

#12: Life and Blessing under the Government of God

(Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy) 2020/5/18-24

For outline and the Word, please use "The Holy Word for Morning Revival"

Summary: **I.** In order to extend their days in the good land, the children of Israel were required to live under the government of God, doing all that God had commanded them through Moses. **II.** Moses set before the children of Israel life and death and charged them to choose life: **A.** God's life is the unique life; only the life of God can be counted as life. God's content is God's being, and God's flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us. **B.** We see two choices before man—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The two trees—the principle of life (dependence on God) and the principle of right and wrong (independence from God). In our Christian life and church life, we should discern matters not according to right and wrong but according to life and death. **C.** By the resurrection life of Christ in our spirit, we can be victorious over the attack of death upon the church. Satan's special object is to spread death within the church, and his greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death. The church that is built upon "this rock" can discern between death and life. If we would overcome the attack of death, we need to know Christ as the First and the Last and the living One—the One who became dead and lived again and the One who has the keys of death and of Hades. **III.** Moses set before the children of Israel blessing and curse. **A.** God blessed man to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it, because God saw on earth a living creature bearing His image and having His dominion. **B.** In order to be a blessing to His chosen people, God must have a kingdom, a realm, a sphere, on earth to exercise His administration under His full, divine authority. We all want to receive blessing, but we may not realize that the blessing requires a sphere of God's authority, a sphere under God's administration. **C.** God "has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ". **D.** God's blessing is intrinsically related to oneness. **Psa. 133:1-3** "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell in unity! It is like the fine oil upon the head That ran down upon the beard... Like the dew of Hermon That came down upon the mountains of Zion. For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: Life forever." "There" refers to the oneness upon which the Lord commands the blessing—life forever. **E.** Through His shepherding in His recovery by life, the Lord brings us into the enjoyment of His blessing and causes us to become a source of blessing under the showers of blessing. We ourselves enjoy the Lord's blessing, and then the Lord will cause us to become a source of blessing to others so that they may be supplied. God will cause the showers of blessing to come down in season. **F.** The greatest blessing that we receive from the Lord is not what the Lord gives us; it is what the Lord makes us, what He enables us to become. **G.** The normal life of a Christian is a life of blessing, and the normal work of a Christian is a work of blessing. **H.** We must realize that in our work, in our Christian life, and in our church life, everything depends on the Lord's blessing.

Crucial Point(1): The way of life and the way of death are set before man. Distinguish life and death by calling on the name of the Lord and choose the way of life to have the blessed student life

Deut. 30:19-20 ...I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live, in loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers...

OL1: Moses set before the children of Israel life and death and charged them to choose life.

OL2: Only the life of God can be counted as life. Life is the content of God and the flowing out of God; God's content is God's being, and God's flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us.

OL3: We see two choices before man—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The two trees represent two principles of living—the principle of life (dependence on God) and the principle of right and wrong (independence from God).

OL4: In our Christian life and church life, we should discern matters not according to right and wrong but according to life and death.

OL5: Satan's special object is to spread death within the church, and his greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death.

Christian life is about life,...not a matter of asking whether something is right or wrong...[but] of checking with the life inside us whenever we do something. What does the new life which God has given us tell us inwardly about this matter? ...What does our inner life say?

If the life is strong and active within us, we can do this; if the life is cold and retreating within us, we should not. Our principle for living is inward instead of outward.

The standard of Christian living does not only deal with evil things but also with good and right things. Many matters are right according to human standards, but the divine standard pronounces them wrong because they lack the divine life.... Decisions should be made according to God's life as it rises up or recedes within us... Do we feel joyful inwardly about this matter? Do we have spiritual happiness and peace? These are the matters that decide our spiritual path.

Application to the new ones and young people
/college students

God has put the tree of life and tree of the knowledge of good and evil before you and commanded you to take from the tree of life and not to take from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The tree of life is the principle of dependence on God and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the principle of Satan to lead independence from God. If you choose the tree of life, the result is blessing the life and the result of taking the tree of

knowledge of good and evil is the curse and death. Before you were saved, you lived by distinguishing good from evil, but after you were saved, you should distinguish things by life or death and not by good and evil. In the sight of God, good and evil are from the same tree and is against the tree of life.

When you become the upper grader in the elementary school, the study gradually gets more difficult. When you study, there are two ways; one is studying by depending on God and the other is studying by depending on yourself by being independent from God and becoming proud. Please learn to study by depending on God by calling on the name of the Lord from your youth. The principle of Satan is to be proud and independent from God and elevate your own name. And its result is death. The ultimate destination of Satan is the lake of fire. Since Satan knows this, he wants to bring someone with him and tempt man with good or evil and he is doing his best to destruct man from God.

For example, the thought "I cannot go to the meeting because I need to study" is to be destructed from enjoying God as life by good. If you study in this way, even if your grade become better, you are proud and independent from God thus cannot receive God's blessing and eventually ends up in walking the cursed student life. Such a person is proud and does not thank God or man and cannot grow with proper humanity.

