



The Cross
Japanese Service
From July 10 to October 30, 2005

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July, 10, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

1 . 誇り(Pride)

GALATIANS 6:14

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Reckless running because of no aim

This age becomes an age not knowing what is right and what is valuable. There are some effects on reckless running without right aim.

1. Most of those in 20th century couldn't make good use of their abilities and energy in a right way. Without using intellect, technique, and communication abilities that were given from God, one own happiness was emphasized.
2. Persons in 21st century seek for the way to live with putting affairs of 20th century in order.
3. There is a problem to become egotistic when one tries to find out the aim how to make one self happy.
4. Egotism destroys ones.

What is needed this age is as unchangeable aim. That is to live with the words and precepts of Jesus Christ, which do not change during these 2000 years. It is him who shows the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Those who follow Jesus never go in a wrong way. Religionists talk about the way, the truth, and the life, however Jesus declares that he is the way, the truth, and the life.

The person who aimed at Jesus; Paul

Jesus Christ was not a past person for Paul. Paul called him "Christ" which means the Lord. The word of the Lord has 3 features.

1. A master who should be served. The least Paul was eager to be a slave of Jesus.
2. A teacher whom one should learn from. Paul tried to learn from Jesus.
3. A leader who should be followed. Paul attempted to follow Jesus.

Those who know their Lord clearly like Paul have joy. Paul was aware of not being able to save him by himself, so he called Jesus "Christ". "Christ" is the person dispatched from God, saving one's life, and freeing one from salve of sin.

Never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

In the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, the words, actions, and character of Jesus are stood for.

Nothing is more precious than the Cross and it is so marvelous that it is shame to boast of anything except it. Paul had a lot of things to proud of but he didn't proud of them because of the cross, which is extremely good. The cross cut Paul from this world, which goes toward a wrong way. The cross keeps us away from bad influence of this world. The cross let us have a steady life in this unsteady world. What our concern is just whether we are given a life by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. It dose not matter how this world evaluates us, what this word thinks of us. The matter should be thought about is to live with the cross. Nothing is worth except for it.

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (GALATIANS 6:14)

July, 17, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

2 . 贖罪(Atonement)

ROMANS 3:23-24

, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

The cross of Jesus Christ is said to be "Atonement". It is for all of humans. It is true that religion background of Judah differs from that of Japan however both of them are very similar in basic points. There is a comparison of religion background of Judah and Japanese.

| Judah | Japan | Similarities |
|---|---|--|
| Only one God | So many gods | The sense of deep reverence for God |
| The lows of God; if ones keep the lows, they are blessed, but if they don't, they aren't. | 因果応報(INGAOUHOU); a belief that there is a connection between one's deed and happiness or unhappiness. | There is a contract with God. |
| Sin | Wrong | There is something that is believed to break the contract with God |
| Atonement | A memorial service and purification | There are some ways to avoid nemesis from heaven. |

All of humans are in awe of something that cannot see, such as God (Judah), Heaven (Japan). All of us have sinned because we are sinful, foolish, and have worldly desires. Our sins are so deep and enormous that our efforts are useless to save us. The cross of Jesus Christ as a gift from God receives all of our sins. It is God's grace that we are connected with heaven through it. All humans in the earth have the same problems and seek for the same solution. The cross of

Jesus Christ is the saving way for all human beings.

July, 24, 2005

Poster Hiroshi Horikawa

3. 打ち傷(Bruise)

1 PETER 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

About sins

For Judah, sins are to break the law from God. The law is the contract with God. If the law is kept, there are good things and grace for Judah, however if not, there are bad things, like poor crop, the death of domestic animal, etc. The Ten Commandment is centered of it, which shows rules for the whole life.

It is Jesus who fulfills the law. The aim of Jesus on his life was to accomplish the law.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish, but to fulfill. (MATTHEW 5:17)

Jesus made a point not of the words in the law, but of the spirit. The sins which Jesus means is not only words and behavior like breaking the law, but also hearts that are bringing a bad thought or idea like something to let us get angry with neighbors. The spirit of the law is extremely important.

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool’, you will be liable to the hell of fire. (MATTHEW 5:21-22)

Having counting, ugly, or dirty thoughts is also sinful. Humans is so sinful and egoism that we try to judge others without noticing self sins. It is indeed sinful that we do not perceive our own sins. The important thing is not only to keep the law, but also to have the hearts to love our neighbors; integrate with loving God and loving neighbors. If there is no heart to love God and others, sin is committed.

