

◆GOALS◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the World
Social Services for the Local Area

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

I love you, O LORD, my strength.
(Psalm 18:1)

For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain.
(Philippians 1:21)

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Church Responds Quickly to Assist Flood Victims Looking after Suffering Neighbors in Christ Serving Our Neighbors by Prayer, Cash and Physical Labor; Special Offering for Flood Victims Today



▲ The entire church worked together to help out neighbors who had suffered from flood damage

The heavy rains that have been sweeping over the entire Korean peninsula over the past several weeks caused great damage to many low-lying areas. Over 40 households of Choong Hyun Church suffered great material loss in this flood. Choong Hyun Church had an emergency meeting of the session on Sunday, August 9, to respond quickly to assist flood victims. On August 12, Choong Hyun Church donated 50 million won to the Korean Broadcast System, KBS, to help flood victims. The church also donated 22 million won for the recovery of Choong Hyun Church families who suffered tremendous loss in the recent flooding.

Choong Hyun Church mobilized more than 400 members from the College group and parish groups who volunteered to help flood victims in Uijongbu, one of the hardest hit areas. On Thursday, August 13, most of the pastors and elders of the church also got involved in this operation. Transportation and meals were provided by the church.

An anonymous member of our church donated gloves so that our volunteers could work more effectively without exposing themselves to the harmful bacteria in the filthy flood waters. The church provided toilet paper, soap, hot pepper paste, bean paste, noodles and detergent to serve and encourage the flood victims. Senior Pastor Sung Kwan Kim looked around the flooded

areas during last week and encouraged them.

The people of Choong Hyun could share the love of Christ by quickly responding to the needs of flood victims which helped them to recover expediently. Choong Hyun Church must pray for these flood victims in Korea including these forty households so that they may experience the love of Christ through the loving and helping hands of the body of Christ, the church. All Christians must be involved in this assistance movement. The church will have a special offering time today, Sunday, August 23. Let us love one another just as Jesus loves each of us.

1st Anniversary of Rev. Sung Kwan Kim as Senior Pastor of Choong Hyun Church

Reverend Sung Kwan Kim took the role of senior pastor of Choong Hyun Church one year ago. God spoke the gospel of Jesus Christ, the core message of Christianity, to us through his pulpit ministry. Our church is so blessed to hear the good news by hearing the gospel repeatedly. May God continue to bless our church through Reverend Sung Kwan Kim's ministries and be equipped by the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ.

By the Grace of God CHEWS 10th Anniversary Today

1988 was a momentous year for Choong Hyun Church and Korea. Seoul was hosting the Olympic Games; construction work on the main sanctuary building was finally completed; and the English Worship Service was established.

The English Worship Service of Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church began on August 28, 1988, shortly before the opening of the Olympics in Seoul. With its humble beginnings and 30 charter members, the congregation has grown to about 200 today.

Many people have come to visit and have fellowship over the past decade. Many faithful servants have helped to make this ministry possible.

Today's worship in celebration of 10 years is to thankfully remember the grace of God by which CHEWS (Choong Hyun English Worship Service) has struggled and grown for a decade. Many current members have worked diligently to compile a history of the English Worship Service over the past ten years and to develop a photo exhibition based on that history. This display is hanging on the wall outside of Bethany Hall across from Galilee Hall where the English Ministry actually began. This memorial wall is under the main sanctuary.

As CHEWS remembers the faithfulness of God in the past, the English Ministry can rely on God for the next decades as well. God has given many foreign workers and visitors a place to worship our God in English even though they are visiting Korea. This way, people who are on vacation do not need to take a vacation from worshipping God. It is the goal of CHEWS and all its members to help every English-speaking person in



▲ CHEW: 10 years by the grace of God

Seoul and throughout the world to continually desire to chew the word of God so that all people will know and accept the love of our wonderful Savior.

Today's CHEWS schedule is as follows:

AM

8:40 - 8:55 -

opening praise

9:00 - 10:00 -

worship service (Cana Hall, floor B1 of the Welfare Center Building)

10:00 - 10:15 -

EWS history

10:15 - 10:30 -

introduction of guests

10:30 - 10:45 -

group photo (in front of the main sanctuary building if possible)

10:45 - 12:00 -

reception (on the 2nd floor of the Welfare Center Building)

buffet and beverages will be provided

(concurrently at 11:00 is the Korean worship service in the main sanctuary with an English translation)

12:00 -

tour of the photo exhibition (on the wall between Bethany and Galilee Halls)



By Reverend Sung Kwan Kim

Jesus: Rejection & Welcome

(Luke 8:37&40)

"There are a million different variations to rejecting Jesus: and as we have seen, rejection is not always a sign placed in the window reading, "Go Away," but also in the sign that says "Welcome"."