Also, the thought "I only want to concentrate in the enjoyable game so I don't need the time for study or meetings because it is waste" is of the evil which is the laziness and lust and it also tempts man. Moreover, the principle of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is the complication and the confusion. It has good and evil and knowledge and it is complicated. However, the tree of life is only life and is simple. Thus, the situation of man being complicated and confused is the situation of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Walk the proper young people's path by simply enjoying the Lord, studying and playing by trusting Lord day by day. Never be proud and say even in your heart "I don't need to trust the Lord since I can do everything".

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, when I study, I call on the name of the Lord and study by trusting the Lord. When I study by trusting the Lord, I can make Christ my wisdom, understanding, memory, concentration. I should not trust myself and walk in the way of Satan and be proud. I deal with the proud within my heart. Otherwise, I would be caught in Satan's subtle trap and be led to eat the tree of knowledge of good and evil, resulting the complication and confusion, eventually end up in the curse and death. I choose the tree of life and study and take the way to be blessed.

Crucial Point(2): For the church to be blessed, responsible ones and serving ones must live under the God's

administration. Otherwise, the church loses the blessing

OL1: In order to be a blessing to His chosen people, God must have a kingdom, a realm, a sphere, on earth to exercise His administration under His full, divine authority.

OL2: Without such a kingdom, God does not have a realm in which to accomplish His purpose. Once there is a kingdom, the kingdom becomes the realm, the sphere, for God to exercise Himself to bless us.

OL3: We all want to receive blessing, but we may not realize that the blessing requires a sphere of God's authority, a sphere under God's administration.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...

If we are to receive God's blessing, we need to meet the qualifications..., which are image and dominion. If there is the image of God with God's dominion in your home, you can be assured that the blessing of God will be there....God's blessing always follows His expression and His representation.

The blessing is fruit-bearing, increase, multiplication, and the filling of the earth....God...created a man in His image, giving him authority to have dominion for the Almighty on earth. This man was ready for God's blessing. God's blessing was to enable this man to be fruitful. One would become ten, ten would become one hundred, one hundred would become a thousand, a thousand would become a hundred thousand, a hundred thousand would become a million, and a million would become a billion, until the whole earth was filled with beautiful faces expressing God and representing God.

How much God is able to bless us depends on how much we express Him and represent Him. If we express Him and represent Him in an adequate way, we will surely have His full blessing in multiplication and fruit-bearing.

We must see that the Lord withholds no good thing from us. If the work is not going well, if the brothers and sisters are in a poor condition, or if the number of saved ones is not increasing, we should not use the environment or certain people as an excuse. We cannot blame the brothers. I am afraid that the real reason lies with our harboring of some frustrations to the blessing. If the Lord can get through in us, the Lord's blessing will be greater than our capacity. Once God said to the Israelites, "Prove Me, if you will, by this,...whether I will open to you the windows of heaven and pour out blessing for you until there is no room for it" (Mal 3:10). God is still saying this today. The normal life of a Christian is a life of blessing, and the normal work of a Christian is a work of blessing. If we do not receive blessing, we

should say, "Lord, perhaps I am the problem."

Application for the serving ones

God is wishing you to be a blessing to people. For this purpose, you must live a life in a sphere of His authority, a sphere which is under His administration. This is the divine principle, so you must not be fool enough to seek only blessings. Unless you become subject to God, you will never be blessed by God. [Rev. 22:1](#) **And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.** A river of water of life is proceeding out of the throne but not out of anywhere else. Anyone who is not subject to the throne cannot participate the flow of the river of water of life.

It is not a normal situation if a church is not being blessed. If God who blesses cannot bless the church, then there must be a problem in brothers and sisters serving there.

Testimony of a responsible brother of the church:

After I started church meetings in my house in Kobe since April of 1993, the number of people gathering to the Lord's day meeting has increased 10 or more percent every year. But after the number of the Lord's day meeting reached 120, which was from year of 2015 to 2016, its growth rate became below 10 percent. I was greatly troubled by this fact. In October of 2016, at the very next day after returning from the business trip to the U.S., I was flying to Nepal to join the conference to give a message there. During my flight, I heard the Lord's speaking within me, "Aren't you too busy to meet the needs of your church?" Promptly I responded, "Employment of ten and more brothers and sisters is on my shoulders, and the finance of our church is also on my shoulder. So it is difficult to quit my job." However I had no peace inwardly, so I opened myself to the Lord to have fellowship with Him. I felt I should listen to the voice of the Lord instead of seeking a blessing to my work, and I eventually decided to leave that company. After returning from Nepal, I had fellowship with my wife and several serving saints about quitting my job. They all agreed my decision, so I started a negotiation with the US headquarter about leaving that company. I was granted three month of special paid holidays and left there in December 2017. Actually I didn't go to the office since beginning of September. Our church has increased the number of saints at the later of 2017, and after then we have been able to resume 10% increase. God wishes to bless our church but my busy-ness has hindered the growth of our church. My work has been amazingly successful by the Lord's blessing,

but after I followed the Lord's leading and quit the job, I have been able to spend more time to serve the church. Praise the Lord.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, in order for the church to be blessed, responsible ones and serving ones of the church need to take a lead to be subject to God and to live under the God's administration. It is because our living is the base of our service. Unless living under the God's administration, God cannot bless the church. Lord, I train myself to live under the God's administration. May churches increase and become prosperous on the earth. This is a dream and a goal of my life."

