrating that everyone has been oblivious for 1,700 years that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist.

Therefore, we must now listen closely to the Word written in Matthew 3:13-17, to the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. And we must receive the washing of sins into our hearts by realizing and believing in the Truth that Jesus shouldered all the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. From now on, we must return to the Word of baptism and believe in it. To do so, we must understand, from the written Word of God, the reason why Jesus had to be baptized by John the Baptist. This is because only then can we remove all the sins that have been in our hearts until now and become righteous once and for all by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. It is then that we can receive the remission of all our sins into our hearts and become God's children without any sin, all on account of our faith in the baptism of the Lord and the shedding of His blood.

In the Bible, that our Lord took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist was His most just act of the righteousness carried out for our salvation. We are all creatures of Jesus Christ, and we were also sinners before Him, but the Bible showed us that all the sins of this world were passed onto Jesus, for Christ came as our Savior and John the Baptist passed all the sins of mankind to His head. We can therefore confess that we cannot help but believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus our Savior received from John the Baptist.

The baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the sacrifice He made on the Cross constitute the righteousness of God, and by placing our faith in them, we can now be saved from all our sins and receive the remission of sins once and for all. We must understand the righteousness of the baptism and blood of the Lord, and we must believe in it with our hearts. By believing in the baptism that Jesus received from John the

Baptist, we can be saved from all the sins that have been in our hearts until now and become God's children by faith.

If we understand and believe wholeheartedly in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood, which together constitute the righteousness of God, our Lord will be rejoiced by us, for we will receive the remission of sins into our hearts and attain the faith that makes us God's beloved children. The Lord said, "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:7). Like this, our Lord carried out the righteous work of saving us from the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. And we can be washed from all our sins once and for all by placing our faith in the baptism with which Jesus washed away our sins at once and in His sacrifice. It is precisely because Jesus shouldered all our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist that He was crucified.

We were living in this world as sinners, but to save us from all its sins, Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist and took away our sins once and for all. This was all in the plan of salvation that the Lord had established for our deliverance. In the Old Testament, there is the Word of the laying on of hands that passed people's sins to the sacrificial animal. And in the age of the New Testament, there is the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. All of us must therefore realize and believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the sacrificial blood He shed to wash away the sins of mankind. It is because Jesus shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized that He carried them to the Cross and sacrificed Himself to be condemned for them in our place.

How wonderful is it that Jesus took away the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist and offered His blood on the Cross once and for all as our propitiation? Words cannot express just how grateful we are for this salvation! Now that we have been remitted from our sins by believing in the baptism and blood of our Lord, it is incumbent on us to glorify Him with thanksgiving. The Lord took away all our sins through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, so let us thank Him by placing our faith in Him! Let us believe wholeheartedly in the righteous act that Jesus carried out by being baptized by John the Baptist, and let us live by faith! By faith, you and I have now been remitted from all our sins, even the sins that we will come to commit in the future; through our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His sacrifice, we have been saved from each and every sin of ours; and so let us all thank the Lord!

From the First Council of Nicaea, we had thought until now that the blood on the Cross alone constitutes the Truth of our salvation, but this is not the reality. We have now come to realize that our salvation rests on the sacrificial blood that Jesus shed when He was crucified to death because He had been baptized by John the Baptist. We ought to believe now in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, and thank God that we can be washed from all our sins once and for all with this faith.

The Bible says that to be born again from sin, one must be "born again of water and the Spirit." The "water" here refers to the Truth of the baptism of Jesus, that He took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Therefore, we must be born again by believing that Jesus is our Savior who shouldered the sins of this world once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and carried them to the Cross on His body.

It is when we believe in the Jesus who bore our sins once

and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist that we can be washed from all our sins. It is when we believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit given by the Lord to all of us that we can be delivered from all our sins and become God's children by faith. And when we believe that the Lord took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and became our propitiation, it is then that we can also believe that our Lord has washed away our sins with His baptism and praise Him in our lives.

### We Should Not Believe in Jesus According to Our Own Emotion

If we want to believe in Jesus as our Savior, we must not allow our emotion to dictate how we believe. Instead, we must place our faith in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist for us, and through this faith pass all our sins to Jesus. For those who believe in Jesus according to their own emotion, the moment they hear the Word of the Cross of Jesus in the hour of worship, they are ready to stir themselves up emotionally so that they can shed tears. Such people believe in Jesus for emotional reasons out of pity, thinking about how much Jesus must have suffered when He was crucified. However, this kind of faith is to believe in Jesus just like any religion in the world.

The moment the preacher mentions the word "Cross," these Christians' eyes well up, thinking to themselves, "Poor Jesus! He was crucified and shed His blood for me!" When tears begin to roll down their cheeks, they may feel as though the Lord has saved them right then and there, but in reality, their faith in Jesus is shaped by their own emotional thoughts. Sometimes when we are emotionally unstable, we are prone to fall into self-pity. Such

people project their own self-pity to the suffering that Jesus endured, but ultimately, they are just infusing themselves with their own emotion to comfort themselves. Christians should not give into their own emotions and pretend to believe in Jesus just to find some emotional satisfaction.

When people think of the suffering of the crucified Jesus and believe in Him only emotionally to address the problem of their sins, it is all in vain. If you believe in Jesus like this, then no matter how you might confess that He is your Savior, you are just a religious practitioner, not a born-again person. If you really want to believe in Jesus as your Savior, then you must first believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, and you must pass your sins to Him through this faith. You must first realize and believe that because Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to shoulder all your sins, they were passed onto His body. And you must believe that Jesus became our propitiation by being crucified. I hope and pray that you would wash away your sins now by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His sacrifice.

You must grasp here that if you try to be delivered from your sins by believing in just the crucifixion of Jesus, you cannot become a born-again Christian. No matter how much you think about Jesus' Cross, and no matter how emotional you get when you profess to believe in Jesus as your Savior, the sins that are in your heart will not disappear. This is because you can never escape from your sins with this kind of faith. For us to be freed from our sins, we must believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross, and we must believe that these two truths constitute the remission of our sins, for the Lord said to us that one can be born again from his sins only if he is born again of water and the Spirit.

From when Jesus shouldered all the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, it has been made possible for us to pass all our sins to Jesus, and we have been able to escape from our judgment by believing in the sacrifice He made on the Cross. When we believe that the Lord is our Savior, we must believe in the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His sacrifice. It is imperative for you to realize here that if you believe in Jesus as your Savior based only on your fleshly emotion, you will just turn into a religious practitioner that is so common in this world, and you cannot be truly born again from your sins. So I ask you to turn around from your old religious way, believe in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His sacrifice, and be born again from your sins by this faith.

If you want to be born again from your sins, you must first of all pass your sins to Jesus by placing your faith in the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist. When you believe that Jesus took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, you can come to understand why Jesus sacrificed Himself on the Cross. You will then know with certainty what it is that you must believe to be born again from your sins, and you will also receive assured salvation thanks to the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist to take away the sins of this world and the blood of sacrifice He shed on the Cross.

Today, if you continue to believe in just the Nicene Creed, rely on your own fleshly emotion, and put your faith in only the Cross of Jesus, you will live the rest of your life as a sinner in God's sight only to perish and stand before the Lord in your sinful state. That is why you must listen even more attentively to the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has given you and believe in it with your heart. If you otherwise hang

on to the belief that the Nicene Creed alone is true when it has made you live only a religious life, you will find yourself buried in your sins and wailing inconsolably.

So many people in today's Christian communities are leading their lives of faith as religious practitioners, believing in the Word of just the blood of Jesus on the Cross as written in the Nicene Creed. But, do you know what Jesus wants from you? He wants you to believe that He shouldered the sins of this world once and for all through the Word of the baptism He received from John the Baptist, the representative of mankind. However, many people are unable to be freed from all their sins by faith because they believe in just the crucified Jesus Christ as their Savior, and the Lord is deeply saddened by this. Such people ought to believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, and with this faith be blessed to wash away their souls' sins forever. Their own religiosity has been their stumbling block all this time, and that is why they are tragically living as a worldly religious practitioner.

Such people have been deceived by those who believe that the Cross of Jesus as manifested in the Nicene Creed alone constitutes salvation, and therefore they find the conviction of their salvation there. Believing that there is no other truth of salvation apart from the crucifixion of Jesus, they do not want to listen to the Word that Jesus Christ took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. Because they have led their lives of faith based on their own emotion all this time, they are buried in their emotion and their souls are living a religious life of faith. The probability is very high for such people to live imprisoned by Satan due to their emotional faith. This is because they have not been able to hear the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and therefore they cannot

believe in it even if they want to believe.

So, without even realizing it themselves, they have rejected the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. Even when they hear the Truth that the Lord shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, they do not want to believe it because they believe that the blood on the Cross alone constitutes their salvation, and because their own denominations do not teach this Truth. They are like this because the Word of the blood of the Lord is stirring up their emotion. They have fallen into worldly religion and living according to their own emotion, for they do not know the Truth that the Son of God took away our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

We are now working only to the extent of preaching that Jesus shouldered the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist. When you are led to the work of salvation that enables you to be born again of water and the Spirit as the Bible speaks of, if you believe in the Truth of salvation, peace will come into your heart.

I want you to realize that all that the Lord wants is to teach you and guide you to the Truth of salvation, not to move your emotion. What is imperative is that you receive the washing of sins into your heart by believing in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, and how your heart is moved emotionally is a secondary issue. Even as you know the gospel of the washing of sins that is manifested in the Word of baptism, do you still want to remain an opponent of the Truth of baptism and stand against it, with your mind unable to realize the Truth of the washing of sins? If you try to receive the remission of sins just emotionally by believing in Jesus' blood on the Cross, you will remain a sinner for the rest of your life only to drown in spiritual confusion.

For those who have this kind of faith, their own emotion is their faith. That is because their faith agitates for their emotion to be stirred up. Such people are far removed from the faith of those who are saved by believing in the Word of salvation that Jesus took away the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Their choices are stark: they must believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, or in their ignorance of the Truth of regeneration they must continue to practice worldly religion or turn into anti-Christians.

Their faith is far removed from faith in the baptism of the Lord because they are steeped in religious beliefs and rituals such as prayers of repentance and fasting, and they are also prisoners of their own emotion. The hearts and souls of those who are captivated by their own emotion are held prisoners by their emotional faith, which God abhors. Because they are caught up in sin, emptiness, and vanity, they will ultimately not be able to sustain their interest in religious life even with the Word of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Despite believing in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, such people are guilty of sin in their hearts, and therefore they are unable to be born again and bound to live as religious practitioners. They are sinners regardless of how long they might have believed in Jesus, whether it has been 1, 10, or 50 years since they first believed. This is because they only believe in the Cross manifested in the Nicene Creed. Because they do not believe in the Truth that Jesus took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, they remain sinners always, and they are living for the gratification of their own emotion. When their bodies reach death, their souls will be sucked into darkness in their sinful state. Such religious people in the world are unable to escape from the place of doom because

they believe according to their own emotion. They belong to this world's religion and they will die there.

If such people want to be saved from their sins, it is not too late, but they must listen closely to the Word of baptism and believe that the Lord took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. The Lord shouldered the sins of this world once and for all, and they must meet Him now through the Word of baptism. The religious in this world must learn about the Word of the baptism that our Lord received from John the Baptist for us, and they must realize that their hearts' faith in this Word is absolutely indispensable.

The Lord is waiting for you, having written the Truth in Matthew 3:15-17 that He took away our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, so that we may know it. You must realize and believe that because Jesus bore all your sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, the Lord could carry the sins of this world to the Cross, shed His blood and die on it. As we now know, Jesus' death was made possible because He was able to shoulder the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist.

It was possible for Jesus to be crucified because He had taken away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist. And because the Lord rose from the dead again after His crucifixion, He was able to bring true salvation to those of us who believe in the Truth that Jesus shouldered the sins of this world and washed them away with the baptism He received from John the Baptist. By being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the Lord took away at once each and every sin that you and I commit every day in this world, and for those who believe in this Truth now, He has washed away their sins.

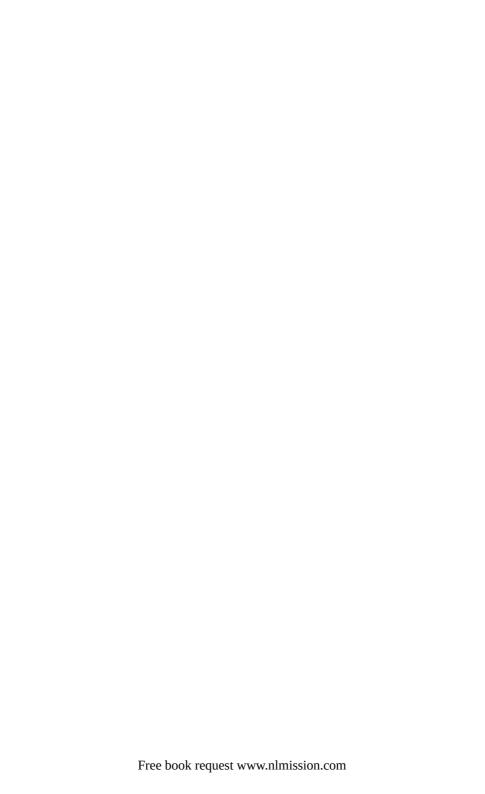
Jesus was crucified and shed His blood while shouldering

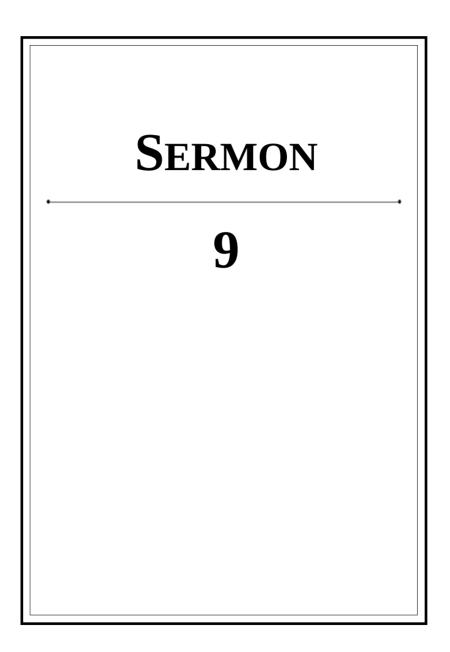
the sins of this world that He had taken upon Himself by being baptized by John the Baptist. He is the Savior who thus took away the sins of those who yearn to be born again of water and the Spirit and paid off the wages of all our sins in our place. Having shouldered the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, Jesus said as He was dying on the Cross, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) The baptism of the Lord and the shedding of His blood are God's love for every sinner's salvation from sin. The Lord is the Savior who has delivered all those who believe in His baptism and His blood of sacrifice. He truly wants us to be saved from all our sins by believing in the righteous baptism and blood of Jesus.

Having thus been baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood on the Cross, and risen from the dead again, Jesus is now sitting on the right side of the throne of God the Father. The Lord will come to this world again as the Judge, for He completed on this earth all His works as the everlasting High Priest of Heaven. Jesus is the Savior who came to this earth, took away your sins and mine once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, sacrificed Himself to be crucified, and has thereby saved us His believers all at once. We now believe in the baptism and blood of Jesus, and the Lord has saved us from the sins of this world once and for all and washed them away once and for all.

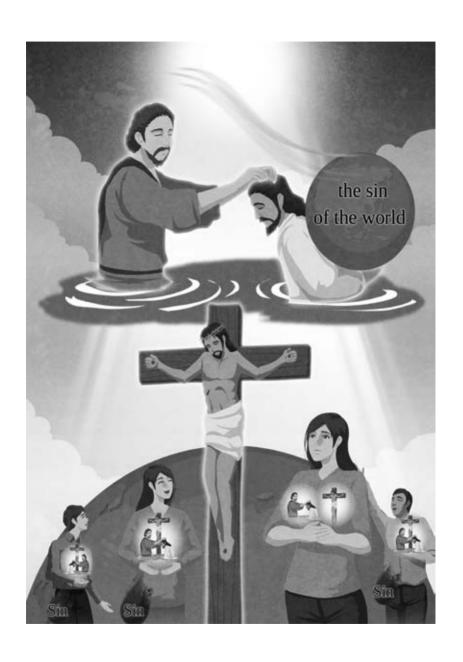
We have now been able to reach salvation from all sins by believing in the Lord's righteous love, who shouldered your sins and mine by being baptized by John the Baptist, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead again. We should all take a moment here to ponder and reconsider what kind of faith we need to have before God. Although the Lord is the Savior who has saved all of us sinners through His baptism and His blood of sacrifice, we should not forget that He is at the same time also

the Judge watching us with eyes like a flame of fire. The Lord is offering His grace of salvation and the blessings of the Holy Spirit, and I hope and pray that these will be bestowed on you. Hallelujah!





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# The Lord Who Became the Sin Offering of Atonement

< Isaiah 53:7-12 >

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death. Because He had done no violence. Nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,

He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.

For He shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,

And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."

I would like to testify about the Lord, who became the sin offering of atonement, through today's Word. The word 'atonement' has the meaning of 'appease, compensate, or cover.' The meaning of this atonement can be understood by looking at God's retaliatory war to avenge His people in the Old Testament times. If the Israelites won the war by retaliation against the enemy, the war itself could be a way of atonement for their own people. Let's assume that a war breaks out, and the king and people of a country fight against the enemy, but in the first war, they lose and many of their own people die. And, in the next war, if the king of that country avenged the enemies of the people by killing all the opponents and winning, this can also be said to be atonement. The meaning of atonement is the same as when our heart longs to take revenge on our enemies, and when that wish is fulfilled, then our heart is appeased. We may describe this as atonement, or expiation.

Today's Scripture reading also speaks about this. It is written in Isaiah 53:7-10: "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked — But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make

His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand."

Earlier, I said that the meaning of 'atonement' is 'to appease, compensate, or cover.' Just as our hearts are appeased by taking more revenge on our enemies than we suffered, Heavenly Father's wrath toward us was appeased by the baptism that Jesus received, His blood on the Cross, and His resurrection. This is because Jesus received the sins of the world through the baptism. He received from John the Baptist, bore the condemnation of sins by being crucified and thereby obtained sufficient reparation for the wages of our sins.

## In This Way, Jesus Became the Propitiation for the Sins of Mankind

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to us incarnated in the flesh of man. And by being baptized by John the Baptist according to His Father's will, He bore the sins of the world once and for all, died on the Cross, rose from the dead, and saved us, the believers, from the sins of the world. Like this, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist and bore the punishment on the Cross in our place. This is the evidence that He became the propitiation by bearing the condemnation for the sins of mankind. This means that the baptism and the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, were received by God the Father as the atonement for our sins. This truth made the heart of God's wrath toward us contented at once. And His heart was appeased.

The first human beings, Adam and Eve, were tempted by Satan and fell into the sin of not believing the Word of God.

Thus, human beings' relationship with God was cut off due to the sin of not believing the Word of God and uniting with Satan. So, God had to pass judgment on the sins of mankind to His Son, Jesus Christ. Because God loves us, He planned and proceeded to save sinners by using His Son as a sin offering for mankind.

God the Father allowed His Son to be offered as a sacrificial atonement according to His own plan. If He directly judges people who resemble Him for their sins, they will end in death, so He prepared Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as a Mediator, between Him and mankind. Because God wanted to communicate with the human beings He created, He prepared a sin offering for them to pacify His heart. God the Father was the One who planned the work of salvation to have a good relationship with human beings.

God the Father decided to offer His Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind and to have Jesus baptized to pass on the sins of the world to judge their sins. God sent His Son to this earth and made Him bear the sins of the human race by being baptized by John the Baptist, had Him bleed on the Cross, and Jesus has thereby become our sin offering. When God the Father saw His Son, Jesus Christ, baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross, His wrath against our sins was appeased.

God's heart is pacified in this way because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and bore the punishment of our sins on the Cross. "I had to pass all your sins on to My Son through His baptism and judge them by crucifying Him on the Cross. This is because I loved you all. Because I love you, I wanted to appease My righteous heart by using My Son as a sin offering to judge the sins of mankind. I made My Son take upon all your sins and bear the condemnation in your place. So now My heart of wrath

due to your sins has been appeased. I made My Son as the sacrifice to save you from all the sins of this world, and My heart was soothed through Him."

The Bible says that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John the Baptist, died on the Cross, and He has thereby saved you and me from all the sins of the world. God is saying that He sacrificed His Son to atone for the sins of mankind. He made His Son the sin offering of mankind to be judged for all our sins and saved us who believed in this truth.

To save you and me from sin and judgment once and for all, God allowed His Son, to take over the sins of mankind through His baptism, to be crucified on the Cross, and therefore His wrath toward us was appeased. In other words, God wanted to settle all compensation for the entirety of our sins through the baptism and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, and became comforted in His heart.

God the Father allowed Jesus Christ to be baptized and shed His blood and it was an act of salvation for us. "To pay for your sins, I made My Son, Jesus Christ, be baptized by John the Baptist and let Him be crucified to death." God wanted to save us sinners by paying the price for our sins by having His Son, Jesus Christ, be baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross. When God the Father saw the baptism of His Son and the punishment of sins on the Cross, His wrath toward us was appeased. It was the sacrifice of atonement set by God to atone for the sins of mankind.

# The Bible Says that God Saved Us from Our Sins through the Son of God

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave

His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John3:16). God sent His Son to this earth as the Savior, and Jesus took upon all the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist and bore the condemnation of our sins on the Cross. Because of this act of salvation, God's wrath against man's sin was appeared. Jesus Christ received the judgment of our sins: God's righteous judgment in our place.

This means that God the Father has been pacified through the baptism and the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. So, He saved us, the believers, from our sins. The wrath of God's heart toward sinners was placated by the baptism and the shedding of the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. The atonement permitted by God has been accomplished through the baptism that Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and His death on the Cross. It means that God was able to save us all from the sins of the world through the baptism of His Son and the punishment of the Cross.

Jesus Christ is fundamentally the Son of God who came to this world as the Savior of mankind. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon the sins of the world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, was crucified, rose again from the dead, and became the Savior of those who believe in this fact. That is why the Lord has become the Savior who saved you and me from the sins of this world, from the judgment of all sins.

God says to Satan, "Have you plunged human beings, who were made in the likeness of My image, into sin? So, to save them from the sins of the world, I let My Son take upon the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and let Him receive the punishment of the Cross in their place to pay off the wages of their sins. With the baptism My Son received and the blood He shed on the Cross, I was able to complete the work of saving all sinners from the sins of the world. Therefore, I have

completed all the judgment required on mankind's sins."