Jesus Christ bore the sins.

Jesus Christ did not only teach the law, but also bear all sins in order to fulfill it. The law is

accomplished through the redemption that is in him. Redemption for sins is essential to keep order of the human society because wisdom of humans destroys nature. For God it is sin that we just say or think 'You fool', so we are too sinful to recompense sins that are committed by ourselves, that is, our death is useless. It is only Jesus Christ who can bear all sins. Thanks to the cross, we are free from sins; we are forgiven.

To live right

He himself bore our sins in his body bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

(1 PETER 2:24)

Jesus Christ not only recompenses our sins, but also enables us to die against sins and to live for righteousness. We are given freedom to live for righteousness, God's will because our sins have been solved. Without the cross, we were bound to sins and we were slave of them. However, now through the cross of Jesus Christ, we become free so we have to use the freedom to live for righteousness. Although we would commit sins from now on, we do not have to worry about that because the Cross of Jesus Christ will pay for them. So the Cross sets us free from sins and then we live for righteousness.

The healing by the Bruise

Jesus Christ died with extremely pain and suffering. His death is for forgiving our sins. But not only that, that is to say his death is for healing our suffering. It is not easy for us to live for righteousness, but Jesus Christ knows our suffering and suffers with us. So we have a great joy even if we are in the suffering because there is a joy that he is with us. No matter how painful we have, it is not painful one because he is with us and he also suffers for us.

July, 31, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

4 . 父の痛み(Father's Pain)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Bible says that Jesus is the son of God and insists the relationship of parent and child.

And the world became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

It is how much God loves us that he wants to tell us through the relationship of a parent (God) and his son (Jesus Christ). God gave his only son to show us how big his love for us is.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The Passion of a Father; God (the suffering of God)

God's son had an extreme physical pain on the Cross to bear all sins. God had an extreme mental pain to look at his son's suffering. God also suffered from bearing all sins. The Cross is also the Passion of the Father.

The relation between Father (God) and the son (Jesus)

1. God sent his only son to the earth. He avoided his son's dangerous that would happen after his birth to save all of humans. Father blessed when his son were baptized.

and the Holy spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved. (Luke 3:22)

2. His Son called his Father "Eli", which means Dad.
The Father did miracles as replying his son's pray.
His Son didn't act his wish but did his Father's will and wishes.

Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. (John 5:19)

The Father and The Son were one even though it couldn't see by eye.

3. The Son, Jesus Christ, prayed in Gethsemane, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me". He prayed for three times and then he decided to do what his Father wanted. The Father looked at his Son's unjust trial quietly.
The Father looked at his Son keeping quiet when his Son was flogged, the soldiers put a crown made out of thorn on his head, and he was made to carry his cross to a place called Golgotha.
4. The Father looked at his Son keeping silent when his son's hands and feet were nailed to the Cross; the Crucifixion of his son.
When the soldiers cast lots to divide his clothing, he, Jesus, said "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." This prayer was heard of.
The Father looked at his Son, who bore all sins and cried "*Eli, Eli, lema, sabachthani?*" that is,

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" silently.

Why did God have pain?

God feels a great compassion toward humans, while he is very strict about sins. God's pain is proof that the righteousness and the love for humans clashed on the Cross. There is true love in pain. There is pain in forgiving things which are not forgiven, and loving those who are not loved. To save all humans, God have a great pain and the only one part of the pain is shown on the Cross.

August, 7, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

5 . 平和の印 (Mark for Peace)

EPHESIANS 2:15-16

... , that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one boy thorough the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

The Problems about Nuclear Weapons

1. There are more than 30,000 nuclear warheads, which make it possible to destroy the earth again and again.
2. Several thousands of them are ready to be fired off instantly.
3. Nuclear disarmament progresses very slowly.

To Abolish Nuclear Weapons

1. We need to learn from the serious errors of the past.
2. We need to learn from the tragedy of nuclear weapons.
3. We need to know how foolish humans are.

