

The righteous life of a true Christian

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Day 1: John 17:15-17

The problem of sin

I throw a question: Can we truly call someone a saint who does not wrestle with the issue of sin? The reason is that the term 'saint' signifies one who is set apart from the sinful world. The responsibility of a saint is to separate themselves from the sinful world. In other words, a saint is meant to live a life separated from sin. Just as water and oil cannot mix, so too, as children of light, saints should not be yoked with the darkness of the world. In order to live in this way, we saints must have a clear sense of belonging. We do not belong to this world (Jn. 17:16), but we belong to the Lord who is the Light. We must never forget this. Furthermore, in order to avoid falling into evil, we must pray like Jesus (v. 15) and strive to be sanctified by the truth (v. 17). If we neglect this, we should fear God's discipline, for because God loves us, He will discipline us if we do not confess our sins.

Day 2: Nehemiah 13:3

Separate!

Many of us Christians, who are becoming more worldly, are not living as children of light, but rather, we are being engulfed by darkness while living mixed among worldly people. As Oswald Chambers put it, ‘Today, the world has taken away much from the church, and the church has brought too much from the world, making it difficult to distinguish where we stand.’

Living a life where it's indistinguishable whether we belong to the Lord or to the world is certainly not the saintly life that the Lord desires from us. This is why God commands us to separate from the mixed multitude (cf.: Neh. 13:3). It is a call to no longer live in the sin-ridden world, pursuing worldly desires and thereby polluting ourselves. It is a call to continue the reform movement, to pursue a work of renewal by the Word, and to live in separation from the world. We must separate from the impious things of the world that are infiltrating the church.

Day 3: Luke 14:29, 2 Corinthians 12:9

Pay the cost of discipleship!

While salvation is received through God's grace, as recipients of salvation, in order to live the life of a disciple, we must pay the cost. However, many Christians are unwilling to pay the cost of discipleship. As a result, they only build the foundation of faith and easily succumb to various temptations of the devil, living a life that transgresses against God, or becoming Christians who are ridiculed by worldly people (Lk. 14:29).

The reason why so many Christians inevitably become objects of ridicule and mockery by worldly people is because they have not paid the cost of discipleship. Therefore, as disciples of Jesus, we must pay the cost of discipleship. Each of us must take up our own cross and follow Jesus. Without the cross of the heart or the cross of life, we cannot simply carry an ornamental cross and expect to pay the cost of discipleship while going back and forth in the church. We must prostrate ourselves before Jesus, who makes us disciples, and listen to His voice. And we must seek God's sufficient grace in order to pay the cost of discipleship. In other words, we must seek the power of God that is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). We must be willing to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel, having a readiness to willingly give up everything for the hope of the gospel.

Day 4: Acts 2:13-21, Joel 2:28-32

Before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord

Before the great and glorious day of the Lord arrives, we must not be drunk but receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended in tongues of fire, enabling the disciples to speak in various languages, some witnesses mocked, saying, "They are filled with new wine" (Acts 2:13). However, Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed that the disciples were not drunk as it was only the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-32), and that the promised Holy Spirit had been poured out by the Lord. He emphasized that as part of the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, where "all people " (Acts 2:17) would receive the Holy Spirit, the 120 disciples received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and were filled.

The purpose of the wars and tumults in the world, brought about by God's wrath, is to lead people to turn back to the gospel of Christ. Therefore, Apostle Peter proclaimed, "Before the great and glorious day of the Lord" (2:20), "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (v. 21). Will you not call upon the name of Jesus?

Day 5: Acts 14:15

“We are bringing you good news”

The reason why the apostles Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel to the people of Lystra was twofold. Firstly, it was to lead them to abandon the futile practice of serving pagan gods in the likeness of humans (Acts 14:15). When Paul miraculously healed a crippled man, whom the Lystrans had never seen walking before, the crowds exclaimed that the gods had come down to them in human form. They called Barnabas "Zeus" and Paul, who was the speaker, they called "Hermes." The people were trying to deify Paul and Barnabas, believing them to be gods. Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel to make them turn away from this false belief.

The second reason was to bring them back to God (v. 15). Apostle Paul and Barnabas implored the people of Lystra to turn from their dead idols and to return to the living God, the Creator of the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. We are called to live lives consistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ while proclaiming His gospel.

