

## #1 Propagating the Resurrected Christ as the Firstborn Son according to the Promise Made to the Fathers

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**I.** "From this Man's seed, God, according to promise, brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus... And we announce to you the gospel of the promise made to the fathers" (Acts 13:23, 32):

**A.** The seed of David mentioned in 2 Samuel 7:12 is actually Christ as God's firstborn Son, who has both divinity and humanity and is typified by Solomon.

2 Sam. 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

14 I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will strike him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;

Heb. 1:5 For to which of the angels has He ever said, "You are My Son; this day have I begotten You"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him, and He will be a Son to Me"?

6 And when He brings again the Firstborn into the inhabited earth, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

**B.** The word concerning "your seed" in 2 Samuel 7:12 and "My son" in verse 14 implies that the seed of David would become the Son of God; that is, a human seed would become a divine Son:

① This corresponds with Paul's word in Romans 1:3-4 concerning Christ as the seed of David being designated the Son of God in His humanity in resurrection.

Rom. 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

② These verses clearly reveal that a seed of man, that is, a son of man, can become the Son of God:

**a.** God Himself, the divine One, became a human seed, the seed of a man, David.

**b.** This seed was Jesus, the God-man, who was the Son of God by virtue of His divinity alone.

**c.** Through His resurrection He as the human seed became the Son of God in His humanity as well.

**II.** "God has fully fulfilled this promise to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'You are My Son; this day have I begotten You'" (Acts 13:33):

**A.** In verses 32 and 33 we see that Christ as the Firstborn of God was promised to the fathers, and God fulfilled this promise by raising up Jesus.

**B.** Resurrection was a birth to the man Jesus:

① He was begotten by God in His resurrection to be the firstborn Son of God among many brothers.

② He was the only begotten Son from eternity.

③ After His incarnation, through resurrection He was begotten by God in His humanity to be God's firstborn Son.

**C.** Paul was able to see the Lord's resurrection in Psalm 2:7: "You are My Son; Today I have begotten You":

① Paul applied the word today to the day of the Lord's resurrection.

② This means that Christ's resurrection was His birth as the firstborn Son of God.

③ Jesus, the Son of Man, was born to be the Son of God through being raised up from the dead; therefore, God's raising up Jesus from the dead was His begetting of Him to be His firstborn Son. (Mon, Tue)

**D.** Through incarnation God's only begotten Son put on humanity and became the God-man; then in resurrection this God-man was born of God to be His Firstborn:

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

① Before incarnation God's only begotten Son did not have the human nature; He had only the divine nature.

② In resurrection God's firstborn Son has the human nature as well as the divine nature.

**E.** Through His resurrection Christ was born to be the firstborn Son, and at the same time all His believers were born to be the many sons of God.

① Among these many sons, only the Firstborn is God's only begotten Son.

② This only begotten Son of God, in His resurrected humanity, is also the firstborn Son

of God.

③ The Firstborn has both divinity and humanity, and we, His believers as God's many sons, also possess both the human nature and the divine nature.

F. In Acts 13 Paul was not preaching Christ as the only begotten Son, as the Gospel of John does; rather, in Acts 13 Paul was preaching Christ as the firstborn Son of God, for propagation:

① As the only begotten Son, the Lord is the embodiment of the divine life; the Gospel of John emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that, as the Son of God, He is the embodiment of the divine life.

② Through resurrection Christ became the firstborn Son of God as the life-dispenser for the propagation of life.

③ First, Christ was the only begotten Son as the embodiment of life; now He is also the firstborn Son for the propagation of life.

[Wed]

④ Through His becoming the firstborn Son of God in resurrection, the divine life has been dispensed into all His believers to bring forth the propagation of the life that is embodied in Him.

III. "As to His having raised Him up from the dead,...He spoke in this way, 'I will give you the holy things of David, the faithful things'" (Acts 13:34):

A. The resurrected Christ is the holy and faithful things of David; *the holy things of David, the faithful things* refers to the resurrected Christ.