God also says to us that "In order to save you from your sins, I allowed My Son, Jesus Christ, to bear the sins of the world once and for all from John the Baptist and to receive the judgment for your sins on the Cross. Since My Son was judged for your sins in this way, now believe in My righteous work and be saved from your sins. Then you will receive the everlasting remission of sins by believing that all your sins have been judged. This is the sacrifice of atonement." Do you understand this Word?

As I gave an example at the beginning, let's say that in the Old Testament times, the Israelites fought against the enemy, suffered a terrible defeat, and many people died. So, in the next war, if they plan well and kill 10,000 of their enemies and only 2,000 of their own, then they have been well rewarded for losing the first war in their minds. Because of this, the Israelites' hearts that wanted to judge the enemy was also appeased. Like this, the heart of God the Father, who wants to judge our sins, was softened because of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). In this way, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to this world to be baptized by John the Baptist and to have His Son crucified to deliver people from the judgment of all sins. Because of His Son, His heart was greatly comforted.

Because God the Father allowed His Son, Jesus Christ, to be baptized by John the Baptist to take upon the sins of the world, Jesus bore all the condemnation of our sins. Do you understand this? God made His Son baptized by John the Baptist and died on the Cross so that you and I, who now believe in this work of salvation, can receive true salvation and comfort.

## From the Beginning, God Planned the Salvation of Mankind in Jesus Christ, His Son

Our ancestors, Adam and Eve, together with Satan, committed the sin of not believing in the Word of God. They did not obey God's command, "Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." This is the sin that the first humans, Adam and Eve, committed against God. God had to give death as a punishment for mankind's sins, but instead sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to give salvation through the atonement which His Son made by receiving baptism from John the Baptist and dying on the Cross. Through the baptism and shedding of the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, God the Father allowed His Son to receive the punishment for the sins committed by mankind.

As we know, when the Triune God created the heavens and the earth, human beings were not children of God at the time. However, God already had a plan to save mankind from sin.

And after human beings were created, they were tempted by Satan and placed in a situation where they sinned against God. God allowed the sins of the world to be passed on once and for all through the baptism of His Son, Jesus Christ, received by John the Baptist. And Jesus carried the sins of the world and was crucified to be condemned for our sins in our place. This is the sacrifice of atonement that God has given us. God's merciful love was contained in this. Through the baptism that He received from John the Baptist and the condemnation that He bore on the Cross, Jesus Christ saved us, who were made in the likeness of the image of God, once and for all. Through the baptism and death of His Son, God the Father allowed Him to receive the judgment for our sins on our behalf. And since then, for those who want to be saved from their sins, God has allowed them to

reach salvation from all their sins through faith in the baptism of His Son, Jesus Christ, by John the Baptist and in the blood of the Cross.

You and I were born on this earth as descendants of Adam and became those who instinctively commit sins every day. Human beings were not sinless children of God from the beginning. When God created mankind, He did not plan to make some of them His children and others not to make His children. If He had planned for us that way from the beginning, we would have called Him unfair. On the contrary, He had a plan from the beginning to save us all from our sins through the baptism of His Son, Jesus Christ, by John the Baptist and bearing our condemnation on the Cross.

Satan tempted people to commit sins against the Word of God, but instead, God was pleased to show His mercy through the baptism and redemption on the Cross of Jesus Christ, His Son. To accomplish the salvation of mankind, He planned to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth incarnated in the flesh.

God allowed His Son to be baptized by John the Baptist, the greatest of all those born of women so that Jesus could take upon the sins of mankind. And He wanted to complete His just and righteous salvation by having His Son be crucified on the Cross so that His Son could bear the condemnation of our sins in our place. That is why He does not hesitate to make us His children who believe in the baptism and blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

What the Lord wants to reveal to us through the Word of the Bible is that God has saved us through the baptism and the blood on the Cross of His Son, Jesus Christ. We human beings were created in the image of God from birth. Through this, we can see that God had already planned to make us His children from the beginning. There are several evidences that mankind is in the image of God. Since God lives forever, mankind also seeks eternal life. God is holy. So even though people live their lives in a mess, they want to pursue holiness in their hearts. Also, God is just. Thus, people demand fairness from others even though they are lousy, unjust, and selfish.

In countries with a presidential system, there are ruling parties and opposition parties, and the opposition parties ask, "Why does the president conduct politics this way?" and criticize the government. Then, later, when the ruling party changes through elections, the opposing party interrogates the current administration, "Why does the president do that? Did the first lady buy the clothes with her own money? Wasn't it bought with state money?" Even at a National Assembly hearing, they say, "He is not suitable. He made a lot of money by speculating in real estate, and his children got into college illegally, so why are you trying to make him a minister?" When they were in power, they said he was a decent person, but when the administration changed, they keep nitpicking everything.

This is what it means to say, "Even though I'm not perfect, you should cut me some slack."

It is because we are all human beings in the image of God. Human beings, who resemble God, desire to be fair, to be holy, and to give and receive love. Everyone does not want to be a tyrannical person. Rather, people want to love others and lead them well. But in reality, it is not so. It is because they violated the Word of God and sin entered their hearts. Originally, God created human beings in the image of God, so they hated sin, but after they first sinned, they came to love sin.

Since we are fundamentally born as descendants of Adam, we do not have the ability to live a holy life like God. The human race, born with sins as descendants of Adam, will live in this

world and be judged and destroyed for their sins. So, God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world, and Jesus took upon our sins once and for all through the baptism He received by John the Baptist, bore the punishment of our sins, and has thereby saved us from them. In other words, through the baptism of His Son and His sacrifice on the Cross, God the Father received compensation for our sins.

It is like vicarious satisfaction to the heart of God. God's wrath against sin toward us was appeased through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who bore our sins through His baptism and received the judgment for our sins in our place. This is why God the Father saved every believer from their sins and judgment once and for all through His Son, who sacrificed Himself as our propitiation.

### The Son of God Became Our Propitiation

It is written in Isaiah 53:10: "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand." What is an offering for sin? It is a sacrifice for sin before God. It is to be washed away from one's sins. For example, if I accidentally break someone else's \$5 item, I have to compensate by adding 1/5 more to it. This is an offering for sin. In other words, we must die for our sins, but Jesus Christ, the Son of our God, was baptized by John the Baptist to take upon our sins and shed His blood on the Cross to pay for our sins. That is why we can receive the remission of our sins through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was baptized by John the Baptist and was crucified. Put differently, Jesus Christ became an offering for sin

to pay for our sins.

It is written in verse 11: "He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities." This Word is spoken of those who believe in the righteous salvation of the Lord who, took upon the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist, shed His blood on the Cross, and rose from the dead. About 700 years before Jesus came to this earth, God's servant, the Prophet Isaiah, said that Jesus Christ would come to this earth in the future, be baptized by John the Baptist to save mankind, and shed His blood to pay the price for our sins.

"He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist and died on the Cross to receive judgment for our sins. It means that our Lord saved us by paying the price for our sins. In this way, since the Lord paid the price for our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood, how can we not believe that the Lord is our Savior?

"By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities" (Isaiah 53:11) This means that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth and took upon Himself the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist. According to Matthew 1:21, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, borrowed the body of the virgin Mary and was born on this earth. The angel said to Mary, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). In this way, God said that Jesus would borrow the body of Mary and be born on this earth as the Savior of mankind. And when Jesus was thirty years old, He was baptized by John the Baptist and took upon Himself the sins of the world once and for all.

It is written in Matthew 3:13-17 that Jesus Christ, the Son

of God, took upon the sins of mankind through the baptism He received by John the Baptist. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?' But Jesus answered and said to him, 'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

It is written in Isaiah 53:11: "He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities." The Word of this prophecy is that in the New Testament Age, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism received by John the Baptist, and paid the full price for our sins by shedding His blood on the Cross.

According to the Word of this prophecy, "The Lord shall bear our iniquities," Jesus took upon all the sins of the world once and for all and washed them away through the baptism received by John the Baptist. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bore the punishment of our sins once and for all by being crucified and shedding His blood. Jesus is sinless because He is fundamentally the Son of God, but He bore our sins once and for all with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and received the punishment for our sins on the Cross in our place.

"Then" in Matthew 3:13 refers to the time when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. In other words, it refers to the time when Jesus was 30 years old and went to be baptized by John the

Baptist. Jesus, at the age of 30, visited John the Baptist who was baptizing in the Jordan River to save mankind from the sins of this world. Then John the Baptist said to Jesus: "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me? I must be baptized by You." John the Baptist knew who Jesus Christ was through the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 3:15, Jesus said to him: "'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him." Thus, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John the Baptist and took upon the sins of the world once and for all with His own body. In other words, Jesus did the work of righteous salvation by bearing the sins of the world.

This word can also be found in the Old Testament, Isaiah 52:13-15. "Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider." In the New Testament, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John the Baptist to take upon the sins of mankind once and for all, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to bear the sins of the world and became our propitiation.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth, was baptized, crucified, and rose from the dead. Now there are many people all over the world who believe in this righteous work of Jesus Christ, praise Him, and exalt Him. Also, God the Father is saying that when the time comes, there will be an innumerable number of people who will give glory to Him by believing in Jesus Christ, who was baptized, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead.

In the Old Testament, sacrifices for atonement are written in Leviticus Chapter 16. And the New Testament focuses on Jesus Christ being baptized by John the Baptist and crucified. The apostle Paul said in Romans 3:25, "whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed." This means that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon the sins of the world once and for all with the baptism received by John the Baptist, shed His blood on the Cross, and thereby became a propitiation between the Holy God and human beings.

Here, "propitiation" refers to the sacrificial offering that relieves the wrath of God with the baptism of Jesus and His blood, that is, the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. When we were born into this world, we were unable to communicate with God from the beginning because of the sin we inherited as Adam. However, the Son of God took upon the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist, and became the sacrifice for all our sins on the Cross, bringing about reconciliation between us who believe in this propitiation of salvation and God. This is a sacrifice of reconciliation for the restoration of the relationship between God and mankind. It means that God the Father sent His Son to this earth and let Him do the duties of Jesus Christ Himself.

Before God the Father, Jesus had to do the work of remission of the sins of all people to fulfill His duty as "Christ."

Jesus Christ had to first come to this earth incarnated in the flesh of man to do this work. And when He turned 30, He had to be baptized by John the Baptist to take upon the sins of mankind once and for all. It is because Jesus bore the sins of mankind through His baptism that He was crucified to death, rose from the dead, and thereby has become our Savior.

Jesus became the propitiation between God the Father and us. Originally, we were the ones to be judged by God for our sins, but through faith in the baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross, we can live in peace with God. By saving us from our sins, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, created a relationship of love between God and us.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, reconciled our relationship with God by offering Himself as a propitiation through the baptism He received from John the Baptist. Here, 'reconciled' means that Jesus made peace between the hostile relationship between God and human beings because of sins. We human beings were sinners before God, but God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and Jesus paid for all our sins by offering the sacrifice for our sins with His blood on the Cross. So, we have become righteous before God, no longer sinners, by faith.

In other words, God the Father made His Son, Jesus, bear our sins once and for all by being baptized, shed His blood and die on the Cross; and Jesus has thereby fulfilled all the work of saving us who believe from the sins of this world and judgment.

## Jesus Christ Fulfilled the Will of God the Father Once and for All through the Sacrifice of Atonement

The Bible says in John 19:28-30, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!' Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing

His head, He gave up His spirit."

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to be baptized by John the Baptist and shed all the blood in His heart to death on the Cross. Because Jesus bore the sins of mankind, He had to be crucified to pay off their wages. Jesus was crucified, suffered the pain of judgment for our sins, died, and rose from the dead. Every time the heart of Jesus beat, the blood that flowed along the arteries had to go back to the heart through the hands and feet, but the blood ran out through His hands and feet nailed to the Cross and He suffered the pain of death. This kind of pain is beyond human limits. That is why our Lord said "I thirst!" before dying on the Cross. Because Jesus Christ poured out all His blood, the moisture in His body was gone. People put sour wine on hyssop and put it to His mouth, but He did not drink it.

After being baptized, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was crucified to death and He said just before passing away, "It is finished!" His last Word as He left this world were, "It is finished!" What did the Lord finish by coming to this earth? It means that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon all the sins of mankind once and for all through the baptism He received by John the Baptist, bore the condemnation of all the sins of mankind by dying on the Cross, and has thereby fulfilled the will of God the Father once and for all.

This sacrifice of atonement is that God the Father handed over the sins of mankind to His Son for Him to be judged for them in our place. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth, was baptized by John the Baptist, was crucified, and died, paying the price for our sins once and for all to save us the believers from the sins of the world. This is what God the Father is satisfied with, and it is also a wonderful work of salvation for us.

God is saying, "My Son took upon your sins once and for

all with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and bore the condemnation of all sins in your place with His crucifixion. Now, the price of your sins has been fully paid for. I will no longer ask you to pay for your sins. However, your salvation is determined according to whether you believe in the truth of salvation, which was completely paid for by the baptism My Son received and His blood on the Cross. The price for your sins has been paid once and for all by the baptism My Son received from John the Baptist and the blood on the Cross. I will see your faith. Those who believe in the baptism My Son received from John the Baptist and the blood on the Cross will be saved from all their sins. Then you will become sinless through faith. So from now on, believe in the gospel that My Son, Jesus Christ, has saved you from the sins of this world once and for all with His baptism and blood. I will pour out the Holy Spirit and the deliverance from sin into the hearts of those who believe in the truth of salvation that saved you from the sins of the world."

In this way, God spoke the Word of promise. It is that through the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the sins of our hearts have been blotted out once and for all. We can be sure of our salvation through faith in the baptism of Jesus Christ and the blood on the Cross. From now on, those who believe in this Truth will be saved from all their sins and receive the Holy Spirit as a gift.

Those who have received salvation and the Holy Spirit through faith in this way become God's people. The remission of one's sins is not achieved by believing in the man-made Nicene Creed, but by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ the Son of God received from John the Baptist and the blood on the Cross. Those who believe in this Truth are saved from their sins because God paid the full price for sins through the baptism and shedding of the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is

because God has received full compensation for all of our sins and judgment through the baptism of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His death on the Cross. This gospel is the sacrifice of atonement that God the Father speaks of to us through His Son.

It is written in Isaiah 53:12: "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors." This Word means that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth, took upon the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, bore the curse and judgment for all the sins on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us, His believers. In this way, the Lord saved mankind by paying for the sins of mankind once and for all with the baptism received from John the Baptist and the blood on the Cross. So we must believe in this Truth in our hearts.

God said that He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. It satisfied the heart of God, the Father of Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ came to this earth and saved us through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and shedding His blood to death. Since the Son of God saved all mankind from their sins by being baptized and shedding His blood, now all people can receive salvation once and for all, thank our Lord, and live by faith.

All of this was satisfactory in the sight of our God. While living for 33 years after coming to this earth, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took upon the sins of all people through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, bore condemnation for all sins on the Cross, and rose from the dead. In other words, Jesus solved the problem of all the sins and curses of this world once and for all with His baptism and blood.

It is written in Isaiah 53:11, "He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities." We can see the word 'bear' here. We must know that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to be baptized by John the Baptist to bear all the sins of mankind. To pass this object here to the other side, there must be a mediator who can do this in the middle. Then the other side will bear it.

This mediator is John the Baptist, who is the greatest among those born of women (Matthew 11:11). The New Testament says that John the Baptist baptized Jesus to take upon the sins of the world once and for all, and Jesus bore the punishment of them in our place on the Cross. It is written in Isaiah 53:5: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

The sacrifice of atonement in the Old Testament begins in the New Testament when Jesus took upon the sins of the world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. In this way, the baptism of Jesus, the Son of God, and His blood on the Cross are connected to our salvation. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John the Baptist for us sinners and shed His blood to death on the Cross to bear the punishment for our sins. From now on, those of us who believe this fact can thank God, our Savior, for freeing us from our sins. And God the Father obtained sufficient reparation for the wages of our sins through the baptism and death on the Cross of His Son.

While Jesus came to this earth and lived for 33 years, He was baptized by John the Baptist and bore all the condemnation of sins by being crucified to death to become our propitiation, so we can be saved by this faith. Jesus suffered humiliation from the creatures He created, but because the Lord saved His people

from their sins once and for all by being baptized and shedding His blood on the Cross, countless souls who believe in Him now can be saved from their sins and rejoice. That is why the heart of our Lord is glad.

God the Father is satisfied that His Son saved us by suffering and dying on this earth. And now we, too, have become those who are thankful that we can be saved because of the baptism He received for us and His blood.

Aren't you satisfied that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sacrificed Himself as the propitiation for us? Aren't you grateful to Him? All those who have been saved from their sins by believing in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ have hearts of gratitude. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made atonement for our sins with His baptism and blood, and now He has become the Savior who saves us from the sins of this world.

Therefore, our Lord has now become the Savior who has saved us from the sins of the world by making atonement for our sins. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became the Savior who saved all people in this world from their sins by sacrificing Himself as the propitiation for our sins. He has become our true Savior. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the One who truly gave us salvation from sin and new life. He is the One who makes us believers into children of God and takes us to Heaven. He is also the God who loves us forever.

It is clear that Jesus loves us forever. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the One who lives forever and wants us to be saved by believing that He paid off the wages of our sins with the baptism He received and the blood He shed on the Cross. If we believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has now delivered us from the sins of the world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His death on the Cross, then we will be saved from all our sins. If we believe in the sacrificial love of

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became the propitiation for our sins in our hearts, we become believers in the Truth within the will of God the Father.

Jesus, who came to this earth for us, washed away all the sins of the world with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood, and therefore He has become the Savior who made atonement for our sins. Do you believe this? Jesus offered Himself as the propitiation for our sins to pay off the wages of our sins. Because of our sins, we had a wall with God, but Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has reconciled us to God through His baptism and blood and has now made it possible for us to love God through this faith. Those who believe in this Word are exceedingly grateful to God and love Him. This salvation was fulfilled once and for all when Jesus Christ came to this earth and offered Himself as our sacrificial offering of atonement. This is the offering for sin written in Isaiah 53.

What we need to know is that Jesus did not just suffer on the Cross, but actually came to this earth as a Man, was baptized by John the Baptist to take upon our sins, and paid the price for the sins of mankind by being crucified. So He has become the eternal Savior to us, the believers. Through this Word of salvation, we can say, "For God so loved us that He saved us. God the Father obtained reparation for the wages of our sins through the baptism and blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. God loved us so much that He saved us from the sins of the world once and for all, and made us live forever." Since the Word of Scripture from both Testaments is the letter of love sent by God to us, we must have a grateful heart as those who read and believe them.

God writes letters of love to us every day, so they became the thick Bible. The remission of all our sins is included in the sacrifice of our atonement of the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God the Father said, "I loved you and saved you through My Son, Jesus Christ. Because you fell into Satan's temptation and sinned by violating my Word, you drifted away from Me. So even though I wanted to meet you, I couldn't because your sins blocked us. But I still love you and meet you. In order for Me to meet you, I must solve the sin problem between you and Me. So, I sent My Son, Jesus Christ, into this world incarnated in the flesh of mankind to solve the problem of your sins once and for all."

To absolve you from sins and judgment once and for all, He took upon all the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. Carrying all the sins of this world to the Cross, He bore the pain you should have suffered, the judgment of sins, and the death and sorrow for your sins. You had to die for your sins, but My Son, Jesus Christ, was baptized and died on the Cross in your place.

"As the Lord of resurrection, I am the One who overcomes your death. To solve the problem of your sins and death, I was baptized and bore the punishment of the Cross. So believe this as your salvation. Then you will be saved from all your sins. Until now, Satan the Devil has deceived you and kept you away from Me for a while, but I have resolved you of all your sins with the baptism I received from John the Baptist and the blood on the Cross. Now, I have saved you so that even Satan can no longer accuse you of your sins. Believe in the truth of salvation that I saved you from your sins.

Believe in the baptism of atonement and the shedding of blood that I paid for your sins as salvation in your heart. Then we can meet again and live to love each other. That is why I am sending you My love letters. The Old Testament promised that I would come and save you from your sins, and the New Testament wrote that I had completed the work of saving you

from the sins of the world through the baptism and blood according to the Word of the covenant I had promised in the Old Testament. Do you believe in the love of salvation that I have fulfilled for you? Now believe in the sacrifice of peace offering so that we can meet and love each other. Receive forgiveness of sins by believing in the delicious Word of life, and enjoy eternal life with Me." This is the message of the letter of love and salvation that God has sent to us. Do you believe this?

How great is our God, the Savior of love? We can know that God not only created us but also established a great plan of eternal life for us. As the One who has the power to bless us with the remission of sins, God has now made us righteous, without sin. For a while, the relationship between God and man was severed by Satan the Devil. But Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John the Baptist to take upon the sins of the world once and for all, made atonement for our sins by shedding His blood and dying on the Cross, rose from the dead, and has thereby become our Savior and the propitiation.

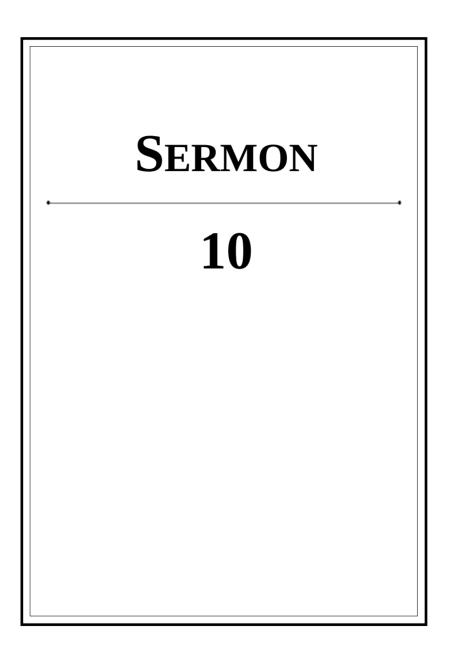
Jesus Christ is truly the wonderful Savior of mankind. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. There is no one who can stand against Jesus Christ in Heaven and on earth. There is only one thing He cannot do, and that is lying. Since God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit love us now, in order to establish and maintain a relationship of love that saves us from our sins, He made the atonement for our sins by being baptized and crucified.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, tells us, "You must believe that I have sacrificed Myself as the propitiation for your sins. Believe in the baptism that I received and My blood. Then, with that faith, we can be at peace and have eternal life together. From now on, what you must do is believe in your hearts that I was baptized by John the Baptist and shed My blood on the Cross to

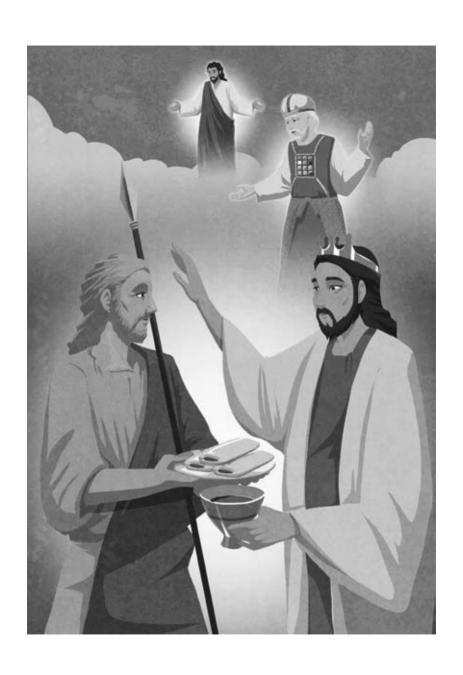
become your propitiation. You will be saved as long as you believe in My baptism and blood as your salvation." Do you believe this? All of God's will is fulfilled when we believe in the salvation God has given us. All we have to do is to believe in the fact of salvation that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became our propitiation for sin. I believe in this truth. Do you also have this faith? If so, then we have become those who have a relationship with the Lord.

