

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

3:20 "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

3:21 "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

[From Today's Sermon.

I am reminded of each of the events of the Christmas service.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, "This is according to the merciful will of our God, who has mercy on us, and on those who are in darkness and in the shadow of death. And by his mercy the light of day shall come upon us from above, and shall shine upon them that dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and shall guide our feet into the way of peace."

How wonderful were the good news, the light, and the heavenly praises that were announced to the shepherds who appeared to them in the middle of the night!

God is light. God is mercy, God is love, God is rich in forgiveness.

God does not want any of us to perish, but to live forever. He does not want any of us to perish, but to live forever. Behold, I tell you the great joy that is in store for all people...For unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. For unto you is born this Savior, the Christ the Lord.

God has made us children of light, "that you may be pure without blame, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and wicked age. And ye shall hold fast the word of life, and shine in the world as stars among them" (Bilipi 2:15).

As it says, He has made us to shine through weakness by the light of His forgiveness and love. We want to worship God's work by not loving the darkness, not pursuing ourselves but pursuing the Kingdom of God, righteousness, and truth, and by stepping forward into the light. He who is doing the truth will come to the light. For his deeds will be revealed as having been done in God.

Good morning everyone. We have had our Christmas time of worship, and today we are having our last time of worship for the year 2023.

I am reminded of the words of Christmas. A light shone in the darkness. The darkness that surrounded the shepherds on night watch disappeared, and the place was filled with good news and praise to God.

Luke 1:78 For this is the merciful will of our God, who has mercy on us. And according to his mercy the light of day will come upon us from above,

1:79 And he will enlighten them that dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and will guide our feet into the way of peace.

2:10 And the angel said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Behold, I tell you of the great joy that will be given to all people.

2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. This is the Lord Christ.

2:12 And ye shall see a little child lying in a manger, wrapped in a cloth. That is the sign given to you.

2:13 And immediately there appeared a great multitude of the heavenly host, and they were with the angel, and they rebuked God, saying, "This is a sign given to us, that we have seen the Son of Man, who is the God of heaven,

2:14 "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace to whom he will.

Today's verse speaks of those born of God, whose light it is, that is, Christians who have been produced by God in forgiveness and righteousness.

John 1:9 There was a light of truth to lighten all men, and he came into the world.

1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him. And the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

1:12 But to those who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave power to become sons of God.

1:13 For they were born, not of blood, nor of the lusts of the flesh, nor of the lusts of man, but only of God.

1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. And we beheld his glory, which is the glory as the only begotten of the Father. 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt

among us, and we saw his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Today's Bible, John 3:16, is the Bible's word in the Bible.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

3:18 He that believeth on him shall not be judged: but he that believeth not shall be judged. He who does not believe has already been judged. For they will not believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

3:19 The judgment is that the light has come into the world, and men have loved darkness rather than light because of their wickedness.

3:20 For all who do evil hate the light. And they will not come to the light, lest their deeds should be brought to light.

3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light. 3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light, so that his deeds, which he has done in God, may be made known.

God does not want any of us to perish. He did not want any of us to perish, but He willed the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, so that none of us would perish. Whoever believes in the redemption through His Son will never perish, but will have eternal life. What an exceptionless, fearless, and powerful salvation! This salvation, in which God redeems the world with His only begotten Son, is the final means of salvation, and there is no other means of salvation that surpasses it. There is no better means of salvation, and this salvation is perfect.

This salvation is not a man-made means of salvation, but a complete salvation that comes from God. There are no conditions required to receive this salvation. All we have to do is believe and receive.

The light comes to the world, the light of salvation shines upon us, and all we have to do is go out into that light.

Is it really that simple? Is it enough that there is absolutely nothing one must do to be saved? Such thinking is our old way of thinking. How long have we spent in the mindset that salvation from sin comes through actions on our part, such as obeying teachings, offering sacrifices, and so on? How many animal lives have been sacrificed, how much blood has been spilled, in

order to apologize to God and to restore that relationship? But has man's sinfulness really changed? Have we become better than we were in the past? No, they are not.

Romans 7:15 I do not know what I am doing. Romans 7:15 For I know not what I do, because I do not do what I desire, but what I hate.

7:16 For if I do what I do not desire, I approve that the law is good.

7:17 Therefore it is no longer I who am doing this thing, but sin that dwells in me.

7:18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing. For the will to do good is in me, but I have not the power to do it.

