

**The Victory and Judgment of the Lamb (2)**

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*1 Corinthians 3:11-15: “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.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:7-10: “For we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

*Revelation 20:4-5: “Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.”*

*Revelation 22:3-5: “There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”*

*2 Timothy 2:10-12: "For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us."*

Thank the Lord that this afternoon we can continue forward from our previous sharing. Thank our God that He leads onto this way after we are saved by His grace. And this way leads us directly to God's throne. We thank our God because He is very clear on how much this redemption encompasses when He gives it to us. God is not ambiguous at all in this matter. Forgive me for putting it this way, He has already told us almost everything in His heart in a very simple way through His word. Therefore, for us who have entered into this redemption, we are to enjoy the fruit of redemption on one hand; on the other hand, more importantly it is to for us to fulfill the purpose of man's creation before God accomplishes His work of redemption. I believe brothers and sisters understand that God's purpose and substance of creating man are both very clear. God has created man according to His image and likeness and He lets man rule over all His creation. Apart from His Godhead, God has given man who He is and what He has done. I am sure brothers and sisters are not aware of such a tremendous thing when you first believed in the Lord. But gradually we begin to see that the redemption God has given us is not limited to the grace of forgiveness of our sin. Not only does He bestow the grace of life, it is very important that He is also to use the redeemed man to manifest God Himself without reservation. Positively speaking, God uses the created man to manifest Himself. Negatively speaking, God is to use the created man to shame and get rid of Satan. I believe at this time brothers and sisters are clear on these arrangements.

We have assurance in our salvation. This is not something we will lose. But being saved does not mean God has already accomplished His glorious will in you and me. God has placed us securely in the position of being saved; and from this foundation, He leads us into infinite glory, authority, and riches in God's nature. These are all delivered to those who belong to God. After the Son of God, which is the Lamb of God, has ascended to heaven and will return to the earth at the completion of redemption. He is to accomplish one thing when He returns: He will make known the purpose of God creating man very clearly.

Brothers and sisters, we know that if our forefather Adam had not made that mistake, or we say that if he had not crossed God's line and was not lost before God, then there would not have been a need for salvation. There will be no need for it. Because man would have born the fruits he ought to bear according to God's plan when God created man.

But our forefather made the mistake, and we have become lost because of it. Because we are lost, God's purpose in creating man is ruined. Would God continue with His plan of creating man? We thank God. When the word of God is spoken, He does not make changes. He will surely continue with His plan. But since man is lost, God has to resolve the problem of man in order for man to continue to go forward according to God's plan, and then the lost man can be restored to the right position. Because of this need, redemption is brought forth. We thank the Lord.

How is redemption accomplished? It is by the Lamb of God. Through what the Lamb has experienced, all the hinderances and obstacles were removed before God. Now there is another issue. The issue lies in us who have walked astray. When we are saved, it seems that we are very awakened before God. When brothers and sisters reflect back on the moments they are saved, they were very joyous. When we listened to Brother Kaung's experience this morning, he shared that even though he was searching for a long time, there was eventually a moment he found what he was searching for. And his entire being was set free. And he had assurance before God. Thank the Lord. This is also the same way that every one of us has walked on. However, the impact of being lost was not immediately removed from us. This impact is sometimes hidden but sometimes it rises above the surface. In brothers' and sisters' experience, sometimes we are brought to a high point that we are almost brought to the high heaven; but other times we seem to fall into the deep valley. And we walk this long journey of ups and downs. Therefore, when we are in such fluctuating conditions, we might doubt whether we are truly saved. This is a great hinderance in our spiritual pursuit. But we thank the Lord, no changes in people, event, or matter can alter the completion of God's redemption will.