Now, whenever we call the Lord our Savior, He listens to us. This is God's love and plan of salvation for us. Therefore, by faith in the baptism that the Lord received and His blood, we have become His people and workers. We sometimes suffer for the Lord while living on this earth. But the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that we will enjoy in the future. In the future, we will receive many blessings from God. Hallelujah!





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# God's Providence That Saves Us from Our Sins

#### < Jeremiah 31:31-34 >

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Today, I would to like to share with you God's work that has saved us from our sins, whereby God annulled the first covenant and established a second covenant. The Prophet Jeremiah speaks to us of two covenants established by God. Today, if we are able to understand the new covenant that God has established for us, our souls that had been wandering in confusion will find clarity thanks to an even brighter light of salvation, and our faith in salvation will be made even more steadfast in our hearts.

What, then, is the new covenant by which God wanted to save us? It is written in Jeremiah 31:31-32, "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord." When God led the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt, He gave them the Word of His Law. The first covenant that God made with His people was this: "If you obey the Word of My Law, I will be your God and bless you. If, however, you disobey Me, I will condemn you for your sins like the sacrificial animals on the altar of burnt offering."

Like this, the first covenant that God established with His people was a covenant of blood. However, God's people unilaterally broke the first covenant that they had made with God. Even after obtaining the first covenant from God, they could not keep their promise to Him, for they had too many shortcomings to obey the Word of the Law that they had pledged to keep before God. As a result, they ended up breaking God's first covenant all on their own.

For this reason, God sought to make a new covenant with His people. Jeremiah 31:33 says, "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." God said here that He would establish a new covenant with the people of Israel to replace the old covenant, and He will be their God through this new covenant. Way back, when God made the first covenant, He made it with the blood of sacrificial animals, but now with the second covenant, He said, "I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they

shall be My people."

The first Law established for the people of Israel was made with the blood of sacrificial offerings (Exodus 24:3-8). In contrast, God said of the new covenant, "I will be their God, and they shall be My people." He went on to say in Jeremiah 31:34, "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

In this sermon, I am sharing with you the Word of God about His new covenant, and once you hear this Word, you will come to see the Bible in a wholly new way. In the covenant that God has made with us, we find salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Word is written in both Testaments as thick as the Bible you are holding. When we look into the contents of the two Testaments, we can see that the Old Testament belongs to the old covenant while the New Testament is about the new covenant that God has made with us, teaching us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth and has saved us, the sinners.

Now then, let us first return to the foundational Word for the new covenant. Let us turn to Genesis here and examine Melchizedek the Priest who brought bread and wine to Abraham and blessed him. Melchizedek the Priest was king of Salem, but he blessed Abram when he was returning from the battlefield. It is written in Genesis 14:18-20: "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said:

'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.' And he gave him a tithe of all."

So, if we understand in detail the priesthood of Melchizedek king of Salem, it will be very helpful for our spiritual growth as we will come to realize that he was an archetype of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As written in Genesis, in the days of Abraham, a man named Melchizedek was king of Salem, and he was called the priest of God Most High. The name Melchizedek means "my king is Zedek," and "Zedek" here refers to a certain deity. Which deity does it refer to? It refers to the Lord God.

Let me borrow from biblical scholars to expand on Melchizedek king of Salem here. The name Melchizedek mentioned in Hebrews 7:2 is interpreted as righteousness" or "king of peace." The city named "Salem" is Jerusalem. Melchizedek, later what became king righteousness and most high priest, provided bread and wine to Abram's men of arms when they were returning from the Valley of Shaveh after winning a war (Genesis 14:17-18). He asked God Most High to bless Abraham. Abraham recognized Melchizedek's priesthood, answered his blessings, and gave him a tithe of the spoils of war (Genesis 14:19-20). At this time, Abraham had already recognized that "God Most High" was the same God who had revealed Himself to him—Jehovah, in other word (Genesis 14:19).

In Psalms 110:4, the king of Judah to rule over Zion is seen as a successor to Melchizedek the Priest, and this king is to not only be Zion's ruler but also its priest at the same time. This status can be understood to a certain extent from the fact that King David served as a priest as well (for reference, see 2 Samuel 6:12-19 and 1 Kings 8:14, 22-23, and 54-56). Psalms chapter 110 here is quoted and recalled numerous times in the

New Testament, particularly in Hebrews.

Hebrews chapter 7 is based on Genesis 14:18-20. The fact that Abraham recognized Melchizedek's priesthood demonstrates that this priesthood takes precedent over the priesthood of "the descendants of Levi" (Hebrews 7:4-10). Therefore, the Messianic ruler mentioned in Psalms chapter 110 is in the priestly order that precedes the Levitical priesthood—that is, it is speaking of Jesus Christ, the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:11-19).

The account of Melchizedek, king of Salem and a priest, is introduced suddenly in the Book of Genesis. And in Hebrews 7:3, Melchizedek is explained as someone without father and without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life. He is therefore an eternal priest, as well as an antitype of Jesus Christ to come. For cross-referencing, Psalms 110:4 speaks of Jesus as a priest whose priesthood is everlasting:

"The Lord has sworn

And will not relent,

'You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek."

In contrast, the legitimacy of the Levitical priesthood depends on whether one is a descendant of Levi or not. The writer of Hebrews knew the priesthood of Jesus Christ, that He was an everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

In summary, the Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is not any descendant of Levi but our eternal Priest. We should therefore realize and believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fulfilled His priesthood in this world as the everlasting Priest, and has thereby saved us from our sins once and forever.

## God's Plan and Providence for Mankind's Salvation

Today we read Jeremiah for our Scripture reading. God said here in Jeremiah 31:32, "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them." With His Word, God made the first covenant with the people whom He had led out of Egypt. This covenant is the first covenant that God made with His people. The first covenant that God made with the people of Israel is the old covenant, which He spoke of in Exodus 24:1-8. For the Old Testament's believers, the crux of their tradition is the contract made between God and His people. This contract was drafted and made by God, and it was a contract that the people of Israel, Abraham's descendants, entered into with Moses after their exodus from Egypt. This is written in Exodus chapters 19-24. God established this covenant with the blood of the altar of burnt offering, to make His relationship with the people of Israel, which had been loose, stronger. This was like a contract entered into by pledge, whereby anyone breaking it would be put to death.

The first covenant between God and the people of Israel was determined by God's sovereign rule. The Lord God commanded Moses, as written in Exodus 24:1-8: "Now He said to Moses, 'Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. And Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him.' So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, 'All the words which the Lord has said we will do.' And Moses

wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.' And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.'" The covenant that God made authoritatively with the people of Israel is the old covenant that was made with blood.

The covenant made with blood here was a promise that if either side did not keep it, a price would be paid just like the shedding of the blood of sacrificial animals. It is with this sacrificial blood that God made a covenant with the leaders of His people with the blood. This covenant is written in Exodus 19:3-8: "And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words which you shall speak to the children of *Israel.*'" *So Moses came and called for the elders of the people,* and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, 'All that the Lord has spoken we will do.' So Moses brought back the

words of the people to the Lord."

The covenant was similarly affirmed in Exodus 24:3-8 as well: "So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, 'All the words which the Lord has said we will do.' And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.' And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."

Like this, the covenant made between God and the people of Israel after their exodus from Egypt entailed the establishment of the Law of Jehovah: if the people of Israel kept this Law of God, He would protect and bless them as their God, but if they disobeyed it, worshiped idols, and broke the covenant, then they would be put to death. This was the covenant that was made between God and the people of Israel. However, the people of Israel ended up breaking this covenant with God all on their own, for they abandoned the Lord God and worshiped pagan idols. That is why God said to the people of Israel, who had broken the promise they made with the old covenant in Exodus chapter 24, that He would make a new covenant with them and be their God.

God promised to save His people from their sins with this new covenant, and He said that He would put this promise in their hearts and write it in their minds. They would then become God's people, thanks to the new covenant established with His Truth. Simply put, God said that His Son, Jesus Christ, would come to this earth, save them from the sins of the world by being baptized and shedding His blood on the Cross, and make them God's people. God was prophesying that He would put His love and His law of salvation in the hearts of those who believe in the baptism that His Son, Jesus Christ, received from John the Baptist and His blood, write them in their minds, and make them His people.

This is why God said in Jeremiah 31:34, "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." In short, God sought to make the sins of mankind known through the Law, and to make them reach salvation by believing in the baptism of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His blood on the Cross.

God said to all of us, "Since you were too weak to keep My first covenant and you broke it all on your own, I will give you a new, second covenant and save you from the sins of the world and judgment once and for all. This time, I will deliver you from all your sins and make you My people by My power of salvation. I will write in your hearts and minds the Truth of salvation, the baptism I received and the blood I shed for you, so that you may never again depart from Me."

In other words, the new, second covenant that God made is not the same as the old covenant of the Old Testament. The new covenant, instead, promises that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would come to this earth and save us from our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood, and that God would write this Truth of salvation in our hearts and make us His people.

### I Have Come to Do the Will of God

To understand Jesus Christ's priestly ministry according to the order of Melchizedek, let us turn to Hebrews 10:9-10: "Then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Here in this passage, the Bible is speaking of the new covenant written in Jeremiah chapter 31. The new covenant is this: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would come this earth, accept the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, die on the Cross, rise from the dead again, and thereby be the Savior of all those who believe in this.

The work that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, carried out by being baptized and shedding His blood when He came to this earth is the fulfillment of the Word of God written in Jeremiah 31:33-34 in the Old Testament. This means God has cleansed away, once and for all, the sins of everyone who believes in the work of His Son, Jesus Christ, who came to this earth by God's new covenant. To be more specific about this priesthood of the Lord according to the order of Melchizedek, it is not by keeping the Law that we are made God's people; instead, it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has saved us from our sins, for He took away the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist and was condemned for our sins once and for all by being crucified.

The Old Testament speaks of two things: it speaks of our sins through the Law of God, and it speaks of the work of the Messiah to come, the Savior of mankind. First, there are two undercurrents in the Law of the Old Testament. One undercurrent is about the fear of God, teaching us to fear, revere, and love Him. The other undercurrent is pointing out the sins of

mankind with the Word of the Law. In God's sight, there is no one born on this earth, not even one person, who has ever kept the Word of the Law. There was no one among the people of Israel who ever kept the Law of God perfectly, and although Christians these days also try to live according to the will of God, the reality is that there is not a single Christian who has ever kept the Word of the Law written in the Scripture either in spirit or deed.

So, in Romans 3:19-20, the Bible explains the Law's function clearly: "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Put differently, the Old Testament enables us to realize and know our sins through the Law, teaching us that it is futile for us to try to keep this Word of the Law. God has given mankind 613 commandments, but there is no one who has ever kept them all except for Jesus, and therefore we need to grasp here that their function is to make us realize our sins. They teach us that since we cannot keep God's Law, we are sinners before Him and must therefore be cast into hell according to His justice. We ought to grasp the gravity of the Law clearly.

God is teaching us that we are incapable of keeping the Word of the Law that He has commanded us. He is also teaching us that anyone whose heart is guilty of sin will be cast into hell. It is absolutely important for us to understand the function of the Law of God. Only then can we avoid the folly of trying to keep His Law. Regarding the costs of the sins of mankind, the Bible says that "the wages of sin is death." In other words, it is telling us that anyone with any sin must be cast into hell.

This is why under the sacrificial system of the Old

Testament, sinners had to pass their sins to a sacrificial animal by laying their hands on its head, draw its blood, put the blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour the rest of the blood on the ground. The carcass of the sacrificial animal was then cut into pieces and burnt on the altar of burnt offering as a sacrifice to God. With this, the Word of the Law is teaching us about our sins, and how their price is hell. Realizing that we are destined to hell as long as there is any sin in our hearts, we must grasp and believe that our Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us from the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist and crucified. This is the role that the Law plays for us.

Another function of the Law of God is that it teaches us to fear Him. When we stand before God's Law, we realize that He is a holy God. The severity of the Law of God teaches us that we must fear Him, revere Him, and love Him for the salvation He has given us. Who is God? He is the majestic, almighty God who created the universe and all things in it. He is the Lord and King of all things. He is the Absolute Being who reigns over everything. By making the majesty and power of this God known to us, the Law teaches us to bow before Him, humble our hearts, honor Him, obey Him, and love Him.

As mentioned already, the Law teaches us about our sins. Since no one is able to live according to the Law of God, it makes us realize that we are all sinners before God. If we fail to live according to God's Law, this makes us sinners in His sight, and therefore the Law enables us to realize ourselves that we are destined to hell for our sins. The Law teaches us that we are guilty of sins, and it also teaches that we can receive the remission of sins by believing in the righteousness of God who has saved us through the baptism that Jesus Christ, His Son, received to take away our sins and the blood He shed on the

Cross.

Therefore, thanks to the Law's function, we come to realize that we need someone to blot out our sins—that is, Christ the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. God was teaching us at once that it is impossible for us to reach salvation by keeping His Law. That is why He abolished the old, first covenant He made with us and established a new, second covenant, teaching us that we can receive the remission of sins by believing in the baptism of Jesus Christ, His Son, and the shedding of the Son's blood. God is making it known to us that it is Jesus Christ, His Son, who would save us from the sins of this world according to the new covenant.

We can see God saying this in Hebrews 10:1-2: "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins."

Quoting Psalms 40:6, God is also saying,

"Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,

But a body You have prepared for Me.

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin

You had no pleasure.

Then I said, "Behold, I have come—

*In the volume of the book it is written of Me—* 

To do Your will, O God"" (Hebrews 10:5-7). The phrase here, "a body You have prepared for Me," refers to the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us once and for all through the baptism He received and the blood He shed on the Cross for us.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God the Father, shouldered the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist, was condemned for our sins by being crucified, and has thereby fulfilled His ministry as the everlasting Priest. He has completed His work of salvation, delivering us from the sins of this world by taking them away once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, bearing the punishment of our sins once and for all by being crucified, and rising from the dead again. God the Father entrusted it to His Son Jesus Christ to save mankind from sins, and Jesus Christ completed this work of salvation by sacrificing His body as our propitiation.

So, from the fact that Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek king of Salem, we can see that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was already our everlasting Priest in those ancient times also. Abraham was someone who had lived long before Moses received the Law. Moses appears in Exodus, while Abraham is written about in Genesis. So, spiritually speaking, the account of Abraham being blessed by Melchizedek shows us that God the Father planned, even before the foundation of the world, to save us from our sins through His Son.

Ancient agricultural societies were organized by tribes. And warfare was rampant between different tribes. At the time, Abraham's nephew Lot had left him and was living in the land of Sodom. A war broke out between Sodom and several allied tribes, and the king of Sodom ended up losing this war. Lot was taken captive at that time, and this news reached Abraham. So, Abraham armed his servants who were born and trained in his household, took them into the battlefield, won the battle, and brought back his nephew Lot.

When Abraham returned after his victory in the battlefield, the king of Sodom went out to welcome him warmly with enthusiasm. In the Sodomites' eyes, Abraham was a war hero. Even though they had numerous tribes fighting alongside them as their allies, they had lost the war. In contrast, Abraham fought against several tribes with just his own servants and still won. So, the king of Sodom went out to welcome Abraham back, and he suggested to him how to divide up the spoils of war. Abraham then said to him, "Take the spoils of war, except for the share that should go to my men who went into the battlefield. I will take the people whom I rescued. You take the goods."

Something else happened at this time: Melchizedek the Priest, king of Salem, brought bread and wine to Abraham and blessed him when he was returning from the battlefield. Melchizedek was a priest before God. He met Abram on his way back from the victory in the battlefield and blessed him, saying, "Possessor of heaven and earth, God Most High, thank You for blessing Abram. Blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." Abram then gave to Melchizedek a tithe of his gains from the war. This account tells us that now in this age also, salvation is not reached by keeping the Law, and only those who believe that Jesus Christ, the everlasting Priest of mankind, is their Savior can possess the same faith as Abraham and be blessed by God.

Abraham recognized the priesthood of Melchizedek. This means Melchizedek had been a priest long before the High Priests from the house of Aaron in the Old Testament. Here it is important for us to realize that Melchizedek the Priest was an antitype of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek; He has saved mankind from sins with the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross; and He is the Savior of all those who believe in this Truth.

It is not with the Old Testament's sacrifices offered by the

Levites that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved sinners from sins. On the contrary, Jesus' lineage is from the house of Judah. Judah was a son of Jacob. When Jacob blessed his sons, he had prophesied that kings would continue to come from the house of Judah, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born in the royal house of Judah when He came to this world to wash away the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist. Joseph, who was engaged to the Virgin Mary, was from the house of Judah. What the Bible is telling us here is that Jesus came to this earth as the High Priest of the Kingdom of Heaven to save sinners from their sins. The name "Jesus" means "Savior." And the name "Christ" refers to the fact that this Savior has three offices of King, Priest, and Prophet.

God's people of the Old Testament tried to obtain the remission of sins by keeping the first covenant that God made with them. But they all failed. They failed in their effort to follow God because they did not know their own impotence and the nature of sin that they were born with. We can therefore see that salvation cannot be reached by keeping the Law of God that He gave as the first covenant. God wants to show us that Jesus Christ has saved us from our sins through the work of the baptism He received and the blood He shed when He came to this earth to be the everlasting Priest of mankind.

The first covenant God made with the people of Israel and the sacrificial system of the Tabernacle are antitypes of salvation, showing us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would come to this earth, take away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, sacrifice Himself by being crucified, and thereby save mankind from the sins of the world as their everlasting Priest. What makes mankind realize that they are sinners before God, and that they will be judged for their sins, is the Law of God. And the Law teaches that salvation is reached only by those

who understand and believe in the righteousness of Jesus Christ—that He came to this earth, shouldered and washed away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, and was punished for these sins by shedding His blood on the Cross.

Like this, the function of the Law is limited to teaching us about our sins and drawing us to Jesus Christ. Every aspect of the sacrificial system of the Old Testament shows us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized when He came to this earth to take away our sins, and that He was crucified while shouldering our sins to be condemned for them.

The Old Testament's account of Melchizedek king of Salem also shows us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would, as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, save us by taking away the sins of the entire human race through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and bearing the condemnation of our sins once and for all by being crucified.

The name Melchizedek means "king of righteousness." It means the king of righteousness who did the righteous work. Christians call Jesus the King of righteousness and King of love. Why? It is because Jesus came to this earth as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, and He has forever saved from sins those who believe in the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross. Melchizedek was truly king of Salem, and he was truly the shadow of Jesus the everlasting Priest recognized by God the Father. God approved the work of Melchizedek the Priest in the Old Testament.

Abraham recognized the priesthood of Melchizedek who blessed him. He foresaw, by faith, that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would come to this earth as the everlasting Priest to save His people from their sins. That is why Abraham was made the father of faith for us the believers, the people of God. In the age

of the New Testament, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bore our sins and their punishment in our place by being baptized by John the Baptist at the age of 30 and giving up His body on the Cross, thus becoming our Savior. He has saved those who believe in this Truth of God from their sins forever.

Jesus Christ came looking for us living on this earth to fulfill His everlasting priesthood. Raised to be our eternal Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, accepted the sins of this world on His body once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist in obedience to the will of God the Father, suffered the punishment of our sins with His body in our place by being crucified, and has thereby saved us as our everlasting propitiation for sins.

Therefore, it is not by keeping the Law, which belongs to the first covenant God gave us, that we are saved from our sins. It is only through the truth of the new covenant that God the Father grants salvation to those who believe in the work of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our eternal Priest. We must realize that salvation is reached by believing that Jesus Christ has delivered us from the sins of the world as our everlasting Priest.

The function of the Law is only to raise the fear of God, enable us to realize and recognize our sins, and prompt us to turn to Jesus Christ to be saved by faith. God the Father is therefore saying to us that the remission of sins is now received by faith, thanks to the work of the baptism that His Son, Jesus Christ, received and the blood He shed for us. With the new covenant, God sent Jesus Christ to us, and Jesus Christ has saved us from our sins once and for all through the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross. God promised us salvation, and He has also fulfilled it.

Today, Christians who believe in the Nicene Creed are trying hard to keep the Law of God in their lives. When they fail

to do so, they offer prayers of repentance, and they try to sanctify themselves. But they need to realize that such efforts are ultimately in vain. They must grasp that human beings are incapable of living according to the Law, the first covenant established by God. The Law only teaches us what is right and what constitutes a sin, and it guides us into the new covenant that God has given us—that is, into the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

When we look at the Ten Commandments that God established with the first covenant, we can see our spiritual condition. One of the Ten Commandments says, "You shall have no other gods before Me." This is only right. Another commandment says, "You shall not serve idols." This is also entirely right, since we should not worship any idols before God. And the list goes on: "You shall not take the name of God in vain; you shall keep the Sabbath day holy; you shall honor your father and mother; you shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's." All these commandments are only proper.

The Law teaches us what is right and what constitutes a sin before God, and it guides us to understand what is the salvation that God wants us to receive through the new covenant. God is not telling us to reach salvation by keeping the Law now. Instead, He is guiding us to the gospel, that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us from our sins by being baptized and shedding His blood. The Law leads us into the new covenant's promise of salvation that enables us to be delivered from the sins of the world, and it is telling us to be saved from our sins by faith.