7:19 That is, the good which I desire, I do not do; but the evil which I do not desire, I do this.

7:20 For if I do what I do not desire, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

7:21 Then I see the law that evil has entered me who desires to do good.

7:22 For though as an inward man I delight in the law of God

7:23 And I see another law in my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and possessing me in the law of sin which is in my limbs.

7:24 What a wretched man I am! Who will save me from this body of death?

7:25 Shall I give thanks to God through our Lord Jesus Christ? Thus I myself serve the law of God in my heart, but in my flesh I serve the law of sin.

8:1 For this reason now he that is in Christ Jesus cannot be condemned.

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

8:3 For what the law could not do, because it was made powerless by the flesh, God has done. For God has done what the law could not do because it was impotent in the flesh: He has sent His Son to be sin for sin in the flesh, to be punished for sin in the flesh.

8:4 That the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not in the flesh but in the Spirit.

8:5 For he that followeth the flesh thinketh of the flesh, and he that followeth the Spirit thinketh of the Spirit.

8:6 For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the spirit is life and peace.

8:7 For the mind of the flesh is against God. 8:7 For the mind of the flesh is enmity against God: it does not obey, or cannot obey, the law of God.

8:8 And he that is in the flesh cannot please God.

8:9 But if the Spirit of God dwell in you, you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Christ.

8:10 For if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of

righteousness.

8:11 If the Spirit of him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised Christ Jesus from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

God has done what the flesh, being powerless, could not do. The new covenant is that we simply surrender, lean on God's mercy, and step out into the light of God's forgiveness and redemption with our sins as they are, and we will be forgiven through the atonement of the Lord Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:13 For if we are mad, it is for God's sake; if we are sure of our mind, it is for your sake.

5:14 For the love of Christ presses strongly upon us. We think thus. For as one died for all, so all have died.

5:15 And he died for all, that the living might live, no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again.

5:16 Therefore we will henceforth know no man according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 5:16 Therefore we know no man henceforth according to the flesh: for if we have known Christ in the flesh, we know him no more: for we know that he is God.

5:17 If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.

5:18 But all these things are from God. God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

5:19 For God has reconciled the world to himself in Christ, not imputing to it the guilt of its sins, but has committed to us the gospel of reconciliation.

5:20 For we are Christ's ambassadors, since God makes counsel through us, and we are Christ's ambassadors. 5:20 Therefore receive the reconciliation of God, which we hope for on behalf of Christ, that you may be reconciled to God.

5:21 For God hath made him to be sin for our sins, who knew no sin. 5:22 For he hath made him to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Yes, we are made completely new through Christ. It is a transformation of faith from a teaching that was impossible for man to keep the law by himself and be justified, to a grateful reception of the salvation that is in Jesus.

Ephesians 5:1 Thus be ye conformed to God, as beloved children of God.

5:2 And walk in love. For Christ also loved you, and gave Himself for us as a burnt offering and a sacrifice to God.

5:3 And do not even speak among yourselves of immorality and all manner of filthiness and covetousness, as is fitting for the saints.

5:4 And avoid vulgar speech and foolish talk and slovenly jesting. These are evil things. Rather, give thanks.

5:5 You must be well aware of this. For every transgressor, and every defiler, and every covetous man, and every worshipper of idols, shall not inherit the kingdom of Christ and of God.

5:6 Let no one deceive you with dishonest words, but let him who is deceived be deceived with dishonest words, and let him who is covetous be deceived with dishonest words. For these things the wrath of God will come upon the children of disobedience.

5:7 Therefore do not be one of them, for they are not of God.

5:8 For ye were darkness before, but now ye are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

5:9 For light is the fruit of all goodness, justice, and truth--

5:10 Know what is pleasing to the Lord.

5:11 Do not join in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather point them out to them.

5:12 For what they do in secret is shameful even to speak of.

5:13 But when exposed to the light, all things will be revealed.

5:14 For all that is revealed becomes light. Therefore it is written, / "Arise, you who are asleep, and arise, you who are dead. Rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine upon you. Rise up, and Christ shall shine upon thee.

5:15 Take heed, therefore, how ye walk, and walk not as unwise men, but as wise,

5:16 Make the most of the present time. For these are evil times.

5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but realize what the will of the Lord is.

5:18 Do not become drunk with wine. It is a source of drunkenness. Rather, be filled with the Spirit,

5:19 Speak to one another in psalms, and in songs of praise and of the spirit, and sing to the LORD with all your heart.