Today's two Scripture passages show a striking contrast between the rejection and welcome of Jesus' ministry activities. On the one side, we have a huge gathering of people telling Jesus to go away. On the other side, we have a large group of people inviting Him to stay with them. Both groups display open and visible actions; one negative and the other seemingly positive. Both groups have spiritual motives for their actions and thus reactions to the ministry of the Son of Man to men. Indeed, they both have reasons for sending or receiving Jesus. And it is understanding their spiritual motives that will help us understand what it really means to reject or welcome Jesus into our daily lives. So, let us open up the Scriptures and fill our hearts and minds with the revealed Word of God.

The story of rejection begins with Jesus' ministry over demons. He and his twelve disciples sail across the Lake of Galilee to a town called Gerasene. As soon as they arrive on shore, a naked crazy man approaches Jesus. Jesus commands the unclean spirit to come out of the man. This man happened to be possessed with a whole legion of demons - and so they implore Jesus not to send them into the abyss but instead into a herd of pigs standing nearby. Jesus permitted them to enter the pigs. The pigs then ran down a steep bank into the water and drowned themselves.

Well, the owners of the pigs saw this and ran to tell the city and urban people of Gerasene what had happened. Once the word was out, the people gathered together and went out to see for themselves what had happened. They found their crazy man sitting at the feet of Jesus clothed and in his right mind. This frightened them. The herdsmen explained to them how Jesus had healed him. "And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned" (vs. 37).

After witnessing this amazing miracle, the townspeople reject Jesus. They knew very well that no human could possibly make this crazy man well. They knew that it was Jesus who made this man spiritually clean. They specifically knew that it was the order from His mouth that made all this happen. They knew the whole story: a very demented man was made well by the words of an honest and special man and a whole herd of pigs died because of it.

The fact is that they made a decision. They made a very poor decision. Based on their decision they made a deliberate and determined request unqualified with any condition. Their request was decisive and absolute. It is not often that man suddenly arrives at the condition to accept the Son of Man to reign over him but their postponement lead on and down to decisive rejection.

We can perceive from their motives that they were distinctly unworthy. They prefer swine to the divine restorer. They would rather keep their property than entertain someone who brings wisdom and love to their hearts and homes. They had an alternative; they did not have to repudiate Jesus they could have accepted Him and welcomed Him into their lives. It is unholier and unworthy for them to prefer human over the divine, or the present to the future or flesh to spirit. Their preference for the wrong things is a preference God condemns and is an action which the soul will one day reproach itself.

How is this type of rejection relevant to you? Now, if there is anybody out there who thinks that they never could, can or will reject Jesus - think twice! Everyone falls short of the glory of God. We are all sinners! Everyone of us misses the mark by a long shot. Only Jesus makes the Spirit of God work for good in us - only the Spirit of God makes us Christ-centered. Simply put, all believers reject Jesus when they minimize the Spirit's work and we all at times minimize the Spirit's work. The key is not to be ignorant but to see the Spirit of God at work and to choose Jesus.

We have the power to send Christ away. When things are not going the way we want or we want to operate in a different manner than we know is right; well its here that the opportunity to reject Jesus is most prominent. It is easier to see the big decisions (like in today's story) but it is the little troubles, the small nuances in which Christians tend to stray and reject Jesus. And the more we reject the Spirit of God, the more our resistance and recognition of evil is destroyed. We begin to think that our property, the pigs, is more important than the Spirit of God and thus the healing of a sick man. Our priorities become displaced; our focus gets blurred and Christ is rejected.

When we fail to recognize the Spirit of God at work in our lives, when we reject Jesus in favor of present comfort or to avoid the pains of loss - when we place anything before Him - we take away from God's glory and lose His rich and immense blessings. Like the Gerasenes, we send Him away for the pleasure and easiness of now but at what expense?

It is amazing but Jesus did not contest their request. He did not beg them to change their mind. He did not sit down with them and explain to them how absolutely stupid they really were. No. His ministry purpose was not to evangelize them; sure He pleased and labored where He liked but He did so to inaugurate the Kingdom of God. His purpose was purely spiritual. Although His travel was not successful - His message not received - Himself not welcomed - His purpose was ultimately fulfilled.