Crucial Point(3): The greatest blessing is not the outer blessings, but to make our soul transformed to become a pillar in the church.

OL1: God "has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ."

OL2: Through His shepherding in His recovery by life, the Lord brings us into the enjoyment of His blessing and causes us to become a source of blessing under the showers of blessing. First, we ourselves enjoy the Lord's blessing, and then the Lord will cause us to become a source of blessing to others so that they may be supplied. God will cause the showers of blessing to come down in season.

OL3: The greatest blessing that we receive from the Lord is not what the Lord gives us; it is what the Lord makes us, what He enables us to become.

OL4: We must realize that in our work, in our Christian life, and in our church life, everything depends on the Lord's blessing.

Eph. 1:3 **Blessed be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ.** The word every [in 1:3] indicates the all-inclusiveness of God's blessings. It includes all, with no exception.

All these blessings are spiritual. This indicates the relationship of God's blessings to the Holy Spirit. Being spiritual, all the blessings with which God has blessed us are related to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is not only the channel, but also the reality, of God's blessings.

Heavenlies here indicates not only the heavenly place, but also the heavenly nature, state, characteristic, and atmosphere of the spiritual blessings with which God has blessed us. They are from the heavens with a heavenly nature, heavenly state, heavenly characteristic, and heavenly atmosphere. The believers in Christ are enjoying on earth these heavenly blessings. They are heavenly as well as spiritual.

Finally, all these spiritual blessings are in Christ. Christ is the virtue, the instrument, and the sphere in which God has blessed us. Outside of Christ, without Christ, God has nothing to do with us. But in Christ He has blessed us with

every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. If we are in ourselves, we are through with God's blessing. Hallelujah, we are in Christ, who is the sphere, the channel, the instrument, and the virtue in which we have been blessed!

[Ezek. 34:26](#) And I will make them ... a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing. The Lord promised not only that His people would receive His blessing but also that He would make them a blessing.

[Rev. 3:12](#) He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name. The Lord does not promise to give us holiness or a heavenly blessing. No, here He promises to make us become something—a pillar in the temple of God.

Becoming a pillar in the temple of God involves two things—transformation and building. Since I came to this country, my burden has been on these two matters. The greatest blessing the Lord can render us is to transform us and to build us into His temple....[What does it mean] to be made a pillar in the temple of God?...If we use the little power we have received of the Lord on His word and mean business with Him, then we are ready to be transformed and are in the proper position for the Lord to make us a pillar. This requires that we firstly be transformed into precious material and secondly that we be built into a pillar. How can we, who are clay, become a pillar in God's temple? There is no way except to be transformed from clay into precious stone and then to be built into God's building...The greatest blessing is not what the Lord gives us, but what the Lord makes us.

[Application to young working saints/graduate students](#)

At the end of the 20th century, great global companies such as GE and P&G began to spend a great deal on training their employees. Because it is people who carry out their work, and when they are fulfilled, they have the idea that they can improve their work. In fact, God has such an idea from the beginning. God's economy does not give you something and bless you, but to transform yourself into a component of New Jerusalem.

A foolish man seeks only outer blessings, but God wishes you to be made up of God and be transformed. This is a true blessing.

For example, working youth between the ages of 30 and 35 should focus on being equipped and trained themselves rather than seeking to increase

immediate income. By this age, you should decide on your future direction, move forward in that area, and pursue to become a manager. Then you can become a useful person trained by the Lord and the company, and you will have a great future for your company.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I seek you, not blessings outside, but a true spiritual and heavenly blessing. Please spread from my regenerated spirit to mind, transform my soul, and give life to the mortal body. Without transforming, we cannot be useful to both God and others. Please make me one of the victors who can be transformed and become a pillar. I pray in the name of the Lord. Amen!"

New tune (Original hymns: E600)

1.
My God, my Portion, and my Love,
My everlasting All,
I've none but Thee in heav'n above,
Or on this earthly ball.
What empty things are all the skies,
And this inferior clod!
There's nothing here deserves my joys,
There's nothing like my God.
2.
To Thee I owe my wealth, and friends,
And health, and safe abode;
Thanks to Thy name for meaner things,
But they are not my God.
How vain a toy is glittering wealth,
If once compared to Thee!
Or what's my safety, or my health,
Or all my friends to me.
3.
Were I possessor of the earth,
And called the stars my own,
Without Thy graces and Thyself,
I were a wretch undone.
Let others stretch their arms like seas,
And grasp in all the shore;
Grant me the visits of Thy grace,
And I desire no more.