As we finish this way of following the Lord, we will enter into the arrangement of God's will. Even if we have been foolish, and we are full of shortcomings and

weaknesses that we are not able to completely get rid of when the Lord returns. We might have gotten rid of part of these things but they still have quite an impact on us. So, what can we do? Brothers and sisters, if man's issues are not resolved, God's will cannot be completed. The Lord shows us that when He returns to receive us, the first thing we encounter is the judgement before the judgement seat of Christ. Will the result of this judgement be cancelling the salvation of those who have much weakness and corruption? Thank the Lord, He will not change the words He has spoken. He said He will save us to the end and He will save us to the end. But amongst all the chaos brought forth, the Lord has to get rid of the chaotic state and therefore we need to face the judgement seat of Christ.

Today we will continue to look at the result of us receiving the examination before the judgement seat of Christ. The Lord's words show us very clearly, if we live correctly, accurately, and in the will of God, we will receive a reward. If we do not live correctly but with shortcomings, what will happen? Will we also receive a reward? God tells us there will be a reward, but not at this time. Brothers and sisters, I am saying these in order to remind you to pay attention to the things that are to come. In the presence of God, if we fail under His examination, the reward has to be withheld from you for a while. Will the reward be given to you? The Lord will still give it to us. But it needs to go through a process. So, we need to look further into a very fundamental point of the judgement seat of Christ.

Brothers and sisters, if someone asks you, "You have believed in the Lord. Now you are saved and will not perish but have eternal life. Is that all there is to it?" We will say, "Yes. That is what the word of the Lord tells us." This is not wrong. But if we stay at this stage, then we still have not finished our course. We need to first ask, "Why did the Lord save us?" We have previously mentioned about the purpose of God's redemption. What is the purpose of God preparing this redemption? It is to change the result brought by our forefather's walking astray and that we can once again return to God's purpose of creating man. What is the purpose of God's redemption? Is it only to put you into the unchangeable fact of being saved? It is not. Salvation is once and for all, and no one can change it, but we still have all kinds of shortcomings. How can we receive all the blessings encompassed in salvation with such shortcomings? Therefore, redemption brings us back to the position of the purpose of God's creation of man, and it directly touches upon the purpose of God's creation of man.

So what is the purpose of God creating man? We are all familiar with these words: God has given man His image and has entrusted His work to man. Man is to represent God. But when we just simply put it this way, these words seem very abstract. Can we put it in a very clear way? Are there any words that can explain both God's image and His authority clearly? Thank the Lord. His words are so complete. As we try to understand God's word, you will be able to see. You will see the purpose of redemption. The purpose of redemption is not just to bring us back to the plan of God's creation of man; the Lord's word is very clear: the final manifestation of redemption is that those who are in redemption will reign with the Lamb.

Last night Brother Sun has covered much on the matter of reigning on the throne so I will not repeat it. But I must point out to brothers and sisters why this matter of reigning with the Lamb deserves our utmost attention. When the image of God is manifested in us, it is God's nature becoming our nature. How God is holy without blemish, we shall be likewise. But, in terms of how righteousness is the basis of all God's judgement and that there is no error in all that God does, it is impossible for us be the same. Practically speaking, we not only have God's image, we also manifest His nature. God's authority can also be manifested through man. If we put these two things together, how can we explain them concisely? We thank the Lord. The Lord's word tells us if we follow the Lord well and we follow the path of the Lamb according to God's will, we will see the final destination of this path is to reign with Christ.

Brothers and sisters, have we ever imagined such a glorious title since the time when we were saved? It is actually not a title but a fact. God has decided that we will reign with Christ. How do we reign with Christ? Let us shift our attention to the result of the examination before the judgement seat of Christ. In our old concept, it is being saved and not perish. But by now you should have grasped a new and practical concept. It is not only being saved, gaining eternal life and not having to perish. But it is also to reign with the Lamb. We thank the Lord. Brother and sisters, what are you pursuing after? It is not to pursue after being saved; being saved is a history to us. It is not to pursue after not having to perish. This is also history to us. At the time you received salvation, God has already shown you the ultimate ending. What is that? It is to reign. You might ask, "Why

is it to reign?” You can return to the purpose of God’s creation of man. The manifestation of God’s nature and His authority is the reality of reigning.