The choice to drop atomic bomb 60 years ago was the worst one. Never think that using the atomic bomb was right. Because of the atomic bomb, innumerable people suffered and are still suffering. There should have been another way. Wisdom should be used for one's happiness. Never use wisdom to take one's life away. Things, including nuclear weapons, which threaten one's life, are evil indeed. Unfortunately, still now there are more than 30,000 nuclear weapons. An incorrect future could come if the past is not understood correctly. It is necessary to know that one's wisdom is so trivial and not noticing that is foolish.

Why do humans have hostility toward each other and contend with each other?

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of

the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. (EPHESIANS 2: 14-16)

Hostility can be created by the past, history, and law with its commandments and ordinances. God wishes peace for us while generally speaking, we have hostility toward each other. God creates peace between us through the Cross of Jesus Christ.

1. The past, history

The past can create hostility. We do not have hostility toward those who meet for the first time. Hostility as the dividing wall is made by history and history antagonizes humans, however Jesus Christ has broken the dividing wall through the Cross and he forgave and forgot all sins through it. God has taken all the sins of humans. Now, our sins are forgiven and forgotten so we forgive others through the Cross. The Cross which makes of a vertical pole and a horizontal pole connects with God and humans and with each of us. Forgive anything as God did, forget anything as God did, and conquer difficulties as God did. The Cross should lay on us.

2. Law with its commandments and ordinances

A law that each of us has, and thoughts about how things should be, divides us. A belief that the different ideas from one's own are wrong is also wrong and big mistakes. God creates a large variety of humans and makes each human unique. When humans are seen from God's eye, there is nobody that is wrong because the one's wrong is born by God on the Cross. Because God clears our wrong on the Cross, there is not wrong. So it is sin that one regards another as wrong because God doesn't think us as wrong. God leans the bridge as the Cross, realizes peace, and takes away commandments so that we can forgive each other.

To make peace (National level)

1. Never justify war as right.
2. Never glorify war.
3. Keep away from war.

As saying 'thou shalt not kill', whatever happens, we never justify and glorify war. We have to understand how foolish and how tragic war is and then never repeat the evil.

To make peace (Personal level)

1. Never think the difference between one and another as wrong: in this world there is no wrong because all mistakes are crucified.
2. Learn how precious peace is from the Cross: Jesus Christ devoted his own life on the Cross to bring peace among all nations.
3. Peace is Love, Peace is Faith, and Peace means understanding God's grace: God tells us to

sue for peace.

Jesus Christ bore our all sins, such as hating others and getting anger with others. He brings peace to us and protects the peace between us and our neighbors. The Cross is the mark of Peace and tribute of Love.

August, 14, 2005

Pastor Kevin Soileau

6 . 平和を得られますか？ (Can you find peace?)

EPHESIANS 2:17

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near

PEACE?

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to Father. (EPHESIANS 2:14-18)

- What is peace?
- Where can I go to find it
- How can I get it?
- Do you really want to peace or something else?
- What does the bible say about it?

PEACE: THE OLD TESTAMENT

- SHALOM
- The historical book: Peace = the absence of conflict + blessing.
- Psalm & Proverbs: Peace = man experiencing God's Presence.
- Prophetical Books: Peace = God preparing to send the prince of peace to all nations.

PEACE: THE NEW TESTAMENT

- EIRENE (GK)
- The peace of God comes through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.
Jesus Christ is our peace indeed. When he is in our heart, there is real peace. In fact, humans are in conflict with God so Jesus Christ is only the way to create peace for he is our

peace.

CHRIST'S PEACE

- No longer at war with God. Because of our sins, we struggled. We were at war with God, however when we have faith in God, God's blessing is given.
- God's blessing (completeness, forgiveness, inner peace, the ability to make peace with others.)
- Warning: normal hostilities way continue.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I gave to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (JOHN 14:27)

I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world. (JOHN 16:33)

We never get peace through one's wisdom, but through Jesus, though the Cross, peace is with us and in the middle of the war we have his peace in our mind, because Jesus Christ is peace and this peace is for all nations. The peace among our neighbors, co-workers, roommates, etc., spreads the world peace.

August, 21, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

7 . へりくだる(Humble)

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, (PHILIPPIANS 2: 2-9)

This world, human society, is likely to draw attention to selfish profit, selfish honor, and becoming superior to others. As the result, there is no interest paid to others. However the Bible says the opposite things and the deeds of Jesus Christ is very different.