Okay, we have seen how the first crowd, the rejection crowd, flatly turned down Jesus. Their spiritual ignorance was high - we can safely say - VERY HIGH! Now, on the other side of the water is a group of people expectantly awaiting Jesus' return. They are a slightly different crowd in that they already know Jesus. They are familiar with His ministry activity. They have heard of all the wondrous things He has done - many had even experienced them (i.e., the feeding of the five thousand, the healing of the sick, etc.). They welcome Christ as soon as He steps off the boat. "And as Jesus returned, the people welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him" (vs. 40). Why? Unlike the Gerasenes, they saw benefit in the Spirit of God found in Jesus Christ. Probably some were legitimately influenced and wanted to learn of the wondrous, higher, hopeful things found in Jesus but I suppose that many came with unspiritual curiosity. And still others because they desired to be healed or to have a loved one healed. Their expectations were more worldly than spiritual. They wanted a worldly Messiah and were not expecting a spiritual Messiah.

There are a million different variations to rejecting Jesus; and as we have seen, rejection is not always a sign placed in the window reading, "Go Away," but also in the sign that says "Welcome". If our hearts

welcome Jesus for earthly reasons, then we are really rejecting Him. Jesus is not about earthly and temporary things - He is about eternal life! "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Rev. 3:20). He is about reconciling us to the Living God. He is about a life of sacred service. He is about holy usefulness and abiding joy and the hope of eternal glory. He is about eternal life - the only kind of life that has meaning or value.

Welcoming Jesus into your life is serious business. When there is a business deal on the table and your success depends upon a lie, do you really welcome or reject Jesus? If your children are sick, do you pray just so that they will get healed and get better or is your heart seeking eternal things? I want you to see that welcoming Jesus into your life during your worst situations is not wrong if what you are seeking is not the earthly blessing but the spiritual. Most people welcome God when they are in trouble and many do thank Him when they are physically blessed but how many of the members of Choong Hyun welcome Him even when there is no earthly blessing? How many members welcome Him when it means losing earthly success?

I do not think there are very many members of this church who take Jesus seriously. I see people calling on Jesus and when there is a little damage - they reject Him. I do not see people welcoming Him - truly opening the door to their hearts and inviting Him in - no matter what the earthly consequences. I do see many of you welcoming Jesus during your times of trouble but I do not see you welcoming Him when the results are not earthly successes. I do not see you welcoming Him in the Spirit.

Our duty is to open our hearts to His Word and let the Spirit of God work effectively in us. Let us welcome Jesus into our hearts with uncompromising devotion. Let us get serious and keep Jesus at the forefront - at the true welcoming center of our lives. We have the power to lock Jesus out - to silence the messenger and the message. We can resist and reject the divine vow within us. Let us not push the Lord away but draw him close so that He can reach and save us from our sins. We need truthfulness of Spirit - sincerity - fairness - righteousness - all the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit!

Do not kick Jesus out in your bad situations, then call on him in vain when trouble abounds. Do not cry out, "Jesus, Jesus" in search of earthly blessings, thinking that you are welcoming Him when in fact you are rejecting Him. He is our Christ. He is our Eternal Lord. He is Our God!!! Don't reject Him but welcome Him with the true Spirit - the Spirit of God that know He's alive and will one day return. Welcome Him in the Spirit of God's eternal love. Welcome Him into every aspect of your life and don't leave any space for exclusion.

There's only one way to welcome Jesus and that is to believe in Him - to give Him your life. Do not withhold anything; do not hold on to anything; and do not close the door when He knocks. Let go of this world and open your heart to His voice. Keep Him at the center of your existence - keep Him at the center of every situation you encounter and He will guide you safely into the Promised Land. He is faithful, He is true, He is eternal. Listen, obey, and Follow Him! Welcome Him in Faith!

Messianic Expectations

(Acts 2:29-36)

In today's message, the power of Pentecost had just occurred and heavenly things had come to a house in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had descended from heaven and filled the disciples just as Jesus promised (Luke 24:49). It is probable at this point that the disciples left the house and went to the Temple where they began speaking of the mighty deeds of God in languages other than their own to the devout Jews from every nation under heaven. These men were amazed and greatly perplexed and wanted to know what all this meant. Some others began mocking the event and saying that the disciples probably just had too much to drink.

