7/19/26

Sunday 1st

The One Who Lifts Up a Banner

Isaiah 62:10-12

After mankind fell into original sin, their spirits became dead. As a result, people have no thoughts about God. ″None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God" (Romans 3:10–12). Therefore, when we share the gospel, we must explain this state of spiritual death thoroughly. Even if it takes time, we must clearly relay why a person needs to believe in Christ. Without understanding original sin, it is impossible to truly understand Christ. Since salvation is by God's grace, it is possible for a person to be saved even if they accept Christ without fully understanding why they need to believe in Him. However, when someone receives Christ without clearly knowing the reason, it is often difficult to find certain evidences afterward. If the reason is not understood, then it only will be a partial answer. The first evidence is living one's life by the gospel. If this is not taking place, we can see that the gospel has not been explained clearly to that person. Without those deep roots, it is difficult to say that the gospel has truly become the foundation of that person's life.

What is even more certain is that we should have little expectation that someone who accepted Christ like this will evangelize. If original sin was not clearly explained, it means that the person themselves has not truly discovered why they need to believe in Christ. If that is the case, how could we expect them to have the thought to share the gospel?

Furthermore, they would not be able to go near concepts such as biblical evangelism or world evangelization. Although they may have accepted Christ, they would hardly be enjoying or functioning as someone who has been saved.

However, if a person fully understands original sin and then accepts Christ, Christ will become the answer for their entire life from that day forward. The moment they accept Christ, they become a different person. The covenant is firmly planted in their heart, and they could never forget the gospel. It becomes a living bartizan within their heart for the rest of their life. This begins from the very moment they accept Christ. This is the true nature of the gospel and accepting Christ.

The same principle applies to us who already know the gospel. If we truly understand that the cause of all problems is original sin and that the answer is only Christ, then the covenant should become our prayer. Yet there are not many believers who truly understand Matthew 6:33, put it into practice, and have it deeply established in their hearts as their covenant. Therefore, when we share the gospel, we need to explain original sin more deeply and accurately. We should ask questions, confirm, and carefully make sure the message is clear, even if it takes more time. Perhaps one reason our street evangelism has not been as fruitful as it could be is that we have not done this well.

1. The One who Lifts Up a Banner

1) This is the final person among the seven points who appear in the Bible. These seven points are the important direction of the work which God is doing. The first person identified among the seven points is the one who remains. These are the people who hold firmly to the covenant and remain before God (Isaiah 6:13). Because the remnant possesses the covenant, the covenant journey arises throughout their lives. This is what it means to be a pilgrim. It is not simply a pilgrimage, but a pilgrimage done by the covenant. Therefore, evangelism and missions naturally take place along that journey.
2) It is not merely ordinary evangelism and missions, but evangelism and missions that conquer. Through this pilgrimage, the remnant becomes one who conquers the world and saves it.

Conquering Satan is the way to save the world. The authority of the precious blood of Christ enables us to remain unshaken by anything in this world. Therefore, we must become a church that conquers evangelism and conquers missions.

3) When we consider the doors of missions that God has opened for us, we are no longer a small church. We are a church called to do world evangelization, and I believe we will soon see the evidence of this. Therefore, our goal is not simply to evangelize or do missions. Our goal is to carry out evangelism and missions like Apostle Paul.
4) The next important point is the scattered ones. Acts 11:19–21 records the amazing work that God accomplished according to His time schedule which was already prepared. At the center of this work were the scattered ones, and it was through them in which the work of world missions was first recorded by the Antioch church. It is truly remarkable that these seemingly powerless scattered people stood at the center of such an amazing turning point of God.
5) The next people essential to God's kingdom are the watchmen. Isaiah 62 speaks of God's watchmen who keep watch, whose watch is spiritual in nature. Therefore, watchmen stand guard through prayer that holds to the covenant. Their responsibility is to give God no rest through continual prayer. I am always thankful for those in our church who faithfully serve as watchmen by guarding the church through the relay prayer. May you first receive God's grace and experience His answers.
6) Because God's kingdom is living and active, spies or scouts are also needed. Spies are sent into the field to examine its spiritual condition, to see what God has already done, to gain assurance through what they discover, to determine the direction, and then to begin the spiritual battle. They are the ones who gather all this information, making them indispensable in the evangelism and missions that fight the spiritual battle.
7) The final point is the one who lifts up the banner, or the banner-bearer. The important question to ask is, “How can I become the one who lifts up the banner?” Missions involve looking far ahead and raising the banner. When we do this, we will be able to build up the highway. At the same time, we must carefully search for and open doors one by one, preparing the way so that the prepared people may come. We should also revive the church by meeting up with others for no particular reason, praying for those connected to the ones we meet, creating opportunities to meet them, sharing meals together, and even planning events.
8) As we follow God's Word, we will enjoy the answers He has prepared, meet the disciples He has made ready, and by not missing the overall stream of His work, we will strengthen the source of both God’s answers and the doors for evangelism. By holding on to the message from trainings and our second worship service, we will move together with the church. In this way, we prepare the way by which people will come. We are not chasing after something grand that is far beyond our reach. Rather, if we faithfully and carefully carry out the small tasks that are right before us in the presence of God, we will be preparing the way. That path will eventually become a highway, and it will ultimately become a great picture of raising God's banner for this age.
9) One person at a time, one family at a time, one field at a time—we simply pray faithfully and quietly as we receive God's guidance. These seven points summarize the kinds of people through whom God accomplishes the work of His kingdom. In every generation, according to the circumstances and His plan, God has called various kinds of people to carry out the crucial work of their age. Although specific names are not mentioned, it reveals the important direction that God has established in every age. This is the direction God gives to all of us for our lives, and it will become an important foundation for answers. May every one of us receive this blessing.