

◆GOALS◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing World
Social Service for 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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Remembering the Disabled in 1998 God Chooses the Weak to Shame the Strong

April 20 - Day for the Disabled
An Opportunity to Recover the Love of Jesus

We observed last Sunday in memory of disabled people. In 1981, the United Nations established April 20 as the International Day for the Disabled. The Korean government has set April 20 as the Day for the Disabled in accordance with this resolution of the United Nations. In 1988, Korea hosted the worldwide Special Olympics for the disabled in order to elevate the interests of the world in the evangelization of disabled people.

God does not show favoritism for the strong or the rich, and furthermore, God is willing to stand beside the weak and the poor. God is so pleased to save His people by way of the cross. Therefore, the children of God must abandon their former lifestyle which holds fast to the strengths of this world. Rather, we ought to be part of the ministry of Christ which works through the least of our brothers and sisters.

Disabled people can be divided into at least five different categories: mentally and physically disabled; deaf and dumb; just physically disabled; blind; just mentally retarded; and others as well. The way to show love and concern can be varied according to the different type and degree of



disability, but all expressions of love must be demonstrated with the pure love of Jesus. Without it, our assistance for the disabled will fall into meaningless acts of pity. The final and critical thing that the disabled need is eternal life through the love of Jesus. Therefore, as we commemorate the Day for the Disabled, we must pray so that our love of Christ can be revived for the disabled.

We must remember that the recovery of our love for the disabled must be translated into specific actions rather than idle chatter. For example, we are to take the gospel to the disabled who are around us and lead them to church; we can record the

Word of God for the blind to hear; we can learn sign language to communicate with the deaf and dumb; we can continue to understand the plight of the disabled as we live our daily lives; we can share our needs with the disabled just as we do with any of our other friends; and we can take care of the disabled in their old age as well.

Our memory of the disabled must not be observed on only one day each year. We must remember the disabled every day of our lives as we learn how to realistically help them in their daily lives. We must not stop praying for the disabled in our church and around the world.

Bethel Choir for Fifth Service

The fifth service choir, comprised of college and young adults, has been dubbed "the Bethel Choir" on April 19.

The chairman of the Bethel choir will be Elder Dong Suk Seo who is also in charge of the college group. The vice-chairpersons are Deacon Suk Hyun Ahn and Senior Deaconess Gil Ja Won. The conductor is Deacon Lim Ku Kang who is also the head of the music department of Choong Hyun Church. The accompanist is Hee Jung Min.

The whole congregation must pray for the Bethel Choir so that they can help the fifth service to be an inspirational time of worship.

The Bethel Choir is still recruiting more members. The age requirement to join is from the college group up to age 39. Those who want to join the Bethel Choir can contact the Praise Committee at extension 205 or personally contact choir director Deacon Lim Ku Kang.

Prison Ministry

Evangelical Revival Meeting

at First and Second Cell Block of Chung Song Prison

The Choong Hyun Evangelical Committee for Prison Ministry had a revival meeting for residents of the first and second cell block of Chung Song Prison in the northern part of Kyungsan Province. More than fifty members of Choong Hyun Church's prison ministry team will have a worship service in the prison with about 250 prisoners.

We must pray for the prisoners so that they may come to Jesus Christ through this revival meeting. We must



also pray for Reverend Jae Chul Kim as he preaches from the Word of God.

Medical Ministry

Church Provides Medical Care on First Three Sundays of Each Month

There will be medical consultations and basic treatment on the first three Sundays of each month for the members of Choong Hyun Church. This service is provided by the Medical Evangelical Committee headed by Elder Cheril Sohn, M.D., and Pastor Kyung Han Park. The purpose for these medical consultations is to introduce professional doctors to those who are in need.

First week: Korean medicine (Deacon Han Joo Joe)

Dentistry (Deacon Doh Yang Park)

Second week: General surgery (Deacon Sae Hyun Ahn)

Clinical surgery (Deacon Kyung Chul Kim)

Third week: Internal medicine (Deacon Min Suk Choi)

Obstetrics (Elder Cheril Sohn)

Plastic surgery (Deacon Byung Gun Kim)

There are also many other pharmacists and nurses from our congregation who are waiting to serve.

