1/18/26

Sunday 1st

Share in Suffering for the Gospel

2 Timothy 1:3-11

As we welcomed the new year, we received many important key words. One of them is the word "300%." Sense of specialty 100%, sense of the field 100%, and the system to continue 100%—these are the contents that anyone would acknowledge. To have success, this is an undeniable and rightful picture that no one can refute. So what remains is the question of how we can achieve this. First, we must study and continually gather materials, think, organize and edit. As we do this, our thoughts open up, a path becomes visible showing how it can be done, and then anyone will begin to make plans.
Once that plan is formed, we must examine whether it has the sense of the field. If it does, we then consider how to apply it to the field. This is design. Because this process can take a long time and involves exploring things we may not fully know, we need the wisdom God gives and also important encounters.
That is why prayer is necessary. The term "300% prayer" expresses the world of prayer in which we find that place and ultimately conquer. I hope that this year will be one in which we see our eternal covenant come alive and actively at work in the fields of our lives through this blessing. When we develop a 300% nature, we will experience deep and detailed guidance of the Holy Spirit and conquest.

1. **Share in Suffering for the Gospel**
    1) This is a word urging us to continue the gospel movement even in the midst of hardship. Whether in difficulty or in abundance, preach this gospel. No matter what happens, do not stop it. This was probably what Paul most wanted to say to Timothy, whom he loved and cherished the most.
    2) It is said that the book of 2 Timothy was written when Paul was imprisoned in Rome for the second time. His second imprisonment was in an underground prison where it was cold and damp and it is said that is where he wrote the prison epistles such as Ephesians and Philippians, and he also wrote Second Timothy at that time. Two or three years later, he was beheaded and martyred, yet in such difficult circumstances he says share in suffering for the gospel. This may be another phrase which expresses Paul's spiritual realm. Proclaiming the gospel was the greatest happiness; everything in the world was contained in it, and in fact, the greatest authority in the world was found within that suffering.
    3) Most people in the world, when things become difficult or when there are no answers, begin to doubt whether it is truly God's will. This is because the problem becomes their standard. God's covenant should be the standard, but instead, the incident or situation that arises becomes the standard. It means God is not the standard, but I am. A normal life of faith is to place the problem to the side, hold onto the covenant and challenge towards the problem.
    4) Most people do not try unless the conditions are right. But what is important is that a time when conditions are completely perfect has never actually existed. As Israel was on the way to Canaan, they experienced countless events in the wilderness. Except for a small minority, when problems arose, most people kept saying let's go back to Egypt.
    5) Almost no one said let's pray in order to solve the problem. In reality, they were people who had nothing to do with God. The proper direction is to go toward where they must go, hold to this as their rightful covenant and to challenge the problems that hinder this; but whenever a problem came, they repeatedly said let's go back.
    6) Yet Paul says today, "share in suffering for the gospel." Proclaiming the gospel is God's command that never changes. God never compromises on going to the land of Canaan. If

they do not go to Canaan, everyone dies. Therefore, no matter what happens, God ensures that the gospel is proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

7) Matthew 24:14 says, "...then the end will come." This is the life standard for everyone in the world, including unbelievers. It never changes. Therefore, Paul knew that living toward this is the greatest blessing. Most people seek to personally benefit from the gospel. Their main concern is receiving answers. But Paul says to receive suffering.
8) This is a different dimension. It may seem like only a paper-thin difference. Yet this small difference in the heart creates differences in all things. It changes one's thinking, one's words, one's perspective on events and problems, one's message, and all of one's values. This difference is likely the difference between most believers in the world and apostle Paul.

2. TImothy

1) Timothy was the disciple whom Paul cherished the most. Today's passage speaks in several places about who he was and what kind of spiritual person he was. First, in verse 3, it mentions a "pure conscience." That is why Paul says, "...as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day." Conscience is the vessel of the gospel. The gospel that is contained is expressed according to the vessel. Fundamentally the gospel itself does not change, but when it is expressed outwardly, it comes out influenced by the inner vessel of the person. Timothy would have manifested a clear gospel.
2) Second, verse 5 says, "I am reminded of your sincere faith…" This follows the same principle as a clear conscience. We all know this—no matter how much one tries to deceive, people are not easily fooled. Paul knew that Timothy was like this. At the end of verse 5, he says that he is sure of it.
3) There is no one among us who is perfect in regard to these two things. Everyone desires to have sincere faith and a clear conscience, but no one is perfect. Therefore, we must live by comforting one another, accepting one another, understanding one another, and forgiving one another.
4) We are eternally people of the covenant. We have staked our lives on it, and we place our hope nowhere else. We are people who have already reached a conclusion. Though we may at times fall or stumble, God will establish us as the people of "only." This is our hope.
5) Therefore, we must live as we understand, forgive, love, accept and encourage. And we must become people who are resolved to suffer for the sake of the gospel. We cannot say let us go back to Egypt simply because the conditions are not favorable.
6) Because we are lacking and weak, God gave us the word "300%." It is God's promise that if we pray and seek in this way, then we will arrive at the answer. The one who enjoys Christ is victorious. Because He is the answer, Satan will surely be crushed and all curses will depart.
7) Suffering is not something only we experience. Paul endured the greatest suffering, yet he was the one who gave the most thanks. As we welcome the new year, I hope we will once again make a fresh start. May the blessing to enjoy crossing on dry ground be upon all of us.