When we come to this point, you will see one thing. From the moment we received the Lord, we have received a glorious promise from God’s hand. Even though we are not able to finish our course without our foolishness and ignorance, the Lord’s will of making us reign with Him will not be cancelled because of this. So, if we take note of what we read earlier in 2 Tim 2, we can see though we go through difficulties, we will reign with Him if we are able to endure. Not only are the words very clear, the work of God upon us is also very clear. How do we know that? Brothers and sisters, if you will cooperate with me, please do this action as I tell you to and you will grasp the assurance that truly God is going to make us reign. What action do I want brothers and sisters do? Please raise your hands, put them above your head and stretch a little. Now please put your hands down. What did you grasp? “We grasped nothing,” you might say. It is not nothing. There is something but you did not feel it and you did not understand. As Brother Sun mentioned, this is not something seen but something unseen. But even though it is unseen, it is real. Brothers and sisters will ask me, “Why did you ask us to do this?” I wanted you to think about the proof God has given us. God said that He would make us reign. Where is the confirmation? You might say, “The word of God tells us so.” It is true, the word of God tells us so, but is there a proof? Yes. That is why I asked you to raise your hands. We need to understand the substance of following the Lamb is for us to be brought into the building work of God. What is the building work of God? This will take us out of the narrowness of our mind. Usually we say that because we need to pursue spiritually, we cannot but to grow. It is true that we must grow, but what is the purpose of your growth?

The purpose of our growth is not for you to be a spiritual individual. It is not for you to share many spiritual words when fellowshiping with brothers and sisters. Of course, we must have spiritual knowledge. But more importantly, what does it mean by following the Lamb? Following the Lamb is not a slogan. Follow the lamb is a purpose and a way. And this way leads us to the building work of God. What is this way? It is to build. What does this mean? You cannot build if you are by yourself. When we speak of building, it is more than one person. It must include many people. This is the building work that God wants. The Lamb who

was slain is the foundation, the support, and the prompting of our building so that we can manifest God's infinite glory and fullness.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 tells us clearly, "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." When we speak of Christ, we cannot stand on an individual perspective to look at spiritual matter. Let me say this again, we cannot enter into the building work when we live our lives individually. If you want to enter into the building work, you must enter into the corporate body.

We thank the Lord. In the grace of redemption, God has placed us into one body through the person and the work of Christ. This is the church of God. This is called the body of Christ. This means regardless of how many of us there are, we are remembered by God not because of any great things we have done nor because of how successful we are, but it is because we have a relationship with Christ. Once you have a relationship with Christ, this relationship connects you with the body. When we read about this building work in 1 Corinthians, firstly we see what the foundation is for the building work; secondly, we see with what kind of material we use for the building work. It is very clear regarding the foundation: only Christ. Only the Christ who resurrected from death. Only this Lamb of God can take away all the barriers between God and us and He has given us this way so that we can go before God boldly without fear. We thank the Lord. You are not the only one who walks on this way and I am not the only one. It is a multitude. All those who walk on this way go to a place. What is this place? It is the house of God. We praise and thank our Lord.

Then we need to look at how we build and with what types of material. Some materials are mentioned. Some are precious and some are not. Those that are precious all seem very small in size and those that are not precious seem very big. But what God is after is not something big but something that is accurate. What is accurate? It is the Lamb. The Lamb has expressed the nature of God without any withholding. It is not within the scope of my sharing to explain what gold, silver, and precious stones mean. But I would like brothers and sisters to understand the materials are very important in this building work. Let focus our attention on this very solemn matter. When we enter into this building work, we will see that there is no longer any barrier between God and us. There must not be any barrier. If there is any barrier between God and us, that will be outside of this building work.

How are we able to have such an intimate relationship with God? It is by the Lamb who was slain. Because of the Lamb who was slain, we who are originally from dust can be transferred to where God is. The nature of God becomes our nature. God's wisdom has become ours. God's authority has also become ours. The question is: How can this be possible? We thank and praise our Lord. This is manifested by the resurrected Lord who is our foundation. When did this Jesus who came to the world as a man manifest that He is Christ? Both the Old and the New Testaments mention about Him. But whenever He is mentioned, it is not described very clearly who He really is according to the words recorded in the Old Testament and in the beginning of the New Testament. But we thank the Lord, it comes a time when there is an affirmation about who Christ is. When is this time? It is when Jesus is risen from death. We can see this very clearly in the Book of Acts. In Acts 1, it is Jesus. When it comes to Acts 2, Jesus is recorded in the first half and Jesus Christ is recorded in the second half and onward.