The time for consultations and treatments is on the first through third Sundays from 12:00 - 1:00 in the afternoon for plastic surgery; all other doctors are available between 2:00 - 4:00 in the afternoon. These consultations are available on the second floor of the First Educational Building.

Message 1 by Reverend Sung Kwan Kim



Zedekiah, the Last King of Judah

(2 Chronicles 36:11-23)

The end of this chapter really explains the attitude, heart, and response of God, His chosen people and the Gentiles in direct relationship to the circumstances that we experience today. Of course, the difference lies in the fact that the Old Testament people (the Israelites) were passive (like a candle that attracted others to it) and the New Testament people (Christians) are active (a light that goes out into the world). The similarity is the all-importance of our relationship to God as is emphasized in the historical recording of Judah's last King Zedekiah of Judah and the fall of Jerusalem.

The story begins with King Nebuchadnezzar making Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old at that time and ruled for eleven years. "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the Lord" (vs.12). Also, he backstabbed King Nebuchadnezzar who did him a favor by making him king. Zedekiah had taken an oath before God to remain loyal to King Nebuchadnezzar and he broke that oath. "He became stiffnecked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the Lord, the God of Israel" (vs.13). Zedekiah rebelled against God and His people. His haughty attitude reflected the inside of his heart, which lacked humbleness and was evil.

The consequence of Zedekiah's attitude influenced the whole nation. "all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the Lord, which He had consecrated in Jerusalem" (vs.14). Zedekiah defiled his position. His continued stubbornness affected all the people, even the priests, to turn away from God. Their attitudes caused massive destruction in their hearts.

Through God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that their descendants would be His chosen people in His chosen land, He repeatedly warned them of their wrongdoings. "The Lord, the God of

their fathers, sent word to them through His messengers again and again, because He had pity on His people and His dwelling place" (vs.15). God tried 'again and again' to give His people the bread of life. He sent His 'word to them' by the prophets, more specifically Jeremiah. God's attitude and heart displayed enormous compassion for His people and His land.

The response of the Israelites to God's love was to 'mock His messengers,' 'despise His words,' and 'scoff at His prophets' (vs.16).

sanctuary and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged" (vs.17). The gravity of this punishment came even to those in the sanctuary. All their fortune, wealth, riches and worth were given over to King Nebuchadnezzar, "He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the Lord's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials" (vs.18).

The devastation didn't stop there, "They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem;

God's authority in heaven and earth. Although they were not God's chosen people, they understood His relevance and importance and their hearts moved toward God.

As we reach the 21st century, it is amazing to see that non-believers recognize and see the power of God in heaven and earth. Unfortunately, the Christians of our time do not. Their hearts do not burn for the Lord. Their ears do not listen for God's voice. Their attitude is no different than the last King Zedekiah of Judah. When there is no place for truth left in a Christian's heart, what remedy is left?

I am afraid that the wrath of God will come down upon His people unless they wake-up! Christians are asleep, their eyes are closed and their hearts seek happiness rather than righteousness. God has been pushed to the periphery. He is no longer the center of our existence. This is a scary environment in which to live - this is a very dangerous situation. Wake-up my brethren! Let us fear the Lord, open our hearts to His love, listen for His voice, repent and seek His forgiveness now. Now is the time, for the consequences of later is too late.

The loving God we serve has immeasurable compassion and tenderness toward each of us, as shown in Christ, but it is our responsibility to remember that God offers us His will for today only. His tolerance for our continued disobedience is limited. When that time comes, as it did with the Israelites, woe to our nation and its people. For those of us whose heart waits to seek God until tomorrow, I pray God's sermon moves your heart today to live and do His will.

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The situation was so terrible that "the wrath of the Lord was aroused against His people and there was no remedy" (vs.16). Jeremiah cried out to the Lord, "the punishment of my people is greater than that of Sodom" (Lam. 4:6). The sins of the Israelites were worse than those committed in Sodom and Gomorrah. Their sin had reached heaven and God's wrath had come down on them with complete destruction! How much more would their punishment be?

