

THE
WISDOM THAT
LEADS TO
SALVATION



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BY SEUNG WOO BYUN





COMMENDATION

Mark 1:22, 27 “They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes... They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.’”

The above words are the responses people showed when Jesus first appeared on the stage of history and taught the Word in Capernaum. When I listen to Pastor Byun's sermons, the above Scripture comes to my mind. Truly, Pastor Byun's sermons are not ordinary.

It was fall, 2007. I was on a road from *Chun-An* of *Chungcheongnam* Province to *Yang-Yang* of *Gangwon* Province, not a short-distance travel. During the trip, my heart was excited for two reasons. For one, I will soon

revisit East Sea which my family and I saw on our summer vacation few years ago. [While relaxing and eating tasty food, we were captivated by the breathtaking view of the East Sea with outstanding tourist attractions that included the endless foaming sea, the Unification Observatory, and the famous Eight Scenic Beauties.] For another, we will soon meet with Pastor Byun. He was the invited speaker at Pastors' Fall College Conference, which was a part of our denomination's pastoral retraining program, and he was scheduled to speak on the first night. As fellow seminary students, we had had many occasions of conversation with each other over a meal and had lost touch since the graduation, and after 22 years, we would meet again at this time.

That night, Pastor Byun preached on the contents of this book, and my feelings were, "Ah! Here stands a servant of God!" As a preacher for 22 years, with a master's and doctoral degrees in biblical theology, I had varied responses when I listened to sermons of other preachers, such as: "Wow, he's a good preacher," "Oh, I didn't know the passage had this meaning," or "Ah, I've been blessed today." But I had never felt this way before. It seemed as though he coarsely ripped apart the boundary between heaven and earth and delivered what he had seen and heard in heaven. He spoke of the 'way of salvation' with unusual lucidity, fervor, and power. In Philippians 1:8, Paul mentions 'the heart of Jesus Christ',

and without a doubt, Pastor Byun seemed to possess it. The sermon of that day is recorded in this book.

I realized the importance of the sermon on that day, and recorded the summary of it inside the blank front page of my Bible. I wanted to use it as a guide whenever I preach on salvation. The content of it is this. Regarding faith that leads to salvation:

First, it is not only faith, but repentance and faith by which we are saved.

Second, we must receive and have faith in Jesus not only as our Savior, but as our Savior and King.

Third, it is not just forgiveness, but being free from sin.

Fourth, once saved is not forever saved, and those who have been saved can be rejected.

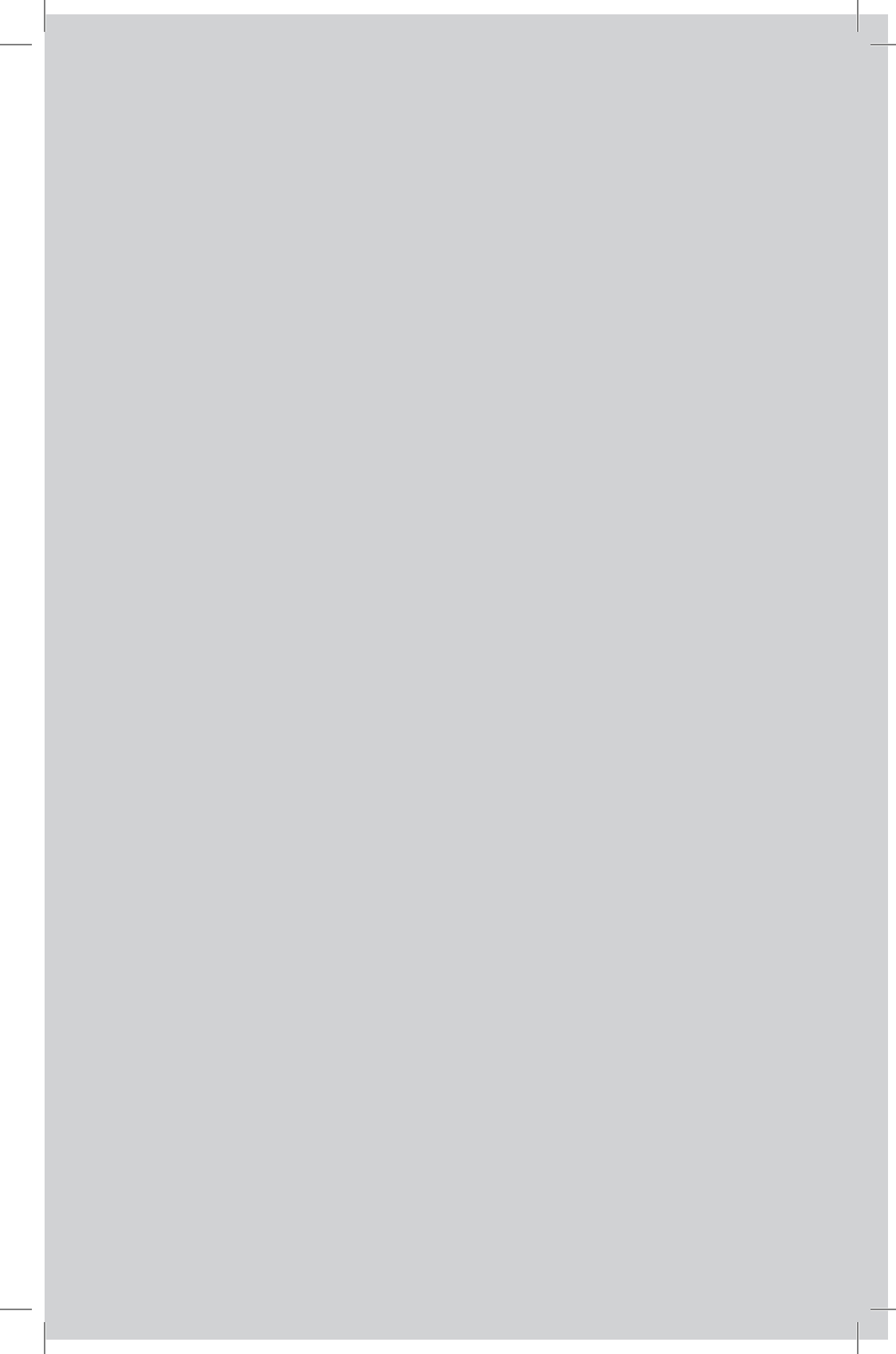
Those who have a little bit of a knowledge in church history, or have studied biblical theology, or no, even those who have done a little bit of ministry, will realize that Pastor Byun's sermon is a shock itself. This message does not even give a glance to the two great reformers, Luther and Calvin. The Korean church, moreover, the church at large, are much indebted to Luther and Cal-

vin. Through their meritorious deeds(?), it could be said that they have obtained an excessive and unwarranted sphere of influence. Luther's 'only by faith' and Calvin's doctrines on 'predestination' and 'perseverance of the saints' have brought much blessings in the church; on the other hand, it is also an undeniable fact that they have brought in negative influences.

The Wisdom That Leads to Salvation by Pastor Byun bypasses Calvin and Luther to trace upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. Those who throw away the theological lens that were established by Luther and Calvin, see the Bible with God-given bare eyes, and seek the help of the Holy Spirit with a heart that asks, "Is this really the truth?" will discover that this sermon contains the pure teachings from the mouth of Lord Himself. Not only that, the message contained in this sermon will awaken the modern church that has gradually lost the light, thus regaining it and bringing that light to the nations. I pray that the Korean Church will receive this message with joy.

Geum Sung Kang

Chun-Ahn Shin-Bu-Dong (City of the Bride) Church





FOREWORD

The subject of the Bible is Jesus.

John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;”

Jesus is our Savior.

Matthew 1:21 “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Therefore, the first thing we must understand in the Bible is the doctrine of salvation.

2 Timothy 3:15 “...and that from childhood you have

known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

What is most basic and important in the Bible is the doctrine of salvation. However, theologians and pastors frequently forget this fact because of their pride and hastiness that says, ‘Everyone knows this since it is so basic’.

1 Corinthians 8:2 “If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;”

But Satan knows the importance of the doctrine of salvation. Throughout church history, Satan has attacked in order to distort the doctrine of salvation. Currently, the doctrine of salvation is seriously damaged even in the orthodox church (not just among heretics).

For the past few decades, I have read through the Bible and Christian books ranging from classics to contemporaries, wrestling with the doctrine of salvation, and proclaimed the truth with my life--the truth of what I have realized and discerned.

Galatians 1:10 “For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-

servant of Christ.”

This book is the sermon that I preached boldly in front of the dean and hundreds of pastors at Pastors' Fall College, an affiliate of the Holiness Church of Korea, and is the core message on the doctrine of salvation, which I had preached all these years without any compromise. Without editing any part of it, I have made that sermon into a book.

There is a reason why I made this sermon into a book, though delayed. When I was ministering at Ulsan, I always preached on the same topic whenever I was invited to speak at a church for the first time. The sermon title was always, 'Christians that Overcome the World'. I felt that the message was vitally important. This is the summary of the sermon:

<I have discovered an important fact while reading Christian books. It is that the message before and after the nineteenth century is quite different. The Puritans, famous theologians, preachers, and evangelists before the nineteenth century laid stress on 'self-examination'. However after the nineteenth century, messages that stress the importance of self-examination began to disappear from the pulpit. And what has replaced them was the 'assurance of salvation'.