Philosophy on life

1. Motivation

The motivation to act something does not come from one's egoistic and self-conceit.

2. Interest, Concern

The interest or concern for others is prior to that for oneself. That is, the attention is paid not for oneself, but for others.

3. Consciousness

The consciousness should be one to think others are much more important, worthwhile, and respectable than the self.

In conclusion, do not concern about what we are going. What we need to concern is whether our neighbors are happy and get profit. It might be natural to follow the desire of self-profit and self-honor however the Bible says to consider it is not self but others that are worthwhile and it also says to be satisfied with everything as long as they are happy. What we should consider is not our own good things or honor but our neighbors' profit, and happiness.

Positive modesty based on Jesus Christ

1. Throwing away God form:

... he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, (PHILIPPIANS 2:6)

2. Becoming human:

... emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. ... (PHILIPPIANS 2:7)

Jesus Christ, who is eternal, perfect and is not ruled by space, became a human who is controlled by space, is imperfect, and has limited knowledge.

3. Death on a cross:

He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. (PHILIPPIANS 2:8)

God became a human and had death on a cross, which is the most suffering and miserable.

The Modest borrowed from Jesus Christ

1. Motivate:

Jesus Christ never asked for self profit and glory. He required uselessness and being insulted because his interest is only human beings.

2. Interest Concern:

The interest and concern of Jesus faced toward human beings. He was never interests in himself. That's why he threw away God's form for all of humans who are suffering.

3. Consciousness:

Jesus felt it is human that is more precious and worth than himself.

Jesus gave up an eternal life, became a scapegoat for us on the cross and received God's anger to let us live. He never asks for his own glory. He is with the suffered and has the same suffering with pleasure as long as they are healed. If interests face toward self profit, pressure, honor, and success, the life will become heavy and there will be compliments against one's own life. Without thinking self profit, Jesus longed for as many people as possible seeing the only God and having pleasure to live real life through him. He became ugly and had a death on a cross to save human beings.

Jesus became a man and had a death of a cross because he has strong compassion and love against all humans, all nations. We should follow this model, which has his deep compassion and love toward humans. When we humble ourselves, God highly exalts us. There is no need to enhance one self and wish self success because those things are accomplished by God

August, 28, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

8 . 祈りに応えて(Take it to the Lord in prayer)

MATTHEW 27:46

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

PSALMS 22 reminds the Cross of Jesus.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? (PSALMS 22:1)

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; "Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver – let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" (PSALMS 22:7-8)

I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divided my clothes among themselves and for my clothing they cast lots. (PSALMS 22:17-18)

Why do there words in PSALMS, which made long time before the Cross see to express the Cross? Psalms is a song, poems, and prayers but it is not prophecy, so the authors of them were not prophet. Surprisingly, those human words accorded with the cross of Jesus. This can mean that the prayers were taken to the Lord. He saved them, and moreover he also had their sorrows by becoming human and having death of the cross.

God solves all of the problems in this world in a right way. Some of them may seem not to be solved, however he never ignores them. He understands our suffering and has the same pain with us. This is proved on the cross, where Jesus Christ had a great pain, suffering, sorrow, and being abandoned by the Lord. Here is the real solution; God suffers with us. If all of our troubles should be solved in a way we hope, we could not realize our big sins at all. The cross shows our prayers are taken to him. No other solution is better than this, that is, our troubles are known to him and he has our troubles with us.

For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendents of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. (HEBREWS 2:16-18)

September, 4, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

9 . 新しい契約[New Covenant]

LUKE 22:20

And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26)

In that time, bread and wine were eaten every day so he wanted to remember him at all times. Through the cross of Jesus Christ, a new covenant was formed. Before that, there was only an old covenant.

| <u>About an old Covenant</u> | <u>About a new Covenant</u> |
|--|---|
| 1. A covenant is made by the contracts (rules) which are based on the Ten Commandments. | 1. A covenant is made by the cross of Jesus Christ. |
| 2. A covenant was exchanged by God and Judah. | 2. A covenant that forgives all sins and violations. |
| 3. Judah proved that human cannot keep the rules because they broke the first commandment that is “you shall have no | 3. A covenant is exchanged by God and all humans. Those who believe God are given eternal life, that is, they can live as his children |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| other gods before me” (EXODUS 20:3). | and he is with them. |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|

The old covenant is a contract that has rules, for example, there is blessing when Judah keep God’s promises, while this new covenant has no rule. He gives the new covenant without any conditions because all human beings are so selfish and sinful. Good things we do are very small one and after all humans are weak and cannot do anything. On the Cross our violations are received so all our violations are forgiven.

