

Rev. 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

2:3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

2:4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

2:5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-unless you repent.

2:6 "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

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Good morning everyone.

It was a very changeable weather yesterday. It was a very heavy thunderstorm that I thought was sunny. The place where the water overflowed and the road became like a river was on TV. We are in a period of linear rain, guerrilla rainstorms, and alert times, but I would like everyone to be careful in combination with heat stroke.

Now, the apocalypse by John has also entered Chapter 2.

"The one who has seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks between the seven golden candlesticks," as mentioned in Chapter 1, is known to be the Lord Jesus.

The seven gold candlesticks are the seven churches in the Asia Minor region. It is likened to a golden candlestick that is expensive and shines in the fire, proving the glory of the Lord.

The names of the seven places where the seven candlesticks are placed were written in Revelation chapter 1, but if you trace this place name, it is called a semi-circle, or it becomes a horseshoe shape like a horse's hoof. In the middle of it the Lord stands, walks, and walks between the churches. The seven stars are called angels in the church, but angels are workers in the church. God holds the workers of this church firmly and holds them to make them shine with the stars. And he is in the middle of the churches, walking and watching over them. The letters to these seven churches are letters from Jesus. This is a letter to the church. The New Testament contains many Pauline epistles, but this is the only letter from Jesus. What would be the content of a letter from Jesus to our church? I feel like something fun and scary.

2 "I know your deeds, hardships, and patience, and I know that you couldn't stand the bad guys, and that you called yourself an apostle and looked up those who weren't, and spotted their lies. ing.

3 You have been patient, endured for my name, and never exhausted.

These verses 2 and 3 are kakekotoba. It is in contrast. There are three combinations in these two verses.

"I know your deeds and hardships." This contrasts with "I was never exhausted." This word with the same root,

I know that your work and karma was extremely difficult. It wasn't an ordinary thing, it was difficult and hard. But you were so tired, tired, tired, bored, tired, and tired of it. I have you praise this.

Next is the word "patience" in verse 2 "I know your patience" and in verse 3 "You keep patience". Patience in hardships and trials. Patience in a fierce situation. Be firm and immovable. It is an unyielding effort and hard work. Keep sneaking up. It is also called stubbornness.

Acts 19: 6 And when Paul put his hand on them, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, and then they spoke and prophesied.

19: 7 They were all about twelve.

19: 8 Then Paul went into the synagogue and boldly discussed and counseled the kingdom of God for three months.

19: 9 But some stiffened their hearts, refused to believe, and slammed this way in front of the congregation, and he took his disciples away from them. Discussed daily in the lecture hall of Tsurano.

19:10 It lasted for two years, and all the Jews and the Greeks who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord.

19:11 God has done extraordinary powerful works one after another by Paul's hand.

19:12 For example, when people took his towel or apron and put it on the sick, the sickness was removed and the demons went out.

19:13 Then the Jewish spells, the itinerants, gave the name of the Lord Jesus to those who were demon-possessed, and said, "I command by Jesus preaching Paul. Go, "I tried to say.

19:14 The seven boys of the Jewish chief priest, Skeva, did that too.

19:15 Then the demon said to this, "If Jesus, I know. Paul knows, but who are you?"

19:16 And the demon-possessed man jumped at them, holding them down and defeating them, and they were injured and naked, and fled the house.

19:17 This was known to all the Jews and Greeks who lived in Ephesus, and they were all terrified, and the name of the Lord Jesus was revered.

19:18 And those who became believers went out and confessed their actions.

19:19 Then many who practiced magic brought out a book of magic and burned it in front of everyone. When the total price was totaled, it was found that the price was as high as 50,000 silver.

19:20 In this way the word of the Lord became more and more active and powerful.

At the knees of the Temple of Artemis, the Great Goddess, God "made one after another extraordinary powerful works by Paul's hands."

Although there are difficulties, it is also the Lord's grace to be able to endure. In the powerful support of the Lord we

Patience in hardships and trials, patience in fierce situations, firmness, immobility. With unyielding efforts and hard work, you can continue to endure firmly.

"The Lord is my hand" New chant 474

1. The Lord will take my hand

Why are you scared or run away?

Leave everything in the hands of the gentle Lord

What is the blessing of being able to travel?

2. Sometimes it's raining, sometimes it's wind

It's difficult, but I don't think anything

Leave everything in the hands of the gentle Lord

What a blessing to be able to travel

3. How long will he walk?

The Lord has done that and is still paying

Leave everything in the hands of the gentle Lord

What a blessing to be able to travel

4. Anyone can reach Okawa, too.

If the Lord is with him

Leave everything in the hands of the gentle Lord

What a blessing to be able to travel

The third word is "I couldn't forgive (put up) the bad guys" and "I put up with it for my name."

"Although he calls himself an apostle, in fact, he tried out those who were not apostles and found out that he was a fake."

When I think of Jesus, I can't stand it. What about the gurus in the world, even though Jesus is the only child of God, God himself, and has destroyed himself so much that he has taken the place of us and redeemed us for the cross?

It has become clear that the criminal who shot and killed former Prime Minister Abe recently was the one who was in great distress. His relatives suffered from illness, his mother entered the Unification Church, and a series of suicides from her relatives. That person, Tetsuya Yamagami, also tried to commit suicide. The current unification church representative's interview, which was renamed, was a lie.

"I call myself an apostle, but in fact, I try out those who are not apostles and find out that they are fake." Without such an eye, I would be in a difficult situation. We pray and act deeply in the Unification Church for the salvation of those who suffer, and we feel the urgency.