God is saying to us that His Son, Jesus Christ, has become our everlasting Priest by being baptized by John the Baptist, dying on the Cross, and rising from the dead again, and God is telling us to believe in this Savior unto salvation. And God is telling us to thank Jesus Christ for making it possible for us be saved now by faith.

By washing away our sins with the baptism He received to shoulder them, and by being punished for our sins on the Cross also, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has enabled us the believers to receive the everlasting remission of sins now. We ought to therefore believe in the Lord's work of salvation and thank Him with our faith.

We should not try to address the problem of our sins by misplacing our faith in theology or some absurd creeds. The remission of sins is received into our hearts only by believing in the baptism that Jesus Christ, our everlasting Priest, received from John the Baptist and the blood of sacrifice He shed on the Cross for our sins. None other than this is the righteousness of God that the Bible speaks of. We ought to receive the remission of sins into our hearts by placing our faith in the Word of the new covenant that God has given us. Since Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, we are to be saved from the sins of this world once and for all by believing in the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, Christians who do not understand this are living a legalistic life of religion, thinking mistakenly that their faith in Jesus is proper and they have been saved. In their minds, they think that it is only through the work of crucifixion that Jesus has saved them from all the sins they commit in this world. They are now living as sinners who belong to the Law, for their faith is placed in the first covenant.

Why have they been deceived to believe like this? It is because they believe in the Nicene Creed that an emperor of ancient Rome made for his own political purposes. People today are suffering over their sins because they are caught up in spiritual confusion caused by the Nicene Creed. What we must all realize clearly, however, is that through the first covenant that God made with the people of Israel—that is, through any legalistic faith that relies on our own acts—we can never be freed from our sins. We can escape from our sins only by reaching salvation through Jesus Christ, which is the new, second covenant God has established for us—that is, by believing that Jesus has saved us from the sins of the world with His baptism and the blood He shed on the Cross.

We must first realize that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away all our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and then believe that He was condemned for our sins in our place by being crucified and has thus become our everlasting Priest. That is how we must reach our salvation.

Jesus Christ came to this earth as the everlasting High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, and we must now be saved from all our sins by believing in His work of salvation. We must receive salvation by believing that the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John the Baptist to take away our sins once and forever and His precious blood that He shed on the Cross constitute the work of our salvation. We must, in short, reach salvation by placing our faith in the Word of the second covenant that God has established.

What is the gospel of the remission of sins that the Lord has given us? It is the gospel that enables us to be saved from all sins by believing that the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John the Baptist was the means by which He took away the sins of this world, and the blood He shed on the Cross was the blood of life that paid off the wages of our sins. We ought to realize and believe that our eternal salvation is found in the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross.

For you to be delivered from the sins of this world, you

must know and believe why Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was baptized by John the Baptist, and why this Son of God had to be condemned for our sins in our place by being crucified and shedding His blood. The reason is because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was appointed to be our everlasting Priest to save you and me from the sins of the world once and for all.

What about you then? Have you been saved by realizing and believing in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, who came to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek? Jesus Christ came to this earth as the High Priest of the Kingdom of Heaven, and He is now our everlasting Priest. The name "Christ" means "anointed," and this tells us that Jesus was anointed to fulfill His offices as the King, the Prophet, and the Priest.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Master of the universe and all things in it, and the Savior of sinners. To shoulder our sins on His body once and for all, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, accepted them by being baptized by John the Baptist, died on the Cross to be condemned for them, and rose from the dead again. We must therefore believe that Jesus Christ the Son of God is our everlasting Priest. He is the eternal Savior of His believers, for He offered His body to God the Father as the propitiation for our sins. With the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross, Jesus has saved us and washed us from our sins once and for all.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the everlasting Priest for all of us who believe, for He took away our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood. By offering His body to God the Father as our everlasting propitiation for sins, Jesus Christ has given salvation to whoever believes in the baptism He received from John the Baptist and His blood. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in short, has made all those who believe

in His baptism and blood into God's children forever and perfectly.

Do you now understand what this means? Using the account of Melchizedek, I have been explaining to you how Jesus Christ has become our everlasting Priest. I understand that this is all quite unfamiliar to you as today is the first day that I am addressing it. However, when we take a closer look, we can see that Melchizedek the Priest, who brought bread and wine to Abraham our father of faith and blessed him, was a shadow of Jesus Christ. So, if you want to be saved from your sins once and for all, you can grasp the Truth of salvation by believing in the baptism of Jesus and His precious blood on the Cross as your salvation, realizing, "Jesus is the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek!"

Our salvation has come not by the Law of God that makes our sins known to us, but by the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ. It is only by believing in the work of Jesus Christ our Savior, the everlasting Priest of Heaven according to the order of Melchizedek, that we are saved now to receive the everlasting remission of sins. Through the work of the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus forever took away our sins; through the work of the sacrifice He made on the Cross, He was condemned of our sins in our place; and through the gospel of the water and the Spirit that combines these two works, He has saved us. From the account of Melchizedek, we can now reach a deeper understanding of how Jesus Christ has become our Savior by offering Himself as a sacrifice in what way.

Jesus was appointed as the everlasting Priest in this world according to the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek the Priest, who was king of Salem in the days of Abraham in Genesis, was a God-approved priest. God is showing Melchizedek to us like this to demonstrate to us that His Son, Jesus Christ, is the

everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. God is showing us that Jesus Christ, who is our everlasting Priest, has saved us from the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding his blood on the Cross.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek, and He sacrificed His own body as our propitiation to blot out our sins once and forever. He took away our sins through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, was condemned for our sins in our place by being crucified, rose from the dead again, and has thereby completed the work of salvation to deliver us from the sins of the world once and for all.

God the Father of Jesus Christ took His Son as our propitiation and made Him bear our sins and their punishment in our place. This means God the Father made His Son pay the price for the sins of mankind. God the Father made Jesus receive His baptism from John the Baptist, die on the Cross, and rise from the dead again. And He has forever made into His children those of us who believe in His Son.

God is saying that He has given the everlasting remission of sins to mankind, so that those who believe in the baptism of His Son Jesus Christ and His sacrificial blood would never again turn into sinners. When you read the Epistle to the Hebrews, you will see the true Word saying that God has saved us from our sins by raising another Priest who did not belong to the Levites. Melchizedek was raised by God to be a priest in the days of Abram, and according to the order of this priest, God took His Son to be the everlasting Priest of mankind and made Him blot out the sins of this world.

Ever since Jesus Christ came to this earth, God has accepted whoever believes in this perfect work of salvation as one of His people. Regarding this, the Lord is saying, "I have saved My people from the sins of the world once and for all by offering an everlasting sacrifice."

I will explain more about the ministry of Melchizedek in greater detail step by step. One thing clear is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this world as the everlasting Priest in succession to the order of Melchizedek king of Salem, and He has saved you and me from the sins of the world. Jesus did not inherit His office as the High Priest through the lineage of Levi. He has saved us by coming to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek the Priest instead, king of Salem who blessed Abraham with bread and wine in the Old Testament.

Jesus Christ is divine, coequal to God the Father. However, to save His people from their sins, He came as the everlasting Priest according to the order of Melchizedek; He took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist, the greatest of all those born of women (Matthew 11:11); He was crucified to death; He rose from the dead again; and He has thereby become the everlasting Priest for those of us who now believe. God is teaching us about the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ.

The levitical priests raised by God in the age of the Old Testament could not end their people's sins no matter how many sacrifices they offered. Since Aaron the Priest and his descendants could not live forever, new priests had to be raised continuously. Even though those who sinned in the age of the Old Testament brought sacrificial animals to the priests and offered them repeatedly day after day, there was no sacrifice that could end their sins completely.

During the age of the Old Testament, priests were raised from the Levites, but the sacrifices offered through these priests could not end the sins that were in the human heart. So, because the sacrificial system of the Old Testament could not address the problem of sins permanently, the Triune God made a new covenant for human beings, who were made in the likeness of His image, and He promised, even before the foundation of the world, to send the Savior to this world. Having completed this salvation, God is now waiting for us silently. God the Father has now sanctified and saved us from the sins of the world by making His Son, Jesus Christ, fulfill His everlasting priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek from the age of the Old Testament.

## The Remission of Our Sins Was Planned in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Before Our Creation

Ephesians 1:4 says that God "chose us in Him before the foundation of the world." Indeed, even before the Triune God created the universe and all things in it, He planned to save us by raising His Son, Jesus Christ, as our everlasting Priest. However, people do not understand when they are told about the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and of His blood, so through the priesthood of Melchizedek in the days of Abraham, God is saying that He prepared our salvation long ago. God is therefore telling us that His Son, Jesus Christ, came to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek, and thanks to the work of the baptism that Christ received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross, all our sins have now been washed away.

Once we realize that God the Father prepared the remission of our sins in advance, even before the foundation of the world, to be fulfilled through Jesus Christ's work of salvation, it is much easier for us to understand our salvation. We need to grasp here that the account of Melchizedek the Priest blessing Abraham is very much relevant to us now. That Melchizedek the Priest blessed Abraham in Genesis enables us to realize that God blesses those who follow in Abraham's footsteps and believe in His Word. It teaches us that God will bless us, the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that Jesus Christ, His Son, completed as the everlasting Priest of mankind.

Therefore, we are now able to become God's people forever by believing in the work of the baptism of Jesus Christ our everlasting Priest and the shedding of His blood. We ought to glorify God according to spiritual knowledge and spiritual faith.

Before the foundation of the world, before God even created the universe and all things in it, He knew that man would sin. Even though human beings are God's creatures, the Father wanted to make us His people, so He prepared long before we were even born in this world that His Son, Jesus Christ, would accept our sins passed onto His body through the baptism He would receive on this earth, shed His blood on the Cross, rise from the dead again, and thereby save the believers. God the Father let His Son, Jesus Christ, receive baptism from John the Baptist, made Him fulfill the work of the Cross to shed His blood, and raised Him to be our everlasting Savior. Like this, God made His Son sacrifice Himself as our propitiation to wash away the sins of mankind with His baptism and the shedding of His blood. And God planned to make into His people whoever believes in the work of salvation fulfilled with the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received and the blood He shed. God is now telling us about the salvation He has given us through the work of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, our salvation from all sins has been completed with the work that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, carried out by being baptized by John the Baptist, shedding His blood on the Cross, and rising from the dead again. That Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek the Priest in the age of the Old Testament was to give us today the same faith that Abraham had. This is even more so since Abraham is our father of faith.

How, then, can we attain the same faith as Abraham's and receive the same blessings as his? We receive the blessings of the remission of sins into our hearts when we believe in the work of the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received and the blood He shed on the Cross. By believing in the work of salvation that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, carried out when He came to this earth—that is, by believing in the saving work of the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the shedding of His blood—we are now able to be saved from the sins of this world once and for all by faith. God the Father is telling us that He has been waiting for us, having prepared this work of salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ, long ago.

Melchizedek the Priest whom we are studying today was shown to us as a model, to teach us that God the Father would send His Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth as the everlasting Priest and bless all those who believe in His work. God the Father used John the Baptist as an instrument to pass our sins on to the body of His Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:11-12). He has saved us, the believers, from our sins by making His Son receive baptism and shed His blood on the Cross. Therefore, it is now by believing in the baptism Jesus Christ received from John the Baptist and His blood on the Cross that we receive the remission of sins into our hearts.

It is written in Hebrews 10:11-16: "And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His

footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.'"

### What Is God's Providence of Salvation That Has Saved Us From Sins?

The providence of salvation is none other than this: God the Father made His Son, Jesus Christ, pay off the wages of our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood on the Cross. And God has bestowed us with His blessings and grace so that anyone can be saved and become His child through faith in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, His Son.

Instead of demanding that we pay the wages of our sins, God the Father planned before the foundation of the world to save us by letting His Son, Jesus Christ, take away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist and bear the punishment and condemnation of all our sins by being crucified and shedding His blood of life. This is the providence of salvation that God has prepared for us. And we are to be saved from all our sins by placing our faith in the baptism of Jesus Christ, His death on the Cross, and His resurrection. This is the providence of salvation from the new covenant that God has established for us.

It is written, "*I will put My laws into their hearts*" (*Hebrews 10:16*). Because we believe with our hearts that Jesus shouldered our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross, and because we believe in this Lord

as our Savior, He has engraved His salvation in our hearts. In contrast to the age of the Old Testament when the Word of the Law was engraved into two stone tablets, now in this present age, God the Father has engraved salvation and the remission of sins into the hearts of those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ's law of love that has saved us from the sins of the world—that is, those who believe in the Word of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist, the shedding of His blood, and His resurrection. God has enabled us to have the faith that Jesus Christ, His Son, took away the sins of this world once and for all by being baptized and was punished for all our sins in our place by shedding His blood on the Cross. And the love of the Lord that has saved us has been engraved in our hearts and minds as the salvation that has been fulfilled through His baptism and the shedding of His blood.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Lord who has saved you and me now from the sins of the world once and for all through His baptism and blood. Jesus is your God of salvation and mine, and He is also our King. Through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away all your sins and mine once and for all, leaving not even a trace of sin, and by being condemned for our sins on the Cross, He has made us God's saved children.

Like this, we have become God's children without any reservation whatsoever on account of our faith in God's providence of salvation. I am so grateful to the Lord for making it possible for us to confess our salvation by trusting in the work that Jesus Christ carried out to take away our sins. God has engraved our hearts with faith in His work of baptism, the precious blood He shed to death, and His resurrection. That is why we say that Jesus is the King of love, singing, "The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never~ \$\mu\$" For us

the believers, Jesus Christ is the eternal Savior and the King of love.

It is written in Hebrews 10:17-18, "Then He adds, 'Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.' Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin." Here, in Hebrews chapter 10, God is writing in our hearts that Jesus Christ, coming to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek, has saved us from the sins of the world by being baptized by John the Baptist and shedding His blood. Do you not understand what this means? In this age and time, we can reach salvation quite easily if only we believe in Jesus' work of salvation—that He has saved us from the sins of the world through His baptism and the shedding of His blood.

While I try my best when preaching the Word of God, I am not an eloquent speaker. Some people are such smooth talkers that they can make even lies sound true, but I am not such a great speaker. However, I have so much to say to you because the Word of God is true. I am testifying to you the providence of salvation that God has given to mankind, for I believe in the Word of both Testaments of the Bible. It is because the Word of Scripture is the Truth and salvation. We have been saved by faith now, all thanks to the work of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood. This faith is what I want to testify. Some preachers may open the Bible and preach about all kinds of different things, but I am not good at this. I can, however, preach everything about the salvation that the Lord has fulfilled with the baptism He received and the blood He shed for us, and explain it to you exactly as it is.

Hebrews 10:18 says, "*Now where there is remission of these*." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to this earth as the High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, has brought true salvation to us now. He accepted our sins on His

body by being baptized by John the Baptist, was punished for our sins and died in our place, and rose from the dead again. And He is saying to us, "Your sins and your lawless deeds I will remember no more, for I have remitted them away."

It is written, "Now where there remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin" (Hebrews 10:18). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away the sins of this world by being baptized by John the Baptist on this earth and was condemned for our sins on the Cross in our place, so that there may be no more offering for our sins. This is why Jesus has saved us from all our sins. He was baptized by John the Baptist and shed His blood on the Cross so that we may never again worry about being condemned and cast into hell for our sins.

However, we do need to confess our sins even after reaching salvation. Even after receiving the remission of sins into our hearts, and even after becoming God's people, we still sin and commit many wrongdoings habitually, for our old sinful nature remains with us. So, we need to confess our sins to God, and in our hearts ruminate on the Truth of salvation that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took away and washed away these sins also with His baptism and the shedding of His blood.

The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Jesus has blotted out all our sins once and for all, and so if we find ourselves sinning in our lives in this world, we should confess to God and pray, "Lord, I have sinned like this. Even though I should be condemned for my sins, You were punished for them in my place by being baptized by John the Baptist and crucified. I believe in this, Lord. Thank You. I will try harder not to commit such sins." When we confess our sins to the Lord and look upon the salvation that He has brought to us by the water and the Spirit, He will free us from our guilty

feelings and dark emotions weighing us down. Thanks to the baptism that the Lord received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed in our place, we can keep our hearts always clean. This is possible because Jesus has already blotted out our sins long ago.

The Word of God written in the Bible cannot be understood by anyone who has not been born again. So, only those who believe in the baptism that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received from John the Baptist and His blood can understand this Word of salvation and bear its witness also. If, after being saved from our sins, we do something wrong to one another, we should admit our wrongdoings and apologize, saying, "I've made a mistake. I am sorry." This is how our harmony is ensured.

Imagine one of us causing a great deal of harm to another saint and then saying, "Since I have received the remission of sins, I don't need to apologize to you!" Someone like this still has not met Jesus Christ, who has fulfilled His priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek to take away our sins and wash them away. We ought to admit to one another our wrongdoings and ask for forgiveness. We are only human. We are not God. While God said that He will remember our sins no more, harmony cannot be achieved among us if we do not apologize to each other for our wrongdoings on this earth. God has admonished us against this. I will address this issue on another occasion separately when I speak about everyday life issues later.

Today, the focus of my sermon is on our salvation: Jesus Christ, who came to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek, has saved us, the believers, from all our sins through the baptism He received and the blood He shed. It is not by keeping the Law that we reach salvation. We are saved by believing instead in the righteous work that Jesus Christ carried

out for us, the work of salvation that has solved away our sins.

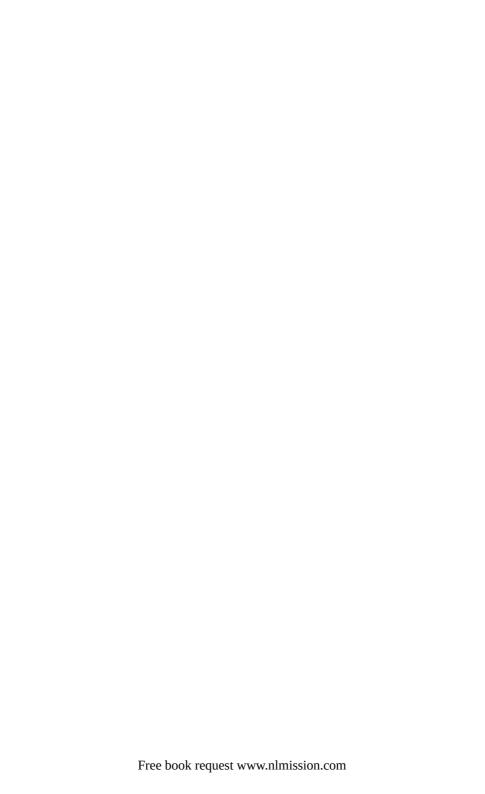
Such faith is the very faith that saves us from all our sins, one that is placed in the baptism and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to this earth according to the order of Melchizedek. Now then, we can summarize our faith of salvation as the following. Our Savior is Jesus Christ. The name "Jesus" means "He who will save His people from their sins," while the name "Christ" means that Jesus came with three offices and has saved us from the sins of the world. Because many people still have not been saved from their sins, they do not know that Melchizedek was an antitype of Jesus Christ.

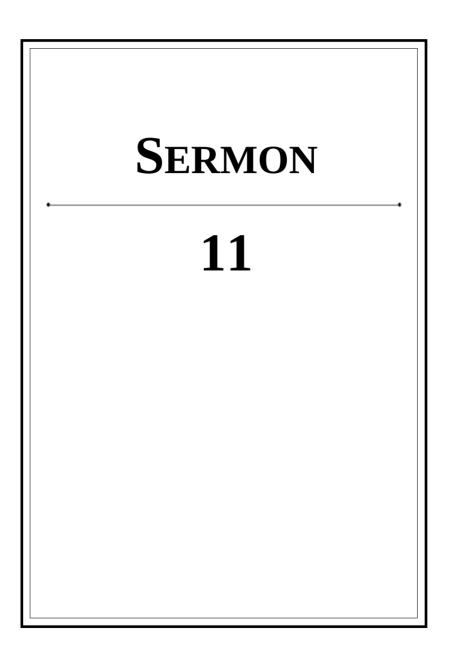
The name "Christ" means "anointed" in the original text. Many Christians can't answer when asked, "How was Jesus anointed?" Jesus was anointed because He is the King of kings. In the age of the Old Testament, kings were anointed when they ascended to the throne. High Priests were also anointed. Their appointment began with anointing, which conferred them with priesthood. Prophets were anointed as well. For instance, when the time came for God to take away Elijah, He said to him, "And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place" (1 Kings 19:16). So Elijah anointed Elisha and appointed him to priesthood.

That Jesus Christ was "anointed" means He has saved us by coming to this earth with three offices as the King, the High Priest, and the Prophet. As our Prophet, Jesus Christ makes the Truth of salvation known to us. Put differently, He is teaching us that the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the crucifixion He suffered were the work of salvation that He carried out for us.

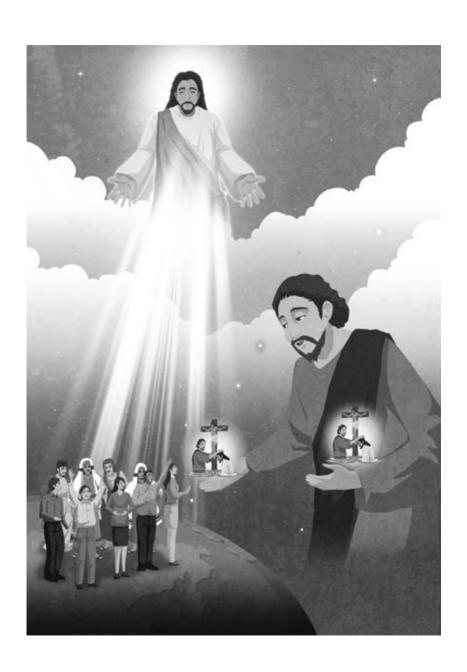
Having also come with the office of the High Priest of the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has saved us from our sins by offering not the blood of an animal, but His own body. To offer His body to God the Father as the propitiation for the sins of His people, Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, sacrificed His body on the Cross, rose from the dead again, and has thereby saved us once and for all. In this way, He is our everlasting Priest and the King of kings. As the Bible says, "He will save His people from their sins," the King of kings sacrificed Himself by receiving baptism on His body and shedding His blood to deliver His people from their sins.

This why we say Jesus Christ is our King of love. He is not only our King, but the King of true love and the Savior. He is our true King who has saved us from our sins. That He is our King does not mean that He rules over His people tyrannically with an iron fist. If Jesus has saved us by being baptized and shedding His blood, it can only mean that He is the King of true love. He is our King, the true Savior who has solved away the problem of the sins of His people and their punishment, so that they may no longer suffer. The King of kings is Jesus, and He is your King and mine. To save you and me from the sins of this world, Jesus Christ shouldered our sins by being baptized and was condemned on the Cross, and He has thereby given us true salvation. He is indeed the King of true love for us, and He will take care of us forever. Hallelujah!