B. The phrase *the holy things of David, the faithful things* indicates that Christ was of David, for it was out of David's seed that God raised up such a One.

Rom. 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,

4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

C. The phrase *the holy things of David, the faithful things* is actually a divine title, a title of Christ. [Thu]

D. These holy and faithful things are all the aspects of what Christ is, such as life, light, grace, righteousness, holiness, the bread of life, the living water, power, wisdom, glory, the

depths of God, the Head, the Body, the firstfruits, and the second man.

E. All the holy and faithful things are Christ Himself as mercies to us.

Isa. 55:3 ...And I will make an eternal covenant with you, Even the sure mercies shown to David.

4 Indeed, I have given Him as a Witness to the peoples, A Leader and a Commander to the peoples.

2 Chron. 6:42 O Jehovah God,...Remember Your lovingkindness to David Your servant.

Psa. 89:1 I will sing of the lovingkindness of Jehovah forever; From generation to generation I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth.

F. We need to see that the resurrected Christ is all the holy and faithful things given to us by God as an all-inclusive gift; this was the Christ preached by Paul in Acts 13. [Fri]

IV. "Through this One forgiveness of sins is announced to you," and "in this One everyone who believes is justified" (Acts 13:38-39):

A. To be forgiven of sins is on the negative side and is for our release from condemnation.

B. To be justified is on the positive side and is for our reconciliation to God and our being accepted by Him.

Gal. 2:16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law,...

C. In Acts 13:38 and 39 Paul twice spoke of "this One":

① This is the One who has been resurrected to be God's firstborn Son, our Savior, and the many holy and faithful things.

② Through the One who is the firstborn Son, the Savior, and the holy and faithful things, forgiveness of sins has been announced to us, and through this One we are justified.

③ The One by whom we are forgiven and justified is Himself our forgiveness and justification:

a. Both forgiveness and justification are mercies from God to us, and these mercies are aspects of the resurrected Christ.

b. Christ in His resurrection is our forgiveness and justification. [Sat]

## Experience①: Christ became the firstborn Son of God in resurrection.

The Lord Jesus had two births. First, He was born of Mary to be the Son of Man. Then thirty-three and a half years later He was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. Through resurrection He had a second birth, for as a man He was born in His resurrection to be the Son of God. Therefore, in His first birth He was born of Mary to be the Son of Man, and in His second birth He was born in resurrection to be the Son of God.

At this point we need to ask ourselves what the difference is between the only begotten Son and the firstborn Son. Our first response may be to say that the only begotten Son had no brothers, but the firstborn Son has many brothers.

Through His becoming the firstborn Son of God in resurrection, the divine life has been dispensed into all of His believers to bring forth the propagation of the life which is embodied in Him.

In Acts 13 Paul was preaching Christ as the firstborn Son of God for propagation. For this reason, he preached the resurrection of the Lord Jesus as His second birth. Through His second birth, His birth in resurrection, Christ became the firstborn Son of God for the propagation of the divine life.

### For new ones

All the new ones who came to the church life, praise the Lord. The primary thing in the church life is to enjoy Christ. Christ is the Son of God and He gives you eternal life. Please read the next verse.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

However, the Bible shows us further that Christ is the firstborn Son of God, having many brothers.

Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

The point that Christ being the firstborn Son of God is that His having many brothers. For this, you need to tell this Christ who came into you to the people around you. So that they would become the many brothers as Christ multiplication.

When we consider this, the church should be wide open to the gospel friends. At the gospel propagation in Motoyama in the end of October, we met many foreign students who are believers and looking for the church and also Japanese unbelievers who want to go to church. Some of them said "I hesitate to go to church since the church is too lofty". Therefore, the church needs to make effort to minimize the gap and create open atmosphere for them to come. It is to preach the gospel as many as possible and make them the brothers of Christ for His propagation. May the gospel of the kingdom prevail in Kobe, Nishinomiya, Amagasaki and so on! Amen!