Even in the situation of the church in Ephesus, there was a dislike for the work of the fake apostles, and there was a feeling that I could not stand it, and there was prayer and action for it. There may have been deep patience and pain, but because of what Jesus did for us in the name of Jesus, the false apostles are active in the name of Jesus. I couldn't forgive it, I couldn't stand it, and I couldn't help but endure it even if it was difficult. This is praised by Jesus.

However, the next section states that there is something to blame.

4 But there is something to blame for you. You have moved away from your first love.

It is surprising to know that they were so grateful for their feelings for the Lord that they had spotted the fake apostles and proceeded to teach them, away from their original love.

Of the seven churches, the first church to speak to. A church in a big city. What happened to the important church that knows deeply how great God has done in the city of Ephesus, which has a great history, in the town of the Temple of Artemis?

Before I knew it, my love had cooled down. It was a mortal orthodox principle, and even though it had the rightness, the see-through, and the penetrating eyes, it had lost love. If you are content with tradition, name, and formality, content with theological knowledge, and lose

what is really important, nothing will happen.

1 Corinthians 13: 1 But if I speak the words of the people and the words of the angels, but without love, I am like a noisy bell or a noisy bowl.

13: 2 And even if I have the power to prophesy, I am familiar with all mysteries and all knowledge, and I have strong faith to move mountains, but without love, I am nothing. be equivalent to.

13: 3 And if I give all my fortune to others, and give my body to be burned, it is of no use if there is no love.

13: 4 Love is forgiving, and love is compassionate. Also, don't be jealous. Love is not high, it is not proud.

13: 5 Do not be rude, do not seek your own interests, do not be annoyed, do not resent.

13: 6 Do not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoice in the truth.

13: 7 And endure everything, believe in everything, desire everything, and endure everything.

13: 8 Love never ceases. But the prophecies will be gone, the tongues will be gone, and the knowledge will be gone.

13: 9 For what we know is part, and what we prophesy is only part.

13:10 When the perfect is coming, the partial is gone.

13:11 When we were young, he spoke like a young child, felt like a young child, and thought like a young child. However, now that he is an adult, he has abandoned what seems to be a child.

13:12 We are now looking vaguely as if we were looking in the mirror. But at that time, you will see face to face. What I know is only a part now. But then, as I am fully known, I will be fully aware.

13:13 Thus, there are three things that will last forever: faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love.

Our church today also shows what is important and what we must not forget.

Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate. The gate to destruction is large and the road is wide. And there are many people who go in from there.

7:14 The gate to life is narrow, and the road is narrow. And few find it.

7:15 Watch out for the prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inside they are greedy wolves.

7:16 You will recognize them by their fruit. Is there anyone who collects grapes from thorns and figs from thistles?

7:17 So all good trees bear good fruit, and bad trees bear bad fruit.

7:18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit.

7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut and thrown into the fire.

7:20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruit.

7:21 Not all who say to me, "Lord, Lord," are in heaven, but only those who are in heaven and do the will of my Father.

7:22 On that day many said to me, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And did you drive out demons in your name and do many powerful works in your name? "

7:23 Then I will say clearly to them, "I do not know you at all. Those who work illegally, go. "

7:24 So what I do when I hear these words can be compared to the wise man who built his house on the rock.

7:25 When it rains, the floods rush, and the wind blows against the house, it will not fall. This is because it is based on rocks.

7:26 And I can compare those who hear these words of mine and do not do them to the foolish ones who built their houses on the sand.

7:27 When it rains, the floods rush, and the wind blows against the house, he collapses. And the way it collapses is terrible. "

7:28 When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowd was terribly surprised at the teaching.

7:29 For he was taught not like the scribes, but like the authoritative ones.

Even if we do a lot of good deeds, we will be able to find out if we are truly connected to Jesus, listen to His Word, and are full of God's love.

2: 5 So remember where you fell from, and repent and do the first work. If I do not repent, I will come to you and remove your candlestick from its place.

The important thing here is to "remember," "repent," and "do."

Deeply recall the love of the beginning, and remember that we are just by the love and salvation of Jesus because of what Jesus has done to us. And repent. It changes our minds, turns away from sin, and changes the direction of our lives. In this way, I will do what is in the Lord's will again. This is not off the mark.

2: 6 But this is the case. You hate the work of the Nikolai sect, and I hate it too.

I hate the work of the people of the Nikolai sect. This is a mixed human idea, apparently a compromised, secular, idolatry misconduct. We hate these things, always align our hearts with God, and we also want to live.

2: 7 Those who have ears should hear what the Spirit says to the churches. For those who win, let's forgive them to eat the nuts of life in God's paradise. '

The nut of life. It is a tree that was once located in the center of the garden and was ordered not to eat it after a person has sinned.

The word "tree" can also be found to mean a cross or a shackle tree.

Tree of life. It is the tree that Jesus atoned for our sins and gave us with blood at the expense of the fruit on the cross. We can receive the fruit of life from this cross of Jesus, eat it, and live forever.

I hope that you will grab this grace of Jesus, stay in this love of Jesus, and start walking from here again this week.

◇ Prayer; Thank you God the Father in Heaven for today's worship. To witness the Lord, do not be tired of the hard work that you sometimes feel, endure, cannot endure evil, and proceed with patience as a joy in the name of God. I can always remember the love that Jesus, the only child of God, was willing to take on the tree of curses for us, redeem, and make us edible from the tree of life. I hope you will. We hope that people of all ages, from children to the elderly, will be able to meet Jesus Christ at this time in the church. Congratulate our family and the people of the community. I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen