

/Hello./ We will now begin with the thirteenth lecture on the prison epistles.

/We will begin from Colossians 1:13./ Fourth point. Christ and His redemption. Verses 13-24.

/Read verse 13./ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

/Jesus Christ rescued us from the dominion of darkness./ “The dominion of darkness” is completely opposite from the world of light./ Before we believed in Jesus Christ, we were unaware of the world of light./ We were under the power of sin, of the devil, and the power of death.

/Yet, through Christ, we have been saved from that darkness./ Also, it says, “brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”/ This refers to the kingdom of God, which is a holy kingdom./

/It is also a world of redemption that was fulfilled through Jesus Christ./ Ephesians 2:1./ “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.”/ In Ephesians 2:6,/ it says, “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

/Our reborn spirits are no longer under the dominion of darkness but are in heaven./ Our spirits have been saved from sin./ Yet, our bodies are still under sin and death.

/In Romans 8:10,/ it says, “But if Christ is in you,/ your body is dead because of sin,/ yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.”

/In Romans 8:23,/ it says, “the redemption of our bodies.”/ We are under sin./ We are gradually being freed from that sin.

/We are obeying the will of God./ That is the redemption of our bodies./ It is gradually achieving sanctification.

/Verse 14./ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

/We have been redeemed in Jesus Christ and our sins are now forgiven./ Believers of Jesus Christ are legally in Christ and they become righteous through the forgiveness of sins.

/Verse 15./ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

/Verse 15 is the beginning of a Christian doctrine that answers questions such as, / “Who is Jesus Christ?”/ “Who is Christ who has redeemed us?”

/It says, “He is the image of the invisible God.”

/No one has seen God./ Yet, the love of God is displayed through Jesus Christ./ John 1:18/ Jesus Christ displays God’s love and mercy and who God is.

/We learn about the power of God through Christ./ We can also learn about the holiness of God./ We learn that God is wise and complete.

/We can know the image of God if we have seen Christ, for He clearly displayed the image of God./ In John 14:9,/ it says, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

/It also says, “the firstborn over all creation.”/ Before eternity, Jesus Christ eternally came from the Father./ He was born before all of creation.

/Christ has no beginning or end because He is God and the Trinity./ He is eternal./ However, the Holy Spirit comes from the Father and the Son.

/God is God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. He is the triune God./ The Son comes eternally from the Father./ There wasn’t a time when God did not exist since he existed before eternity./ That is why it says, “Christ is the firstborn over all creation.”

/Verse 16./ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

/Christ is the Creator./ It says all things were created in Christ.

/In John 1:1-3,/ it says, In the beginning was the Word./ And the word was with God./ And the Word was God./ He was with God in the beginning./ All things are created through Him as well.

/The “Word” in these verses refers to Jesus Christ./ God’s will is accomplished through Jesus Christ./ The Father planned and predestined all things,/ and the Son, Jesus Christ, created and accomplishes it all.

/Jesus created the invisible and visible things./ He created the things that can be seen through our physical eyes,/ that cannot be seen through our physical eyes, and spiritual things.

/Thrones, supervisors, delegations, authorities,/ and angels were all created by Jesus./ There are angels and demons.

/Yet, when we say, “Jesus created demons,” one might think, “The creator of sin is Jesus.”/ Because God is good, he created everything good.

/Satan was originally an angel./ God created good angel but this angel became arrogant./ He wanted to be like God./ That is why he was banished from the garden of God./ Ezekiel 28:13-27./ 2 Peter 2:4

/There, although it speaks about a historical king, it can be spiritually interpreted as one angel who became arrogant and went against God, who was banished eternally from the Garden of Eden./ God is not the creator of sin.

/God created all things good./ God created humans good, and he gave us free will.

/With that freewill, humans are to use it to please God and walk down the path of righteousness,/ but they went against the Word of God and ate the fruit of good and evil./ God created a good angel but that angel became evil and became Satan.

/It says, “All things were created for him and by him.”/ All things exist for Christ./ All things belong to Christ./ All things are subject to glorify God as well.

/Therefore, we must use all things to glorify God./ All things were created to glorify God.

/As the Bible says, if an evil man uses all things to commit sin, creation groans in pain./ We must use all things to glorify God.