Of course, there are those who have assurance of

salvation because they are truly saved. But not a few people possess an assurance of salvation despite the fact that they are not saved. If they did not genuinely repent and do not have genuine faith, according to Matthew 7:22-23, they will be thrown into hell along with their assurance of salvation. Because of this reason, I always preach on this first whenever I speak at a new place.

1. Christians are overcomers.

1 John 5:4-5 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Here, ‘born of God’ means born again. ‘Whatever is born of God’ means there are no exceptions. It is not that some who are born of God overcome, and others who are born of God do not overcome. But all who are born of God overcome. By their faith, they overcome the world.

Then what does “the world” signify?

1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world nor the things

in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

As the above verses show, the world means ‘the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life’. If the meaning of ‘the world’ were not clear, 1 John 5:4-5 would not have been such a shock. However, when the meaning of ‘the world’ becomes clear, John 5:4-5 becomes a huge shock to many people. That is because this Word that shows that those who do not overcome the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life have not been born from God and that they are not children of God.

2. The overcomers are given a promise.

In the letters of Jesus sent to the seven churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 2-3), there is a promise for those who overcome. Many people mistake the contents of the promise to be ‘rewards’, and not ‘heaven’. However, what the Lord is promising here is not rewards but ‘heaven’. To make sure, let us go over Revelation 2.

Revelation 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what

the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.”

Jesus gave a promise to overcomers in the church in Ephesus that He will grant them to eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God. This is clearly not a promise of a reward. This is a promise of heaven, or salvation itself.

Revelation 2:11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.”

This Word is clearer. Do you realize what the ‘second death’ signifies?

Revelation 20:14-15 “Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 21:8 “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Therefore, amazingly, the promise that Jesus gave to the overcomers in the church of Smyrna is that they will escape hell. This is clearly not a reward. This is a promise of salvation.

Jesus did not write a letter to an organization of the world. Clearly, he wrote it to the church. However, he did not give the promise to all in the church in Ephesus to eat of the tree of life in the Paradise of God, but only to overcomers. Also, he did not promise to save everyone in the church of Smyrna from second death, which is hell, but only to overcomers. Therefore, only overcomers will escape hell.

3. Heaven is granted only to the overcomers.

Revelation 21:1-5 “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.’ And He who sits on the

throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ And He said, ‘Write, for these words are faithful and true.’”

If you summarize the above Word in a word, it would be ‘heaven’. This is a description of heaven. Afterwards, the verses 6-7 record who will receive heaven as their inheritance.

Revelation 21:6-7 “Then He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.’”

Therefore, as Jesus promised to the churches in Revelation 2-3, heaven is promised only to ‘those who overcome’.

This is my conclusion. I have spoken to you on the three things.

- (1) Christians are overcomers.**
- (2) The overcomers are given a promise.**
- (3) Heaven is granted only to the overcomers.**

Therefore, we must possess the ‘faith that overcomes

the world' as spoken by John. And we must be overcomers.>

The above sermon is what I always preached first whenever I go to a new church. I included this sermon in my first book, *Christians Going To Hell*. After I had done that, I was not able to preach on this anymore.

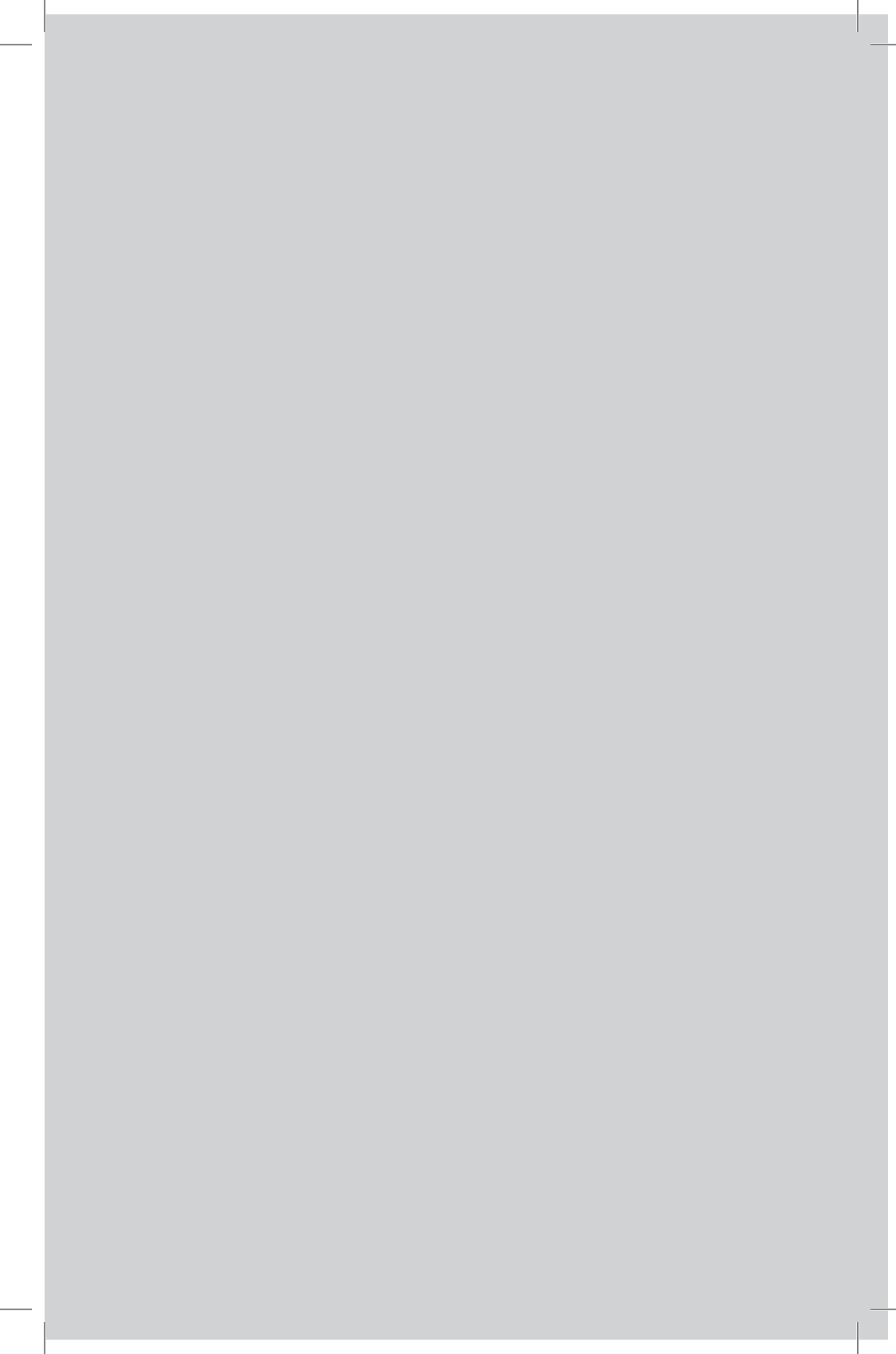
However recently, just before I was leading a meeting, the Holy Spirit gave me a continuous impression which said, "Deliver that first sermon that you always preached whenever you visited a new church--that same message you delivered at Pastors' Fall College." So I preached the same sermon on the first day, and again, the Holy Spirit gave me an impression, "Make that into a book." The book that you are holding is the result of the obedience to that voice.

Beloved, this book is a spiritual flashlight sufficient to show the 'narrow path of salvation'. Therefore, give it as a gift to those who want to know about the doctrine of salvation or those who misunderstand our church. Then, you will see a paradigm shift occurring in them. First, give this book as a gift, then follow with *Christians Going To Hell, Don't Let Anyone Deceive You!, God's Kindness and Severity: In Between Lies the Narrow Path to Life, Lord~, The Truly Saved Can Be Truly Rejected*, etc. This book will be a key that opens people's hearts, and the other books will be the keys to open the

abundant warehouse of truths in the Bible. As a result, many will receive the real truth of salvation, be saved, and meet you in heaven afterwards.

Hallelujah! The Spirit of Truth, work through this book! Open the eyes of those who read this book! Amen.

April 17th, 2008,
Deeply grateful for using such a worthless servant,
Seung Woo Byun





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John 8:31-36 “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'? Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.’”

2 Timothy 3:15 “..and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 5:12 “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”



In Isaiah 6, a scene appears where seraphs cover their faces with two wings, cover their feet with two wings, and fly with two wings, and praise God by saying, “Holy, holy, holy.” Human beings were created in the image and shape of God. That is why God Himself commanded, “You shall be holy, for I am holy” (Leviticus 11:45).

We must be holy as God is holy. But how can we be holy? Broadly speaking, the secret to holiness is ‘Word’ and ‘Holy Spirit’. And in detail, it is very complicated. At this moment, I wanted to share with you the secrets to holiness that I have realized recently. But after careful consideration, I arrived at a conclusion that it is more preferable to focus on the most basic. That is, ‘It is the truth that makes a person holy.’