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# Which Gospel Should We Believe in to Reach Spiritual Maturity?

#### < Exodus 32:25-29 >

"Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, 'Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me!' And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. And he said to them, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor." So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. Then Moses said, 'Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother."

Warm greetings to all my coworkers! I hope and trust that this sermon finds you well in the Lord. I know that all our coworkers are serving the gospel that washes away sins with their diligent labor, placing their faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit the Lord has given us. All your coworkers here in Korea including myself and your fellow saints are doing very well thanks to the grace of the Lord. Although we are facing a great deal of hardship from COVID-19 just like you, we are still doing well, and we continue to work tirelessly to spread the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit. It is my sincerest hope and prayer that all of you who are now serving the Lord's gospel everywhere around the world would also stay safe from COVID-19 and flourish in the peace the Lord has given you.

### **Beware of Those Who Ruin the Vineyard**

I am happy and rejoiced that today, in our God-established Church, we have people like the tribe of Levi. Even today, it is still possible for God's Church to grapple with the same problem of idolatry as happened in the days of the Old Testament. In this age also, God's workers who believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit have risen to reject and oppose false teachings, and I was very happy to see such devotion to God. They are worthy of God's approval, and they also deserve His grace as the people of faith. God will make such people continue to live as His workers, and He will bless them to meet the Lord by faith when He returns to this earth. Many more workers of God will continue to arise in His Church to silence false teachings as the tribe of Levi did in the age of the Old Testament.

There are some people who, while believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, are mistaken in their thoughts and as a result stand up against God's Church. It is our duty to teach them where they have gone wrong. For instance, some people claim fallaciously that John the Baptist written in the New Testament was born in this world without any sin, exalting him way too high. This undermines our effort to spread the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Such beliefs are exerting spiritually

wicked influences on the weak. Their purpose for spreading such an evil teaching is to build their own gathering that deviates completely from God's Church and true faith.

All of us have been washed from our sins with the living water of the gospel of the water and the Spirit that is flowing inside God's Church. I believe if people serve the gospel faithfully, our God will raise them as His servants. We need to think about why it is that some of us are trying to raise themselves up high. We ought to think about what it is that God finds pleasing in us. We should all learn to be humble and lower ourselves before God.

Peter said in the Bible, "Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.... Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:5-6). From our very birth, we were born in this world as sinners. Because of our sins, we had no choice but to be cast into fiery hell, but we were able to be saved from our sins by faith as we found and believed in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that constitutes the righteousness of the Lord. If we have indeed been saved from our sins, then there is no one in this world who has received greater blessings than this. If we have found, having been born on this earth, the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit and come to realize and believe in the washing of our sins, then this means that we have been saved from all our sins and become God's own people, for we have now been moved from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of God. Here is a question for all of us to consider: is there anyone in this world who has received greater blessings from God than we?

I do not want any of you to drift away from the written Word of God. It is my view and belief that you are momentarily lost in your own confused, wicked thoughts of the flesh. So, if you are one of those who believe mistakenly that John the Baptist was born in this world without any sin, I admonish you to cast aside such beliefs, and from now on unite your heart and faith with God's workers carrying out His work in His Church. I want you all to also enjoy the many blessings of God.

In the New Testament, John the Baptist was born on this earth as the son of the High Priest Zacharias. Since he was born from his parents, and his parents were born as sinners themselves, it is clear that John the Baptist was also born in this world in a sinful state just like his parents. Just as the Bible says in Romans 3:10, "There is none righteous, no, not one," apart from Jesus Christ, there is absolutely no one in this world who was born in this world without any sin. By the great providence of God, all human beings are conceived in a sinful state by their parents and born in this world as sinners. Therefore, we, too were born as sinners in God's sight from our very birth.

When we turn to the New Testament, we see clearly that Jesus' mother in the flesh, Mary, had put on God's love. Mary was used as God's instrument, but just like us, she was also born in this world as a descendant of sinners. Mary, too, was a sinner like us, but thanks to God's special providence, she was used as an instrument to conceive and give birth to Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, according to the will of God. Put differently, Mary was used for part of the work of salvation—that is, for Jesus Christ to come to this world incarnated in the flesh of mankind and wash away their sins with His baptism and His blood on the Cross. Just like us, Mary, too, had put on the grace of God to be used as His instrument. And just like us, Mary, too, was no more than someone who would receive the remission of sins by believing in the true salvation of the gospel of the water and the Spirit fulfilled by the Lord.

Mary and John the Baptist both were born in this world as

sinners just like us, but they had also put on God's special love. That Mary put on the grace of God means that she was born to be used as an instrument to fulfill His special providence of salvation. That is why Mary and we alike came to put on the merciful God's special love. Mary, too, was so grateful to be used by God that she thanked Him by saying, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Therefore, all of us ought to submit ourselves to the teachings of the leaders ahead of us, and follow them by believing in God's work manifested through them. It is then that we can avoid standing in the file of liars, receive and enjoy God's blessings in His Church, and devote the rest of our lives to Him as His precious workers. And it is then that we can ensure that we do not go astray from the correct path of faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. Having been delivered from our sins by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we must unite ourselves with God's Church, for this is critical to spreading the gospel. When you abide in God's Church together with the spiritual leaders raised by Him, you can escape from your erroneous and wicked thoughts of the flesh and be used as God's instrument. You can then live by faith free from the false teachings brought to you by liars.

There are some denominations that believe in transubstantiation, which teaches that the bread and wine used in the Eucharist are changed into the actual substance of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. As they believe that the whole substance of bread is changed into the substance of the body of Jesus through the priest's eucharistic prayer, they attach a special meaning on their worship service. The reality, however, is that they are teaching a grave fallacy to their congregation. The doctrine of transubstantiation is nothing more than a

dogmatic teaching; it is not the body and blood of Jesus that the written Word of God speaks of.

The body and blood of Jesus that the Bible speaks of actually refer to the baptism Jesus received from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross. When we hold Holy Communion in the Church, we use bread and wine in remembrance of the baptism Jesus received from John the Baptist and His blood. The bread and wine that are used in the Eucharist are the Word of God that manifests the Truth of the baptism through which Jesus accepted the sins of the world on His body, and of His blood. In other words, we use bread and wine in Holy Communion in remembrance and affirmation of our faith that when Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, all the sins of this world were passed onto His body through His head. This is the biblically sound understanding of the body and blood of Jesus. Therefore, the wine that is used in Holy Communion refers to the blood Jesus shed, and it signifies the life He has given us. The bread we use in Holy Communion refers to the body of Jesus that bore our sins when He accepted the sins of mankind by being baptized by John the Baptist.

We should therefore never spread any false teachings, such as exalting John the Baptist, and instead preach only God's true gospel of the remission of sins, the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. We must beware of those who spread false teachings, and thus ensure that we are faithful to our God. We have been remitted from all our sins by believing in the gospel Truth of the water and the Spirit before God. We have become saints in our God's sight. Being faithful to God, all our labor and devotion should now be dedicated to the sanctity of His Church and spreading the gospel of the water and the Spirit. If any of our fellow believers abiding in God's Church is going astray to garner God's enmity, we all have the duty to lead such saints

back to the right path.

Just as there is an order to everything, if some of our brothers and sisters were to spread any teachings that depart from the Word of God, the believers in the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit must correct their false teachings with God's Word and admonish them to return to it. If they do not accept the admonishments of God's servants, then the leader of God's Church should admonish them. If they still ignore the Church's teaching and insist on their own way stubbornly, then we should let them go. If, in spite of this, they still continue to sow confusion in the Church—that is, if they continue to spread erroneous teachings in God's Church—the Bible says that we must expel them from God's gathering. The punishment God has set for such people is deportation. God is telling us to eject them so that they can no longer dwell in His Church. This is to ensure that they do not turn into stumbling blocks obstructing God's people and His work. However, if they realize their mistake and want to return, then we ought to forgive them and accept them back into our fold. This is because God is pleased to protect His Church and people from liars.

### Our Faith Ought to Mature for the Benefit of God's Work

All those who belong to the God-established Church in this age are living by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and they are led by the guidance of God's Church. They are faithful to God, and to the work of spreading the gospel of the washing of sins, the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Put differently, they are living for the sake of the souls that are to be saved from their sins in God's sight. In these end times, the

entire membership of God's Church must be awake, trusting in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. Only then can we all live by faith and spread the gospel of the remission of sins to all sinners, which is the will of God for mankind.

By our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we must all stop those who, having snuck into God's Church, try to prey on His workers' hearts. In the end, they will form their own gathering if they cannot have their way. We have the duty to guide them to God. We know that their goal does not lie in proclaiming the gospel of the water and the Spirit, for they are deceivers trying to prevent the people of faith who believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit from standing on the written Word of God. We must stay away from them. Some of them are trying to demolish the faith of God's beloved workers with their wicked teachings stemming from the evil thoughts of their flesh.

All of us who are members of God's Church must watch out for such liars by faith, and we must also devote all our efforts to the work of proclaiming the gospel of the water and the Spirit, for only then can the souls that still remain sinful be delivered from their sins through our faith. Unlike in the age of the Old Testament, in the age of the New Testament, we must hold and support one another in God's Church with our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. This is because we must all carry on with our lives in this world with the unity of faith by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. Even though this world we are dwelling in is evil, we are living in the community of the Holy Spirit, God's Church where the Spirit works. We are now living with God's own people. We are the rightful inhabitants of the Kingdom of God. The King of God's Church and His Kingdom is our Lord Jesus Christ. By believing

in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we have all become soldiers of Jesus Christ. By believing in this Godspoken Word that has blessed us to be born again of water and the Spirit, we have become our Lord Jesus Christ's own people.

We must abide in God's Church and live by faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit written in both Testaments of the Bible, and by trusting in the community of the Holy Spirit who works in God's Church. Thanks to our faith in the Godgiven gospel of the water and the Spirit, all of us have become people of faith following the will of our Lord. By this faith, we must spread the gospel of the water and the Spirit throughout the whole world as commanded by our Lord, live by trusting in Him until the day we leave this world, and enjoy everlasting life through Him. To do so, all of us ought to become one in unity through our faith in the righteousness of God, and we ought to never be slow to devote ourselves to God to reveal His glory. The purpose for our lives in this world must be all about serving God's gospel that has fulfilled the remission of sins, the gospel of the water and the Spirit. We should strive for harmony with one another through our faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, and we should live out our faith with thanksgiving to reveal God's glory throughout the whole earth. In short, we must live by faith to spread the grace of the remission of sins that our Lord Jesus Christ is offering to mankind.

# The Maturity of Faith Is Reached When One Lives for the Proclamation of the Gospel of the Water and the Spirit

Today, those who obey God's Church and His commandments are those who are in unity with the leaders of

the Church and the saints who believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Through our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit the Lord has given to all of us, we are living in obedience to our Lord in unity. Right now, none other than we are God's workers. As God's workers who have received the remission of sins by believing in the God-spoken gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we are glorifying God with our lives in this horrid world of iniquities. Such people have already received into their hearts the gift of the Spirit of God by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and therefore they can also unite themselves joyfully with God and His Church.

Living in these end times, does your heart have the evidence of faith testifying that you have become one of God's people through faith in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit? We have been saved once and for all through our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit and the written Word of God, and the Holy Spirit testifies that we have now become God's own people. And now, all of us have been called to be the witnesses who preach God's gospel, the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Therefore, it is only fitting for us to live the rest of our lives as such witnesses, united by our shared faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit. We have now been entrusted by our Lord to carry out God's work.

Entrusted by God to proclaim His gospel of the water and the Spirit, we must devote our lives to teaching and guiding, with the Word of God, those who lack faith in the righteousness of the Lord. It's the predecessors of faith who live such a life, and therefore they have the duty to lead the saints whose faith is weak. Called by God's Church, such people preach the gospel of the water and the Spirit and dedicate their lives to the saints as God's workers.

For this to come about, those whose faith is ahead of laypeople must set the purpose of their faith firmly on God's side. They are of those who are always rejoiced to do God's work. In fact, those who have been raised to be evangelists according to the will of God's Church are living such a life that is always pleasing to God. However, those who have not yet been raised by God's Church as His workers should quietly share fellowship with their predecessors of faith and live in submission to the guidance of God's Church.

Your predecessors of faith are running the race of faith every day and serving the gospel of the water and the Spirit diligently to ensure your spiritual growth. Those who are ahead must help those whose faith is still young so that they can stand firmly on the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. We should not brag about ourselves just because we are God's servants. Through faith, every saint must first learn how to submit to the Word of God and live a life that is faithful to Him. In time, the day will come for God to exalt those whose faith is young. God said, "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.' Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:5-6). We must all obey this Word.

# Like the Descendants of Levi, We Must Live a Devoted Life by Faith

We need to realize here that what God said in the age of the Old Testament through Moses is also spoken to us who are now serving God by our faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit.

God is saying, "On whose side will you stand now? Will you stand on My side or My enemy's side? Whom will you choose between Me and My enemy? Depending on your choice, I will either reward you or judge you." Because this is what God is saying to all of us who believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit and are living by faith in God, it is imperative that we come to our senses and carry out God's work on His side.

God is asking us, "Between Me and My enemy, on whose side will you stand?" We must be ready to answer this question with the right answer before God. Not only must we give the right answer to God, but our lives must be in accordance with the life of faith that our God wants us to live. God will then be very pleased by us and work powerfully through us.

We can therefore live the most glorious life of faith in the presence of our God. While carrying on with our lives in this world, we ought to sit in the most fitting place of faith and glorify our God through our faith in the Word of our Lord. If we now serve our Lord and God's people with His Word, our God will commend us for our faithfulness and grant us all the blessings of Heaven. This will come about for sure if we can show the life of faith that is truly pleasing to the Lord to all those who, in following our footsteps, must serve His gospel of the water and the Spirit.

Except for when we are sleeping, we are spending every hour of the day to serve the Lord's gospel of the water and the Spirit. We yearn to follow the Word of God even more and live out our faith with the fullness of the Spirit that is pleasing to the Lord. If we all serve the gospel of the water and the Spirit from the God-pleasing place of faith for the sake of other souls, our God will be rejoiced. We will then receive the greatest blessings from our God in both this world and the Kingdom of Heaven. If we serve the gospel of the water and the Spirit from the place of

faith that pleases God, no one else but we will receive such amazing blessings from God. Our God will be rejoiced by us if we bear the fruits of faith to His pleasure from where we are standing. He will be looking for those on this earth who are living by faith in His written Word. Undoubtedly, our God will love such people of faith as you and me, and He will be exceedingly rejoiced by us.

## All of Us Are the Workers of Faith Building the Kingdom of God

To build the Kingdom of God and deliver sinners from all their sins, we are now working hard by our faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit. We ought to follow the will of God together, and all of us ought to also be in unity with the members of God's Church sharing fellowship of faith. If we really want to live the life of faith that is pleasing to God, then truly, we must not only have faith in the Word of God that His Church is preaching, but we must also follow the guidance of our Church leaders and submit to them.

What would happen if we were to live without uniting our faith with the faith of the Church leaders who are guiding us? You would then make all kinds of mistakes when trying to follow your Lord by faith. Unless you are united with your Church leaders by faith, your life of faith will run into many difficulties. What, then, must we all do to have the faith that is pleasing to God? First of all, we must believe in the Word of God that the leaders of God's Church are preaching, and by this faith we must unite our hearts with the Word.

For us to always be victorious in faith before God, we must not only be led by His Word, but also unite our hearts with His leaders. Only then can we live our everyday lives as the victors of faith. To live in this world by obeying the Word of God and trusting in the leaders of faith ahead of us, we must be led by God's Church. It is then that we can become the true workers of faith. If we run toward the goalpost of faith to spread the Godgiven gospel of the water and the Spirit, we will reach that goalpost by faith without fail. The Lord has tasked all of us to walk on the way of witnesses, and we ought to follow our leaders by believing only in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, the Word of God.

Such a life of faith, however, is not trouble-free. For reasons that are beyond me, there is someone claiming to be my son who brazenly say that anyone who does not listen to him will be cursed. Some others claim that John the Baptist was born in this world without any sin. I want you to realize here that such people's claims are stumbling blocks to the proclamation of God's gospel.

Those who believe that John the Baptist, who baptized Jesus, was born in this world in a sinless state are saying such things because they think of the Word of God only as an instrument of their greed, and ultimately, they have fallen into a grave error to deviate from the Word of God. Imagine someone asking, "Was John the Baptist born in this world without any sin?" Such a question itself is a deviation from God's Word. Questions like these are asked by those who want to exalt a human being instead of Jesus and worship him as their idol. They are thinking in the same way that the many idolaters in this world think.

Quoting Psalms 14:1, the Apostle Paul says in Roman 3:10-12: "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." As the Bible says here clearly, there cannot be even a single person who was born in this world without any sin.

Referring to John the Baptist, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11). The fact that Jesus called John the Baptist the greatest of those born of women means that John the Baptist was a human being like everyone else, and therefore he was also born in this world as a sinner. If John the Baptist was born in this world in a sinless state, then he would have exalted himself claiming to be the Savior of mankind.

Jesus alone was born in this world by the Holy Spirit according to the will of the Triune God and exactly as the prophets had prophesied in the Old Testament, and therefore He alone could become the true Savior to save all sinners from every sin of the world once and for all. This is because only Jesus was God Himself long before He was born in this world. He is the holy God Himself. In contrast, human beings born in this world are always sinners, for they have inherited sin from their ancestors.

### When Did John the Baptist Receive the Remission of Sins?

One may ask here, "When did John the Baptist receive the remission of sins then?" This question is answered by John the Baptist in John 1:32-34: "And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize

with water said to me, "Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." Here, John the Baptist was saying that when he baptized Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God said to him, "Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." So, it is at this moment that John the Baptist came to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of mankind.

When John the Baptist baptized Jesus Christ, he, too, knew that Jesus was the Son of God and the Savior of mankind, and that is why he was able to bear His witness after baptizing Him, saying, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Because John the Baptist believed that Jesus was the Son of God, he could also believe that He was the Savior of this world.

It is because John the Baptist had been raised to be the representative of mankind that he could baptize Jesus to fulfill his duty. John the Baptist therefore said that when he baptized Jesus, he could realize from the Holy Spirit's instruction that Jesus was the Son of God—that is, He was the Savior of mankind. So, it is at this moment that John the Baptist could also receive the remission of sins through his faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior. When John the Baptist baptized Jesus, he fulfilled his duty as the "representative of mankind," and because he also believed that the baptized Jesus was his Savior, he could be saved from all his sins.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, if you ever come across anyone claiming that John the Baptist was born in this world without any sin, you must realize that such a claim is a made-up fallacy stemming from one's evil thoughts. You must grasp that such evil thoughts are no more than preposterous lies

intended to fulfill one's own greed of the flesh. I am saying this to you to deliver you from falling into your own thoughts only to sin and propagate wickedness.

The Catholic Church teaches the doctrine of "papal infallibility," which claims that "the pope cannot err in matters of faith and his words are akin to the Word of God." Such a claim is at the height of arrogance coming out of the evil thoughts of mankind. We should never be deceived by it, for it is an instrument used by the evil-minded religionists of the world to further their own greed. After all, who can possibly have the power, authority, holiness, and perfection that come even close to our God? Those who say such evil things with such wicked thoughts, and those who believe in such claims, are alike standing against the holy and perfect God. Such evil people's thoughts are always false, and they will all face the judgment of sins before Jesus Christ for their evil thoughts. We must realize clearly here that such evil people will be judged by God. How can anyone born in this world ever be born without any sin before God? Mary and her parents alike were all sinners in God's sight, and they, too, had to be washed from their sins through God's grace by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that Jesus had given them.

If you think that Mary was born in this world without any sin in her heart, then you would be elevating a human being to the Godhead apart from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Nowhere is it written in the Bible that Mary or John the Baptist were born in this world without any sin. Those who make such a claim are just like the people who do not even realize that they are practicing evil in their lives, for they, along with their parents, were all born in this world as the seed of evildoers (Mark 7:20-23).

David, too, confessed, "I was conceived in sin and brought

forth in iniquity." You and I are just like David, for we were also brought forth in iniquity when we were born in this world. We ourselves were born in this world with all kinds of evil thoughts, and we also know that given our nature, we can all go astray and end up standing against Jesus Christ and God's Church with our wicked thoughts of the flesh. So, I ask you to turn around from your mistaken, evil thoughts right now, admit your sins to Jesus, recognize that you yourself are destined to hell for your sins, and receive the remission of sins into your heart by believing in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that washes away your sins.

Whenever you come across anyone in this world who has fallen into the evil thoughts of the flesh despite professing to believe in Jesus, realize that such people are trying to exalt themselves to seek recognition from others. Know that these evil people are just trying to elevate themselves. Among the evangelicals that I know, there is a certain leader who is committing frauds in both body and spirit to satisfy his own lust coming out of his evil, carnal thoughts. This church leader is doing very well for himself by defrauding his own congregation. Even now, he is feeding his own lust of the flesh relentlessly by exploiting his congregation. We can see that such false prophets are using church workers to prey on the weak, plundering them for their material possessions and even their souls to satisfy their own lust.

By any chance, are you not wishing to be like these people? Are you not also making up nonsense, deceived by your own wicked thoughts? Do you want to learn from such evil-minded people how to commit spiritual frauds so that you can also fulfill the wicked lust of your flesh? Do you think that you will really be happy if you satisfy your lust like this? No, of course not! Far from it, you will end up living in this world as Satan's wicked

minion instead of God's worker of righteousness for the end times, doing evil to everyone only to be cast into hell.

My dear brothers and sisters, I urge you all to realize that the hour of the Lord's return is not far away. This world is rapidly hurling toward ruin both materially and spiritually. In such end times, do you really want to spend the rest of your remaining days just following the evil thoughts of your flesh? Or do you want to live faithfully in obedience to our God's will as someone who has received the washing of sins by believing in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the King of righteousness? There isn't much time left now for you to be faithful to the Lord with all your faith, time, and abilities. Where would you then use your faith and talents? With so little time left to our lives, you and I must devote ourselves to the proclamation of the gospel of the water and the Spirit and use our abilities, time, and faith to carry out the work of the Lord faithfully.