Day 6: Romans 9:1-8

Unbreakable love

In Paul's unbreakable love for the people of Israel, there was "great sorrow" and "unceasing anguish" (Rom. 9:1-2). The reason for this was Israel's unbelief. Paul's "great sorrow" and "unceasing anguish" stemmed from the fact that his kinsmen according to the flesh, the Israelites (v. 3), sought to attain righteousness not by faith but by works (v. 11). Paul was particularly distressed to see a privileged nation like the Israelites, who had the privilege of knowing and believing in God (vv. 4-5), not availing themselves of that privilege.

Yet, amidst witnessing the disobedience of the Israelites, and feeling the urgency and agony for the salvation of their souls, there was something that comforted his heart. It was the word of the unbreakable covenant of God (v. 6). The promise in that word was, "In Isaac shall thy seed be called" (v. 7). The core of this promise was God's sovereign choice. Even if Paul himself were accursed and cut off from Christ, he fervently desired that his brethren, the people of Israel, would hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and believe in Jesus for eternal life (v. 3).

Do you have such earnestness, especially for the salvation of souls among your family and relatives who do not believe in Jesus? Are you willing, even if it meant not entering heaven and going to hell in their place, to fervently desire and pray for their salvation.

Day 7: Acts 3:6

"what I have I give you"

"The words 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk' give us valuable lessons about evangelism.

The first lesson is that we should first pay attention to the desperate souls God brings into our lives. For Peter and John, the person they needed to focus on was the man who was lame from birth.

The second lesson is that we must be clear about what we do not possess. In other words, there is no need to pretend to have silver and gold if we don't. It would be unwise to give false hope and ultimately lead to greater disappointment.

The final lesson is that we must know and give what we do have. For Peter and for us, it is the name of Jesus Christ. We should proclaim the gospel in the name of salvation, a name of honor and glory, a name of power. In doing so, the history of salvation and healing will be revealed."

Day 8: Psalms 126

“we were like men who dreamed”

Are you asking why it seemed like a dream to the psalmist in Psalms 126? The unbelievable miracle that happened in the past was when God caused the Israelites who were living in captivity in Babylon to return to the land of Judah. When thinking about this great act of salvation by God, the Israelites, including the psalmist, who had been captives and returned to the land of Judah, found it incredibly hard to believe. When they were living in captivity in Babylon, they earnestly sought and pleaded for God's salvation in the midst of sorrow and tears (Ps. 126:5-6). Due to the delayed response in their prayers, they experienced discouragement, despair, and hopelessness.

However, at that time, a dramatic act of God's salvation occurred, and they were liberated from captivity, becoming free people. The psalmist, reflecting on such a past miraculous salvation by God, confessed, "we were like men who dreamed." He immersed himself in the laughter and joy that filled the moment, thinking back to the memory of when they all praised together in the joy of that salvation that God bestowed upon them (v. 3).

Day 9: Habakkuk 3:17-18

“yet I will rejoice in the LORD”

In what situation did the prophet Habakkuk dedicate himself to rejoicing in the Lord? He dedicated himself to rejoicing in the Lord in a situation where he was awaiting a day of trouble. Here, this day of trouble refers to the day when God would raise up the Babylonians to judge the people of Judah (Habak. 1:6). The prophet Habakkuk knew that due to the war with Babylon, there would be a lack of crops and livestock in the land of Israel. Nevertheless, despite this, the prophet Habakkuk dedicated himself to the Lord, declaring, "yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior," while patiently awaiting the fulfillment of God's prophecy even in such a situation.

Why was the prophet Habakkuk able to rejoice in the Lord even in such a difficult situation? There are two reasons that can be seen. The first reason is that God would be his salvation (3:18), and the second reason is that God would be his strength (v. 19).

Day 10: Psalms 38

“be not far from me, O my God”

What is the pain we experience when we commit sin? David expresses it in Psalms 38:2: " For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me." When we sin against God without confessing it, God, through the convicting words of the Holy Spirit, pierces our conscience and presses down on us with His hand.