John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

John 17:19 “For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

As seen above, the truth sanctifies a person, or makes a person holy. Therefore, to become holy, we must understand the truth correctly. When we understand the truth correctly, that truth makes us holy. As proof, it is recorded in **2 Timothy 3:16-17:**

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

Here Paul wrote that the Bible is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness”, and all of these target our heart, not our intellect. Teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness—all of these are for making me holy. That is why biblical sermons are always a piercing sword.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints

and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Here, “living and active, piercing as far as the division” does not mean the intellectual activity of analyzing the Word, but this is something that happens in our spirit. When the Word is correctly understood and delivered, it becomes not just a light, but a sword. As a result, repentance occurs and people become holy.

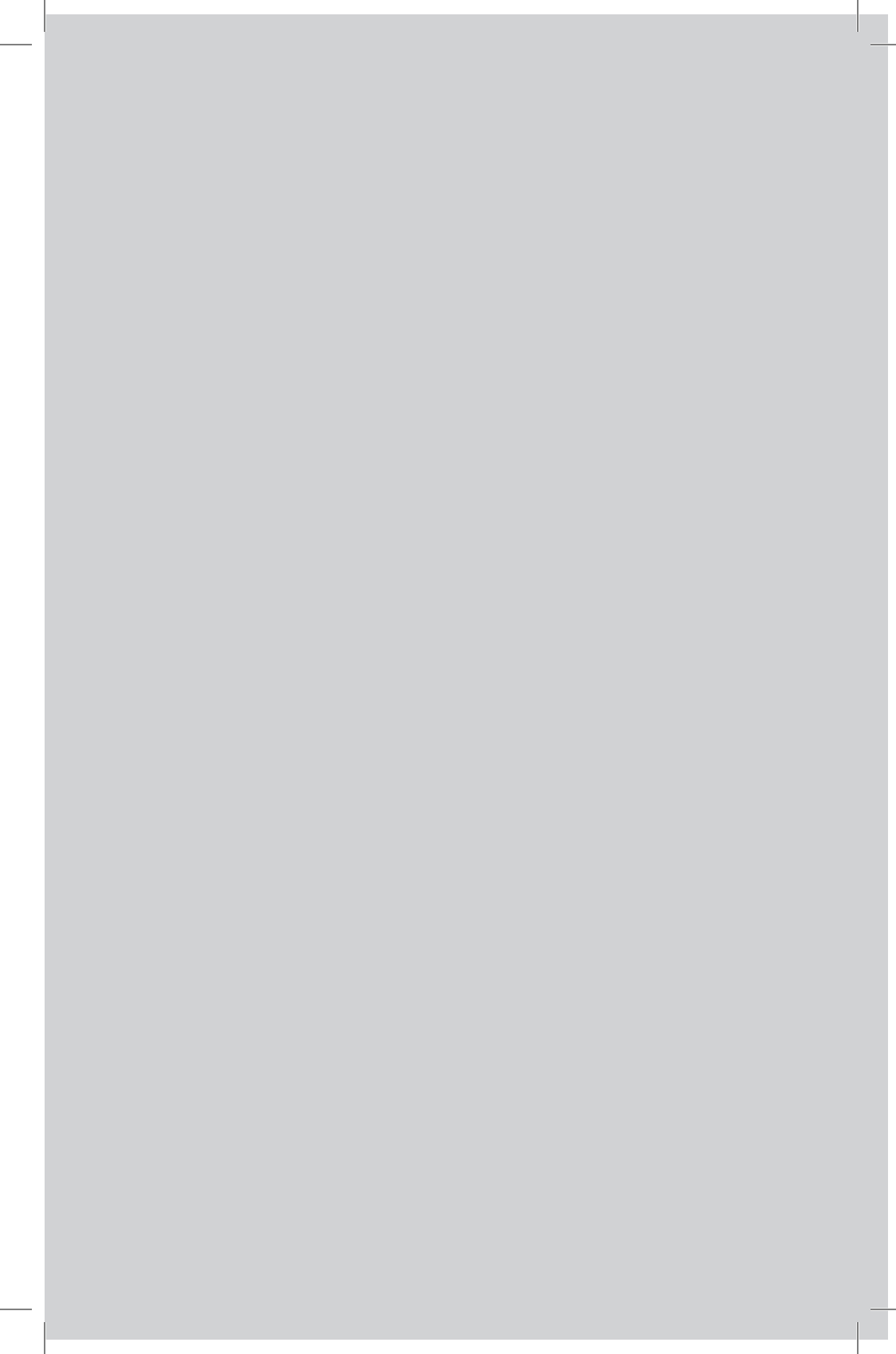
“The truth will make you holy!”--This statement is a fearful one because this can also mean if a word does not make you holy, it is not the genuine truth.

Sadly, people in our nation are not holy. They say Korea is the world's greatest Internet power, but what has come into most wide use through the Internet is pornography. In North Korea, what they have accomplished is the fortification of their whole territory, while in South Korea, they have accomplished the wide establishment of motels in their whole territory. What I have realized after visiting a few countries is that the culture of our nation is an obscene and decadent culture. Our citizens make a habit of traveling for the enjoyment of prostitution.

However, it seems even Christians are not particularly holy. Christians are saints. Saints are the set-apart ones, and the holy ones. But how come they are not holy? It is because pastors did not deliver the genuine truth. It

is because, as Pastor Han Heum Ok well pointed out a while ago at Sang-Am Stadium, pastors distorted and compromised the truth. He is not talking about someone else. Pastors, are your congregation members becoming holier through your sermons. Can you confidently say that your congregation members are holy? If not, then what you are preaching is not the genuine truth.

I believe John Wesley and Charles Finney are the ones who most correctly proclaimed the truth in church history. Their ministry was a ministry that made people holy. That is because truth makes people holy. Therefore, if we want to be holy and make the saints holy, we must correctly understand the truth. And we must never compromise the truth but proclaim it strongly. This is the secret. That is why I want to take this time to speak to you about the truth that makes people holy.







Chapter 1

REPENTANCE IS
AN INDISPENSIBLE AND
NECESSARY CONDITION
TO SALVATION.



Many people only think of faith in relation to salvation. This is a real subtle deception, and a frustrating reality. When we look at *Historical Collections of Accounts of Revival* by John Gillies, when Jonathan Edwards first began his ministry, the situation of New England is recorded this way:

“What is lamentable was the people's pervasive ignorance regarding the fundamental elements of genuine faith and doctrines related to genuine faith. They hardly knew or considered the essentials and necessities of rebirth. The majority of people did not know the need to repent... for their salvation.”¹

¹ The quotation was paraphrased from John Gillies' *Historical Collections of Accounts of Revival*. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1981.

Unfortunately however, the current situation of the Church in Korea is not much different. Salvation is not simply received through faith; it is received by repentance and faith. However, the fact that one of the conditions of salvation is repentance has been lost and is being ignored. Such ignorance and deception is very serious--even to the point that when repentance is emphasized as a condition of salvation, people see that as heretical teaching.

When I was in seminary, I remember there were required subjects as well as optional subjects. Required subjects must be completed by students. However, optional subjects are not completed necessarily in order for students to graduate. However, many people see repentance not as an indispensable and required condition for salvation, but as an optional condition. The reason why such mistake is widespread is because people misunderstood the slogan of the religious reformation, "only by faith".

When you see my fourth book, *Don't Let Anyone Deceive You!*, the first sermon is entitled, "Am I orthodox only if I believe the slogan, 'Only By Faith'?" During the time when I was preaching on this subject, I was ministering in Ulsan, and the Holy Spirit clearly spoke to my spirit as we were having Friday prayer meeting.

"Only by faith' is true in relation to the works of

the law. However, it is not to be used as proof of repentance, biblical obedience, and rebirth.”

After I heard this voice, I studied the Bible to see if this is true. And I realized that it is true, as the Holy Spirit spoke to me.

Romans 1:17 “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous man shall live by faith.’”

Here, (in Korean translation) the phrase ‘only by faith’ appears. However, this is a mistranslation. This was a Scripture that was taken by Paul from Habakkuk, and in Habakkuk, it records:

Habakkuk 2:4b “But the righteous will live by his faith.”

Clearly, the word ‘only’ is missing. Did Paul add the word ‘only’? No, this was added by a Korean translator. For reference, there is no other Bible in any language that translates the verse in Romans as ‘only by faith’. The phrase ‘only by faith’ does not even appear in the Bible translated by Luther, who emphasized faith so much. However, only in the Korean Bible the phrase ‘only by faith’ appears. Fortunately, in the Korean Stan-

dard New Translation, this error was corrected.

“This is same as recorded in the Bible, ‘The righteous man shall live by faith.’”

Even if we acknowledge ‘only by faith’ translation (though it is a mistranslation in the Korean Bible), it does not say the context in which ‘only by faith’ appears. However, other scriptural verses show the context in which ‘only by faith’ appears (even though the phrase is all a mistranslation).

Romans 3:27-28 “Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but [only] by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.” (Note: ‘only’ is added in the Korean Bible)

If you see this verse carefully, you will know that ‘only by faith’ is used in contrast to the works of the Law.

Romans 4:13 “For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but [only] through the righteousness of faith.”

Here too, ‘only through the righteousness of faith’ is

used in contrast to the works of the Law (Law).