/Verse 17./ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

/Jesus Christ existed before eternity and God is the Trinity./ Therefore, He existed before all things were created./ It also says, “and in him all things hold together.”

/This means that Jesus Christ protects all of creation./ He holds them together and they belong to Him./ He is with all things, exists in all things, and they all belong to Jesus and He is greater than them.

/Verse 18./ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

/It says that Jesus Christ is the head of the church./ Hence, the church is the body of Jesus Christ./ It also says that the church is above all things,/ and the head of the church is Christ.

/Therefore, between Christ and all of creation is the church./ The apostle Paul clearly stated this about Jesus Christ./ At the time, many heresies entered the church and it caused Paul to speak properly about Jesus Christ.

/At that time, many false teachers taught people to serve other idols./ That is why the apostle Paul taught believers about the truth, which is Jesus Christ, and His redemption.

/Paul spoke about Christ’s death of atonement and resurrection./ It says, “the firstborn from among the dead.”/ This indicates that Jesus Christ became the first fruit of resurrection.

/He is our role model of resurrection and driving force./ Just as we can know fruit based on the first fruit, Jesus Christ is the firstborn./ All believers will be resurrected like Jesus.

/It also says, “so that in everything, he might have the supremacy.”/ Jesus is the first fruit of resurrection./ Thus, He has the supremacy over everything.

/Moreover, Jesus Christ defeated Satan and defeated sin./ He resurrected./ He redeemed His people./ He is the head of all creation.

/Verse 19./ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

/It says, “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.”/ There is fullness in Jesus Christ./ There is a fullness of love./ There is a fullness of the truth./ There is a fullness of righteousness and goodness./ There is a fullness of wisdom and knowledge./ There is a fullness of power in Jesus Christ.

/The fullness of the Father is in Jesus Christ./ With that fullness, Jesus rules over the entire creation/ and He redeems His people.

/Verse 20./ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

/It says, “by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”/ All things in heaven and on earth,/ and all of creation and mankind became enemies with God because of sin.

/However, through the atonement accomplished on the cross by Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled with God./ Not only that, but all of creation has been reconciled with God./ 1 Corinthians 15:27-28./ It says, he “has put everything under his feet.”

/Now, when it says that/ “everything” has been put under him,/ it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ./ Jesus Christ is above all of creation.

/Through Jesus Christ, all of creation has been reconciled with God, and now they glorify God.

/Through the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, we and all things in heaven and on earth have been reconciled with God./ Therefore, God is now pleased.

/Verse 21./ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

/Before we believed in Christ, we all had evil behavior./ We were far away from God./ We had enmity against God.

/Verse 22./ But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--

/Through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, we are now reconciled with God./ Therefore, it says, “to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.”

/This is God’s ultimate purpose in redeeming us./ What is this purpose?

/It is to present us holy in his sight,/ without blemish and free from accusation./ Then we glorify God./ We must be holy as it says in this verse.

/We must live upright and be free from accusations./ We must glorify God with our lives./ In this world, there are many difficulties.

/When people desire pure gold, they melt the gold in the furnace./ When that gold is melted, the impure chemicals are then melted and it becomes better gold.

/The same goes for the believers as well. In this world, there are countless sufferings.

/Through the sufferings, impurities are removed./ We become more holy and without blemish.

/Therefore, in the midst of trials and sufferings, we must believe that God allowed them to happen by his grace and blessing./ We must acknowledge that through these trials, God molds us and changes us so that we would be more holy.

/Verse 23./ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

/It says, “if you continue in your faith.”/ This refers to relying on God and abiding in his word./ It also says to be “established and firm.”/ “Established” refers to being firm in Jesus Christ./ 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

/In Ephesians 2:20,/ it says, “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”/ The apostles and prophets symbolize the Word of God./ This is the Bible.

/Being “established and firm” refers to our faith being firm on the Bible./ It also says, “not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.”

/The word “gospel” refers to Christ./ Romans 1:3.

/“The hope held out in the gospel” indicates the hope that reaches to Christ./ It refers to the hope that conforms to the image of Christ./ The apostle Paul teaches believers to firmly hold on to this hope without being shaken.