In a short while, all of us will have the honor to meet the righteous Savior who has saved us from our sins. We should therefore reject the idea that John the Baptist was born in this world without any sin, and recognize that only Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit are our true God. We must carry on with our lives in this world by faith, by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit with our hearts. Now that we have been remitted from our sins by believing in the holiness of the Lord and the God-given gospel of the remission of sins, the gospel of the water and the Spirit, we ought to worship our Lord, praise Him, and carry on with our lives in this world by faith.

### To Grow Our Faith, We Must Look Upon the Lord

Why must we submit completely to the written Word of our

God? It is to remove tempting opportunities for us to follow and serve the lust of the evil thoughts of our flesh. To do this, we need faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that constitutes the righteousness of the Lord. For us to not depart from faith in the righteousness of our God, we must devote all our hearts and efforts to the proclamation of the gospel. Because we are vulnerable to succumb to our wicked thoughts of the flesh and run toward the world, we must believe in the righteousness of the Lord and run toward His purpose alone. We should never follow the evil thoughts of our flesh. All of us must instead follow the will of the Lord as the people of faith who listen to the written Word of God and believe in it obediently. That is because the Holy Spirit is rejoiced and our hearts can also be at peace only if we carry on with our lives in this world by the faith that is pleasing to God.

The Apostle Paul, too, said that the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. Indeed, because our lives are also pulled by both the desire of the Spirit and the lust of the flesh, we are living every day in a spiritual battlefield, waging war to preach the Lord's gospel. Therefore, if we follow the evil thoughts of our flesh, it is inevitable for us to garner our Lord's enmity in our lives. The wicked thoughts of our flesh push us, the believers in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, to walk in the opposite direction from the will of God. That is precisely why we must live in accordance with the Lord's purpose, recognizing that our own thoughts are always evil in God's sight.

What about you then? Do you know and admit that your fleshly thoughts in your everyday life are so evil? There aren't that many people living with this realization that their own thoughts are always evil. This is because even those who believe in the gospel Truth of the water and the Spirit are not fully cognizant of the fact that their thoughts of the flesh are always wicked. It is because of this ignorance that even the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, deceived by their own evil thoughts of the flesh, end up practicing wickedness while carrying on with their lives in this world.

We can see this happening with some church members making unfounded claims. When we look into the hearts of those who cause division and conflict among us, we can see that their lives in this world are just following their own wicked thoughts of the flesh rather than being devoted to the proclamation of the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Can such people following and advocating their own evil thoughts make any contribution to the proclamation of the gospel of the water and the Spirit? No, of course not! Following the wicked thoughts of the flesh brings absolutely no benefit to the righteous work of God that saves sinners from their sins. The teachings advanced by these people are nothing more than their own evil thoughts of the flesh meant to elevate just themselves. Their words are worthless for following the true God.

Let's imagine for a moment that these brothers go on to establish their own mission organization. Who would join this organization, and who would be loyal to their teachings? We certainly won't! Live or die, we must be faithful only to Jesus Christ who has delivered us from the sins of this world, and to the proclamation of the gospel of the water and the Spirit. As our Lord has moved us to the Kingdom of the Son of God, we ought to be faithful to Him alone, and we ought to win the race of faith by trusting in the Word of our Lord. Our mistaken brothers must therefore turn around from their evil thoughts of the flesh and believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit.

We are now advancing toward the will of God, devoting all our hearts and strengths to the proclamation of the gospel of the

water and the Spirit. When we run toward the goal of preaching the gospel of the water and the Spirit with every ounce of our strength like this, we do not succumb to our own wicked thoughts. We can then also fight and triumph over our evil thoughts. It is by holding on to the Word of God that we can win this battle against our wicked thoughts seeking to turn us into God's enemies. It is on account of our faith in the written Word of God that we can emerge triumphant as the spiritual victors. Through this faith in our Lord's gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we can all live the life of faith that fights against our own wicked thoughts of the flesh. For us to live the kind of life that is always victorious by believing in the Word of God, we must discover the will of our Lord from the Word of God, and we must also trust in this will. All of us are now running toward the goalpost of faith that the Lord has given us, to the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as our Lord has commanded us, we must cast aside our evil thoughts of the flesh, and we must run toward our Lord and be faithful to Him for the sole purpose of preaching the gospel of the water and the Spirit.

We are the soldiers of faith who believe in the righteousness of Jesus Christ our Savior. Accordingly, we must admit our own wickedness. For all of us who have such faith, our Lord will clothe us in God's glory and use us as His instruments. Jesus Christ is preparing to give God's blessings to all of us who wholly admit the wickedness of our fleshly thoughts by faith and follow the Lord by believing only in the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit. God is rejoiced to see us casting aside our evil thoughts from our lives by faith. As we deny ourselves and live by believing in His Word, God will embrace us into His arms and keep us as the victors of faith even in these evil times. We must therefore admit the evil thoughts of the flesh and live the spiritual life that God wants us to live by

believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit alone. Since our evil thoughts are far removed from the life that is pleasing to God, we ought to strive against them by faith. No longer living according to the lust of the flesh, we must now live out our faith for the Lord, so that God may indeed be rejoiced by this faith of ours.

We must crucify our wicked thoughts and our worldly desires alike, along with Jesus Christ. Our passions and lust were crucified along with the Lord, for we believe in the righteous work Jesus Christ carried out to blot out our sins—that is, we believe that Jesus was crucified while shouldering all the sins of this world that He bore once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. All of us were crucified with Jesus Christ in union by faith. Always believing in this Truth that the Lord has delivered us from the sins of the world once and for all through His water and blood, we must die with Jesus Christ and carry on with our lives in this world with Jesus Christ.

By our faith in the righteousness of the Lord, we must overcome the evil thoughts coming out of our carnal minds, and we must run the race of faith in our lives. Through the gospel of the water and the Spirit the Lord has given us, we have received the remission of sins by faith. We must therefore always look toward our goalpost by placing our faith in the Lord's righteousness, and we must follow Him faithfully. When we follow Jesus Christ by faith, our Savior who has delivered us from the sins of this world once and for all through the water and the blood, we know that our Lord will protect us and will be rejoiced by us. And it is when we do so that we can set our eyes on the righteousness of the Lord and run toward our destination together with Him by trusting in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit.

We are often ruled by the evil thoughts of our flesh in our

daily lives. Despite this, we can still follow our Lord by believing in the true gospel of the water and the Spirit that has blotted out our sins once and for all. We have the duty to run the race of faith tirelessly, fearing the Lord and looking toward His exaltedness and wholeness. Of course, this kind of faith does not spring forth overnight, nor is such growth of faith achieved in a day. For this to come about, we must learn how to have true faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit from our predecessors of faith. Such faith springs forth when we trust in the Word of God, the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. And it is when we run toward the will of the Lord every day that faith springs forth for us to endure persecution. We can be led by our Lord when we have faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that He has given us. That is why we must not follow the wicked thoughts of our flesh.

As those who believe in and follow the gospel of the water and the Spirit, if we ever defile our hearts with the wickedness of our flesh, we must confess our sins by faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, trusting that our Lord has blotted out all these sins as well, and we must look toward Him by believing in His righteousness with our hearts. And we must realize that we have been made whole, for we believe in the Truth that the Lord has already washed away and blotted out all our sins with the gospel of the water and the Spirit. Always looking toward our Lord's righteous work of atonement, we must follow Him by faith and live by faith. Only then can we be victorious. With our faith in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we can always cleanse our hearts whenever they are defiled by our transgressions. It is indispensable for us to realize and believe in this undeniable fact. It is then that all of us who believe in and follow the Lord can emerge as the true victors of faith to transform this world.

We can all please our Lord with our faith in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. Is this not the case? Because we believe in the righteousness of Jesus Christ our Savior, we are more than able to please our Lord always. Through your faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, you can overcome any wickedness coming out of your own thoughts and prevail over it. This means that we have already become God's soldiers of faith, and therefore inside all of us we must have faith in Jesus and His righteousness. We can now become forever victorious by believing in the Jesus Christ who has delivered us from all our sins. Whenever we fall into weaknesses, let us remember that we can still follow the Lord by faith, looking toward the atonement that Jesus has made for all our sins with His baptism and blood.

We can be victorious in our spiritual war thanks to our faith in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. When we look upon the righteousness of our Lord, we can realize from our own experience that we have the faith that enables us to follow Him. It is only by our faith in the written Word of God that we can live as the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him with our hearts. From where does the power of faith come to enable us to follow the Lord? This power comes from faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has bestowed on us, and it is through this faith that we can renew our strength and emerge victorious. This is because we believe that the Lord has already cleansed our hearts with the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit.

We have received from our Lord the strength to always live victoriously by our faith in the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit. We know that such a blessed life of faith enables us to always live for the proclamation of the gospel of the Lord, and it also makes it possible for us to carry out the work of God

by faith and abide by His Word to live a victorious life. We are living as the victors of faith because we have been delivered from all our sins by believing in the righteousness of God through His written Word. We have become God's children by our faith in not just the Word of the Cross, but the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and we have also become God's true people of faith who can carry out the will of our Lord. By believing in the plan of our holy and merciful God and His righteousness, we have received the remission of sins and can now live forever. Even at this very moment, we believe in the written Word of God, and on account of this faith, we can serve our Lord and live with Him always.

We are now living through these end times that God has set for us by trusting in His Word. We must therefore ensure that we do not end up spending these last days as God's enemies. To do so, we must hold on to the righteous Word of the Lord unwaveringly and partake in God's glory. Jesus Christ has now given us the blessings of salvation through the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. By giving us the true gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that enables us to wash away all our sins by faith, the Lord has blessed us, the believers in this gospel, to live an ever more glorious life before God's eyes. Now, for the rest of our remaining lives, we will give glory to God through faith in the righteousness of our Lord until we go to God's presence. We will live out our faith until we see the glory of God. We all yearn to see our Lord. For this to come about, we must partake in God's glory by believing in our Lord's plan to glorify us.

Because God has given us faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, all of us can receive His abundant blessings that are bestowed on us according to this faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. We absolutely need our God's

help every day, for we must serve the gospel of the water and the Spirit as long as we are living in this world regardless of its ups and downs. Believing in the blessed Word of the remission of sins that God has given us, we want to walk with our Lord while carrying on with our lives in this world. Our God also wants us to dwell in His peace and enjoy His wonderful blessings. The Lord wants us to live by trusting in His love.

Just how rejoiced would our God be if we were now living the life of faith that pleases Him by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit? It is absolutely indispensable for us to live by always trusting in our God's righteousness until we reach the final destination of faith, and the faith that pleases God must be what defines our lives. To bring joy to our Lord, we ought to hold steadfastly on to the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, the gospel of the remission of sins. To achieve this, we must have the faith that pleases our God at every moment of our lives in this world.

Our God wants to bless your faith and mine now. He has blessed you and me with the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and we ought to give glory to Him by placing our faith in this Word. Those who have received the remission of sins into their hearts by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit are not living as obstructionists hindering God's work, and therefore God is always blessing them with the blessed Word of the gospel.

By exercising our faith in the righteousness of Jesus, we have all come to live in this world with a bright heart and bright faith. We have become the light of this world. As someone who believes in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit with the heart, you should realize that you are now living in this world with God's special blessings. We are joyfully carrying on with our lives in this world because we are living with the gospel

Word of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given us, and we know from our faith that the Lord loves us and is blessing us forever.

#### The Golden Calf's Lesson for Us

I would now like us to look at the lesson about the golden calf in today's Scripture reading God has given us. Through Moses, the Law of God was given to us living in this present age as well as the people of Israel. At that time, the High Priest of the people of Israel was Aaron. These two men were each raised by God to meet His needs, to fulfill their respective duties. Moses was someone who saw God face to face and relayed the Word he heard to the people of Israel on God's behalf. This was possible because Moses had put on God's special grace to see Him face to face. Moses heard God's Word in His presence, and his job was relaying this Word to God's people. In particular, God had groomed Moses to lead the people of Israel out of their 400 years of slavery in Egypt and guide them into the land of Canaan.

While on their way to the land of Canaan, the people of Israel sought to rest for a short while near Mount Sinai. At that time, God called Moses to Mount Sinai. Through Moses, God wanted to give His Law to His people. This is because God intended to build His Kingdom. So, called by God, Moses went up to Mount Sinai and did not come down for 40 days. As a result of Moses' absence, the hearts of the people of Israel came to be troubled a great deal.

As the people of Israel waited at the foot of Mount Sinai for Moses to return, the wind of doubt began to stir up in their hearts. Falling into despair, they came to think, "Moses must have died

already in that mountain, or otherwise there is no reason why he would not have come down by now." Doubt was gradually spreading in their hearts. They wondered, "Are there not enough burial places in Egypt that the Lord God has led us out to here?" As such wicked thoughts gained steam among the people and doubt piled up in their hearts, eventually there were signs of a riot about to break out. Facing such a situation, Aaron, the leader of the people of Israel at the time, came up with a scheme to try to address the crisis. This entailed making a golden calf.

Aaron was facing a dire situation like the calm before the storm, and in his attempt to address the crisis, he said to the people of Israel, "Bring your gold to me." The people of Israel then gave him the gold they had brought with them when they left Egypt, and Aaron threw it into fire. He then shaped the melted gold into a golden calf and presented it to the people of Israel. Seeing the molded golden calf, the Israelites bowed before it and began to worship it as their god. They started to dance around the golden calf in joy. Convinced that this golden calf was the god who had led them out of Egypt, the people of Israel held a feast for it. They threw a wild party, dancing and prancing around the golden calf. Their feast must have been the biggest feast ever held in the desert by Mount Sinai since creation.

It seems this is how worldly people usually make idols for themselves and come up with feasts to worship them. They commonly make carved images they like, bow before them, and hold feasts dedicated to them instead of God. This is idolatry, which people all around the world commit by calling and worshiping something other than God as their god. Facing a difficult situation, Aaron's heart was being swayed by the prevailing wind and giving into the general atmosphere along with the people of Israel. It appears that even Aaron couldn't

steer the people of Israel away from such flawed thoughts and foolish acts. Eager to worship the golden calf that their eyes could see, the Israelites danced wildly in a feast, and as they did so, they were drifting further away from God.

Was the golden calf really the God of Israel who had led its people out of the land of Egypt to Mount Sinai here? No, of course not! Clearly, the God who had led the entire people of Israel out of Egypt to Mount Sinai, and who had parted the Red Sea for them to cross it, was the Lord God. It was the almighty and merciful Lord God who had led the people of Israel from Egypt all the way to Mount Sinai. The Lord God wanted to be their God.

This was God's purpose for them, which He had planned in Jesus Christ even before He created the heavens and the earth. That is why God made human beings, and why He entrusted this world to them. Having planned everything according to His purpose, God was presiding over everything to fulfill this purpose. So, God truly wanted the people of Israel to have Him as their God, and to have His Law. It is because God wanted to turn the Israelites into His own people with His Law that He had delivered them from Egypt and led them to Mount Sinai. He had guided the people of Israel all the way to Mount Sinai now because He wanted them to live in His Kingdom. The God of the people of Israel was indeed the almighty Lord God.

God wanted to establish His Kingdom on this earth and give His Law to the people of Israel who belonged to this Kingdom. Not realizing this great plan of God, however, the Israelites were following their carnal thoughts and standing against God. Like this, people's flawed, carnal thoughts lead them to stand against the true God, and as a result of this sin, they ultimately give birth to death.

Pascal famously said, "Man is a thinking reed." As this

adage goes, everyone is bound to have one's own fleshly thoughts always, and everyone is bound to follow their wickedness. However, whenever the lust of the flesh arises in our hearts and minds, before making any decision, we must first ascertain whether this thought is congruent with the written Word of God or just an evil thought of the flesh that seeks to satisfy nothing but our own private greed. And we must also consider whether or not it is in accordance with our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, through which our Lord has brought salvation to all of us. Otherwise, we will end up falling into a great deal of delusion and make grave errors all stemming from our evil thoughts of the flesh. If we just rely on the evil thoughts of mankind, then we will come to stand brazenly against the true God who created us, made us, and saved us from all sins. This, then, would mean that our souls would belong to the enemy, and we would turn into Satan's slaves.

If we are to live in this world as someone's servants, it is good for us to live as the servants of the righteousness of our God. If you were instead to live as God's enemy, then your soul will be trapped in darkness as the Devil's servant. Isn't this the case? Satan is someone who spawns God's enemies. The Devil makes God's enemies through their evil thoughts of the flesh, and that is how he brings death to them. However, the true God is training us, the believers in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, even more to have faith in His Word, so that He may use us evermore valuably as His servants. Our God is now providing us with His blessed Word, and He is blessing us to bear even more spiritual fruits.

In the Old Testament, the Lord God wanted to build His Kingdom through the people of Israel and dwell with them. To do this, the Lord God had to give the people of Israel His Law

and faith in Him, both of which were indispensable to them. So, God had to teach His people why they needed the rule of law, and He had to raise His servant Moses for them. To establish God's great and beautiful Kingdom for the people of Israel, He established His Law and raised His servant for them. And God blessed His people with fertility and abundance, so that they may multiply manyfold. Like this, God had a great plan of blessings for the people of Israel, so that He may build His Kingdom.

Even for a secular nation to be built in this world, there must first be people to constitute this nation, there must be a ruler to govern them, and there must also be laws by which the people are to be governed. Just as a secular nation requires such constituent elements, the nation of Israel also needed the same constituent elements to build God's Kingdom. First, the Kingdom of God needed His people; it also needed its King; and it needed laws to govern it. Only then could this kingdom truly be called God's Kingdom.

If the Kingdom of God in the Old Testament was the nation of Israel, then the true King of this nation was the Lord God. And this nation ruled by the Lord God had to have God's people, and it had to have laws to govern them. The Lord God was the true King of the nation of Israel, and He was the true God of its people. As the God of all the people of Israel, it was entirely fitting for the Lord God to receive all honor and glory from them.

In the present age also, this truth provides an absolutely indispensable lesson to us the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit: Jesus Christ, our God, must have truly become our King. Living in the age of the New Testament, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts as our God. And the Holy Spirit is now reigning over us as our King, along with Jesus Christ and His Father. Therefore, there must now be the law of the Spirit in our hearts as the believers in the gospel of the water

and the Spirit, and we must also realize through faith that we have become God's people. For you and me who believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, this Kingdom of God is now in your heart and mine.

The people of Israel came to worship the golden calf of their own making as their god instead of the Lord God who had led them out of Egypt. It was untenable for the people of Israel, after committing such an offense against God, to continue to live with His blessing and protection. Because they did not know how to stop committing the sin of idolatry and standing against God, God sought to put a stop to their behavior with His wrath. This wrath of God was enough to put an end to their transgression. So, the people of Israel should have realized what a wonderful blessing it was that God had become their God, and they should have thanked Him for it.

God sought to establish His Kingdom by giving the Israelites His Law, but they did not want it, and this meant trouble. Even though the people of Israel absolutely needed God by their side, they solely lacked such knowledge and faith. Not realizing that the Lord God was their King, the people of Israel rejected all His grace, and therefore, they could receive God's blessings only if they turned around.

# Such a Transgression Was Already a Second Transgression

The first transgression was the sin committed in the Godmade Garden of Eden. When God created the heavens and the earth and made human beings, He allowed them to live in the Garden of Eden. In this garden, God also permitted them to eat from all trees except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Tempted by the serpent, however, Adam and Eve committed the sin of not believing in the Word of God. Disbelieving in God's Word, they sinned by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The transgression they committed at this time was the sin of forsaking God and standing against Him along with Satan, believing in his word instead. Because they did not believe in the Word of God, they sided with His enemy in standing against Him, and this was their first sin.

The second transgression for the people of Israel is the sin of replacing with the golden calf the God who had led them out of Egypt to Mount Sinai. Even though God had already become the God of Israel, they betrayed Him by rejecting Him and worshiping this idol instead. They ended up replacing the Lord God with the golden calf. As a result, they foolishly stood against their own God. Because they did not recognize the Lord God as their God, they faced countless sufferings and curses in this world for this sin of not acknowledging their God.

What compelled the people of Israel to do what they did? Was it because God somehow did not treat them well? If this is not the case, then was it because God did not provide them with the food they liked? If neither, then was it because God did not protect them from their enemies' hands? Why on earth did the people of Israel not believe in God and neglect Him so much like this, as if God had wronged them somehow?

Far from it, didn't God deliver the people of Israel through Moses when they were suffering under slavery for 400 years in Egypt? Didn't God help their ancestors and bless them abundantly with earthly prosperity? Why did they then stand against God when He had been so good to them? Was the Lord God such a pushover for them? Were they so oblivious to their wrongdoing because God had not punished them?

So, God decided to punish the people of Israel. He demonstrated to them through their suffering that He was not a wrath-free God. The people of Israel had not faced God's punishment before, but this time God rebuked them until they realized that they were forsaken by Him. God showed to the Israelites clearly that if they went astray, the punishment of sin would follow them also.

#### You Must Acknowledge Jesus Christ as Your God

You are now living in the age of the New Testament, but you must also show your fear of God by recognizing Jesus Christ as your God and believing in Him. Only then can you live by faith in the Word of God as someone who has become one of His people ought to live, receive His blessings while carrying on with your life in this world, and dwell in God's Church. Your relationship with Jesus Christ should never be in trouble. I urge you to build a strong relationship with Jesus Christ, so that you can receive into your heart the remission of sins He is offering and enjoy His peace and blessings in your life.

Jesus Christ is the Messiah and God Himself. Why, then, did the people of Israel refuse to believe in Jesus, push Him out, and stand against Him so much? Why are they ignoring Jesus Christ so much even now, as if He were not their Messiah God? The Triune God, who created the entire universe, is just and merciful; He is the just and mighty God who has delivered mankind from sin. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the God of the whole universe, and He is the Messiah to all mankind. He is the God who is offering mankind mercy, love, and grace. You cannot fail to believe in Jesus' divine status as our just God, for otherwise you will lose your life. Because Jesus Christ is a merciful and

gracious God, He is the just God who bestows His grace on whomever is worthy of receiving it, and He brings His judgment to whomever deserves to be condemned by Him. All of us should never forget God's justice.

Full of justice and mercy like this, Jesus Christ wants to become the God of the people of Israel. Why, then, do they refuse to believe in the merciful love of Jesus Christ, their Messiah, so ungratefully? Why are they living with their hearts standing against their Messiah like immature children? Why do the people of Israel refuse to believe and accept that the merciful Jesus Christ is the Messiah for whom they are waiting? Shouldn't they believe that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is their God, and thank and rely on this God? The people of Israel must repent from their sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as their God, and of refusing to believe to this day that Jesus Christ, the King of kings, is the God who will return to this earth and judge the enemies. They ought to realize that they are not receiving the Messiah as their God because the evil spirit in their hearts is keeping them captives, along with their wicked thoughts.