Philippians 3:9 “and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is [only] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith”

Here too, ‘only through faith’ is used in contrast to the Law or the works of the Law. And this is all that the Scripture says about ‘only by faith’. There are not many verses that speak of ‘only by faith’! So ‘only by faith’ is a phrase that is used in contrast to the Law or the works of the Law. It was never used in contrast to repentance. In other words, it was never used as a means to exclude or negate repentance as a condition for salvation.

It is clearer that ‘only by faith’ does not exclude repentance when we see the following verse.

Mark 1:15 “and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Here ‘repentance’ and ‘believe’ appear at the same time. However, Jesus did not say ‘only believe’, ignoring repentance. Jesus said ‘repent and believe in the Gospel’. In other words, it is not ‘only believe’ but it is ‘repent and believe’.

Acts 20:21 “...solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Paul also did not simply testify of faith as he went on his missionary journeys, but testified of repentance and faith, as seen in the Scripture. Likewise his teaching was not ‘only by faith’, but repentance and faith. If this is so, our sermons must be the same.

Hebrews 6:1-2 “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.”

The above verse is a summary of the basic doctrines of Christianity. This is the Word similar in character to systematic theology. Here too, repentance is mentioned first. Then faith appears. It is not ‘only by faith’, but repentance and faith. Therefore, “Repent and believe, and you will be saved!”--this is a very clear biblical truth that was established since the early first-century church.

As I have explained, all of these verses do not speak of ‘only by faith’, but speak of repentance and faith. Therefore, ‘only by faith’ is not about replacing repentance,

but is about replacing the works of the Law. As a consequence, if you only echo, ‘only by faith, only by faith’ but does not repent from your sins, you will not be able to escape from hell. Such people will spend eternity in hell, like the rich man in the ‘parable of the rich man and Lazarus’ who went to hell because he did not repent.

I am not trying to scare you purposely. This is a clear truth in the Bible. That is why many people of God actually preached this truth. So that you will be assured of this fact, I will introduce a few examples.

First, in his book *The Doctrine of Repentance*, Thomas Watson, the representative leader of the Puritan movement in England and the one who wrote the Westminster Catechism, wrote in the beginning of the book:

“The two great graces essential to a saint in this life are faith and repentance. These are the two wings by which he flies to heaven.”²

Also, Charles Hodge, the most representative seminary scholar of the nineteenth century, wrote in his book, *The Way of Life*:

“Clearly as the Scriptures teach that whosoever believes shall be saved, they teach us no less clearly

² Thomas Watson, *The Doctrine of Repentance*. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009, p. 7

that, except we repent, we shall all perish... Repentance, then, is the great, immediate, and pressing duty of all who hear the gospel. They are called upon to forsake their sins, and to return unto God through Jesus Christ. The neglect of this duty, is the rejection of salvation.”³

Also, Oswald J. Smith testified in his book *The Passion for Souls* as he quoted the writing of J. H. Lord:

“There is another Gospel, too popular in the present day, which seems to exclude conviction of sin and repentance from the scheme of Salvation; which demands from the sinner a mere intellectual assent to the fact of his guilt and sinfulness, and a like intellectual assent to the fact and sufficiency of Christ's atonement; and such assent yielded, tells him to go in peace, and to be happy in the assurance that the Lord Jesus has made it all right between his soul and God; thus crying peace, peace, when there is no peace. Flimsy and false conversions of this sort may be one reason why so many who assume the Christian profession dishonor God and bring reproach on the Church by their inconsistent lives, and by their

³ Charles Hodge, *The Way of Life*. Princeton, NJ: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1959, pp. 153, 169.

ultimate relapses into worldliness and sin.”⁴

And, Jeffrey Wilson, in his book *The Authentic Gospel*, boldly pointed out the following on the subject of ‘The False Gospel’:

“A careful analysis of the present state of worldwide Christianity reveals an insidious development... The truth of God's Word has been watered down and compromised to reach a common denominator that will appeal to and accommodate the largest number of participants...

This gospel, which has prevailed for decades, is fundamentally contrary to the message that Jesus and his apostles presented. It has been called a ‘cheap’ or ‘easy’ gospel, resulting in what has been termed ‘easy believism’...

Basically, this gospel states that in order to be saved, a person must simply ‘believe in’, ‘trust in’, ‘receive’ or ‘accept’ Jesus as his ‘personal Saviour’ or believe that he died for his sins personally, or receive his ‘free gift’ of eternal life.

This ‘easy’ gospel is devoid of any demand for repentance, whereby the individual must turn from his sins and deny himself as he comes to Christ for sal-

⁴ Oswald J. Smith, *The Passion For Souls*. Burlington, Ontario, Canada: Welch Publishing Company Inc., 1984, p. 46

vation.”⁵

Approximately a year ago, as I was going to Yonsei University to lead an all-night prayer meeting at the Esther Movement Headquarters, the Holy Spirit spoke to me this way:

“The Jews believe that they are saved and can go to heaven without repentance only because they are the descendants of Abraham. In the same way, modern-day Christians believe that they can be saved and go to heaven without repentance. However, this is a deception and a delusion.”

In reality, the Jews firmly believe that they can go to heaven even though they did not repent from their sins, because they are the descendants of Abraham. However, this was a delusion and was not true. That is why John the Baptist came and spoke sternly to them of the following:

Matthew 3:8-10 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up

⁵ Jeffrey E. Wilson, *The Authentic Gospel*. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1990, p. 1.

children to Abraham. The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

As John said, whether you are a Jew or not, anyone who does not repent and produce fruit in keeping with repentance will be cut down and thrown into the fire of hell. And Christians are no exception. God's axe of judgment is not satisfied with oral confession of faith or church attendance. It is not impressed with an extensive knowledge of the Bible or spiritual gifts. The only way to stop the axe of judgment is by repenting and producing fruit in keeping with repentance. Whether a pastor or a layperson, if this is not seen, that person will be cut down and will be thrown into the fire of hell. Therefore, we must repent, and must proclaim repentance.

I will share one more thing about repentance. Why do you do ministry? What is your most basic purpose? Jesus clearly understood the purpose of his coming on earth, that is, the purpose of his ministry.

Luke 5:31-32 “And Jesus answered and said to them, 'It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

As mentioned above, Jesus came to bring repentance

to sinners, and focused his ministry on that. That is why he was not satisfied in the regions where in the eyes of people, there was a great success.

Matthew 11:20-23 “Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.”

As shown above, Jesus was not satisfied even with the cities where most people were gathered, where most miracles occurred, and where most followers were gained. There was only one reason why Jesus was not satisfied, and that is that people did not repent. However, if ministers were in Jesus' shoes, in this situation, how would they feel? Without a doubt, they would have been very satisfied. They would have been intoxicated with a feeling of success.

Sadly, I cannot help but point this out. Too many min-

isters today do not put their purpose in bringing repentance to people. Most ministers preach to teach a certain lesson, or to bring blessings and grace upon people. However, no matter how much people learn through sermons and are blessed, they will be destroyed if they do not repent. Even still, preachers are busy with gaining their followers (congregation members) by teaching the Bible through their sermons, and do not preach so that people will repent. What is worse, some ministers cannot proclaim repentance through their sermons for fear that their members will leave the church. This has become customary through a long period of time so that this is seen as normal. And those who, like Paul, are determined to please the Lord only and not the people, and boldly preach the message of repentance, are regarded as abnormal (Galatians 1:10).

However, if boldly proclaiming repentance is abnormal, then all the prophets of the Old Testament, John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter, and Paul are abnormal. Therefore, do not compromise. And I pray that you and I will repent, and boldly proclaim repentance to people.





Chapter 2

JESUS CHRIST IS
THE KING BEFORE
HE IS THE SAVIOR.



In the previous chapter, I spoke of repentance. And I pointed out that ministers do not emphasize enough the essential condition of salvation, which is repentance. However, it is different with faith, which forms a pair with repentance. All preachers in the world proclaim faith unanimously. Despite this, the teaching on faith too is insufficient.

“If we were to construct a list of the ten most misunderstood words in the Christian vocabulary, I would nominate ‘faith’ for the number-one spot.”⁶

This is what Charles Price said in his book *Real Christians*. When I read this part, I felt so relieved, because

⁶ Charles Price, *Real Christians*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1987, p. 135.

though this statement is a reality, only a minority of people realize this. Earlier, Charles Finney spoke similarly.

“Sinners should be told to believe the Gospel. Here, also, they need to have it explained to them, and to be told what is not faith, and what is. Nothing is more common than for a sinner, when told to believe the gospel, to say, “I do believe it.” The fact is, he has been brought up to admit the fact, that the gospel is true, but he does not believe it, he knows nothing about the evidence of it, and all his faith is a mere admission without evidence. He holds it to be true, in a kind of loose, indefinite sense, so that he is always ready to say, “I do believe the Bible.” It is strange they do not see that they are deceived in thinking that they believe, for they must see that they have never acted upon these truths, as they do upon those things that they do believe. Yet it is often quite difficult to convince them that they do not believe.”⁷

Today, many people think that they will go to heaven as long as they believe. Worse yet, some people even think, ‘Because salvation is by faith and rewards are by works, we can live in sin and disobedience to the Word

⁷ Charles G. Finney, Lecture XVIII “Directions To Sinners,” *Lectures on Revivals of Religions*. www.gospeltruth.net

of God and still go to heaven'. This is a very dangerous thinking based on their ignorance of biblical faith.