What the Eucharist tells

The new covenant is completed by God, Jesus Christ and nothing is demanded from humans. We do not have to do anything except for eating and drinking things given to us with deep gratitude for this new covenant, which was formed though the Cross, where Jesus Christ had a great suffer and pain instead of us. God loves us so much that he made this new covenant without any conditions. We only accept this without hesitating.

Connection with God and humans by the Cross

1. Anybody can have the connection.
2. The connection never breaks up.
3. Nothing is asked for to make the connection.
4. This connection is base on the historical truth; the Cross of Jesus Christ.
5. The connection is eternal and stable.

Although our sins are so big and deep that they are never forgiven no matter how greatly we suffer, this connection and the new covenant never change.

September, 11, 2005
Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

10 . 朽ちないもののために(For the endurance)

John 6:27

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.

| | |
|---|---|
| The food that perishes | The food that endures |
| Every thing that exists in this world is perishes. The things that are perceived through human’s five senses. | The food that endures is not belonged to this world and is not perceived through human’s five senses. |

Treasures on earth and treasures in heaven

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust

consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. (MATTHEW 6:19-20)

Why does our concern go toward the things that perish? It is true we cannot live without foods that perish, but it is bad that we have a great enthusiasm for them. Our life does not exist for a thing that comes to an end. However we, humans, are so weak as to be ruled our hearts by the things that decay.

Jesus said "Do not worry about anything." All things we need are known to God. Worrying about anything is a great damage in the life because the heart is ruled in this world when there is anxiety in the heart. The things that fade do not make the meaning for us to live in this world. What matters is how well we work for the thing that endures and how well we concerns about it. How do we get the thing that endures?

Jesus said to him, "if you wish to be perfect, go, sell, your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." (MATTHEW 19:21)

When we give wealth in this world; a food that perishes, we can be given wealth in heaven; a food that endures. We seek for the riches on this world, even though we know how precious the thing that endures, eternal life, is. This is sin and Jesus tells us to release ourselves from the bonds of this world.

On the model of Jesus Christ

1. Jesus Christ did not have the things that have an end. He did not have a wallet and the thing he had is only one cloth that he wore.
2. He left nothing. The soldiers divided his only one cloth.
3. He gave his life without hesitating. He released his life to save all of humans.

He has nothing to do with the thing that. Having nothing is beautiful. To get the thing that perishes, we need to scramble, contend, make use, and hold something tightly. These deeds can make someone unhappy because we get something by robbing someone and we get fame and honor by edging out someone. However when we get the thing that endures, others make happy because we can release and give things that we have without unwillingness. The thing that endures can be got by giving things. In the parteciple in the heaven, giving is necessary to get a thing. It is also necessary to follow Jesus Christ in order that we let eyes in our mind see toward the thing that endures.

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35)

11 . 熟年よ大志を抱け (The mature, be ambitions!)

JOEL 2:28

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

Simeon and Anna (LUKE 2:21-38)

Simeon

... this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. (LUKE 2:25)

Anna

... She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. (LUKA 2:37)

Simeon and Anna met the child when Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Both of them longed for the Messiah and it was long time since they waited for him. They found that the child was the Messiah when they saw him. Simeon was assured that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Anna spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem.

The prophecy of Simeon

1. Salvation for all peoples: though Jesus, all peoples are saved.

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. (LUKE 2: 30-32)

2. He split the people in Israel and people spoken against him. He rises up many people who have suffering, disease, and so on. He falls down those who are frauds, pretenders etc.

Then Simon blessed them and said to his Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the raising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed" (LIKE 2:34)

3. The sad future of his mother, Mary.

... so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--- and a sword will pierce your own soul,

too. (LUKE 2:35)

About 30 years later, Mary had a great sorrow. But when the inner thoughts of many are revealed, that is to say, sins, hurts, and burdens which are hidden are unveiled, the sins are forgiven, hurts are healed and burdens are freed.