It is written in Mark 7:21-23: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man." The people of Israel are no different from what is described in this passage, and that is why they have not received their Messiah to this day. Their hearts and minds are completely saturated with evil thoughts. From the very day they were born in this world from their parents, they, too, were born imbued in wicked thoughts, and therefore they must confess and admit to God the evil sins they have committed according to their vile thoughts. The entire people of Israel must recognize that from the day they were born in this world from

their parents, they were all born contaminated by sin. Therefore, they must seek God's mercy from Jesus Christ the Messiah, and they must accept from Him God's merciful love. None other than Jesus Christ is their Messiah.

Human beings always think evil and do evil precisely because their hearts and minds were saturated with evil from the day they were born in this world. Accordingly, human beings must admit their true selves, that they are a seed of evildoers. How can anyone do anything good when all human beings are nothing more than heaps of sins? How can anyone love? It is precisely for this reason that all human beings must admit their true selves, that their lives are full of wicked thoughts; seek to return from this wickedness; and when they can't do this, live by believing wholeheartedly in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, the gospel of the remission of sins, and God's mercy and grace. It is when the wicked accept God's grace and live by faith that they can truly live the godly life of faith that God wants them to live.

How dumbfounding and foolish is it for the people of Israel to worship the golden calf instead of God, when they were all born as a seed of evildoers who needed God's mercy? Isn't such a behavior what one would expect from the opponents of Jesus Christ, the almighty God? Just how foolish and shameful is it for God's own people to engage in such a behavior? God wants to give to His people all the blessings of Heaven that are reserved for the righteous in this world, so why would they replace this merciful God with their own idol? Why are they unable to please God by believing in His great mercy when God chose them personally, came looking for them, and sought to be their God?

When I look at the people of Israel, I see that they, too, were born in this world with fundamentally evil nature, and that is why they are indulging in such depravities. Therefore, they, too, must be saved from their sins now by accepting and believing in Jesus Christ, the Messiah of mankind, as their God. They must realize that all of us are able to wash our hearts from wickedness and live properly as God's people ought to live because we are abiding by the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that Jesus has bestowed on mankind.

### Jesus Is God Himself Deserving To Be Welcomed By This World

The God of mankind, Jesus Christ, sought to be the God of the people of Israel and Gentiles alike. From the perspective of the people of Israel, everyone in this world who was not Jewish was a Gentile. For these people to receive Jesus Christ as their God, they, too, had to accept His work of salvation into their hearts by believing that He was the Son of God and the Savior of mankind. All the people of this world had to be delivered from their sins by believing in the gift of salvation that this God, Christ, gave to them through the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit to blot out the sins of mankind. God the Father wanted to turn into His own people all those who believed in the salvation of the remission of sins achieved through His Son's sacrifice. Therefore, we had to accept into our hearts the righteous work of the remission of sins that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fulfilled once and for all by being baptized on this earth and shedding His blood on the Cross.

For the people of Israel, it would seem rather strange that we, the Gentiles, are blessed to become God's people by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit with which our Lord has blotted out all our sins. Today, we can be blessed to become God's people only if we have faith in the

gospel of the remission of sins that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us—that is, the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. However, we can still see that countless people are suffering, having fallen into useless religion in their futile attempt to obtain the blessing to become Jesus Christ's people. Instead of accepting the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fulfilled on this earth to blot out their sins, they are holding on to just the Cross and devoting themselves to Jesus Christ with all their strengths.

People today cannot be delivered from their sins no matter how much offering, sacrifice, and hard work they devote to Jesus Christ. It is entirely according to His own way that the Lord has completed the work of saving mankind from sin. This way of salvation was for the Lord to come to this earth and personally bear all sins by being baptized by John the Baptist at the age of 30, so that He may deliver all sinners from their sins. Having thus shouldered the sins of the world, the Lord went to the Cross and addressed all the condemnation of the sins of mankind through His crucifixion. Mankind must stop thinking and acting as though salvation was achieved only on the Cross, abandon such religious ideas, and believe instead that the Lord has saved them from their sins once and for all through the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit according to His way and the Truth He fulfilled. Only then is it possible to receive the remission of sins. Humanity must now realize that the remission of sins achieved through Jesus Christ's work of the water and the blood is in God's plan, and they must accept it into their hearts by faith. Only if they do this can they avoid opposing Jesus Christ and not being able to accept Him into their hearts even as He is standing right at their door.

### What Does It Mean to Accept Jesus into Our Hearts as Our Savior?

It means that we must believe in and accept the Truth that Jesus, having come to this earth incarnated in the flesh of man through a woman's body, bore all our sins once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist. That we believe in Jesus Christ means that we must live by faith in the righteousness of God. The "righteousness of God" refers to the work of salvation that the Lord carried out on this earth to save mankind from their sins—that is, it refers to the baptism He received from John the Baptist and the body He gave up on the Cross—and our salvation depends entirely on our faith in this work the Lord Himself fulfilled to save us from our sins.

It is by believing in the gospel work of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has fulfilled for us, and by thus accepting into our hearts the baptism of Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross, that we receive Him as our Savior. For us to truly become God's people, we must believe that Jesus Christ, who came to this earth to save sinners, has delivered us from all the sins of this world once and for all through His gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. In other words, we can say that we have received the Lord only if we wholeheartedly believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has fulfilled for us.

By believing in the baptism of Jesus Christ and His blood, the acts of love He carried out long ago for us, the sinners, we can now receive the blessing to become the holy God's people. Jesus Christ is the Savior God who has remitted away all our sins once and for all through the baptism He received in the Jordan River and the blood He shed on the Cross. We must believe in this Truth now with our hearts.

God the Father is now speaking to us about the baptism

through which His Son bore all the sins of mankind once and for all. This baptism that Jesus received in the Jordan River is the Truth that washes away the sins that are in our hearts now. Jesus shouldered the sins of this world through the baptism He received from John the Baptist, and this event speaks of the remission of our sins. It is absolutely indispensable for us to believe that our God has blessed whoever believes in this baptism of Jesus and the sacrifice He made on the Cross to be washed from all sins once and for all and receive true salvation through faith in the righteousness of God.

## What Kind of Faith Do We Need for Our Spiritual Growth?

Even though the people of Israel called themselves God's people, they switched their God to the golden calf. Did they do this because they did not need God? Yet, despite committing such a sin, they could be called the people of the Kingdom of God because Abraham was their ancestor. So, they were called God's people even when they sinned like this. Abraham became the father of faith before God by believing in His Word. Even though the people of Israel, his descendants, continued to sin, they could still receive the remission of sins by faith because they had sacrificial rituals through which they could be washed from their sins. They were proud to call the Lord God their God, but they ended up betraying Him with the golden calf. Are they then really God's people?

Their wrongful acts of idolatry were enough to provoke God's wrath. Since they replaced their God with earthly gold, they deserved to face His wrath. However, because they were still God's people, they could find His mercy. This is because

the Son of God came to this earth for them and solved away the sins of this world by bearing them on His body through His baptism and shedding His blood on the Cross. In God's eyes, the people of Israel and Gentiles alike deserved to be cursed by Him for their sins. However, thanks to the righteous act of Jesus Christ, they were more than able to receive the remission of sins and God's blessings by believing in His love.

Why, then, are so many people around the world so ungrateful even though Jesus Christ is their Savior and wants to guide them? Why are they offending God by replacing Him with something so insignificant like a golden calf? This is all because they do not have faith in God, His love, and His righteousness.

In the age of the Old Testament, the people of Israel could be delivered from all their sins if they just recognized Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as their God and followed Him with their hearts. They were more than able to live with God's abundant love, blessings, and protection. If they realized that Jesus Christ was the Messiah they were waiting for, they could have been blessed to be remitted from all the sins they committed by disobeying God. To the Israelites, it was only a matter of course for the Lord God to be the God of Israel and their King, and, with the advent of the age of the New Testament, they could have received God's abundant mercy if they just realized and believed that Jesus Christ was the Messiah for whom they had been waiting.

Why, then, did the people of Israel end up being such fools so tragically? Why did they fail to receive their Messiah as their God, when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had come to this earth to build the Kingdom of God, be the King of Israel, and take care of His people? Why are they still not able to accept Jesus Christ as their God and Savior? They must all accept by faith God's plan fulfilled through Jesus Christ, their Messiah. That is

because Jesus Christ planned to build God's Kingdom for the people of Israel as their Messiah. However, because they failed to accept Him as their Messiah, they ended up betraying their merciful God. Even now, God is admonishing the people of Israel to receive Jesus Christ. Despite this, the people of Israel still continue to live in opposition to God, oblivious to His plan fulfilled through Jesus Christ. Ignorant of God's plan, the people of Israel can be called collectively as an entirely obtuse people.

In the present age of the New Testament also, there are some people who, even after coming into God's Church and believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, end up remaining as God's enemies by refusing to serve this gospel and trying to put themselves above His Church. Today, these are the people who think their faith is better than the faith of their brothers and sisters. Instead of devoting their hearts to the proclamation of the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit, they follow their own evil thoughts of the flesh, and as a result, they end up embarking on a road to perdition. There also are some people who lose their God-given blessings to someone else. Such people must recognize and believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth to wash away the sins of mankind, bore the sins of all the people of this world once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and thus became the scapegoat of the age of the Old Testament.

Because the people of Israel failed to recognize their Messiah, they ultimately lost God's blessings to Gentiles. The Gentiles were now able receive the blessing to become God's people by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and that Jesus Christ was the Savior of mankind. Today, not just the Gentiles but also the people of Israel must believe wholeheartedly in the Truth that Jesus Christ has washed away the sins of this world once and for all with the gospel Word of

the water and the Spirit. We, too, must admit all our wickedness before the Messiah, our Lord God, and at the same time confess true salvation by believing that Jesus Christ has remitted away the sins of mankind once and for all through the gospel of the water and the Spirit. When we wholeheartedly believe in Jesus Christ, our Messiah, and the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that He has made for us, we can be freed from all our transgressions. Like this, Jesus Christ, our Lord, has given the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit to everyone living on this earth, and He is admonishing all to believe in it.

We must realize that Jesus Christ has gathered those who believe in this the gospel of the water and the Spirit that He has given us, and He has made them God's own people. God wants all of us to know and believe in the gospel mystery of the water and the Spirit, which is the Truth of the remission of sins hidden in the God-established plan of salvation and His providence. He also wants us to spread, through our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, this gospel of salvation throughout the whole world. God is now admonishing us, the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, to realize that we are the blessed who belong to God's plan, and to give thanks to Him in our lives. Therefore, we want to live with thanksgiving to our God, believing in the true gospel of the water and the Spirit that our Messiah has given us.

All of our lives are blessed to receive God's help according to His time, for we know and believe that Jesus Christ is our Messiah. It is absolutely important for us to be conscious of this fact through faith. So I urge you to realize now that each and every one of us who believes in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit is a constituent of God's Kingdom, to believe in our Lord Messiah, and to receive and enjoy, through this faith, God's blessings in your life from now to eternity. I ask you to

believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has given us, and to know that we are the saints who believe in our God as our Messiah. Let us all live a life that glorifies God, believing that each and every one of us is an indispensable constituent of the Kingdom of God—that is, we have become God's people. As God's people, all of us are also His soldiers called by Him.

In fact, God's Church now is His Kingdom on this earth, for we believe in Jesus Christ our Messiah and His righteousness. Thanks to our Messiah, God's Church now is full of countless heavenly treasures. The living water of the gospel of the water and the Spirit is always flowing in God's Church, quenching a myriad of souls' thirst. God's Church is like the most blessed oasis in this world. Yet, some people who have become saints by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit are following the evil thoughts of their flesh, only to end up leaving God's Church as they seek to live on their own. This is so foolish! They are like people who willingly give up the treasures God has given His Church. If those who have become God's people were to now leave the gathering of His Church, they will not only be preyed upon by liars, but their souls will also suffer from spiritual thirst and live an accursed life. They should realize that they can live with blessings only if they stay in God's Church, where the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit given by the Messiah flows, even if it is just a small group.

If you were to depart from the gathering of God's Church, even if it were one of its small groups, then you will be like a homeless person unable to get any spiritual food. Your soul will then be spiritually famished, for you will not be able to feed on the God-given Word of life in time, and ultimately your soul will die of thirst. Those who have become God's people can live only if they feed on the bread of the soul by faith, which the Holy

Spirit speaks in God's Church whenever they need it. All of you can live in this world only if you abide in God's Church and feed on the Word of God, the bread of the soul, by faith. Is your soul not living in hunger now, unable to get any spiritual food? Are you not perishing now from your lack of faith in the Word of our Messiah? As you carry on with your life on this earth, you must be someone who has a spiritual self-esteem in God's eye. Why, then, would you want to leave God's Church and give up His blessings?

Having a spiritual self-esteem means living with a spiritually satisfied heart. Such a life of self-esteem is a blessing that flows when your heart finds fulfillment by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and preaching this gospel to others despite facing life's hardship. Where can you find such a sense of self-esteem that comes from preaching the gospel of the water and the Spirit and serving the Messiah, and where can you live such a noble life? Do you intend to leave God's Church, His people, and their gathering as if you were throwing away an old, worn-out pair of shoes? Do you really know what it means to leave God's Church? If you were to depart from God's Church, it would be the same as leaving the Kingdom of God and all His blessings. If you, someone who has become a saint, were to leave God's Church and your fellow saints, from then on you would have nothing to gain in your life, and only an accursed life would await you in the days ahead.

When you abide in God's Church and quietly share fellowship with your brothers and sisters through your faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, it is then that your life is blessed to receive little morsels of the God-given spiritual grace. Do you not realize that living in God's Church by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit is living the most blessed life? If you drift away silently from the gathering

of God's Church, you will end up living in curses, for you will drift away from the spiritual fellowship of faith and God's grace. To feed on the Word of life that is now flowing from God's Church, you must turn to the spiritual books that contain the bread of life provided by The New Life Mission, and you must build a close relationship with your fellow believers who share the same faith. As you have received the remission of sins by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, you should realize that these books are the bread of life that has been prepared for you in advance.

What you must grasp is this: if you believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, you must not leave the gathering of God's Church, and you must live by faith in unity with the Church where you are dwelling now. In doing so, you ought to feed on the bread of life that is falling from the gathering of God's Church and thus nourish your soul as you carry on with your life. You must also unite yourself with God's workers in His Church. It is then that you can live under God's protection and grace, receive the blessings He is offering, carry out the Lord's commandment on this earth by faith, and live a worthy, fulfilling life of faith.

It seems you don't still appreciate just how painful it is to leave God's Church and no longer be able to drink the water of life flowing from it. Just as your body will wither away without water, so will the souls of the righteous wither away unless they ruminate on the Word of the water and the Spirit, the Word of God, every day by faith. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is secured in the saints' hearts by feeding every day on the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit flowing from God's Church.

We ought to know that if we have indeed become God's people by listening closely to His gospel Word of the water and the Spirit and believing in it wholeheartedly, then we must now

dwell in God's Church and abide with His saints. And we ought to now accept into our hearts the guidance and admonishments that our predecessors of faith in God's Church are offering, and to thus nourish our faith. If you otherwise reject them, your soul will starve to death amid a spiritual famine, for there will be no bread of the Word. In the end, you will be preyed upon by the liars of the world. You will come to feed on the liars' corruptible food, and you will bear the fruit of wickedness in the end.

The Word of God preached by some people actually contains poisonous teachings that are harmful to the listeners. If the listeners just lap up such teachings without realizing that they are poisonous, and they do this not just once or twice but continuously, their souls will fall ill and ultimately perish. Therefore, if you have now been moved from the place of sinners to the place of the righteous by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, you must live by feeding constantly on the spiritual bread that is always flowing from God's Church. The nourishment of life is like the living water for your soul, and you must fill your soul with it by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. As you feed on the Word of God by faith every day and every year through the Church, one day, you will suddenly discover that you have become a spiritual person.

Those who do not depart from God's Church and live by faith are like those who live amid God's blessings always. If we really believe that Jesus Christ is our God, then we ought to now recognize God's Church by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and we ought to also recognize the faith of the leaders preaching the Word to us.

The people of Israel sinned against God because their hearts did not hold on to the Word of God by faith. They went astray because they did not believe God's servants were relaying His Word. However, far worse than any other transgression was the

fact that they did not believe in Jesus Christ their Savior with their hearts, and they drifted away from their leaders guiding them. They did not trust their leaders. By believing in the golden calf cast in the fire as their god, the people of Israel were asking for the Lord God's curses. They were like the people today who leave God's Church and walk into destruction out of their own volition.

The people of Israel should have at least believed that the Jesus Christ who appeared in the age of the New Testament is the Messiah for whom they were waiting. They should have realized that the Lord God was their God, and they also needed the eve of faith to recognize in their lives that Jesus Christ was their Messiah. If they are now still living like the blind without such an eye of faith, they ought to pray to God. We, too, should pray to God to give them the eye of faith to know and believe that Jesus Christ is their long-awaited Savior. Spiritually speaking, the people of Israel are like an unborn child. I do not think that they are inexorably destined to be totally abandoned by God for not recognizing Jesus Christ as the Messiah for whom they have been waiting. I believe that the day will eventually come when they, too, kneel before their Messiah God and confess their faith, saying, "Lord, You are the Christ and the Son of the living God."

The people of Israel do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord God, but I believe that there is reason for this. I can see that hidden behind their refusal to believe in Jesus Christ as their Messiah is God's plan to save Gentiles from all their sins. As we believe in the Word of God, we can see that everything that ever happens in this world has God's detailed plan hidden behind it. We can realize that God had a profound plan for us to bring the remission of sins through Jesus Christ our Messiah, and that He has blessed us to live a glorious life.

In this age of the New Testament, it is imperative for us to realize and believe that God's purpose for the age of the Old Testament was building His Church through Jesus Christ, the Messiah of mankind. We can see that for the Lord God to build His Church in the age of the Old Testament, there first needed to be His people, these people needed God's statutes, and they also needed the Savior God. That's because God was preparing every sinner's salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Bible also teaches us that in the age of the New Testament, the Triune God made a majestic plan for Jesus Christ to become not only the God of the people of Israel but also the God of us, the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit. The Scripture makes it known to us that the gathering of God's Church, the law of the Spirit, and the saints who believe in Jesus Christ as their God are all indispensable. In the days to come, the people of Israel will also come to realize that Jesus Christ, the Messiah of mankind, is the very God for whom they have been waiting all this time. For them to realize that they are God's holy people, they must reach faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. When they realize this, they will put on God's special blessings.

They must also reach the faith to accept into their hearts and believe in Jesus Christ returning to this earth as their God. All human beings must believe that Jesus Christ, God Himself, has given us the remission of sins and eternal life through the gospel of the water and the Spirit. All of us now living on this planet earth must believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior for whom we have been waiting. We must know and believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that constitutes the righteousness of God, and through faith in this gospel, we can become God's people.

From now on, we ought to devote the rest of our lives to the

glory of God and live out our faith. Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you and I still continue to sin, but Jesus Christ came looking for us, and He has remitted away all your sins and mine once and for all through the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. We ought to reach the faith that saves us by believing in this true gospel Word of the remission of sins. It is to become your God and my God that Jesus Christ came to this world looking for us as the Savior who blotted out our sins, and it is for this purpose that He gave us the gospel of the water and the Spirit. So let us all receive everlasting blessings by believing in the Jesus Christ who came by the water and the Spirit as your God and mine.

Like the people of the Old Testament, are you also intent on believing in the golden calf as your god and rejecting Jesus Christ, the true Savior and Messiah of mankind? The people of Israel and everyone all over the world must now believe that Jesus Christ is the King of kings who came looking for them as the Savior of humanity. So let us all believe in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and enter together into His Kingdom of glory. You and I must reach the faith to believe that the Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ, is the true Savior God who has delivered us from all our transgressions. Now, for all of us to enter into the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ has prepared for us, we must believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has given us; and it is my sincerest hope and prayer that we would all put on the glory of God by this faith.

You must not reject the righteousness of Jesus Christ, our King of kings, and you must instead accept Him into your heart as your Savior and your true God. Jesus Christ has washed away all your sins and mine with the gospel of the water and the Spirit, and I pray for God's blessings for you, so that you may accept this gospel Truth of salvation into your heart, believe in it, and receive the right to become God's child and live forever. By

accepting Jesus Christ into our hearts as our God and our Savior, we can now receive and enjoy God's blessings to reach eternal life.

## Jesus Is the God Who Has Revealed Himself to All of Us

Christ is God Himself, who has brought the remission of sins to all sinners through the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that He fulfilled Himself. He was pleased to reveal Himself to us through the baptism He received and the blood He shed in His life. Jesus Christ is the God of humanity, and He is the true Savior who delivers mankind from all sins.

Along with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is the God who created this world. He is the very God who, through the baptism He received personally from John the Baptist and the blood He shed on the Cross while shouldering the sins of the world, has completed the work of saving all the sinful human beings from all the sins of this world once for all. And Jesus Christ has blessed us to believe with our hearts that He is the "Savior God who loves mankind."

The Bible says, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). The way for us to receive the right to become God's children is receiving the remission of sins through faith to reach salvation, by believing that our Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth and washed away all the sins of mankind with His baptism and blood once and for all. We reach salvation through faith, by accepting that Jesus Christ is the Savior who also bore the condemnation of our sins. To receive the Lord is to accept into our hearts, by faith, all the righteous work the Lord

carried out when He came to this earth. And it also means accepting Jesus Christ into our hearts as our God and our Savior. This is what it means to "receive" the Lord.

Today, there are some people who, despite believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, are not standing on God's side, have rejected His will instead, and are carrying on with their lives while being seized by their own evil thoughts. They are tragically and pitifully living as captives to their own wicked thoughts. Even though they believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, they still want to live on the side of mankind rather than God's side. Aaron knew very well that the Lord God was the God of Israel, yet he still failed to prevent the people of God from sinning. If Aaron had tried to stop the people of Israel from sinning, they would not have replaced God with the golden calf. Today, because we believe in the Jesus Christ who came by the gospel of the water and the Spirit as our Savior and our God, we can all live by this faith. By believing in the righteousness of God, we have received the remission of sins and everlasting life.

The people of Israel who escaped from Egypt under the guidance of Moses in Old Testament times lived like today's pilgrims treading through the difficult way of the wilderness on this earth. It was therefore absolutely indispensable for the people of Israel to live by entrusting themselves to the Lord God and believing in Him. However, the Israelites believed that they had become God's people not through such faith, but on account of their ancestors' faith. In reality, they were no more than practitioners of worldly religion, not the true believers.