Then what is the saving faith that the Bible talks about? In summary, faith is receiving.

John 1:12 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name”

As written above, faith is receiving Jesus into our heart. But what is important is this: as whom do we receive Jesus into our heart? Today, there are many people who have the delusion that they will be saved when they receive Jesus only as their Savior. However, we must receive Jesus as our King and Savior. Then we will be saved. This truth is clearly revealed in the Bible. It is so clearly revealed in the Bible that it is strange how people read the Bible and miss this truth.

John 1:11-12 “He came to His own (signifying that Jesus is King), and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him (not only as Savior but King), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name”

Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and

Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Acts 5:31 “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 16:31 “They said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

Romans 10:9-10 “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (not Savior), and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Jesus is not merely our Savior, but our Lord. Therefore, we must receive Jesus not only as the Savior, but as the Lord. This truth is not an eccentric assertion that I invented originally, but is the real truth that was testified unanimously by numerous witnesses of faith in Christian history. I will introduce only a few of them here.

First, Jonathan Edwards said this.

“A person who receives Christ with living faith is forming an intimate relationship with the Savior and King who reigns and rules over him. He is never receiving the Lord simply as a priest who expiate

him.”⁸

Also, Richard Baxter said this.

“To accept Christ without love, is not justifying faith; for faith is the receiving of Christ with the whole soul. Faith either accepts Christ as Savior and Lord, or not at all. Faith not only acknowledges Christ's sufferings, and accepts His salvation; but it acknowledges His sovereignty, and submits to His rule.”⁹

Then, Charles Spurgeon said this.

“Answer that question then: Whose art thou? Answer now another. If thou hopest that thou art Christ's, Christ's motto with every man is, “Aut Caesar, aut nullus.” He will be Caesar in your hearts, king, emperor, or nothing at all; he will reign entirely over you, or not at all;”¹⁰

8 Paraphrased words of Jonathan Edwards. For more info., see www.jonathan-edwards.org. Jonathan Edwards, *Justification by Faith*. Orlando: Soli Deo Gloria Ministries, 2000.

9 Richard Baxter, *The Saint's Everlasting Rest: An Abridgement of the Original Work*, p. 14. www.preachtheword.com/bookstore/saintsrest.pdf

10 Charles Spurgeon, “Full Redemption” A sermon delivered on Sunday, April 22, 1860 at Exeter Hall, Strand, New York. www.spurgeon.org/sermons/0309.htm

Then, Aiden Tozer said this.

“Christ is both Saviour and Lord... It is altogether doubtful whether any man can be saved who comes to Christ for His help but with no intention to obey Him. Christ's saviourhood is forever united to His lordship... Christ must be Lord or He will not be Saviour.”¹¹

And the giant of evangelical theology, John Stott, said this.

“The appropriate response to the gospel is faith, truly faith alone. But true living faith in Christ includes in essence the element of obedience. [See Romans 10:3.] Also, since the object of faith is ‘Jesus Christ our Lord’ (Romans 1:4) or ‘Lord Jesus Christ’ (Romans 1:7), faith inevitably leads to lifetime obedience... This is our answer to those who insist that they can accept Jesus Christ as Savior without submitting to him as Lord. We cannot accept Jesus Christ as our Savior if we have not acknowledged him as our Lord.”¹²

11 A. W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*. Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, Inc., 1955, pp. 84-86.

12 A writing of John R. W. Stott paraphrased. John Stott, *Romans, Encountering the Gospel's Power*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998, pp. 73.

Unfortunately, this truth has become obscure today. It has become a rarity for preachers to clearly and effectively testify to this truth to bring about actual change. Therefore, the lamentation of Gary Collins, that appear in his book *Beyond Easy Believism*, is not too extreme.

“In our evangelistic activities we have tended to call people to a belief in Jesus but we have failed to tell them that true belief must also involve a willingness to forsake sinful practices and submit to Christ's lordship.”¹³

As a result, in today's church, there are a countless number of people who serve Jesus only as the nominal king, just like the titular queen of England or the royal head of Japan who do not hold real power. To make Jesus as our Lord in name only, is to make ourselves Christians in name only. Toward such people, our Lord Jesus made a firm statement.

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

By his blood, Jesus not only forgave our sin, but he

¹³ Collins, *Beyond Easy Believism*. Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1982, p. 40.

bought us (Acts 20:28, 2 Peter 2:1, Revelation 5:9). Therefore, we must kneel down before the sovereignty of the Lord. Without this, the Lord will not come into our heart. We are only deluding ourselves, thinking that the Lord is within our heart after we prayed a prayer of confession to receive Him. As an example, the church of Laodicea was not a heretic, but an orthodox church. These were people who believe in the gospel, confessed their faith, and worshipped God. However, they did not have Jesus in them.

Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

Likewise, there are many people who think they are the children of God who are saved, but do not have Jesus in them. That is because they only acknowledged Jesus as their Savior, but did not accept Him as their Lord. Some people may have confessed that Jesus is their Lord. However, God is not mocked. That is why Jesus said the following words.

Luke 6:46-49 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you

whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Therefore, receive Jesus sincerely as your King before the Time of Judgment and before everything becomes futile. And I pray that you and I would obey the word of the Lord and live a holy life according to His will.





Chapter 3

SALVATION
IS NOT SIMPLY
THE FORGIVENESS
OF SIN, BUT FREEDOM
FROM SIN.



Today, many people equate forgiveness of sin with salvation. This is due to the fact that out of the two domains of salvation--justification and rebirth--there has been a primary emphasis on justification. Fortunately, John Stott pointed out correctly that “salvation and forgiveness of sin are not synonymous.” More than anything, our Lord Jesus said in John 8:34-36:

“Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.’”

Here, being freed from sin means we are free not only from our sinful actions, but from our sinful hearts. If

this were not so, we would merely be a hypocrite. And being freed from sinful hearts does not mean that we will never sin in our heart, but that we are free from being a slave of sin, that is, free from the domination of sin so that we will no longer sin habitually. Such people are the ones who are genuinely saved. This is most well expressed in Matthew 5:20.

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

This verse is very important. And here, the righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees is related to the method of keeping the Law. That is why I will explain a little bit about the Law.

Today, many people think that the Law is abolished. And the Bible says that the Law is abolished.

Ephesians 2:15 “by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances...”

But the Bible also says that the Law is not abolished.

Matthew 5:17-18 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but

to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

The reason why such seeming contradiction is possible is because the Law is composed of three parts. In the Law there are ceremonial law, civil law, and the moral law. The ceremonial law has to do with rules and regulations regarding sacrifices, religious festivals, and food. These are the pattern regarding Jesus and since they were fulfilled through Him, they were abolished. The civil law was passed on and developed through the law of individual nations. And the moral law, revealed through the Ten Commandments, will never be abolished through eternity (Matthew 5:17-48).

Some people may ask, “Didn't Paul clearly say that the Law of commandments contained in ordinances was abolished?” Of course. We are not justified by the works of the Law (Romans 3:20). In that sense, it is clear that the moral law is abolished. We are not saved by the works of the Law, but by faith. So in that sense, Jesus became the end of the Law (Romans 10:4). This is the truth. However, this is not the whole truth.

We are saved by faith, not by the works of the Law. Despite this, true faith does not abolish the Law. Faith does not push our life into a life of no law, but leads us to a life that fulfills the moral law described in the Ten

Commandments. Just as legalism is a heresy, having no law is a heresy, too. That is why while Paul opposed being saved through the works of the Law, he at the same time wrote the following words:

Romans 3:31 “Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”

Here Paul asked, “Do we then nullify the Law through faith?” Why did he ask this question? That is because we are saved not by the works of the Law, but we are saved by faith. And it looks as though faith nullifies the Law. However, Paul answered, “May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”

Then if we are saved by faith and not by the works of the Law, how could it be that faith establishes the Law and not nullify it? It is because true faith, as explained previously, is receiving Jesus as King and Savior. As a result, those with true faith live according to the Lord's will.

Romans 8:4 “so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Here Paul says that if we do not live according to our

flesh, that is, following the desires of the flesh, but live according to the desires of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, the requirement of the Law is fulfilled in us. Not living according to the desires of the flesh, but following the desires of the Spirit--this is what it means to walk a Christian life. And when we do this, the 'requirement of the Law' is fulfilled in us.

Then what is the requirement of the Law? This means righteousness, holiness, or love which the Law requires of us. Therefore, a Christian life is a life that fulfills the requirement of the Law.

To reiterate, we are not saved by the works of the Law. However, those who are saved live a life that keeps the Law (the moral law). And those who are saved not only keep the Law through their actions, but in their hearts as well. Therefore, those who do not keep the Law in their heart are not saved. And they will not go to heaven. That is why Jesus said the following in Matthew 5:20.

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

This is what Martin Lloyd-Jones wrote as he expounded on this verse.