God's response to the Israelites was to hand them over to the king of the Babylonians, King Nebuchadnezzar, "who killed their young men with the sword in the

they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there" (vs.19). God punished both people and land. Those who escaped the sword were exiled to Babylon as slaves and His land remained desolate for seventy years, as prophesied by Jeremiah.

After seventy years, the Lord spoke to King Cyrus in his new kingdom to proclaim and write, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build a temple for Him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of His people among you - may the Lord his God be with him and let him go up" (vs.23). The Gentiles recognized



Message 2 by Reverend Sung Kwan Kim

Important

(Acts 16:19-34)

**What is important? The ultimate answer is believing in Jesus Christ.
Nothing in this whole world is more important, more powerful,
more meaningful, more consequential, more urgent, more considerable,
and more momentous than receiving new life in Jesus Christ.**

It is so easy to lose perspective of what is important in life when we focus on anything other than God. Everyday that Christians wake-up in this world, they meet people with different hearts than their own and face circumstances that require unpopular responses.

We are constantly taunted by the media (newspapers, magazines, radio, computer, television) to think that self and money are all important. Through manipulative and deceitful methods, the world has come to view the nature of important things with totally irrelevant entities. We are taught that material wealth and value are important. We are even trained to think that we can actually love someone without God. The world values self-interest and money so much that it has misplaced and lost the really important things.

Sadly, even the Christian community has placed human interest and profit on the same side as Christianity. A Christian's reverence for God is often associated with material blessings. Thankfully, today's Bible verses remind us that godliness and gain are not identical. The truth is that godliness produces worldly loss and suffering much more than it produces worldly gain and contentment. Even so, godliness is not to be identified with either gain or loss. It is an element of God's grace that manifests itself through the workings of the Holy Spirit for God's glory.

The Bible clarifies what is important and what is not. It specifically tells us that earthly treasures (material wealth) are not important and that the self has to die. This, of course, is the very opposite of what the world tries to pass on as important. The Bible teaches us the truth and instructs us on the truly important things of human life. There are many passages throughout the Scripture which speak on today's message. The Spirit has led me to highlight Paul's second missionary journey to Philippi as a means for communicating what is important.

While visiting Philippi, Paul met some favorable and unfavorable people and came across some

favorable and unfavorable circumstances. One woman, Lydia, came to know Christ and helped care for Paul and his friends. A slave-girl, who was demon-possessed and brought her masters profit by fortunetelling, constantly annoyed Paul. In the name of Jesus Christ, he cast out the evil spirit in her. When her masters found out that their hope of profit was gone, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace where the authorities were located (vs. 19).

You would think that people would have a favorable response to removing evil. Unfortunately, the slave girl's masters were exploiting her. Their hearts did not care for the girl. They only saw that their hope of gain was gone and acted out with malice. In front of the chief magistrates, they falsely accused Paul and Silas by saying that these men are throwing their city into confusion, being Jew, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for them to accept or to observe, being Romans (vs. 20-21).

The slave girl's masters self-interest went against the truth. Their most effective mode of attack was indirect misrepresentation. Judaism was not a prohibited religion but propagating it was regarded as a menace. Paul and Silas were regarded as Jews, since, at this time, the Romans considered the Christianity to be a Jewish religion. By using the great Roman name and power against the despicable Jews, they were able to stir the crowd into taking action against Paul and Silas for something other than the real truth.

Paul and Silas were repeatedly beaten and thrown into prison (vs. 22-23). They were securely guarded by the jailer in the inner prison and their feet were fastened in the stocks (vs. 24). Surely, one looks upon this situation as completely unfavorable. How would you react under similar circumstances?

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors

were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened (vs. 25-26).

Amazing! The power of true worship is miraculous! After being beaten and imprisoned, probably tired, hungry, and in great physical pain, Paul and Silas take the time to worship God. On the outside their physical bodies were damaged and enslaved, on the inside their spiritual bodies were joyful and free. Their true prayers and songs not only are heard by the other prisoners but they actually reached heaven. God heard them and responded to them super-naturally. This is definitely the outward answer to prayer and song. Heaven and earth moved at the prayers and songs of the holy!