/Therefore, we must be made more holy and without blemish.

/Also, because the true gospel has been testified to us, we must not chase after false teachings.

/Verse 24./ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

/The apostle Paul never visited the church in Colossi./ However he states, “Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you.”/ This church is a church that Paul had never visited.

/Then what does this mean?/ Paul was imprisoned for the gospel./ He was afflicted./ This was the same as suffering for the believers who accepted this gospel.

/Hence, when the apostle Paul was in pain in prison, he wrote these words for the believers./ Paul was imprisoned for the gospel./ This gospel was for those believers.

/Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Colossi while he was praying for them in prison./ That letter is the book of Colossians.

/Next, it says, “what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions.”/ Does this mean Christ lacked afflictions when He died on the cross?/ Does it mean that Christ received 99% of afflictions and left 1% of the suffering?

/Are we saved when we receive the remaining 1% of the suffering?/ Of course not. This is an incorrect way of thinking./ Our salvation does not come from our deeds or actions.

/Then what does this statement mean?/ First, it refers to suffering for the gospel./ If we suffer to share the gospel, we are then participating in the suffering of Christ.

/Second,/ this refers to suffering to save lives through the gospel./ Third,/ it refers to suffering to conform to the image of Christ./ We must suffer in these ways.

/When we try to save a life/ or share the gospel, sufferings will welcome us./ Then we must participate in the suffering that comes when we begin to conform to the image of Christ.

/The church is founded on the blood of Jesus Christ./ It grows through the strength and sweat of pastors./ It is incorrect to think that we have to participate in the suffering of Jesus Christ in order for us to be saved.

/Even Martin Luther understood this verse: “The righteous will live by faith.”/ He truly realized that a man is saved by faith, and not by encountering sufferings.

/Thus began the Reformation./ No man is saved by penance, deeds, or works./ Even though a man practiced righteousness in his own eyes, it is filthy in the eyes of God.

/Therefore, man’s deeds and actions are not merits before God in regards to salvation.

/In Matthew 20:22,/ Jesus asked, “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”/ This signifies that if we participate in the suffering of Christ as much as we could, we will become greater.

/When we make sacrifices for the sake of the gospel and church,/ and if we participate in the suffering of Christ as much as we could, we will be the greatest in heaven./ Jesus suffered greatly./ He accepted great suffering on the cross.

/He laid down His glory and honor on high and became a servant./ That is why He sits on the right hand of God in heaven./ Those who greatly participate in the suffering of Christ will be the greatest in the heaven.

/When we look at the book of Revelation, we can see that the number of martyrs is a fixed number./ The number of martyrs is a set number./ Isn’t one’s life the most precious on earth?

/Therefore, because martyrs gave up and sacrificed their lives, they then become the greatest in heaven./ If there is a man who suffers greatly for the salvation movement,/ he would be the greatest in heaven.

/Therefore, we must not complain when we suffer but we must properly examine ourselves and change./ Someone once said, “Cancer is the grace of God.”/ That man was about to die due to cancer. Yet, why was that grace?

/When one has cancer, he then becomes desperate./ He realizes that his life is limited./ Then, he can prepare to go to heaven./ He can strictly examine himself and repent.

/On the other hand, a man who abruptly dies/ cannot realize his sins and rely on God./ He cannot prepare to enter heaven.

/When we encounter various sufferings, we must examine and change ourselves./ The closer we change ourselves to be like the image of Christ, the greater the reward will be in heaven.

/Now, let’s discuss the fifth point. Efforts for the salvation movement. Verses 25-29

/Verse 25./ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness--

/The apostle Paul became the servant of the church./ This was done “by the commission God gave me to present you the word of God in its fullness.”/ God gave him a special ministry.

/God used the apostle Paul for the church of the Gentiles,/ for the church of Colossi,/ and as an apostle for the Gentiles./ Paul received a commission./ We all have specific commissions.

/God requires something of each individual./ We must carry out that commission and obey God's Word./ The word "commission" refers to the immeasurable plan of God and his providence.

/In the case of the apostle Paul, God used him for the Gentile churches./ God made Paul a worker of God./ With that calling, Paul tried his best to fulfill the will of God.