“...and He announces to these people that unless

their righteousness shall exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees they shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. This, then, is surely one of the most vital things we can ever consider. What is our conception of true holiness and sanctification? What is our idea of being religious? What is our conception of a Christian? Our Lord sets it down here as a postulate, that the righteousness of the Christian, the very least Christian, must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. Let us therefore examine our profession of the Christian faith in the light of this analysis of His.”¹⁴

We speak very lightly of Pharisees. However, the Pharisees at least observed the Law through their actions. This is seen in the confessions a tax collector and a Pharisee while they prayed; also, this is confirmed through Jesus' comment that they only wash the outside of their dish. The righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees means keeping the Word not only in one's action but in one's heart. For instance, this is why Jesus spoke the following words while he was teaching on the righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees:

¹⁴ David Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1976, pp. 176-177.

Matthew 5:27-30 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.”

This is a clear, biblical truth. However, whenever this sermon is preached according to the Bible--that we must possess a righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, and that without a pure heart we cannot go to heaven--people attack at once by saying that I am a legalist and that I am teaching salvation by works of the Law. People usually attack by two reasons.

“By saying people will go to heaven only if they possess the righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you are denying salvation by faith, and you are asserting salvation by the works of the Law; therefore, you are a heretic.”

However, why do people only think of the works of

the Law when the word “action” is mentioned? This is not the works of the Law, but deeds that come out of faith. That is, it is biblical obedience. Therefore, to attack using such words is nothing but a speculation.

“Paul said that no person will be justified by the works of the Law (Romans 3:20). Who can indeed keep all the Law? The righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees is keeping the Law (the moral law) after all, but who is able to keep the whole Law and be saved? This is impossible and no one by this assertion can go to heaven.”

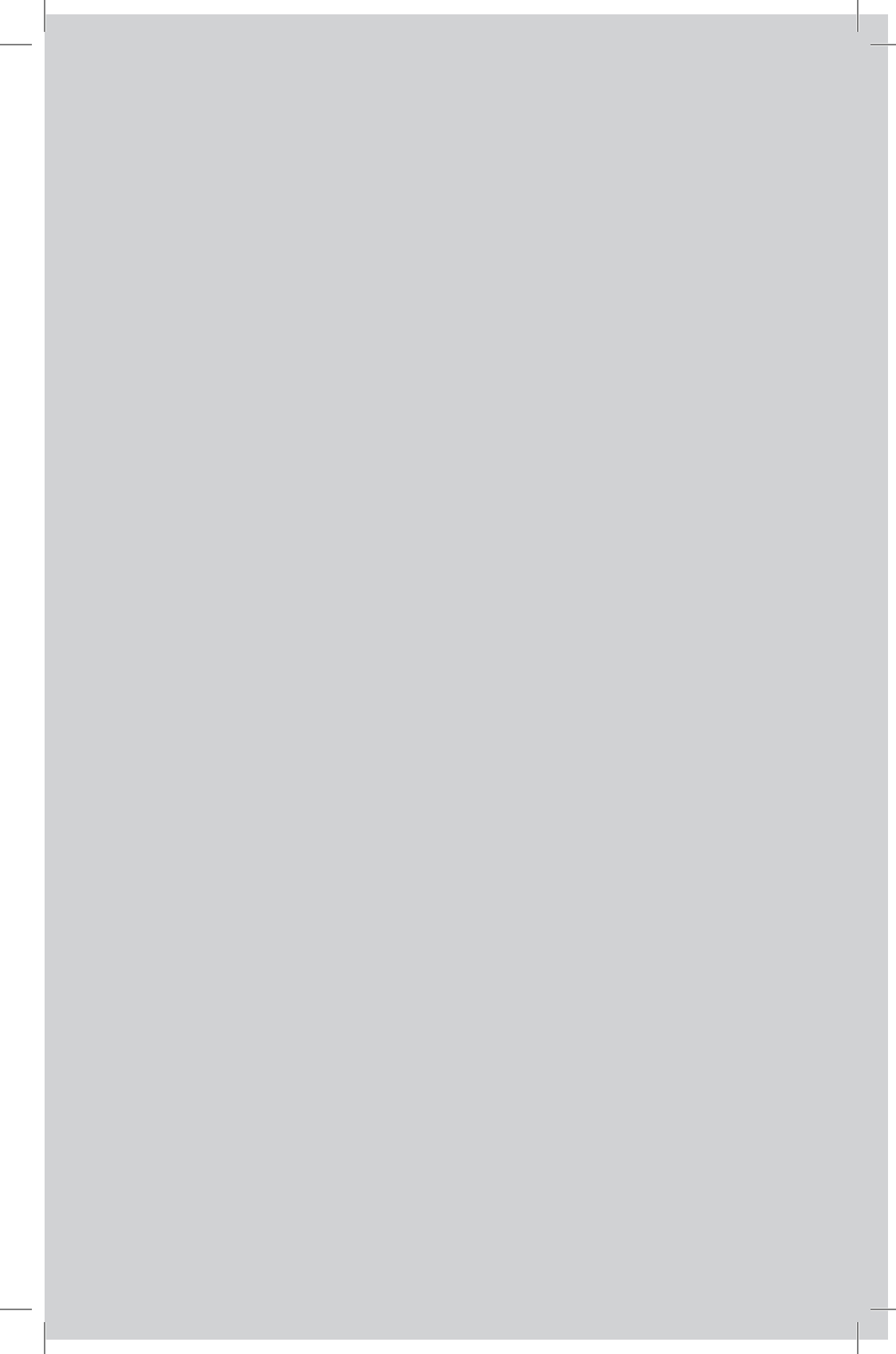
This also is a nonsense that is derived from an inability to discern the difference between the works of the Law and the deeds that follow faith. As written in the Scripture, the works of the Law must always perfectly keep the whole Law. **“For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the Law, to perform them' (Galatians 3:10).** Therefore, there is no one who can be saved through the works of the Law.

However, it is a different matter when a true believer keeps the Law better than that of the scribes and the Pharisees. The righteousness that a true believer possesses--the righteousness that surpasses that of the

scribes and the Pharisees--is none other than fruit in keeping with repentance and deeds that follow his or her faith. However, repentance is not sanctification, and faith is not sanctification; furthermore, faith is not complete sanctification. Repentance is turning away from sin, and faith is receiving Jesus as King and Savior with a sincere heart. Therefore, although repentance and faith always produce a change in the heart and life, this does not mean that the whole Law is kept perfectly all the time, as is required with the works of the Law. That is sanctification, and more than that, a complete sanctification. Therefore, to say that one cannot go to heaven if one does not possess the righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, does not signify that one has to always obey the Law perfectly, as it is the case with the works of the Law.

Then some people may ask this question. "How can someone with imperfect obedience go to heaven?" How do such a person go to heaven? The simple answer is this: Though we must repent and believe, we do not go to heaven because we have repented and believed. We are saved and go to heaven based on the merit of the blood of Jesus on the cross. The righteousness that is credited to us through the cross!--this is the reason why we go to heaven. Despite this, the reason why people cannot go to heaven if they do not possess the righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees,

is that God has decided to grant righteousness, which is merited through the cross of Jesus, only to those who repent and believe. And the righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, is not synonymous with the works of the Law. Rather, this righteousness means fruit in keeping with repentance which proves that repentance is genuine, and deeds that follow faith which proves that faith is genuine. That is why one cannot go to heaven when one's righteousness does not surpass that of the scribes and the Pharisees, and at the same time, one can go to heaven even when that righteousness is not perfect like the works of the Law. Hallelujah!







Chapter 4

ONCE SAVED IS NOT
ALWAYS SAVED.
PEOPLE WHO ARE SAVED
CAN BE REJECTED.



One of the main reasons why people do not pursue holiness in their lives is because of their ultimate doctrine regarding salvation. Many people are consumed by the unbiblical thought that once saved is forever saved. However, this is not the truth, as is stated in my book title, *The Truly Saved Can Be Truly Rejected* (Please read the book if you have not read it yet).

Besides this book, there is one other book that I want to recommend to you. It is *Once Saved, Always Saved?: A Study in Perseverance and Inheritance* by David Pawson. I came across this book at a book store a long time ago, and I was very glad to see it, though I did not have any knowledge of its author. The reason was because he boldly spoke the truth.

While I was reading the book at home, I felt glad that I bought the book. This book was more excellent than any

other book on this topic. I strongly recommend people to buy this book if they are interested in this topic or are struggling with this topic. And this is what David Pawson wrote in the book.

“Our minds have been deeply penetrated with the concept of ‘eternal security’. The implicit preaching of evangelists and the explicit teaching of pastors have combined to ensure that we have no doubts about the future. Not surprisingly, it is widely assumed that ‘saved’ means ‘safe’. However, this almost universal presumption needs to be examined at source. I must add two observations from my own experience (though that is all they are). Over the years I have discussed this issue with many Christians and made two surprising discoveries.

On the one hand, most if not all of those who believe it do so because they were told to. They did not find it for themselves but heard it from someone else. They were therefore more influenced by a particular interpretation of selected passages than by searching the Scriptures for themselves. In other words, they came to the Bible expecting to find it--and they therefore did. I have asked my fellow preachers why they preach it and not one has said, ‘because it’s in the Bible’. Every one, without exception, has said: ‘I’m of the Reformed (or Calvinist) position’, reveal-

ing that the main influence on their thinking dates from many centuries later than the New Testament.

