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Church of the Lord

하나님의 사랑교회

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오늘의 말씀

"The Church: A Gift to This World"

[Matt 5:13~16]

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be sea-soned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. (14) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. (16) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

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Today, we share the second message of the “New Year Vision Series” over the next five weeks, focusing on our church’s vision for the year 2025. In 2025, we have a vision of “Saints who are a blessing; a church that is a blessing.” Last Sunday, we shared a message titled “Saints who are gifts to one another,” and today we will share “A church that is a gift to the world.” Let’s read the theme verse of this series again.

[Gen 12:2] I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

In order for us to exist as a church that is a gift to the world, we must first receive blessings from God. Our identity as a church must be firmly established so that we can become a church that can give to the world.

First, the existence of the church community itself must be a blessing.

I think the first thing that our church community must strive for in order to become a blessing is fellowship with our Lord. What do you think is the first purpose of the church’s existence? Everyone may have a slightly different opinion, but the first purpose of the church’s existence is worship.

Some people think that the church should prioritize relief work. Some people think that the church should focus entirely on missions. Others think that the church should focus entirely on education. But no. While all of these things are important in the ministry of the church, the first reason for the church’s existence is to worship God. The reason God created us is to praise and worship Him.

[Isa 43:21] This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

The apostle Paul said that the reason we were redeemed was to be the praise of God.

[Eph 1:11~12] In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,

being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, (12) that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Praise is worship. That is why we always think of praise and worship as the same concept. Praise & Worship; these are words that always go together. So Paul again teaches the Ephesians that we should worship in our lives to cherish our time and to strive for the will of the Lord, and he introduces worship as speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph 5:16~21).

The reason I say that worship is the first and most important reason for the existence of the church is because, whether we educate the world, do relief work, or do mission work, we cannot give anything to anyone without receiving from God.

Paul made it clear that the arrogant attitude of thinking that everything starts from our own ability and intelligence without being supplied by God is not proper before God.

[I Cor 4:6~7] Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. (7) For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Whatever we do in the name of the Lord, we must not go beyond the Word of God. We must learn the Word of God through worship and fulfill the mission of the church according to the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us in the Word. Therefore, the first value of the church community must be given to worship. God renews the calling of our community through worship, and establishes all of us with the power of the Holy Spirit through worship.

Paul told the Corinthians that they would be saved by standing in the midst of the Word he had taught them and believing in it, and that he had also preached the gos-pel to them because he had first received it from the Lord.

[I Cor 15:1~3a] Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received

In order for us to become a community like a gift to this world, we must do our best to become those who receive grace from our Lord. Because you have to receive it before you can pass it on. Because you have to receive it first before you can share it.

Among the words I shared with you last Friday morning, there was one that was such a blessing to me. It was that there was a big difference in the way Moses and the Israelites viewed God. This is the word;

[Ps 103:7] He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

Here, "acts" is [Derek] in Hebrew. It means "way, method, character, and behavior." Moses focused on God's character within Him, and God's way of acting, more than anything else that God showed him.

On the other hand, the children of Israel saw God's "acts." "Acts" is [Alilah] in Hebrew. It means "accomplishment, achievement, action." It means that they focused on the results of God's work that were apparent from the surface.

There is a huge difference here. Moses was always in communion with God, like a friend talking to a friend, in the presence of the glory of God that came to the tabernacle like thick smoke, like fog, that is, the visible presence of glory [Shekinah] that could be seen with the eyes. I bless you that your

faith will be like this. Israel, who stood far away and only looked at the results of God's work, the results that appeared on the surface, was fickle. They changed their minds twelve times a day. However, Moses, who lived in deep communion with God, knew the character of God that existed within Him. He knew His purpose. He understood the way He carried out His will. That is why Moses did not change. Every day, even when the people tried to stone him, Moses consistently fell before the Lord and was able to serve the people with that strength.

When this becomes our life, we can finally become saints who are like gifts to the world. When we are filled with loving communion with the Lord, we can become a church that is like a gift, saints that are like gifts, and a community that is like a gift that can give to the world. Hallelujah!

In today's text, Jesus says that our church and believers as a Christian community must be like "light and salt" to this world.

Jesus first likens the role of the church and believers to salt. As you all know, salt first provides flavor and secondly prevents corruption.

The role of the church and believers is to prevent spoilage and provide flavor in this world.

When we talk about flavoring with salt, the first thing that comes to mind is seolleong-tang or gomtang. If you don't add salt to those, they are really bland and greasy, so you can't eat them. However, if you add just a little bit of salt, the flavor changes completely. You sweat on your forehead while eating them deliciously, right? But no one says that the salt was delicious after eating seolleongtang. Everyone says, "Ah, this restaurant's seolleongtang is delicious!" In fact, the salt provided all the flavor. I think that's the life of Christians in this world. Why did Jesus say not to let your left hand know what your right hand is doing? Is it possible to not let your left hand know what your right

hand is doing?

Jesus said that if we fail to fulfill the role of salt, we will simply be thrown out and trampled underfoot. This is an expression that everyone in the Roman culture at the time understood. Have you heard the saying, "All roads lead to Rome?" Rome was famous at the time for its ability to pave highways. But do you know how they paved those roads? They sprinkle salt on the soil, pour water on it, and use heavy rollers to harden the road, making it as solid as asphalt is today. They use the same method to make tennis courts today.

Shouldn't salt be used to add flavor, not to make roads? Jesus said that if believers cannot act as salt, they will only be used to pave roads. It is truly regrettable that today's churches and believers are not fulfilling their roles properly, and are being talked about and trampled on like the roads. I bless all of our church and believers to become good salt.

Jesus wants our churches and believers who believe in the Lord to be beings who fulfill the proper function that "light" should have. What is light in the world?

Light is something that illuminates darkness, and when light comes in, darkness disappears. As I often say, we do not need to stir up the room to drive out the darkness. If we just turn on the light in the room, the darkness will disappear without a trace. If our souls are filled with the light of grace and love that the Lord has given us, all the negative thoughts that fill our hearts, the darkness of sorrows and pain, and the darkness of our hearts will all disappear. That is the power and effect of light. Today, there are many souls in this world who are consumed by the darkness of pain. I earnestly desire that we all approach their souls with the light of the Lord's truth. In today's text, Jesus said this.

[Matt 5:14] "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Light serves as a guide to the lost souls in the darkness. We

must be those who follow the light of the Lord in our lives, and our lives must also become a beacon of truth to many souls wandering in the world.

[Joh 8:12] Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Paul also speaks to us in the same tone.

[Eph 5:8] For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Paul also wrote to the Christians in Rome like this.

[Rom 13:12] The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Jesus said in today's text that when we become people of light, we will place the lamp on high so that it can shine over a wide area so that more people can see it. We are not people who strive to climb to the highest places in the world. We must be people who humbly strive to let the light of Jesus appear to us. The Lord says that then He will exalt him so that His light can shine over a wider area and to more people.

[Matt 5:15~16] "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. (16) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

When we become light and salt, we will become saints who are like gifts for this world that Jesus desires. However, both light and salt must be sacrificed in order to perform their functions. Salt must melt itself to be flavored, and light must burn itself to shine.

We all want to learn the way of Jesus' cross and become people who give our selves to the Lord as the Lord did.

Those who have experienced the Amazing Grace that we praised today should be happy people even when melting themselves. Because Jesus did so too.

“Can’t we live like Jesus and Paul? Just as they gave up their whole bodies for others.” May this be our praise today. “Can’t we live like the sun during the day and like the moon at night? Without greed, shining on the dark world, living completely for others.” May this be our dream and wish.