How is it that Jesus is connected with Christ? Take note of Peter's testimony: You have crucified Jesus but God raised him up from death. And the Jesus who has risen from the dead, God has made Him both Lord and Christ. We thank the Lord. When we are united with Christ, you will see who Christ was originally. He was the only Son in the Father's bosom. He has hidden Himself and has led a very ordinary life among man. But He has also done something extraordinarily glorious: He is risen from the dead. This Christ who died and resurrected displayed the person and the work of the Son of God completely. Where can we see this? When we read the epistles, we see that we need to acknowledge and accept that He is Lord. What does it mean by He is Lord? It means that He governs over my all and He determines my all. Brothers and sisters, you might ask, "If we learn this lesson, does this mean we are entering into the building work?" It is right. We need to go back and ask this question, "How did we get lost?" Man was lost because he lost his direction. It is because the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil have pointed out two important principles. If we look at man, there is nothing much to look at. We are only from dust. We become living souls because God has given us His breath. But, in order to manifest what God wants us to manifest, we must have a complete union with God. What is the basis of this complete union? It is by eating the fruit of the tree of life. But, in order to accomplish God's mission, there is another way. We can eat the fruit of the tree of

the knowledge of good and evil and fulfill the purpose. But the relationship between God and you is severed. Even though we can gain many seemingly useful things, the day we eat of it we shall surely die. It will completely sever us from God.

From the days of the garden of Eden, God continues to guide and show us how we can finish the course God has given us, and how we will be able to finish the work God wants us to do. We can be very capable but God does not want us to look at our capabilities. Because man's ability cannot accomplish what God wants to do. Man can know what God wants to do but man is not able to do it.

In present day, there are many opportunities for us to prove the differences between the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A few years ago, the "God particle" was discovered. A few weeks ago, the "Angel particle" was discovered. These are referring to the very basic makeup of things. What is the use of these discoveries then? Peoples say, "If anything is to happen to the earth, we can just move to Mars. We will still have a way out." We are just kidding ourselves. If we are to go to Mars, how much time do we have in our lifespan just to travel to Mars? How much resources do we need for the travel and for building another prosperous society? This is not realistic.

When God created all things, He has established laws for them. He makes the plans and man can understand the laws within these plans. Man can even use God's laws to change man's living. But if we are to ask man to create what God has created, no one can do it. Brothers and sisters, when we are united with Christ, first thing we need to hold fast to is that He is our Lord. We thank God. Why do we need to be united with Christ? Brothers and sisters, we need to remember regardless of where we are in our spiritual pursuit, we still have this shortcoming in us: we are Adam's descendants. Adams's descendants have much shortcomings. How can we get rid of the shortcomings? Thank God because He tells us to let Christ be our Lord. If you let Christ to be your Lord, you will have the authority and the conditions to be delivered completely from the old creation.

Brothers and sisters, you might say that it seems like I am telling a story. This is not a story. Earlier, I asked you to raise your hands and try to grasp something over your heads. Do you know when God saved us from Adam and from sin and death and when He promised us to reign with Christ? It is not only a promise in words.

He has also done a tremendous thing but this is something we do not usually pay attention to. We do not think God is serious but of course God is serious. Why would He play games with us? If He is playing games with us, He would not have hung His Son on the cross. We thank our God.

Let us pay attention to this matter that can help us let Christ be our Lord. In Revelation 3, you will find God's letter to the church in Philadelphia. Near the end of the letter, God spoke these words to the angel of the church in Philadelphia, and of course also to the entire church in Philadelphia, as well as all the churches on earth, "Hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown."