On the other hand, everyone I have met who has had to study the Bible without anyone's help has come to the conclusion that they will have to 'keep it up' if they are finally to reach heaven. This leads to a common fear in new converts that they may not be able to maintain their commitment.”¹⁵

I know for a fact that David Pawson's assertion above is correct. The reason is that I am one of those people he wrote about. I met Jesus through a Presbyterian pastor and grew up in a Presbyterian church. However, ever since young, I knew that people who were saved can be rejected. It is not because someone taught me this truth. At church, my pastor and teachers preached differently. Despite the fact, the reason why I came to have this knowledge is because I read the Bible ever since I was young. I did not have any theological knowledge. I only read the Bible fervently with a love for the Word. The Bible is not a mystery and is written so that the readers can understand. It is clearly written in Korean. Though I was young, I knew Korean. While I read the Bible, I discovered so many passages that signified that once saved can be rejected. Even when I examined the

¹⁵ David Pawson, *Once Saved, Always Saved?: A Study in Perseverance and Inheritance*. London: Hodder and Stoughton Ltd, 1996, p. 4.

context, they cannot be received by any other meaning. That is why I came to firmly believe that once saved can be rejected.

Also, this is what David Pawson wrote.

“Yet the growing number of evangelicals is being outpaced by the rapidly increasing stream of Pentecostals, particularly in the Third World... Pentecostals tend to be Armenian, since their pedigree may be traced back through the ‘Holiness’ movement of the nineteenth century to the Wesleyan revival of the eighteenth. A few have adopted a ‘Reformed’ theology, but most would not support ‘Once Saved Forever Saved’, except by default. The twenty-first century may well see a trend away from ‘Once Saved Forever Saved’, in which this book may play a tiny role.”¹⁶

Can a saved person be rejected or not? This is a very old controversy. However, this is simply not just a difference between the two denominations of Presbyterian and the Methodist (Holiness church) as most people understand it, but it is a difference that arise between evangelicals and Pentecostals.

As an example, Pastor William Seymour, who brought about the famous Azusa Street Revival, a Pentecostal

¹⁶ David Pawson, *Once Saved, Always Saved?: A Study in Perseverance and Inheritance*. London: Hodder and Stoughton Ltd, 1996, p. 101.

movement, believed that “though you may be saved, you can lose salvation if you live in the flesh.” Sundar Singh of India and Dwright Moody were Armenians. Pastor Kenneth Hagin whom I respect, a famous healing evangelist Benny Hinn, and Mike Bickle of IHOP are all Armenians. And Pastor Young-Hoon Lee, the successor of Yuido Full Gospel Church, Pastor Keum-II Na of Joo-An Presbyterian Church, Pastor Kyung-Dong Jang, Pastor Kwang-Hoon Jun, Pastor Tae-Shik Jun and many others believe that once saved can be rejected. Furthermore, I know many pastors who believe that once saved can be rejected even though they belong to a Presbyterian denomination. Most of them are Holy Spirit-filled and believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Then why are there more people among Pentecostals and Charismatics who believe that once saved can be rejected? It is because they are not merely those who see the Bible through intellectual lens, but they are open to the revelations of the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of truth. As is the case with Pastor Kenneth Hagin, sometimes their wrong doctrines are corrected by Jesus. And among them, there are some who have experienced being caught up in the Spirit, like Paul or Sundar Singh of India, and when they visit heaven, they find that Jesus is not a Calvinist. Jesus always wants all people to be saved, and is pleading with them, and warns them of the fact that once saved can be rejected. Esther Son, a

youth pastor at our church, experienced visiting heaven when she was young, and when she was there, she saw angels taking off a nameplate from a house. Curious, she asked and the angel replied, “This saint on the earth has committed sin and has become corrupt.” Therefore, whether they possess greater or lesser knowledge, most Pentecostals and Charismatics believe this biblical view that once saved can be rejected.

Let us examine just one passage that shows that once saved can be rejected.

Hebrews 6:4-6 “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.”

Here, the words “tasted of the heavenly gift” and “tasted the powers of the age to come” appear. That is why many people thought that the passage is referring to people who had merely a taste. In other words, they thought the people in the passage are not the ones who are truly saved but have only tasted of these good things and therefore, they can be corrupt and destroyed at any

time. However, such thinking ought to be reversed when we see the context.

“...it is impossible to renew them again to repentance...”

These people have become corrupt and will be thrown into hell eternally. In order for them to avoid destruction, they must repent. However, they have become corrupted to the point of no return, where repentance for them is no longer possible. And the Bible uses the word “again” regarding them. This word implies that the repentance they made in the past was not just a “taste” but true repentance. Therefore, it is false to say that once saved is forever saved. People who were saved can be rejected and be destroyed.

In the book by Pastor Kenneth Hagin, whom I respect, there is an amazing testimony related to this topic. This testimony is one of the decisive proofs of the truth that once saved can be rejected. I want to introduce you this testimony.

“...the Lord said to me, and then suddenly in the vision I saw a woman. I immediately recognized her as being the former wife of a minister... I only knew that she had since left her husband.

‘This woman was a child of mine,’ the Lord said.

'She was in the ministry with her husband. She was filled with the spirit, and even the gifts of the spirit were operating in her life. One day an evil spirit came to her and whispered in her ear, "You are a beautiful woman. You could have had fame, popularity, and wealth, but you have been cheated in life by following in the Christian walk." The woman realized that this was an evil spirit and she said, 'Get thee behind me, Satan.'

Then in the vision I saw the woman become as transparent as glass, and I saw in her mind a black dot. 'That dot represents the fact that she is obsessed in her thinking with this spirit,' the Lord said. 'At first she was oppressed on the outside, but as she allowed the devil's suggestions to take hold of her thoughts, her mind became obsessed. She wanted to think, "I am a beautiful woman. I could have wealth and popularity, but I have been robbed in life." Still, it wasn't too late. She could have resisted; she could have refused to think those thoughts. Then the spirit would have fled from her and she

would have remained free. But she chose otherwise.

'Finally she left her husband and went out into the world, seeking the fame and wealth which the devil offered. She took up with one man after another. After a time that thing got down into her spirit.' In the vision I saw the black dot move from her head to her heart, and then the woman said, 'I don't want the Lord any more. Just leave me alone.'

I said, 'Lord, why are You showing this to me? Do You want me to pray for this woman? Do You want me to cast the devil out her her?'

'No, I don't want you to pray and cast the devil out of her,' the Lord answered, 'because you couldn't anyway. She wants that spirit and as long as she wants it, she can have it.'

'Then, why did You show this to me, "Lord?'

'I have shown this to you for two reasons; first, so that you could see how an evil spirit will get hold of a person, even a child of God, if they will let him. Secondly, I want you to deal with that spirit who is operating through that woman and is harassing and intimidating the ministry of her former husband.'

...'Lord, what will happen to her?' I asked.

'She will spend eternity in the regions of the damned, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth,' He answered. And in the vision I saw her go down into the pit. I heard her awful screams.

'This woman was Your child, Lord. She was filled with Your Spirit and had part in the ministry. Yet You said not to pray for her. I cannot understand this.'

The Lord reminded me of the following Scripture: 'If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it' (1 John 5:16).¹⁷

For those who do not know, Pastor Kenneth Hagin is the most proven and trustworthy prophet of this generation. His books and revelations are strictly biblical. Even Pastor Oral Roberts, who brought the greatest influence on pastor David Yonggi Cho, acknowledged many times in his autobiography that Pastor Kenneth Hagin is an accurate prophet that can be trusted. Therefore, please believe that those who are saved can actually be rejected, as seen in this testimony. And like Paul, please beat your body so that it will obey your spirit. This is the secret for the believers to become holy.

Now I will tell you the conclusion. In the Bible, it is recorded, "when the blind leads the blind, both will fall in the pit." Knowing the correct truth is first the secret for pastors to become holy, and then the secret for all

¹⁷ Kenneth E. Hagin, *I Believe In Visions*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1972, pp. 71-73.

believers to become holy. As an example, think of Paul.

1 Corinthians 9:27 “but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

As written above, Paul knew the truth, and as a result, he first made himself holy.

Philippians 2:12 “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;”

As shown above, Paul knew the correct truth and by proclaiming this message without any compromise, he made the believers holy. And if Paul did such work, we must do this work far more. The reason is because the return of Jesus is far more imminent now than in the time of Paul, and we must prepare the church to be the bride of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:25-27 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no

spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”

We must prepare the church, the bride of Jesus Christ, to be a holy and blameless bride. This is possible “by washing of water with the word.” When we wash our body, we do not do so by going to the polluted and muddied water. We wash with clean water. In the same way, the word that washes our spiritual filth must be clean and pure, without being mixed in with the teachings of men.

Psalm 12:6 “The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.”

We must never add anything to such pure word of God. We must never degrade the purity of the Word. Higher the purity of the Word, the holier the church becomes. Therefore, we must speak the Word as Paul testified, “For we are not many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God” (2 Corinthians 2:17). This is the most basic and true secret to making ourselves and believers to become holy.