Many Christians today professing to believe in Jesus are also living only as religious practitioners who are practically atheists, for they have not personally seen the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Because they only pitied the weakness of mankind without realizing the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, they came to believe in Jesus as their Savior like any other follower of worldly religion, and therefore their faith is highly problematic. Since in their flesh all human beings follow the lust of the world and the wickedness of their own thoughts, even if they profess to believe in Jesus as their Savior, in reality, they end up rejecting the Truth that the Lord has blotted out all their sins with the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. This happens because they all rely on this world's religion and the wickedness of their carnal thoughts.

That is why God is saying to us, "Do not worship any idols before Me." And God is saying to all of us, "Do not serve any god but Me." Yet, the wickedness of our own thoughts pervades our lives, so how are we really living before God? Weren't we all born with the twelve ingredients of sin in our hearts and minds from the day we were born, and aren't we living with these sins? This is precisely why we commit so many sins while living in this world, all stemming from our evil thoughts. Sometimes we deliberately disobey God and do what He commanded us not to do. We are far more used to following our evil thoughts into committing many sins. Like this, because we follow our wicked thoughts naturally and surrender our hearts to our idols, we are committing many sins against God in our lives.

Let's consider money here, which we all need to carry on with our lives in this world. While money is essential for people to make a living in this world, it is not more precious than God. However, some people rely on money more than God, trust in it more, and follow it more. But, what happens when people turn greedy over money following their evil thoughts? Once we get greedy over money, it is inevitable for us to follow money more than our God. This then constitutes idolatry before God.

As we carry on with our lives in this world, there are times when we sin against God. Whenever we sin against our God, we

must ruminate on the baptism the Lord received in the Jordan River to bear our sins and the blood He shed on the Cross, and we must believe in them with our hearts. Whenever we sin, we are compelled to remember the righteousness of Jesus Christ, our Savior. The righteous work of our Lord Jesus Christ is guiding us to faith, and we can be absolved of our sins by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given us. We come to live by cherishing and relying on Jesus Christ our Lord more than anything in this world. Our Lord is making it known to us that we have already received the remission of sins through our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that He has given us.

We commit many sins while living in this difficult world. Whenever we sin against God, we can once again remind ourselves that the Lord has remitted away all our sins by confessing our faith in the God-given gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. We must live by believing in God's love and the gospel of the water and the Spirit that He has given us. As those who believe in the remission of sins that our Lord has given us, we must confess our faith in His righteousness and follow Him. Tempted by this world to sin, we commit transgressions every day, but our Lord has washed away our sins with the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and we must confess our faith in this gospel every day of our lives. Without this, we cannot keep our hearts clean even for a day. We commit so many sins in our lives that they cannot be glanced over, so we must confess them and look upon the Lord who makes us perfect. It is then that we can be cleansed forever. And we must admit to the Lord that we cannot help but live a flawed life and come short of His glory.

Therefore, it is all the more imperative for us to look upon our Lord and follow Him by placing our faith in the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit and the love of our Lord. Trusting in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that the Lord has given us, we must believe that He has remitted away all our sins once and for all with the water and the blood, and we must run toward the goalpost of our lives by trusting in the righteousness of God. It is a must for our hearts to always ruminate on the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that we already believe in, and it is when we do so that we can live on this earth properly as the righteous by believing in our Messiah. Whenever all of us ruminate on the God-given gospel of the water and the Spirit, our faith is made all the more stronger; and whenever we confess our sins by trusting in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, our Savior, the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that Jesus Christ has given us, the gospel that washes away sins, shines even more brightly in our hearts. That is how we come to boast of the righteousness of our Lord, and how we emerge victorious in the race of faith we are running for Him.

We all have to carry on with our lives in this world, and we can live only if we confess our sins by trusting in Jesus Christ who always makes us perfect and we look upon Him. We must look upon our Lord's righteousness by faith like this because whenever we fall into our weaknesses, this Lord, who has saved us, is always alive. We can be made perfect by setting our eyes on the Lord because He has completely washed away all our sins once and for all. The Lord, who has made us perfect, is in our hearts, and therefore we can all live energetically by relying on Him on account of our faith. When we look upon our Lord through our faith in Jesus Christ and the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we can see from this Word that our sins have already disappeared white as snow. And thanks to our faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that has washed away our sins, we can continue to experience God's mercy while

living in this world. So, we come to thank the Lord for the fact that we are now able to live out our faith and proclaim the gospel of the water and the Spirit that always pleases our Lord. Our Lord has made us perfect, and by looking upon Him through the gospel of the water and the Spirit, we can truly experience perfect salvation. We come to praise the Lord for blessing us to put on God's blessings in our lives.

Therefore, it is Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is absolutely indispensable to us and whom we can rely on while living in this world. Just as the true God for the people of Israel was the Lord God, in the age of the New Testament, for the Israelites and us alike, the true Messiah, our God, is Jesus Christ. We live in this world committing transgressions, but He came looking for us through the gospel Truth that washes away sins, bore our sins by being baptized by John the Baptist, and saved us by shedding His blood on the Cross. Truly, Jesus Christ is the Messiah of the believers.

While living in this rough world, Jesus Christ prepared the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit for us and for the salvation of all sinners, and this Word is the true Word of salvation that has remitted away all our transgressions. Through faith in this gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that washes away sins, we were able to receive our everlasting remission of sins once and for all. The Jesus Christ who came to this earth is the God who has bestowed salvation on us and the people of Israel alike. On this earth and in Heaven, Jesus Christ is the Savior God of all the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit.

Just as the Jesus Christ, who came to this earth for us, was the God of such fathers of faith as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the age of the Old Testament, He is now the God of those who believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. If the Lord God was the God of the fathers of faith in the Old Testament, in the present age of the New Testament, Jesus Christ is the true God of salvation for everyone who believes in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. He is the true God of salvation who has blotted out the sins of this world once and for all with the baptism He received on this earth and the sacrifice of His blood. Having come to blot out the sins of mankind, it is only fitting for Jesus Christ to be the God of those who believe in the baptism He received and the blood He shed. To the people of Israel also, Jesus Christ is the true Savior God. This is the truth of all truths, for it is crystal clear that Jesus Christ is the God of all of us who now believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit.

However, many people including even the people of Israel can neither recognize nor believe in their own Messiah who came to this earth by the gospel of the water and the Spirit, and they are instead rejecting Him. They are unable to recognize who Jesus Christ is, the Messiah of mankind who came to save sinners from their sins. Today, now that we have become people of Israel spiritually speaking, the One whom we should look upon is Jesus Christ. That is because Jesus Christ is the Messiah of those who now believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. We must all live by faith, realizing what an honor it is that we know and believe in Jesus Christ, our God. We must never forget the singular fact that the Jesus Christ we believe in is our God.

Even though Jesus came looking for all those living in this world as their Savior, countless people still have not accepted Him as their Messiah. We must recognize Jesus Christ as our Savior, and we must also believe in Him with our hearts and praise Him in our lives. As we carry on with our lives, we must wholeheartedly cherish our faith in Jesus Christ, the blessings of salvation He has given us, and the heavenly promises He made

to us. We believe in the grace of salvation that Jesus Christ has given us, and we should never render this faith of ours in vain.

In the age of the Old Testament, there was a time when the people of Israel fell into idolatry, abandoning the God they had believed in since the days of their ancestors. While facing some hardship for a short while, they lost their God as they lost their reason. We should never allow ourselves to fall into disbelief like this. On the contrary, we should believe that Jesus Christ came looking for us as the Messiah, believe in His righteousness and the remission of sins that He fulfilled once and for all, and thank Him with this faith. We have all the more reason to believe in the written Word of Jesus Christ and His righteous work, praise Him, thank Him, and live by faith.

It is indispensable for us to realize that while we are carrying on with our lives on this earth, and into eternity as well, we must live by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given us. We ought to grasp here that standing against our God by not believing in His love nor believing that He is our Messiah is the gravest of all sins that we could possibly commit against God. The people of Israel, unable to recognize that Jesus Christ is their Messiah God, have rejected Him and are living in this sin. Such people cannot help but live as sinners before God; they are living as God's enemies; and they are bringing sorrow to Jesus Christ, their Savior. They must turn around and believe in Jesus Christ as their God. Only then can they put on the love of God that the Messiah is offering.

Today, having come to mankind through the gospel of the water and the Spirit, Jesus Christ is the everlasting God for all those who accept into their hearts the atoning remission of sins fulfilled by the Messiah. Even at this very moment, Jesus Christ is saving all the sinners of this earth from all the sins of the world and guiding them to the Kingdom of Heaven. Having come

looking for us by the gospel of the water and the Spirit, Jesus Christ now wants to become our Savior. So why would we ever want to remain sinners by refusing to believe in Him with our hearts? Spiritually speaking, those of us who believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit today have received the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and therefore we have now become God's people.

Jesus Christ is now our God and our Messiah, and we should never reject Him based on our own judgment and our own wicked thoughts of the flesh. If people do not believe that the Jesus Christ who came to this earth by the gospel of the water and the Spirit is their Savior, and they instead turn themselves into His enemies, they will end up as failures, for their lives of faith on this earth will be completely ruined. They must turn around and believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit together with us, for they will otherwise perish in the end.

### Is Our Faith Now Standing with the Word of God?

As you carry on with your life of faith before God, you must examine whether or not the center of your heart believes in His Word. It is time for us to ask ourselves if we really believe in the written Word of God as it is, and to examine ourselves. We can then see that sometimes we are revealed as God's servants, and other times we are exposed as insufferably indolent people before God. Although we now believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and we are serving this gospel in our lives by faith, we must still ponder on how God sees us, whether we are pleasing Him or provoking His hatred; and we must stand before God by trusting in His Word rather than ourselves. All of us must carry on with our lives in this world by faith in the

written Word of God. Otherwise, we will be abhorred and abandoned by God.

Therefore, we the righteous must desire to please the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts, and we must yearn to follow His will. If we are always standing with the written Word of God, then it means that we are always walking with the Holy Spirit in our lives. If, in contrast, we do not hold on to the Word of God in our hearts and follow our thoughts of the flesh, then we will be seized by our fleshly thoughts rather than the Word of God, and our lives will end up falling into the swamp of our own lust. Therefore, for us to escape from our carnal thoughts, we must get nearer to the written Word of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the leaders of God's Church.

To get nearer to the Word of God, there are several necessary steps to take. First, we need to read the Bible every day, even if it is just a little bit. Second, we need to listen closely to God's servants who believe in and preach the gospel of the water and the Spirit, so that the bread of faith is supplied to us every day. Third, we need to devote our lives to serving God in close unity with His laborers who are carrying out His work. Doing God's work here means supporting the proclamation of God's gospel, and it also means laboring together with our fellow saints to preach the gospel.

Now that we have been born again by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, walking with the Spirit of God should be as natural as breathing for us. For this to come about, we must be in unity with the leaders of the Church. That is because the Holy Spirit works with those who believe in the Word of God, follow it, and obey it in unity. So, unite your hearts with God's servants walking ahead of you, and do not stop carrying out God's work. Seeing that your heart is in unity with God's servants, the Holy Spirit will then guide you to the right

way. If you are now siding with the enemy, you will end up belonging to the Devil and face all kinds of pain and suffering brought to you by Satan, and therefore you must escape from this rebellious life by placing your faith in the Word of God.

# How Should We Lead Our Lives of Faith Before God?

Of course, we must believe in the written Word of God, and according to this faith of ours, we must admit that we ourselves have carnal thoughts that are fundamentally evil. We must also carry on with our lives in this world by the faith that has saved us from our sins, believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that has blessed us to be born again as the righteous from sinners. We will then be able to live out our faith to God's pleasure. Even though our acts may come short before God, the center of our hearts must follow His written Word by faith. All of us must now carry on with our lives in this present world by our faith in the written Word of God. If we now want to live the kind of life that God wants us to live, then we must believe in and follow His Word that is preached by His workers abiding in the God-established Church on this earth.

This is because our God does not judge us based on our acts of the flesh. If we now believe wholeheartedly in the gospel Truth of the water and the Spirit written in both Old and New Testaments, and we work to spread God's gospel with our hearts united with those ahead of us, then our God will be rejoiced by you and me. God will use you as His worker more than adequately, and He will be pleased by you. This is because the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts judges us based on the faith we have in the Word of God from the center of our hearts.

If our hearts desire to live out our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, the written Word of God, the Holy Spirit will be rejoiced by us. Though we may walk in the valley of the shadow of death, our God will deliver us from there. Though we may fall short, God will guide us to the way of righteousness for the sake of His name. We believe that the Jesus Christ who came to this earth by the gospel of the water and the Spirit is our Savior God. As the believers in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, we are preaching and serving this gospel of God, and our God is blessing us all.

Therefore, we must follow the written Word of God, and we must be in unity with our fellow saints who believe in and follow the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. By our faith in the Word of God written in both Old and New Testaments, we must follow our Lord, and we must also live the blessed life, where we are led by the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts. Seeing our faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is rejoiced to find out that we are the followers of the Word of God. God has turned us, the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, into His workers following His Word, and He is pleased to see us exercising our faith.

The God we believe in makes it known to us what kind of God He is. And He is rejoiced to see that all of us believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit and will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. It is therefore imperative for us to get nearer to the written Word of God and His servants, for only then can we be led by the Holy Spirit. Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will then be able to preach, by faith and throughout the whole world, the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given us. Until then, as those who believe in and follow the true Word that has blessed us to be born again of water and the Spirit, we must realize that following our Lord's will is the very

guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We can see that those who profess to believe in the Lord according to their evil thoughts have their hearts gone astray due to such wicked thoughts of their own. We need to realize that when our hearts turn dark, we are making the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts uncomfortable. We can also see that when our hearts are in the darkness, we are rejecting the guidance of the Holy Spirit. With our hearts rejecting the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we cannot please God. On the contrary, our hearts will get filled only with sorrow.

For us to follow our Lord by faith, we must first receive the remission of sins by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, the Word of God written in the Bible, and we must submit to the guidance of our predecessors of faith. We ought to realize that we cannot otherwise be led by the Holy Spirit if we hang on to our evil thoughts. Even if all of us are carrying out God's work, we are not necessarily all living by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the same extent, and there are degrees of differences even when it comes to such a noble life of faith. Accordingly, you should recognize that there are leaders before you who are guiding the saints of the Church into God's will. Led by the Holy Spirit in their hearts, these leaders are living for the glory of God.

#### What Is the Right Life of Faith?

We must live by believing with our hearts in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit written in both Testaments of the Bible. We must live in submission to the guidance of the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts. We must also realize that for all of us who have received the remission of sins by believing in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given us,

the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is the God who works according to the written Word. So, we know that all of us can carry out the work that brings joy to our God. In other words, God has made it known to us that He is always with us, the believers in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts on account of our faith is letting us know through the Word of God that He is with us. We know that we are walking with our God in this rough world by our faith in His Word. Even though our flesh is imperfect in every way, we are still able to please the Holy Spirit and follow Him by our faith in the Word of God written in both Testaments of the Scripture.

To do this, we must unite our hearts and faith with God's Church and follow its guidance. What does it mean to unite our faith with the Church here? It means living out our faith by believing in the Word of God preached through His Church, submitting to the will of God that is relayed to the believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, and uniting our hearts with our predecessors of faith.

Together with my coworkers whose hearts are now in unity with God's Church, I can fulfill my duty to preach the gospel of the water and the Spirit by faith. I am so grateful to my God that I have these coworkers partaking in the work of proclaiming the gospel by faith, and my heart is also rejoiced. I thank my God for giving me these coworkers. God's work is not something that is done only by certain people. Rather, God's work can be carried out in unity by all those whose hearts now have faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit. No matter who you are, if you have received the remission of sins by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit that our Lord has given to all of us, and if you want to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then you can serve the Lord. When it comes to

spreading the gospel of the water and the Spirit, all of us can participate in this work together.

Led by the Holy Spirit and abiding in God's Church, we, the believers in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, are faithfully fulfilling our duty to expand the Kingdom of God even at this very moment. Throughout the world there are now countless workers of God who believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit and are working to spread this gospel of God. They are preaching the gospel as well as supporting its ministry. Together with these workers who are led by the Holy Spirit, we must proclaim God's Truth in unity. The Holy Spirit will then give us the strength and faith to stand with our coworkers, so that we may be used as His instruments to expand the Kingdom of God. Moreover, because God loves His workers, He answers them whenever they pray and provides for all their needs wherever they are. I know very well that the Lord loves His workers and is blessing them. Believing in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit written in both Testaments of the Scripture, we seek to follow the Lord by this faith, and together we are all dedicated to the cause of the world mission to build God's Kingdom.

We know that there are many people throughout the whole world who need the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit and are asking us for our help. We can lead these people to the Lord who is offering salvation to them. We can also proclaim our Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness to those who are living outside His Kingdom. We are working together with the saved saints to guide all the people of the world, who are Adam's descendants, to the water and the Spirit.

Are you now living out your faith to the Lord's pleasure, following His guidance through your faith in the written Word of God and the gospel of the water and the Spirit? For us, the

believers in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, there are now many souls throughout the world to whom we need to preach this gospel. We shall faithfully fulfill this duty of ours before God, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit and devoting our lives to the gospel ministry to the Lord's pleasure. We should never chase after prestige and power like the people of the world. We should never turn ourselves into the objects of God's hatred like these people.

Even in our gathering, there are quite a few people who, despite professing to believe in the Lord's gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, are not actually doing the work that pleases Jesus Christ. However, they, too will come to truly believe in the gospel of the water and the Spirit and have the faith to carry out God's work together with us. We must therefore strengthen our hearts with our faith in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit, and we must fulfill, by this faith, the task the Lord has entrusted to us to spread the gospel. To do so, we must be faithful to the Lord by trusting in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that pleases Him.

When facing those standing against God, we must resolve our hearts with determination as the following: "Even though you are standing against God's work, we believe in the gospel Word of the water and the Spirit written in the Bible, and we will serve this gospel and proclaim it by faith throughout the whole world, for this is God's will." With this kind of faith, we should leave it up to the Lord to deal with those who stand against the will of God. Because God has given us such a goalpost of faith, we must unite our hearts with those who are walking ahead of us and live in unity by this faith. Having raised the goalpost of faith in the Holy Spirit, you and I are now living according to this goalpost. Like the pilgrims of faith walking toward the Kingdom of Heaven, all of us must live with such a disposition

of faith.

Those whose hearts are led by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are bound to see their desire to know the will of God and live by faith in His Church grow, and they will therefore be able to carry out God's work even more. As time goes by, there will be more and more people of faith who follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, like the sun rising from the east. These people will see their faith grow more and come to live as God's great workers. As more of us come to belong to the Holy Spirit, we will bring, just as we ought to as the people of faith, joy to God with our faith in His written Word. Those of us who have this kind of faith are invincible to the people of the world. By always living out our faith in the Word to the Lord's pleasure, we will bring joy to God. We are the righteous who will always live as God's servants before His Word.

We are now all living in this hopeless world with the guidance of our Lord and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is rejoiced that we are always abiding by the gospel of the water and the Spirit and working with the Lord, and He will lead us to the path that pleases God. Abiding by our faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit that has saved us from all our sins once and for all, we will always live a victorious life by our faith in the Lord. We are so grateful to the Lord for blessing us to live such a life of faith. We give all honor, glory, thanks, and praise to the Triune God, and to our Lord Jesus Christ who has become our Savior.

As someone who believes in the written Word of God, you are now serving His work standing with our Lord, who is the Shepherd of God's Church, and the Holy Spirit. Because God looks at your faith for His discernment, you must now live by faith according to the Word of God. To this day, we have run our race by believing in the gospel Word of the water and the

Spirit, and it is thanks to the guidance of the perfect Word of God and the Holy Spirit that we have come this far. Knowing all about our circumstances and our faith, the Lord has protected us even more, and He has blessed us and guided us to where we are now.

When the Lord judges our faith, He will undoubtedly judge based on whether or not we have lived according to the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To those of us who have worked in unity with God's Church that constitutes His Kingdom according to our faith in the gospel of the water and the Spirit, our Lord will give His grace and heavenly blessings to enjoy.

As the final Judge, our Lord will judge our faith and give us rewards or punishments depending on the fruit of our lives of faith. Leaving it up to God to decide on all judgment and standard, we want to live the rest of our lives by placing our faith in the Lord until we finish our race beautifully. Led by the Lord and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we will live the remainder of our lives serving the proclamation of the gospel until we return to our Lord. And we will live with Jesus Christ, the focus of every life of faith, and our Lord will lead His people to His Kingdom and be with us. We give all our thanks to God with our faith. Amen! Hallelujah! The Lord will call us His loyal servants for living by such faith, commend us for our hard work, and bless us forever to live in the Kingdom of Heaven. Believing in the Word of promise our Lord gave us, we will live with the hope that the promises God made to us will be fulfilled. Amen!

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## Rev. PAUL C. JONG

As a pastor, Rev. Paul C. Jong had long struggled to find the answer to receiving the remission of sins. His search led him to discover, as revealed in the Word of God, the righteousness of Jesus Christ who came by the gospel of the water and the Spirit. This discovery is what led him to his present ministry.

To this very day, Rev. Jong has been dedicating his life to The New Life Mission's literature ministry, proclaiming the gospel of the water and the Spirit together with his coworkers at The New Life Mission to spread the true gospel throughout the whole world. His books have been translated and published in over 98 languages, and they are now available and read in over 210 countries. Many of his readers are receiving the remission of sins and the Holy Spirit from God thanks to his books, for these books are founded on the true written Word of God.

Along with his coworkers around the world, Rev. Jong gives thanks and glory to God for all this wonderful work. Hallelujah!

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I wrote this book to preach the truth that I found while seeking the subject of the baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist over a long period of time. The truth of baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist is not just a foolish theological study but the Word of Jesus Christ, who is the true light, that is practical and at the same time connects to the Word of the truth.

The majority of people have as much prejudice against the truth of being born again as they do against theology. It is because a considerable number of books dealing with the Apostles' Creed published in Christianity had a great influence on them. Spreading their theological thoughts, theologians are unable to deal with the gospel of the water and the Spirit as they do not know the slightest bit about the ministry of baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist. So they came to believe in Jesus by omitting the Word of the baptism that Jesus received.

The reason for writing this book is therefore to properly testify to people about the reason why Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. The purpose of this book is to correct the errors of people's faith, to testify the truth that Jesus bore all the sins of mankind once and for all by being baptized by John the Baptist, and to make you receive the salvation that washed away your sins.

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