Brothers and sisters, have you thought about when we gained the crown? When did the brothers and sisters in Philadelphia receive the crown? Is it when the Lord returns and say to them, "You have done well and I will give you a crown."?

You might think this is correct as the Lord says we will receive a reward before the judgement seat of Christ if we have done well. That is a fact. But we cannot apply these words to the church in Philadelphia. When we read the words concerning the church in Philadelphia, we can see it very clearly that the brothers and sisters there know that the Lord has already crowned them with a crown. What is the reason that the Lord crowns them with a crown? We thank the Lord. It is because the brethren in Philadelphia are more steadfast in holding firm to the Lord as their Lord. They are more accurate in letting the Lord be their guide in their living. Therefore, the Lord says that you, who have been chosen, will reign with Me in the future. But you do not need to wait until that day to manifest the fact that you will reign with Me. I am putting a crown on each of you now. What is this crown for? It is a remembrance of you living correctly before God. Brothers and sisters, remember we did not grasp anything above our head earlier. Does it mean we are in trouble? No. The Lord said that He has already done such a matter in us and we will certainly gain this crown. And this crown has already been placed upon our head. As long as there is no issue with us, this crown will not be removed.

It is because the Lamb of God has become your all. Therefore, when you come before the judgement seat of Christ, you will receive a reward for sure. Brothers and sisters, do not think I am exaggerating. Otherwise, why would it say, "Hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown"? Whose head is the crown on? It is on your head. If there is no crown on your head, no one will come

and take it as there is nothing to take. But, because you have already been given a crown by the Lord, the Lord reminds all of us to hold fast to the Lord as our head if we are living in the building work of the church. He is the head of this body. Brothers and sisters might wonder if there is indeed something so wonderful. The word of the Lord says that God has bought us with a heavy price; therefore, we ought to glorify God in our body. It is God who paid the heavy price and accomplished this great grace of redemption. Brothers and sisters, what is the heavy price that God has paid? You will say we all know this: He has given up His only Son in His bosom and let His only Son bear our sin and death. And His Son has also risen from the dead and has given us life. These are all correct. But when the Bible says that God has paid a heavy price. Where is this heavy price displayed? Even if it is only displayed in the few points we just mentioned, we should already prostrate before God. Will you be willing to give up your own child and give your child to others? Because I have a few children and you don't have any, so I will give you one. Will you do this? Perhaps some may. The fact that God has given us His only Son is in and of itself a heavy price, but it still has not fully told us how heavy this price is. So normally when we mention about the Lord has paid a price to redeem us, we are talking about Him humbling Himself to become a man, an ordinary man, and that He was also crucified on the cross. And that is how God has paid a very great price.

Brothers and sisters, if we add on the concept of time, we will then realize the price which God has paid far exceeded what we have understood. How do we understand this? Brothers and sisters, when did the Lord prepare to be crucified? It was before the creation of man that God has already determined for His Son to go on the cross. Is this not a tremendous matter? How long has it been since God created man until now? We cannot tell clearly. But we know God has determined that one day our Lord is to come to the earth as a lowly man, to be oppressed by man, to be trampled upon, and to be crucified on the cross, and the one who sent Him to the cross was His disciple. Even though God is not limited by time, we are more or less limited by the concept of time when we look at these matters. When we are affected by the concept of time, we would say that it began when the Lord accepted the Father's arrangement for the path He was to tread on until the time He ascended to heaven after He was raised from the dead.

How are we able to calculate the price He had paid within this period of time? In 1 Peter we see that the blood of the Lamb was foreknown before the foundation of the world. It is easy for us to read God's word, but it is nothing easy if we truly understand the substance of these words. Who is our Lord? He is the Lord who gives life. He is the Lord who cannot be trampled upon by death. But now He has received this mission from God the Father: You must die. We cannot fathom the spiritual meaning of this price. The Lord who gives life, the Lord who provides man with life, has to entered into death. Once He entered into death, would He not damage the image and the reality of being the Lord of life?