Prayer: "Oh, Lord Jesus. You became the firstborn Son of God in resurrection. It was for You to have many brothers. I should preach the gospel to the people around. May they become the brothers of Christ like me!"

## Experience②: Christ is all the holy and faithful things.

To God the resurrected Christ is the firstborn Son, but to us He is the Savior. Moreover, He is a great gift given by God to His chosen people and this gift is entitled the holy things...the faithful things.

These holy and faithful things are all the aspects of what Christ is. According to the New Testament,

Christ is life, light, grace, righteousness, holiness, sanctification, and justification. He is also the bread of life and the living water. Furthermore, the holy and faithful things include all the aspects of Christ unveiled in 1 Corinthians: power, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, glory, the depths of God, the unique foundation of God's building, the Passover, the unleavened bread, the spiritual food, the spiritual drink, the spiritual rock, the Head, the Body, the firstfruits, the second man, and the last Adam. ...Oh, how much Christ is to us as the holy and faithful things! As the resurrected One, He is the firstborn Son, the Savior, and all the holy and faithful things.

In the Old Testament the holy and faithful things are regarded as mercies. Isaiah 55:3 speaks of "the sure mercies shown to David." Second Chronicles 6:42 mentions "the mercies of David" (KJV), the Lord's servant, and Psalms 89:1 says, "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever" (KJV). Mercy implies both love and grace, but it reaches further than love. Where love and grace cannot reach, mercy can reach. All the holy and faithful things are Christ Himself as mercies to us. Life is a mercy, and light is also a mercy....If we took time to count all the aspects of these mercies, we would have a long list of mercies. A husband's love for his wife and the wife's submission to her husband are Christ as mercies to us. If a husband, in Christ, loves his wife, this surely is a mercy. His love for her is Christ Himself as a mercy to him. In a similar way, if a sister, in Christ, submits to her husband, that also is a mercy. Her submission is Christ Himself as a mercy to her.

### For Young working saints/graduate students

As a businessman, you not only need the ability related to IQ to study in college, but also the ability related to EQ to communicate. In your communication ability, not just only you understand, you should be able to judge how much others understand what you said. You should tell whether they understand one-third or two-thirds or do not understand at all or understand completely. Furthermore, you need not only to know the degree of their understanding, but also the discrimination to tell whether they agree with it, or whether they oppose it. These are distinguished from their facial expressions and remarks, the atmosphere of the place. When you were studying at a college previously, it depended on whether you do your best or not. However, when you go to work in company, you have to explain to many people in various projects, to make them approve and invest. At this time, you will need not only IQ but also EQ.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord. Christ that we believe in is the all-inclusive one. Christ is your IQ and EQ. Christ is the comprehension of things and understanding of people. Christ is your wisdom, knowledge, memorizing skill, concentration. Christ is also the various abilities you need to improve your communication skills. For example, it is the ability of listening to people's words, ability to read atmosphere, ability to sympathize with the background of others, diversity ability to accept diversity. In order to become the witness of the resurrected Christ, hope that you will be able to exercise the spirit, open your mind, attach your mind to the spirit and experience all aspects of Christ one by one. Actually, various harsh environments of business life exist for you to experience all-inclusive

Christ. Hallelujah!

**Prayer:** "Oh Lord Jesus! Christ is the all-inclusive one, all 'the holy and faithful things.' Christ is my IQ and EQ. I hope I can experience Christ at work or laboratory and I hope my communication skill will be raised. Hallelujah!"

**Experience③:** Redeem the time and read the recovery version of the New Testament and the Life Study while you are young.

We all need to see that the resurrected Christ is all the holy and faithful things as mercies given to us by God as an all-inclusive gift. This was the Christ preached by Paul in Acts 13. Paul, in his gospel message, not only preached Christ from the Old Testament, but also preached the resurrected Christ as the holy and faithful things. Actually, what Paul proclaimed here in his preaching of the gospel requires all the Epistles written by him for its definition. Therefore, if we want to see more concerning Christ as the holy and faithful things, we need to study the fourteen Epistles of Paul. In his preaching Paul set up an excellent pattern for us to follow in our gospel preaching today. Like Paul, we need to preach Christ in a rich and uplifted way.