David undergoes three types of pain through the piercing of God's arrows and the pressing of His hand. The first pain is physical (Ps. 38:3, 7). The second is emotional; he loses peace due to the weight of his burden (v. 4), experiences restlessness (v. 3), and even groans (v. 8). Consequently, he bears wounds in his heart (v. 5) and walks in sorrow (v. 6), feeling loneliness and isolation (v. 11). The third pain is spiritual (v. 12). David trembles with the fear that God might forsake him or withdraw from him (v. 21).

So, what should we do when we experience such pain? We should look to our Savior, the Lord, in silence (v. 15), confess our sins to Him, and then turn our hearts back to doing what is right (vv. 18, 20).

Day 11: Ephesians 4:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:25, Romans 12:15

One body in Christ

The church refers to the believers, those whom God has redeemed and saved through His sacrifice. Paul described the church as the body of Christ. Though there are various members, each with different roles, together they form the one body of Christ, which is the church. In other words, the church is where unity is maintained within diversity. Why did God place diverse members in the church, all being part of the one body of Christ? It's because He desired there to be no division within the body, but rather, for the various members to care for one another (1 Cor. 12:25). Hence, a ministry of caring is essential for the church. Rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep, forms a community (Rom. 12:15) that is undoubtedly beautiful in the eyes of the Lord.

The reason why establishing such a community is possible lies in the triune nature of God. Just as the triune God, who is perfectly unified in diversity, the church should also strive for unity amidst diversity. We have one hope, one faith, and one baptism (Eph. 4:4-5). A community that lives in devotion to one Lord can preserve the unity of the church in the midst of diversity.

Day 12: Acts 27:20-25

When there is no hope of salvation

In Acts 27:20, we see people who had lost all hope of salvation. Paul, bound in chains due to his appeal to Caesar, was sailing towards Italy, Rome, when the ship encountered a great storm and was in imminent danger of shipwreck. Among the 276 people on board, all but Paul had given up hope of salvation and were resigned to facing death. While the rest of the group awaited death without hope, Paul, among them, was filled not only with hope of salvation but also with the assurance of it. He believed that God would save not only his own life but also the lives of all those on board. His confidence was based on God's word (Acts 27:23-24). Paul was certain that he would not die before God fulfilled His purpose. He trusted that, in accordance with the faithful promise of God, he would stand before Caesar. It was upon this faith that Paul anchored his hope of salvation.

Day 13: Luke 23, Romans 6:23

He ought not to live any longer

The Apostle Paul was an upright and blameless man. However, he was marked as a man who ought not to live any longer by all the Jewish crowds. Governor Festus could not find any punishable offense in him, but the Jewish people branded him as someone not to be spared, treating him as if he were a condemned criminal. When we look at him, we think of Jesus. When accused, Pilate, even though he found no crime worthy of death in Jesus, allowed the Jewish crowd to crucify Him on the cross (Lk. 23). How unjust a death was this? Why did Jesus have to be put to death on the accursed tree of the cross? The reason is to grant eternal life to you and me (Rom. 6:23). Do you not desire to receive this gift of eternal life? To receive it, you must believe in Jesus. May God grant you the faith that leads to salvation.

Day 14: Acts 4:12

The name of Jesus Christ

The name of Jesus Christ gives us hope. His name gives us the hope of resurrection, just as God the Father raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead. Through His name, Apostle Peter also raised a paralyzed man to his feet (Acts 3:6). Through this sign, we receive the hope of resurrection. We too will be raised on the day when God, in the name of Jesus Christ, brings us back to life. The name of Jesus Christ brings healing to us. Just as Apostle Peter healed the paralyzed man in that name, God also heals us in the name of Jesus Christ. The name of Jesus Christ brings us salvation. The Bible tells us, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). We praise the glorious name.

Day 15: Romans 9:30-33

“stumbling stone”

Jesus became the stumbling stone to the people of Israel who pursued righteousness through the law (Rom. 9:31), and to the Gentiles who obtained righteousness that is by faith (v. 30), He became the cornerstone leading them to God the Father. The reason He became the stumbling stone to the people of Israel was due to their unbelief. To the Israelites who relied on works (v. 32), Jesus became the stumbling stone, and as a result, they experienced shame (failure). However, Jesus became the cornerstone to the Gentiles. The Gentiles obtained righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ (v. 30) and were not put to shame (failed) (v. 33). To those who are justified by faith in Jesus, He becomes the cornerstone. Jesus Christ serves as the cornerstone to all who are justified by faith.