When our Lord was on earth, He asked God the Father a few times, "If it is possible, may You remove this bitter cup from Me. If not, I will accept this cup and Your will be done." So brothers and sisters, when we add on the concept of time, does the great price of salvation become more weighty? We thank the Lord. We are all saved by grace. We all know that God has paid the ultimate heavy price for us. But we may not fully realize how immense this matter of the Lord paying the price is. We thank the Lord. When God once again shows us this grace of the Lord paying the price for us, we realize how great this heavy price is. He continues to enlighten us. He says, "You who are of the Adamic race. You who have eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is not easy for you to let another be your Lord. Because when you eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you have established that you are the lord of all. Now God says, "You have to let the Lord be Lord. You need to honor the Lord as supreme. You need to let the Lord to be your all. When the Son of God becomes your all, you must give up your rights. You can no longer govern yourself with your rights.

Brothers and sisters, this is very clear. We have all gone through this path. When our Lord leads us, we all would consider, "If I go on this path, what will I gain and what will I lose?" Little do we realize that God has made the most careful arrangement for us in His eternal will. Because when all His works are accomplished, we then will be gained by God to be vessels that can contain His infinite glory, richness, wisdom, power, and authority.

But we realize it is very difficult for one to lay down himself. I am advanced in age now but I still often fall into my own ignorance and foolishness without realizing

it. On the contrary, I would even admire my own foolishness. About 4 or 5 weeks ago, I got up in the morning and was preparing to do the laundry. We normally leave the laundry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and our laundry day is Tuesday. Because I had a fall recently so my family kept me from doing any chores. But I was not happy about it. I am almost 90 years old, but I not there yet. I can still do things. Also, I was quite athletic. In my younger days I had participated in many competitions such as track and field and other games. Even though I was not the best, I was competing at a regional level. I had an aspiration to attend the Olympic games. But, of course it did not happen. So, would I not be able to bring some laundry down a few steps? Just because you think I cannot do it, I will show you. There are 7 steps between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor inside my home so I dragged the laundry basket down one step at a time. I was getting to the last step so I picked up the basket but did not realize there was still one more step. I missed a step and I took a fall. As a result, I skinned both my head and my knees.

My foolishness lied in the fact that I did not know myself. I thought I was still young. We all have this problem. And for me, this was not the first time. If it were the first time, it would have been excusable. I forget how many times these things have happened. But I remember this one particular time because it was the first time. I was shopping with my wife. It was raining lightly and we forgot our rain gear. It was a distance between the market and where we parked our car. It would take us longer to walk to the car if we were to take our usual route, and it would be much quicker if we walked across some grass area. So my smarts came out. Why don't we take this route? I also knew that at the end of this route there was a 1-foot tall step between the grass area and the ground. So off I went. My wife was not as brave as I was. She took the right path and I took the wrong way. When I reached the end, I saw that 1-foot step. I thought that was not a problem and I jumped down. And that was trouble. I was not just jumping but I was also falling on my knees as I went. That time I only scraped my knees.

Brothers and sisters, we often think we are the most capable. That is why it is impossible for us to hand over our rights to another person. But the Lord shows us if we do not hand over our rights, we will never be able to walk on the spiritual path correctly. It is because we always look at matters and make judgement based on our own point of view. We can hardly find someone who can forsake himself and yield his rights to the Lord completely. It is not to say there is none; but there

is not many who will do this. This is a spiritual lesson we start learning from the moment we believed in the Lord until the day we stand before the judgement seat of Christ. When we look at the matter of the judgement seat of Christ, even though we thank the Lord that we will not lose our salvation, we can still bring upon ourselves some undesirable outcomes because of our foolishness. But the matters do not stop here; it would be great if they do. When we read the word of God, we see that God is bringing us to be kings in His salvation. But when we speak of reward, there is a condition for us to be kings. Before the judgement seat of Christ, those who pass will receive a reward and those who fail will suffer loss. What is that loss? I cannot give brothers and sisters an answer for this. Even though there are scriptures we can use as references, we can only use them as references but not as facts. So what is the loss, and how long would one suffer this loss?

Brothers and sisters, if we put all our sharing together, we can see that the greater reward in our salvation is that when the Lord returns, not only will we see Him face to face in glory, we will also reign with Him. If we do not qualify, we will suffer loss. What is this loss? It is not stated clearly in the word of God. There are some metaphors. So we are puzzled. If I go see the Lord with much shortcomings, and the Lord says, "You have failed." I will then ask the Lord, "What will happen to me?" and the Lord says, "You will suffer loss." "What kind of loss will that be?" And maybe the Lord will say, "I will not tell you at this time. You will find out."

How will we find out? Thank the Lord. The fact of us reigning with Christ has a time factor. The first stage of reigning with Christ is for 1000 years. When the Lord returns and establishes the kingdom of heaven on earth, the kingdom of heaven will last for 1000 years. And for this 1000 years, the Lord reigns. And if you qualify, you will reign with the Lord. If you fail, you will not be able to reign. And if you cannot reign, what will you do? There are of course many interpretations, but they are not very clear. Nevertheless, you will suffer loss in this 1000 years. Now we will say, "Since the Lord has said that those who follow Him will reign with Him for 1000 years, and He have promised the crown to the church in Philadelphia. Why do we still need to think otherwise?" Brothers and sisters, this is another problem for us. If it is only for the 1000 years during the kingdom time, what would happen after that 1000 years?

We do not know how the Lord is to make up for the shortcomings of God's children in this 1000 years. But one thing we thank and worship our Lord for is that after the make-up lesson in the Millennium, when the new heaven and earth arrives, just as we read earlier in Revelation 22, all the servants of God, great or small, will reign with Christ. Until when? Forever and ever. Thank the Lord. The Lord's word does not fail. When the Lord first created man, He is to give His glory to man fully and for me to fulfill His eternal will, even though man has many deviations from the path of following Him, and still have some shortcomings at the end of it. But we thank the Lord that He shows us the fact that He is to make us reign with Him will not change. Though we may miss out on the Millennium, we can still receive this glorious reward in eternity.

My time is up but I would like brothers and sisters to pay attention to one more thing. The reason it is so difficult for us to walk rightly on this spiritual path is because we are too mindful of ourselves. When there is disharmony between the matters the Lord and our own affairs, we would choose our own affairs and forsake the Lord's. For example, this is something we can come across easily in the U.S., when there is a basketball or football championship on a Sunday, do we stay home to watch the game or do we go to the gathering? I am not saying it is wrong to watch the games. But here is the issue, there is a conflict with the matters of the Lord. What do you choose? Do you choose to watch the game or do you choose to be with God's children and come before the Lord together? There are many things to train us but it is not easy for us to be delivered from our "self". But thank the Lord, the Lord has given us the authority and the guarantee to reign with firm assurance. God will never forget what He has said. When we go toward the fulfillment of God's will, may the Lord give us an absolute heart to choose Him.

When I was young, brothers and sisters will go to the fellowship on Sunday. They had this saying, "Today is Sunday, let us go do our Sunday worship." Is there anything wrong? It actually describes a shortcoming Christians has nowadays. "Today is Sunday, let us go to the fellowship and sit through our Sunday worship." (Translator's note: The phrase "doing Sunday worship" sounds the same as "sitting through Sunday worship" in Chinese).

So we just go and sit at the fellowship on Sunday and go back home afterwards. This does not touch the heart of God because we often choose what pleases us.

May the Lord deliver us from all these things so we can return to the right path. And when we are standing before the judgement seat of Christ, we can show a right heart that pleases Him. And the Lord will be able show His pleasure that nothing else can compare. We thank the Lord.

Let us pray. Lord, may You always place us in Your light through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. You have not withheld anything good from us. Lord, we look to You. May You draw our hearts ever so close to Yours. Deliver us from man's foolishness and let us hold fast that You are our Lord. We have nothing good besides You. When we see You on that day, You will be pleased and we will rejoice. When You wait for us to meet You in the air, we will gladly come to You. All glory be Yours. Thanksgiving and love be Yours. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.