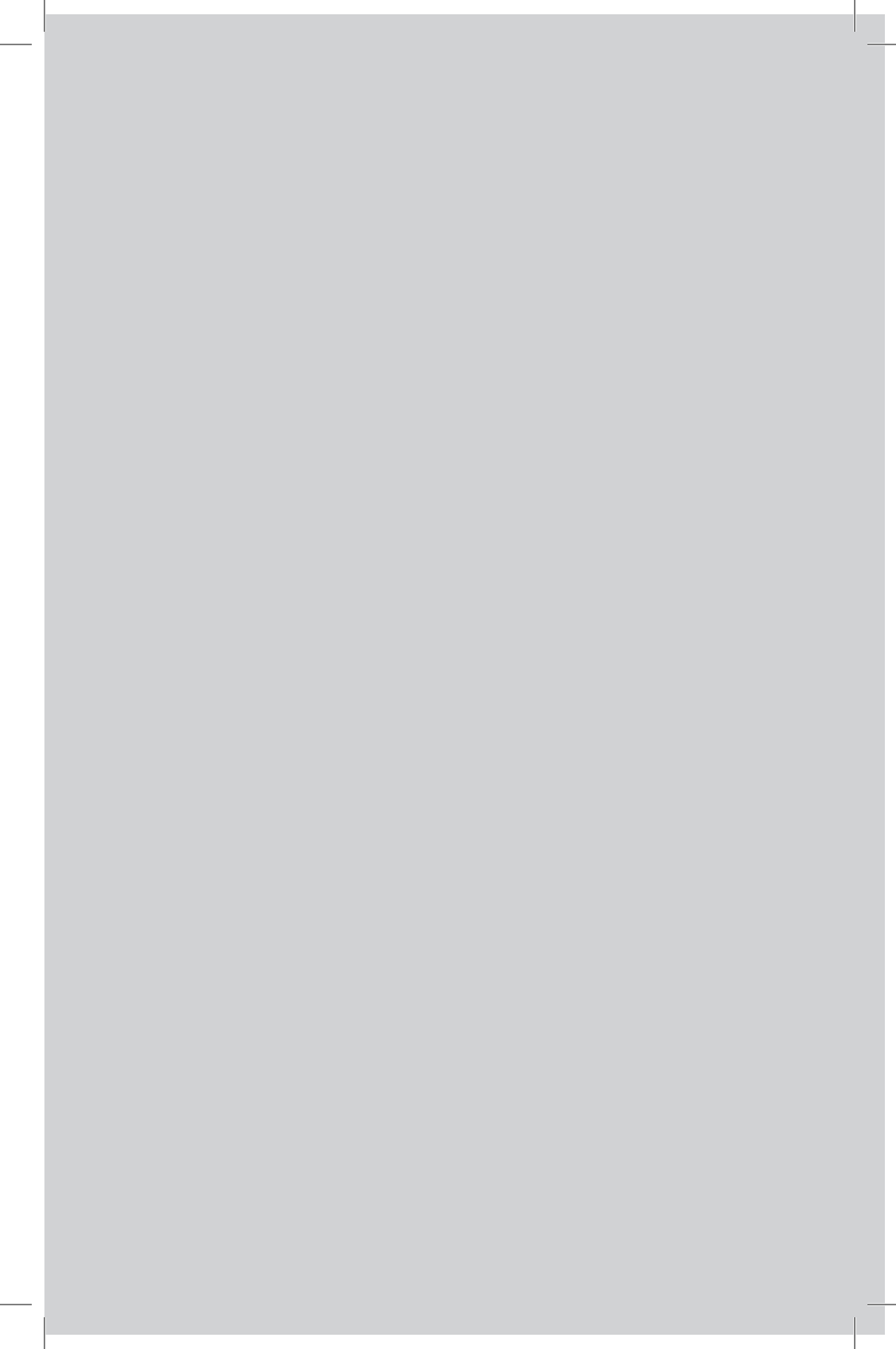
As you well know, 1 Corinthians 3 shows the metaphor of a builder.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

This metaphor deals with the judgment of ministry activities, that is, the teachings of pastors, and is not related to salvation of believers (we can see this when we look at the verses 5-9). Here, the act of building a house signifies ministry, and the building materials such as gold, silver, and precious stones represent correct truth and teachings, and the materials such as wood, hay, and straw represent wrong teachings that are unbiblical. On the Judgment Day, those who built the house using gold, silver, and precious stones will receive a reward, but those who built using wood, hay and straw will have no reward. Just barely escaping through a fire, they themselves will be saved. This passage does not mean that

we will go to heaven even though we do not obey God. The reason is because the judgment of each individual person and the truth of salvation appear in other passages (Matthew 7:21-28).

I want to repeat over and over again that this passage only deals with the judgment regarding ministry. The reason why those who built using wood, hay, or straw even receive their salvation at all, though escaping through a fire, is because they have repented and possess genuine faith. If they have not repented and do not possess genuine faith, they would not even receive salvation as escaping through a fire. And when the passage implies that they will not have any reward, it is not saying that they will not have the reward of having lived according to the Word, but that they will have no reward related to their ministry, or their sermons and teachings. This is because Paul is dealing with the judgment regarding the ministry of the Word, and not just any ministry. So how important it is to correctly discern the Word! This is most important to pastors. Therefore, I pray that we would correctly discern the Word and only preach the truth. And as a result, I earnestly pray that we would become holy and not be rejected from heaven, and not only that, we would guide many souls to the truth and receive a great reward in heaven.



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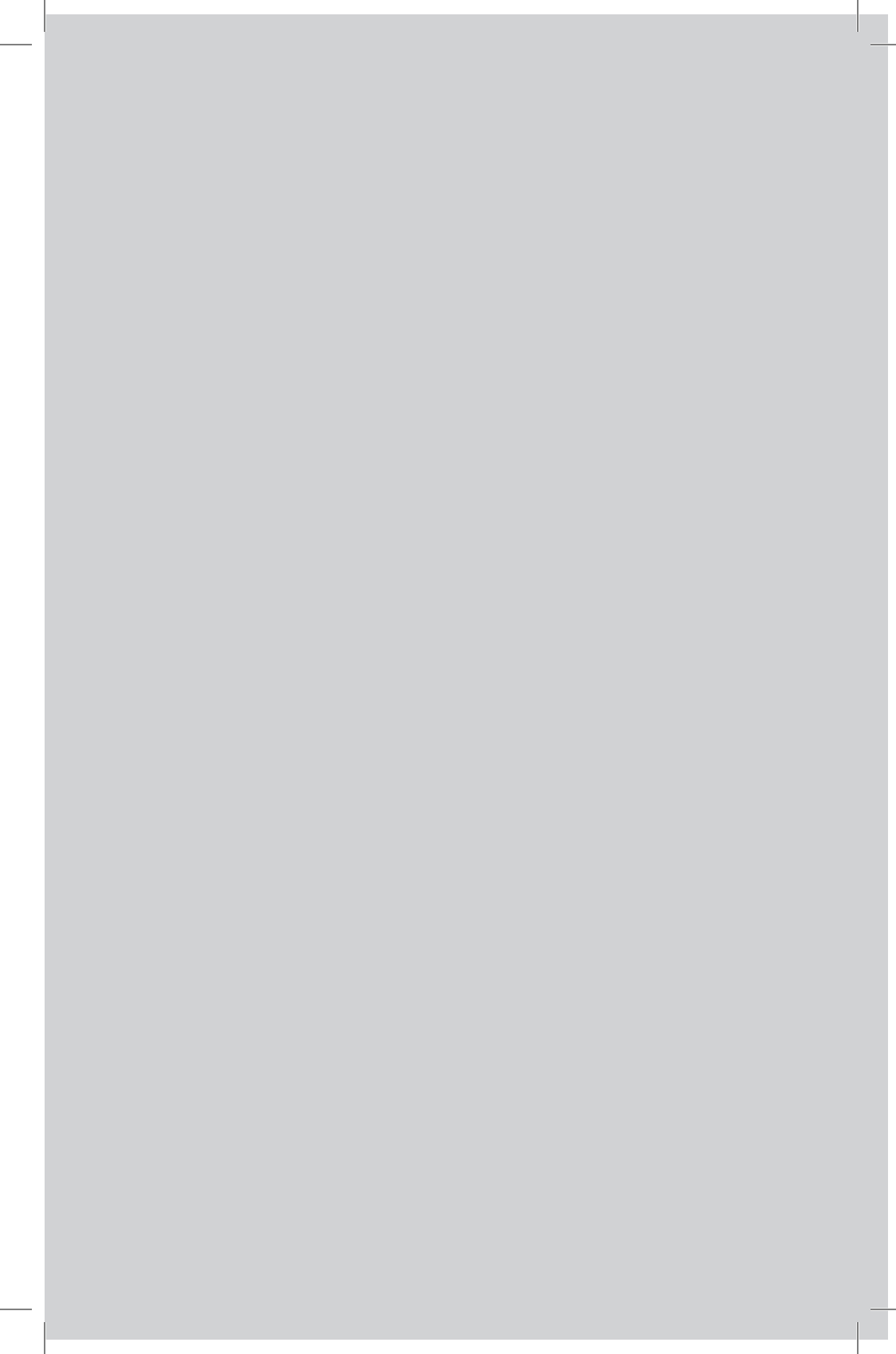
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