To live for our Lord

1. Never left a church. To live close to God it is important to have fellowship and go to a church.
2. Serve God through praying. A service of praying is the most excellent one that human can. There are no other deeds that are not more precious than praying. Try to make our praying food for the life.
3. Encourage people with the words in the Bible. Tell the words in the Bible in accordance with experience.

To change view

1. Let our eyes go toward our neighbors
Simeon was pleased to meet the child because he knew all peoples in this world would be saved through him. It is said that one is never alone when he or she lives not for his or her but for others. It is important to think about how well we can use our time which is given for others.
2. Let our eyes go toward not our own small room but world.
Even if an area of our activity is limited and small, it is possible to make world in our mind broad.
3. Let our eyes go toward not past but future.
God gives us future so that living for the future is wonderful.

When God's Spirit is poured on all of peoples, old people will have dreams. Living close to God, which is to use our own time for Him and our neighbors, leads us to the God's Spirit. At that time, God's gives us future and dreams.

September 25, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

1 2 . 死の革命(Revolution by the death)

1 CORUNTHIANS 15:54-55

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

What is death? There are several opinions about it.

Sigmund Freud said every creature drove for death. あらゆる生あるものの目指すところは死である。

La Rochefoucauld said it was impossible to see death and sun directly.

死と太陽は直視することができない。

Marcel Pagnol said to die did not matter to me but it was a pity to be parted from this world.

死ぬことはなんでもないが、この世と別れることが僕にはつらい。

Cesare Borgia said, "During my life I have prepared for everything except for the death. Now I have to die but I haven't done anything for that yet".

私は生きているときに、死以外のあらゆるものに対して備えをしていた。今、私は死なねばならぬ。そしてまだ何の備えもしていない。

Michel Eyquem de Montaigne said we disturbed our life by worrying about the death and we disturbed our death by worrying about the life.

私たちは死の心配によって生を乱し、生の心配によって死を乱す。

There seems to be anxiety about death.

Death in the Bible

"Life" is the breath of life breathed by the Lord. (GENESIS) "Death" means that the breath from him goes away from the human body. It is essential to be given the breath of life to live. When humans were with him, they didn't have to die because the breath was given from something like outlet. But now humans' life has its end because their charge to live is like dry battery, not like outlet. The Bible says "... it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment," (HEBEREWS 9:27)

Death Revolution by Jesus Christ

"Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?" (1 CORUNTHIANS 15:54-55)

Through the Cross of Jesus Christ and the Resurrection, the meaning for death was completely changed. There is a victory against death. He removed the sting of our death. The sting is our sin and our sin is the cause of the sting. So if once we knew the Cross and the Resurrection, the death can be a moment for joy without pain and suffer. Death seems to bring dark shadow which makes people sad, however the dark shadow was taken away by Jesus Christ who has revolutionized the death and our death never brings us any worries. Through the Cross of Jesus Christ, our death becomes the second door to connect us with our Lord again.

October 2, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

13 . 純粋な動機 (Pure Motivation)

2 CORINTHIANS 5:15

And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died

and was raised for them.

Every act has its motivation

The motivation for one's self

There is no real happiness in living for one's self or in acts based on self motivation. As long as the deed is based on selfish motivation, we will only get temporary satisfaction. Also, when things aren't going well, there are complaints and frustrations. What is worse, this kind of motivation makes trouble for others and brings unhappiness to them because of our self-centeredness. Actually, to live for yourself never leads to real happiness.

The motivation for others

In actions motivated by others there might be a balmy satisfaction. However this motivation makes us feel sensitive to the reaction of others because we tend to expect to be thanked or rewarded for what we have done. In addition, this motivation doesn't apply for everyone but only for those people we like. It is true that these acts are based on motivation for others, but within it is satisfaction of the selfish.

To live for the Savior

The Holy Bible shows what our best motivation is:

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live on longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. (2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15)

Jesus Christ died for all of us and for each one of us. There are three meanings to the Cross:

1. To give us eternal life.

Death is not the end of our life but the beginning of part two of our life.

2. To burn away our sin, the selfishness of our self-centered life.

It is absolutely necessary that our egoistic ideas and behavior should be expelled from our life. Selfish egoistic motivation for something robs us of our pure motivation. Self-centered thoughts distort the real, beautiful, motivation for our behavior which a human originally has. When it is hard to love our neighbors, this shows that we are trying to live for the self. It is the thought of protecting our self and thinking of caring for our self rather than other people that caused Jesus to die on the Cross.