/In the same way, we all have different commissions given to us by God./ However God wishes to use us,/ and as workers of God, we must try our best to fulfill and obey God's Word.

/A steward can please his master when he completes his duties./ Therefore, we must recognize how God wishes to use us in regards to the salvation movement and/ we must know what he requires of us.

/As workers of God,/ we must carry out the Word of God according to his providence.

/Verse 26./ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.

/It says, "the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations."/ This refers to people being saved by believing in Jesus Christ.

/It also says, "has been kept hidden."/ This was revealed when Jesus died on the cross and resurrected.

/Verse 27./ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

/It also says, "to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery."/ What is this "glorious riches of this mystery?" / What was the meaning of the "mystery" written in verse 26 as well?

/This indicates the chosen people of God being saved through Jesus Christ.

/It refers to the glory of being saved of believers who have already been saved./ For example, isn't it a glorious title/ to become a son of the king?

/Therefore, this is about Gentiles accepting the gospel and participating in the glory of God by believing in Jesus Christ./ It says that that glory is full among the Gentiles.

/That is why it says, "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

/Christ is the hope of glory./ We have hope to participate in the glory of Christ./ 1 John 3:2-3.

/It says, "Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure."/ Therefore, this means to have hope that Christ will one day come in glory.

/We must be like Jesus Christ./ We must have that hope.

/We must be pure just as Jesus was pure./ It is to reach that glory.

/Therefore, the image of Christ must be formed in us as much as it can.

/Also, because we have that hope, we can endure and rejoice in the midst of sufferings./ Suffering leads to patience, patience leads to perseverance, and perseverance leads to hope.

/We must keep our faith because it means that we are being trained by God./ As better gold comes out of the furnace,/ we will have the image of Christ after we endure training.

/We learned that there are many different types of crowns in heaven./ The crowns can only be given to those who deserve it./ Those who are undeserving cannot receive crowns.

/After we experience different trials and are formed according to the Word of God, there will be a fitting reward./ We must keep our faith in times of suffering and hold onto the glory of hope.

/Verse 28./ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

/The apostle Paul admonished and taught the believers./ What was his purpose?/ In verse 28,/ Paul shared the gospel and he admonished and taught everyone with wisdom. What is the purpose?

/This was to present everyone as mature in Christ. /If an athlete runs in the wrong direction in the race,/ he cannot be rewarded even if he runs really fast.

/A race with a wrong finishing line is pointless./ Let us say that there is a mountain./ We have to climb up this mountain./ However, due to a wrong decision, we climbed a wrong mountain.

/We could have tried our best but the destination was wrong./ If we climb up the mountain of heresy when we had to climb up the mountain of truth,/ the higher we climb, the more harmful it will be for us.

/That's because it is a wrong mountain./ In order to fix ourselves, we must come down from that mountain and climb up the right one./ If we have a wrong goal, everything we do to reach that goal will be pointless.

/We believers must have a proper goal.

/Jesus Christ is the goal of our faith./ It says, "so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."/ No one among us is perfect./ A man who thinks he has reached the goal is an arrogant person.

/It says, "if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall."/ We are not perfect in everything./ Therefore, we must constantly run the race to reach that goal until we die.

/We must not look back/ or go astray,/ but run as much as we could towards that goal./ Therefore, we must become closer to perfection and holiness.

/Verse 29./ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.



/It says, "To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me."/ This means that the Holy Spirit does not rest but he constantly works in us.

/If we obey and cooperate with the guidance and works of the Holy Spirit, we will go in his direction./ If we do not obey the guidance and works of the Holy Spirit, we cannot reach the destination.

/As such, we must work according to the works of the Holy Spirit./ We must be guided and be inspired by the Holy Spirit./ Why do some believers fail to be inspired by the Holy Spirit?

/It is because their spirits have become arrogant./ Their hearts are hardened and dull./ Therefore, we must discover our sins and repent./ We must deny ourselves./ We must have broken spirits.

/Then the Holy Spirit will inspire us and guide us./ We must completely obey the Holy Spirit./ In doing so, we will begin to conform to the image of Jesus Christ.

/Then, the love of Christ and His image must be displayed through us.

/Here we will conclude the thirteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you.