#### For Junior & Senior High School / College Students

Students are encouraged to read the Recovery Version Bible and its footnotes when young. Also, the Life Study should be read as well. In the Life Study brother Lee used as easy the language as possible and avoided long sentences. This enables any brothers and sisters who so love the Lord can enter the Life Study. Life Study on the other hand, is an extremely excellent set of books that dig out the gold vein in the Bible. Paul was saying that for us to only keep our minds on nothing but God's economy.

1 Tim. 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things 4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith. 5 But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and out of a good conscience and out of unfeigned faith; 6 From which things some, having misaimed, have turned aside to vain talking,

Life Study and the Recovery Version Bible's footnotes are always having the characteristics of bringing the readers back to the goal of God's economy. Many spiritual books deviate from the goal of God's economy. For example, a book emphasizes on the redemption. The redemption they talk about is for not going into the lake of fire. But the redemption that the Bible reveals in line with God's economy is for dispensing life and building the church. The redemption opens the way for dispensing life, the dispensing of life brings in the building of the church and finally the building of the New Jerusalem. The redemption includes the escape from the judgment of the lake of fire, but it is not the goal for redemption, it can be said that such books are losing their sights of the goal.

I thank the Lord for giving the Recovery Version Bible and Life Study to the church of Recovery. The biblical commentary of brother John Nelson Darby was a very excellent book, brother Nee and brother Lee had received help from it. But they went further by taking on the shoulders of brother Derby and they saw the vision of God's economy. In addition, brother Darby's commentaries often lead to several pages on just one sentence, and making it very difficult to

understand. But for the building of the church, there is the need for everyone to grow and function. When considering this, the Recovery Version Bible and Life Study are outstanding books that will help you live a church life along God's economy all your life, they can be said as the "Golden bar".

While being a student, except for those who are taking entrance exams, there is still time relatively, redeem your time and read the Recovery Version Bible and Life Study.

Eph. 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

**FN** Redeeming the time: I.e., seizing every favorable opportunity. This is to be wise in our walk.

**FN** the days are evil: In this evil age every day is an evil day full of pernicious things that cause our time to be used ineffectively, to be reduced, and to be taken away. Therefore, we must walk wisely that we may redeem the time, seizing every available opportunity.

**Prayer:** "O Lord Jesus, sincerely thanking you for we are given the Recovery Version Bible and Life Study. My we redeem the time while still young, pursue the truth, be constituted by the truth, and walk in the blessed church life. Amen!"

#### Hymn 203

1  
In the bosom of the Father,  
Ere the ages had begun,  
Thou wast in the Father's glory,  
God's unique begotten Son.  
When to us the Father gave Thee,  
Thou in person wast the same,  
All the fulness of the Father  
In the Spirit to proclaim.

2  
By Thy death and resurrection,  
Thou wast made God's firstborn Son;  
By Thy life to us imparting,  
Was Thy duplication done.  
We, in Thee regenerated,  
Many sons to God became;  
Truly as Thy many brethren,  
We are as Thyself the same.

3  
Once Thou wast the only grain, Lord,  
Falling to the earth to die,  
That thru death and resurrection  
Thou in life may multiply.  
We were brought forth in Thy nature  
And the many grains became;  
As one loaf we all are blended,  
All Thy fulness to proclaim.

4  
We're Thy total reproduction,  
Thy dear Body and Thy Bride,  
Thine expression and Thy fulness,  
For Thee ever to abide.  
We are Thy continuation,  
Thy life-increase and Thy spread,  
Thy full growth and Thy rich surplus,  
One with Thee, our glorious Head.

5  
Lord Thy human shell was broken.  
Life and glory Thou released  
That thine own incorporation  
With thy chosen be increased.  
We with Thee incorporated:  
Thou in us and we in Thee.  
Here we eat the hidden manna,  
New Jerusalem to be.