3. To show us the perfect model.

...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (HEBREWS 12:2)

Jesus' way of behaving, of living, was to live not for himself but for others. He never did anything for himself.

Fortunately, here is the best model to motivate how we live our life. That is to say, to live with pure motivation and to die with the pure motivation just like Jesus Christ did. When we reject the way of living for ourselves and choose the way of living for our eternal savior, who died and was resurrected for us, we are free from the curse of me, of the ego, of the demanding self. When we live not for our self but live for Jesus, our behavior does not go in the wrong direction.

For the love of Christ urges us on, (2 CORINTHIANS 5:14)

When the perfect Love which Jesus gives becomes the motivation for our acts and we are encouraged to do something by his perfect Love, these acts are filled with pure desires. There is nothing in the world that can give us pure motivation. Only Jesus gives us pure motivation.

October 9, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

14 . 捨てる喜び(The pleasure of throwing away)

LIKE 9: 23

Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Throwing away

1. What throwing away the self means

A) Throwing away the self means to stop clinging on to our family and things that are owned.

And everyone who has left houses or brothers sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundred fold, and will inherit eternal life. (MATTHEW 19:29)

Because all of the things we have are given from God, they should not be used for our self. Everything, whether our house or our family, does not exist for our selfish purposes. Family is a precious system made by God.

B) Throwing away the self means to strip off the old self, the sinful self.

But now you must get rid of all such things--- anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practice and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. (COLOSSIANS 3: 8-10)

What we have to throw away is our old self. If we hang on to our old self, we cannot be renewed.

C) Throwing away the self means to lay down one's life

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. (JHON 15:13)

A life which God gave is never dirty. No matter how sinful a person is, the life never becomes dirty. Each life is precious.

2. Throwing away means to deny the self.

A) Denying the decision to serve the self.

B) Denying the pleasure for the self.

C) Denying the hope of the self.

Try to deny or challenge things we have decided or assumed so that we can think about them and see other ones because our first decision is not always right. Try to deny the desire for the self pleasure and joy. Try to say "No" to your own goals, your own happiness and your own hopes. In doing so, we could realize something else. Denying the self means to deny and stop holding on to anything for the self so that we can have it for God and for others.

4. Throwing away means to destroy.

Jesus never ignores the broken hearted. It is not necessarily a bad thing to be hurt because it is not until our heart is bruised or broken that he heals it. After we are healed, we become able to forgive others and realize the nature of our real self. God brings joy to broken hearts. Our pride or our selfish thoughts damage us, however there is a happy experience when he breaks our hearts.

The pleasure of throwing away

...who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death... even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and give him the name that is above every name. (PHILIPPIANS 2:6-9)

Jesus gave up the form of God and emptied himself. He denied himself and took the form of a slave. In addition, he humbled himself and became obedient even to the point of death on a cross. He threw himself away so he was given the name that is above every name.

The perfect model according to Jesus Christ

- He stopped holding on to things and gave up everything such as the form of God, any possessions, his family, and his life.
- He denied everything such as his own interests, joy, hope etc. and then all he desired was to do

God's will.

- He allowed everything to be destroyed – his body, his pride, and himself. He emptied himself, therefore God exalted him.

There is a command for us to deny ourselves and to throw away the things we hold on to so that God can give us what is real. The things we have are temporary and fake. As we give up these things, we are given real things of true value.

RECOVERY by GOD

In return God gives us eternal life, joy, hope and meaning to our existence. Those things never cause anybody to be hurt. As we throw away the life in this world we get eternal life. When we give up temporary joys and hopes, we receive joy and hope that never fade away. Throwing away things is a pleasure.

October 16, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

15 . 担ぐ喜び (The pleasure of taking up)

LIKE 9: 23

Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

"Take up their cross daily".

What is a cross?

A cross is the tool for the death penalty. A cross is terrible, hard, and disgusting thing. There is no profit and no reward in taking our cross, because our cross never exists for bringing profit.

What does "Take up their cross daily" say?