Here begins Peter's great sermon. He raises his voice among the other eleven disciples and launches into the truthful explanation of the phenomena they were witnessing (vv. 14-21). He seriously addresses them and starts off by denouncing the fools who accused them of being drunk by logically mentioning that it was only 9:00 a.m. in the morning! Everybody who was anybody back then knew that Jews engaged in the exercises of the synagogue on feast days abstained from eating and drinking until 10:00 a.m. or noon; therefore, this could not possibly be drunkenness.

Now, for those hearers who were a little bit smarter but still perplexed about this event, Peter reminds them that knowing Joel's prophecy, they should have recognized what they were seeing as a work of the Spirit (vv. 16-21). He quotes Joel 2:28-32 verbatim to hit the point home. This particular historical event was purpose prerecorded for them and ultimately for us.

After this perfect biblical explanation, Peter proclaims the Gospel and expounds the Old Testament Scriptures to reveal this truth (vv. 22-35). This is the heart of his sermon. It is here that the Word of God is revealed and you discover the true Messianic meaning of Jesus Christ. From here, you can see the differences between heavenly and earthly Messianic expectations. The Israelites were looking for the Messiah - the anointed one - the King who would save them. They were looking for an earthly Messiah and because of that they missed the heavenly Messiah sent by God to them. Not only did they miss Him but they crucified Him! The problem was that their expectations were earthly and not heavenly. And so I ask myself, Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church, and you - what are your Messianic expectations for today?

In order to answer the question correctly you have to have a proper perspective of Jesus. Peter formally confirms through the power of the Holy Spirit three important elements about Jesus that you need to take into consideration. The first is the life of Jesus. When Peter addresses this crowd, he tells them that they knew this man - He was a Nazarene. He was a carpenter with no formal education. He was poor and despised. He was simple and humble. He was the one who went around doing all those incredible things that they heard about or experienced. Indeed, He was the man "attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs" (v. 22).

Second, is that it was Jesus' destiny to die. The Romans and Jews united against Him and He perished. He was the victim of hate and misconception. Jesus' death was no accident. He was delivered unto His enemies by "the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God" (v. 23). He died on the cross for a purpose. The whole Bible mentions

"Peter formally confirms through the power of the Holy Spirit three important elements about Jesus that you need to take into consideration. ... The first is the life of Jesus, ... Second, is that it was Jesus' destiny to die. ... This leads us to the third element - the most important one - the upraising of Jesus. ... As a Christian, the most important expectation is eternal life! It is a heavenly expectation!"

God's eternal planning of this event and the act of wickedness that it would take to put Him to death. The Devil thinks that he has victory but he does not.

This leads us to the third element - the most important one - the upraising of Jesus. God released Him from the grasp of death. It was impossible for Jesus to be mastered by death (v. 24). He conquered and put an end to the agony of death. Peter recites the prophecy of this Resurrection (vv. 25-31), quoting Psalm 16:8-11. Since David was speaking of the Messiah (v. 31) and since Jesus was raised from the dead and Peter and the disciples witnessed this (v. 32), Peter concludes his sermon by applying the Gospel message. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified" (v. 36). That is right - not only is Jesus the Messiah but He is also both Lord and Christ. He is our Savior and Redeemer. He is God! Peter's summary of this indisputable historical fact places the incarnation and truth of Jesus up front - not in a remote place for contemplation but rather in a place that calls for immediate attention.

You know that Jesus is the Messiah. He conquered death and now sits at the right hand of God. Through the cross, the gracious gift of eternal life is given to mankind. Through your repentance of sin and faith in Him as your Lord and Savior, you are born again into the Kingdom of God and receive the Holy Spirit. This transformation changes not only your nature but your entire perspective of the world. The temporary and fleeting things become low priority and the eternal and lasting things become high priority.

As a Christian, the most important expectation is eternal life! It is a heavenly expectation! There is a big difference between earthly expectations and heavenly expectations. Earthly expectations of Christ look to things like health, success, and prosperity. Heavenly expectations of Christ look to things like the anticipation of His return, the desire of wanting to be with Him now, and of course the prospect of being with Him forever! If you want to find out what is your top priority or someone else's - just observe yourself or them in times of strife. This will give you a real clue to your or their standpoint.

Your actions speak of self-centered expectations or Christ-centered expectations. Do you want to get well because you are afraid to die or do you want to get well so that you can serve Christ? Do you want success to further your reputation or do you want success to glorify God? Do you want more money for worldly treasures or do you want more money to further His purposes? Think about it! I mean really think about it!