5:20 And in all things give thanks always to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5:21 And serve one another in the fear of Christ.

And we are to live as children of light in the light.

John 3:19 The judgment is that the light came into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because of their evil deeds.

3:20 Everyone who does evil hates the light. And they will not come to the light, lest their deeds should be brought to light.

3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light. 3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light, so that his deeds, which he has done in God, may be made manifest.

1 Peter 4:1 For as Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same resolve. For whoever has suffered in the flesh has escaped sin.

4:2 That he might spend the rest of his life in the flesh, not according to the lusts of men, but according to the will of God.

4:3 In days gone by you indulged yourselves in lust, lust, drunkenness, revelry, revelry, carousing, and idolatry, according to the tastes of the Gentiles; but now it is enough for you.

4:4 Now they are astonished and scornful because you have not joined them in such excesses of debauchery.

4:5 They will soon have to make an account to Him who judges the living and the dead.

4:6 For the gospel was preached even to the dead, that they might be judged as men in the flesh, but in the spirit they might live according to God.

4:7 For the end of all things is near. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be sure of heart and of mind and of body, and pray with all diligence.

4:8 First of all, keep your love for one another fervent. Love covers a multitude of sins.

4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

4:10 Since you have each received a gift, be good stewards of God's various blessings and use them for your mutual benefit.

Still serving our own hearts and living a self-centered life. That is enough, the Bible says. God has created us anew to live in love, to spend our time in His will.

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if you have any encouragement through Christ, any exhortation of love, any fellowship of the Spirit, any fervent affection and mercy,

2:2 Be ye of the same mind, and of the same love; be ye of one mind, and of one heart, and of one mind, and ye shall fill me with joy.

2:3 Do not do anything out of partisanship or vanity, but in humility of mind make one another better than yourselves.

2:4 Consider not yourselves only, but also others.

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.

2:6 For though Christ was in the form of God, do not consider equality with God a thing to be adhered to; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect in the sight of God,

2:7 Instead, He humiliated Himself and took the form of a servant, taking the form of a man.

2:8 And he abased himself, and was not like unto man,

2:8 He humbled Himself, and was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

2:9 Therefore God exalted him and gave him a name above every name.

2:10 For at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth,

2:11 And that every tongue might confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord," and give glory to God the Father.

2:12 My beloved, I am not ashamed of you, because you are always obedient to me, and I am always obedient to you. 2:12 Therefore be obedient, not only when I am with you, as you have always been obedient, but now that I am not with you, be more obedient, working out your own salvation with fear and trembling, just as you also have always been obedient.

2:13 For it is God that worketh in you, and maketh your desires to come to pass, and it is good for you.

2:14 Be not murmuring and doubting in all things.

2:15 That ye may be blameless and pure, and the children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and wicked age. And ye shall hold fast the word of life, and shine in the world as stars among them.

2:16 Thus may I boast in the day of Christ, that my running was not in vain, neither my labor in vain: for I have run the course of my life, and have not found my way in vain.

2:17 And I will rejoice, even though my blood be sprinkled on the altar of your faith offerings. I will rejoice with all of you.

2:18 In the same way you also rejoice. Rejoice with me, and I will rejoice with you.

3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light. 3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light, that his deeds, which he has done in God, may be made manifest.

We are forgiven, renewed, and no longer live for ourselves but for God.

2 Corinthians 5:13 For if we are out of our minds, it is for God; if we are in our minds, it is for



you.

5:14 For the love of Christ presses strongly upon us. We think thus. For as one died for all, so all have died.

5:15 And he died for all, that the living might live, no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again.

3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light. 3:21 But he who is doing the truth will come to the light, that what he does may be known as having been done in God.

But such a life is not given to us by our own strength, but by God. It is all God's grace that we live in the light. We are continually sinning, yet we are illuminated by the light. If we confess our iniquities before God, they are covered by the light and forgiven. But if we hide our sins, saying we have no sins, then our wrongdoing comes out into the light and we are not forgiven. Let us be honest like children, receive the Lord's forgiveness that comes in repentance, replace our own thoughts with the Lord's will, and live guided by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1:9 If we confess our sins, God, who is true and just, forgives them and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and the word of God is not in us.

◇Prayer; Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. Thank you for your grace, support, and encouragement this past year. Thank you for your great forgiving love and blessings that fill us with all good things. Thank you for your protection and guidance in the new year. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.