To take up the cross does not mean to die on it. It means to carry the cross that was given to us. In other words to do anything that is undesirable, unpleasant and does not bring any profit, just for the pleasure of following Jesus Christ. Next comes "daily". "Take up their cross daily" includes three meanings. First, the cross is not the same thing for each of us. Each of us has a different cross. Secondly, there are no days when we don't take up our cross. Last is that it is best for us only to take up today's cross. We do not have to worry about the cross for tomorrow or next week or next year. "Take up their cross daily" shows the very opposite of the tendency in today's society.

What does this society seek?

We humans make a society which avoids hardship. This society seeks easy circumstances. We in this society avoid pain unconsciously. As a result, there are more young people who are inactive and are NEETs; (Not in Employment, Education, or Training). They are victims of today's society. When we have pain, suffering, and trials, we can realize that we are alive. Just as, after running, we can feel our hearts beating.

What is the role of the cross?

For us to lead a full life as a disciple of Jesus Christ, it is necessary for us to take up our own cross. This is because experiencing difficulties make us feel connection with Jesus Christ. The cross is like a teaching material. We can grow up by taking up the cross. Taking our own cross is a hard struggle but it leads us to go on the right way. The cross is like a compass to walk on the right way. There is a cross made to order for each of us. Without suffering, we would never look to Jesus Christ, the right direction for our lives.

About a man who was made to take up a cross

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (LUKE 23:26)

Now in the church at Antioch: there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. (Acts 13:1)

Made to carry the cross, Simon found the right way to lead an eternal life. Because there is the cross, which is a painful one, we are able to grow and to follow Jesus Christ. Hardship is given to us as a treasure to follow him. Let us take up our cross with pleasure. Let us be pleased at our suffering.

October 23, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

16 . 従う喜び (The pleasure of following)

LIKE 9: 23

Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

"Follow" is to do exactly what is said.

"Follow" means to throw away our self-centered thoughts, deny them and then consult someone. If

we are to follow him, the first thing we need to do is just to listen. Without listening, we cannot follow. We are wrong so we need to ask to be told and shown the way to follow Jesus Christ. In the Holy Bible, there are directions to follow. Reading it is listening.

“Follow” is not to refer or choose. If someone tries to choose from among some options, they give themselves power this is far from “Follow”. And also one should not say ‘No’ to follow. Saying ‘No’ is the same as expecting our leader to follow us. We have to be careful not to modify the precious message to suit ourselves.

“Follow” is not only to listen but also to act on what we are told. To DO, even when we know what we should do, is difficult. As Paul said *“I can will what is right, but I cannot do it” (ROMANS 7:18)*.

In the Holy Bible, there is an interesting story about a house and its foundation.

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’, and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock: when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house. (LUKE 6:46-49)

When one hears the words in the Holy Bible and obeys them, a foundation which never shakes is created. It is a wise man who listen to God’s words and acts on them. Whoever follows him will never fall down.

October 30, 2005

Pastor Hiroshi Horikawa

17 . 良い羊飼 (The Good Shepherd) ~Praise & Verse ~

JOHN 10:11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

[ISAIAH 53: 2- 10]

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for the sin, he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

聖歌 3 9 7 遠き国や

MATTHEW 26: 36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him with Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little father, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

静まれ我が魂よ

MATTHEW 26:57-68

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this word end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, Form now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we need still witness? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict? They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, 'Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?'

示してください道を

MATTHEW 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man". After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" Then peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you wick deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

聖歌 2 2 9 驚くばかりの

MATTHEW 27:1-2, 11-26

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews? Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you? And they said "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified."

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

聖歌 3 9 6 十字架のかげに

MATTHEW 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's head-quarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

金や銀の冠を

LUKE 23:26-56

*As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.
(LUKE 23: 26-27)*

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right, and one on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him. "This is the King of the Jews." (LUKE 23: 33-38)

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying "Are you not he

Messiah?" Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (LUKE 23: 39-43)

主イエスの十字架の血で

MATTHEW 27: 39-50

Those who are passed by derided him, shaking their hands and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am a God's Son'." (MATTHEW 27:39-43)

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until there in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachtani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. (MATTHEW 27:45-50)

父の涙

ROMANS 5:6-11

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – through perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

平和初めて知った

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, my sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death --- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

聖歌 399 カルバリの山の

1 PETER 2:19-25

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.