Prison is not a place that sanctifies the Spirit but it is the Spirit that sanctifies the place. We learn from Paul and Silas' experience to praise God in whatever situation we may find ourselves. We understand that suffering in Christ brings the very soul of music to our hearts. Their hearts were different. Their liberty was found in Christ and through His divine power was made manifest to the senses and spirit. It is right here, in the midst of suffering, that the true servants of Christ shine.

They do not complain or whine about their situation. They do not cry out "Lord, please save me!" because they are already saved. Their confidence in Christ is evident in their actions. They pray and sing to the Lord. Their beautiful hearts praise Him. Their worship is pure because they believe and know Jesus.

When the jailer awoke and saw that the prison doors were open, he was about to kill himself because he thought everyone had escaped (vs. 27). The jailer's unfavorable situation brought him turmoil. His sudden temptation to commit suicide is a clear sign of a lost person.

How often do we crumble in defeat at the first sign of failure? But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, do not harm yourself, for we are all here (vs. 28)! Paul's heart cared for the jailer and he turned a potentially lethal situation into an incredible opportunity for ministry.

The jailer called for lights and rushed in and fell down before Paul and Silas (vs. 29). He was so grateful to see that they had not escaped and possibly wondered deep within what was so different and special about them. He brought them out and asked them, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved" (vs. 30)?

After listening to Paul and Silas' worship witness, the jailer brings up the great question: "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas respond with the great answer: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household" (vs. 31). The jailer took Paul and Silas home to care for their wounds, and Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to the jailer and his entire household (vs. 33). The great decision comes about when we read, "and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household" (vs. 34). Yes, the jailer and his entire household became the prisoners of Jesus Christ. The "Amen" echo reached beyond the prison walls.

As a Christian, no one would deny that God strongly affects the course of the events in our lives. Our reactions to life events are strongly influenced by our faith in Christ. When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, like Paul and Silas, the human acts of true worship are heard in heaven and He produces the miracles and blessings of His grace and mercy. The important things take form from within our faith in Christ and flow down from above to all those near His presence.

What is important? The ultimate answer is believing in Jesus Christ. Nothing in this whole world is more important, more powerful, more meaningful, more consequential, more urgent, more considerable, and more momentous than receiving new life in Jesus Christ. Or what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul (Mark 8:36)? We must clearly understand and faithfully practice the important things. Let us live as God's missionary people by worshiping Him, nurturing each other, and witnessing to the lost through our faith and obedience in Christ.

Mission Briefing : The Republic of Angola

Land of War to Land of Peace

Angola is a nation along the southwestern coastline of Africa with a total of 1,247,000 square kilometers. The population as of 1995 was about 11.5 million people. About one million people live in the capital city of Luanda.

30% of the population is literate. Though Portuguese is the official language, there are about 42 languages used throughout Angola. Twelve languages have complete Bible translations. Three languages have only New Testament translations. Thirteen other languages have only portions of the Bible translated.

Because of the constant warfare, many of the country's skilled workers have fled the country. As a result, the economy is in serious crisis. 31 years of war has drained about 80% of the national revenue each year.

This warfare began after 450 years of colonial rule by Portugal. After fifteen years of war, Angola won its independence in 1975. A Cuban-backed Marxist MPLA government took over.

The UNITA nationalist movement, supported by the West and by South Africa, fought the MPLA in a sixteen year civil war to earn the right to have an election in 1991. When the MPLA won, there was continued bloodshed. By 1993, UNITA controlled 70% of the country.



The first President, a Marxist, made a commitment to eradicate Christianity within twenty years. At first, there were many incidents of persecution against Christians. However, constant warfare and the ideological collapse of Communism resulted in the elimination of most of the discrimination against Christians. Nevertheless, a law permitting only twelve Christian denominations was passed in 1988.

As of 1993, the country was about 84.6% Christian - about 60% were Catholic and 20% were Protestant.

(Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World* 5th edition, 1993)

Let Us Pray for Angola:

1. 31 years of war has left its toll on Angola. 1.5 million refugees, 30,000 maimed casualties, and 20,000 war orphans need assistance. The infrastructure has also collapsed.
2. God has used war and persecution to multiply the church in Angola. Praise God! People on both sides of the war have turned to the gospel in their desperation. Worship services are packed as thousands have turned to Jesus Christ as Lord.
3. Peace may bring its own problems. Peace will be a time when Christians and others will have to forgive their enemies. It may be a time when the church will have to struggle with issues of leadership, especially since the government has restricted the total number of denominations. There must be unity in the church in such a time as this.
4. Many godly leaders had died during the conflicts. This has been one of Angola's most critical problems. Now, there are four seminaries and seven Bible schools providing theological training, allowing the church to grow again. Funding to maintain these institutions is necessary as godly teachers are developed from Angola and from abroad.
5. There are also many unreached peoples in Angola. The missionary force in Angola has dwindled. Young students had been facing years of Marxist teachings. Furthermore, literature and Bibles are scarce and in great demand.

A Wonderful Thought of Choong Hyun

Let Us Pray for Ministry for the Disabled



In Kee Park

(Evangelist, Director of the Ephphatha Group)

The second floor of the main sanctuary of our church has two big screen television monitors. During the third service of each Sunday, there is sign language with Korean subtitles on these screens. Not only are the hymns, prayer, and message, translated into sign language with Korean subtitles but so is the praise of the choir. Therefore, even the deaf can participate in the service without any difficulties. Among the Sunday School program, there is an "Ephphatha" Group for the dumb so that they can have Bible studies without any difficulties. Our church is trying to provide these programs for the disabled so that they can continue to have faith in Christ. The ministry for the disabled in our church is praying, not just for our church, but for the disabled in Korea and in the world. We also have a group called "Love" to help the mentally retarded. We are delivering the gospel to them as well.

Ministry for the disabled is not a special job. It is simply obeying the commands of Jesus who told each of us to go to the ends of the world with His gospel. If there is something "special" in this ministry, it is a difference in methodology. The secular world has the goal of social work for "participation and equality" but the church's goal is to save them through the cross of Jesus. Romans 10:13 says "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Therefore, it is obvious to deliver the gospel even to the disabled. As people age, their bodies tend to wither and become decrepit, but we do not discriminate against them.

We are all created beings and sinners before God, whether disabled

or not! It is meaningless to talk about whether someone is healthy or unhealthy, has two legs or one leg, has good sight or bad sight, before God. Just as Romans 3:27 says, "Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith."

Therefore, a Christian must not show favoritism or have preconceived notions. It is difficult to understand the will of God with human reason alone. Bartimaeus, the blind man, came to Jesus, and Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" Those people who only see the results would say, "Of course, he came to Jesus because he wanted to see." However, Jesus is clearly asking, "What do you want from me?" Jesus did not have any preconceived notions about the blind. He treated Bartimaeus as a person with needs independent of his blindness. We can also see this truth in the man who lay by the Pool at Bethesda. He asked, "Do you want to be healed?" We must follow the attitude of Jesus towards the disabled without any preconceived notions.

The place for the deaf during the Sunday praise service, the Wednesday evening service, and the Friday evening service is at the left side of the first floor in the back of the main sanctuary. You can find Emeritus Pastor Chang In Kim and the emeritus elders of our church there as well. I believe that God is glorified by the fact that we are jointly worshiping God with the disabled members of His church. We must pray for the disabled so that we do not forget to share the gospel with the disabled.

Who are the Disabled?

Samuel Park

Who is really disabled? The physically deaf, blind, and mentally retarded are not the truly disabled. Rather, it is the people who can see, hear, and run, but do not do God's work who are the truly disabled. God gave us complete bodies with many gifts so that we may glorify God by singing praises and worshiping Him. As a result, the gospel of Christ will reach the ends of the world.

Are we doing the work of God with our gifts and our entire bodies? If we are not, then it is we who are the disabled rather than those who cannot physically do these things. Last week was a time to commemorate the disabled people around the world. For us, it must be a time to think about our spiritual disability. So, all the nations and tribes, with different languages, with different gifts, whether handicapped or not, do the work of God so that we may stand before God without blemishes or spots. God has called us so that we may proceed to Him in one heart, in one Spirit, in one hope, and in one faith. We are the One.