I hope that the members of the Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church have Christ as their main focal point. No matter what your situation or circumstance, I hope that Jesus Christ is at the center. I hope that the power of the Holy Spirit is not quenched but ignited in your soul; so that His light shines brightly in your prayers, times of hardship, moments of joy, and throughout your daily life. Let us be prepared for His coming by letting the Holy Spirit work through us to glorify and praise Jesus Christ - our Messiah!

Short Term Mission India, Mongolia and China Two Teams Have Returned



▲ The short term mission team to Mongolia proclaims the gospel

The short term mission teams to India, Mongolia, and China Team Two returned on August 3, 4 and 13, respectively. The India Team had fever and the Mongolia Team suffered from torrential rains, but both of these teams gave their best presentation of the gospel and won many souls for Christ. China Team

Two had a difficult time to present the gospel because there were undercover policemen from the Chinese government spying on their activities. But all of their goals have been accomplished successfully by the grace of God. Choong Hyun Church must pray for the short term missionaries who came back so that they can be refreshed both spiritually and physically in order to build up their vision for world missions to be a mighty instrument of God.

Their written mission reports will be in the next several editions of the *Biweekly*.

Burundi Lacking Spiritual Leadership and Material Resources

Burundi is a tiny country about a quarter of the size of the Republic of Korea. It is 27,800 square kilometers of mountainous terrain similar to Rwanda to the north. The population in 1995 was about 6.3 million people. The capital city of Bujumbura has about 272,000 people. 96% of the people speak Rundi. 14% of the population is literate in Rundi or French. Two out of four languages have Bible translations.

Burundi is one of the poorest nations of the world. Coffee provides 90% of their export earnings. They are heavily dependent on foreign aid. Overpopulation and lack of natural resources make improvements hard to achieve. The Burundi per capita income is about 1.4% of the United States per capita income. Though Burundi has been through much struggle politically especially after independence from Belgium in 1962, a multi-party democratic constitution was adopted in 1992.

The previous regime was hostile to Christianity with the expulsion of missionaries and many government impositions on Christian meetings. Since 1987, some religious freedom has been restored. The 1992 government renewed some restrictions on Christian activities.



Burundi is almost 92% Christian. Only 1% is Muslim and about 7% follow traditional African religions. Among the Christians 16% are Protestant and about 76% are Roman Catholic.

Though the government is working for reconciliation, centuries of mistrust between the Tutsi military and the Hutu majority will take time and prayer. The Burundi Church had revival in the 1950s which had subsequent moral and theological compromise. Nevertheless, later persecution brought about much spiritual fervor and new maturity. These effects must not be lost. Pray for the leadership which is in short supply and the returning missionaries. (from Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, 5th edition)

Definite Victory of God in World Mission

by Samuel Park

(Pastor of 7th Grade, Assistant for Choong Hyun Publishing)

All of Scripture affirms the victory of God in world mission. It is not in question. God has promised it by His Name. Consider these Bible passages "This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14); "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord and all families of the nations shall worship before Him. For dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations" (Ps. 22:27-28); "The earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Num. 14:21).

God is working to accomplish His goals in world mission. And it will be done. God is sovereign! Because He rules over the hearts of men and is the Lord of His church, His purpose cannot be failed! The Great Commission is

the most definite thing to happen for our sovereign God is working for it. Now, you have only one life to live. Where will you invest your life? Do not spend your life on temporary pleasures of this world which come and go quickly. Whatever you want to be in the future, just make sure that your job takes a part in the Great Commission of the Lord and be a part of the definite victory of God in world mission.



Foreign Laborers Service Department Office Is Prepared in Amen Hall, B1 of Main Sanctuary Building

The foreign laborers service department started their ministry in May 1997. Foreign laborers gave great help to this year's summer short term mission teams. The church is trying to convert more foreign laborers and disciple them so that they may become effective instruments to evangelize their home country. The church provided a place for their meetings in the Amen Hall which is located in the first basement level of the main sanctuary building with an office in the corner of the Hall. An anonymous person from the foreign laborers service department donated a desk, chairs, a blackboard, a copy machine, cabinets and a filtered water dispenser for the foreign laborers service department office. These foreign laborers in our church have a great potential to be gateways to evangelize in the Southeast Asian region. The foreign laborers service department is looking for volunteers who can serve foreign laborers by providing transportation to and from



church, dining while at church, and visitations. For further information on volunteering, please contact the Mission Committee on the fourth floor of the Mission Center Building.