Day 16: Acts 2:22-33

"Jesus, whom you crucified"

'The Jesus whom you crucified on the cross' (Acts 2:36), is indeed the Jesus who was delivered up to the cross according to the predetermined plan of God and His foreknowledge (v. 23). He was delivered up to atone for our sins, both to the Jews and the lawless. However, He is the Jesus who cannot be held by death (v. 24).

The God who raised Him from the dead has allowed our mortal bodies to dwell in hope through His resurrection (v. 26). Our Jesus is the way to life (v. 28). He is the Lord who, through His death and resurrection, bestows salvation upon us. Thus, our spirits and bodies have received salvation.

Therefore, death is not our end but the first step towards a life in eternal heaven. Our Jesus is exalted on high (v. 33). God has seated Jesus at His right hand, making Him our Lord and Christ. Jesus, received from the Father, pours out the Holy Spirit upon us (v. 33).

Day 17: Acts 28:23-31

The unstoppable spread of the gospel.

Paul, with the hope of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, dedicated himself wholeheartedly to spreading the Gospel. As a prisoner with no charges, he was brought to Rome and for two years, he stayed in his own rented house, boldly teaching about the kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ to all who came to him (Acts 28:30). During this time, there was no one to hinder Paul (v. 31). Without any interference, he diligently testified about the kingdom of God and the gospel of Christ from morning till evening to the many who came to him (v. 23). Some of the Jews who heard him believed his words, while others did not. The disbelief of those who did not believe was due to their hardened hearts, dull ears, and closed eyes (vv. 26-27). Ultimately, because of the unbelief of the Jews, God sent His salvation to the Gentiles (v. 28). As a result, the Lord accomplished the spread of the gospel, which continues even now. And when the gospel is preached to the ends of the earth, Jesus will come again.

Day 18: Proverbs 9:8, Amos 5:13-15, Micah 6:8

How should we live in this evil time?

We are living in a time where we dislike those who rebuke honestly within love. Therefore, the wise advise us not to rebuke the arrogant, lest they hate us (Prov. 9:8a). Even in the time of the prophet Amos, leaders and judges would pronounce judgments and decrees at the city gates, but the arrogant people of Israel did not acknowledge them, rather, they despised them. Another wickedness that occurred in his time was that judges took bribes and oppressed the poor. Referring to such times, in Amos 5:13, it is called a time of evil. In this time, similar to when Amos lived, how should we live?

Firstly, we should learn from the wise and remain silent. This silence serves as a judgment against the arrogant. Secondly, we should not seek evil, but pursue goodness. By hating evil and loving good (Amos 5:15), we must overcome evil with good. Thirdly, we must establish justice. The Bible tells us that what God desires is only to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

Day 19: Acts 3:12

The possessor of faith through Jesus

The possessor of faith through Jesus does not desire to be the center of attention. When Peter, in the name of Jesus Christ, healed a lame man, all the people focused on Peter and John. At that moment, Peter clearly stated that it was not by their own power or godliness that the man was made to walk (Acts 3:12). Indeed, the true possessor of faith understands that being in the spotlight is strange, for he knows his own inadequacy and acknowledges his lack of power. When he views his own piety in the light of Christ's holiness, he realizes it is nothing. He also knows that what has been accomplished is not by his own doing, so receiving the attention of people can be burdensome. The one who possesses faith through Jesus gives glory only to God, for he understands that it is fitting for God alone to receive glory.

Day 20: Acts 10:15

“God has made clean”

“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean” (Acts 10:15) teaches us not to harbor prejudice and discrimination within the church. Furthermore, it instructs us that righteousness is not attained by keeping the law, but by the merit of Jesus' crucifixion. We have already been cleansed by the atonement of Jesus' crucifixion. Therefore, we should not live a life bound by the laws of the old covenant, engaging in discrimination from a place of prejudice. Discrimination within the church is a sin against God. We must thoroughly break down the walls of prejudice, discrimination, and all preconceived notions towards our neighbors with the power of the Lord's word, like a battering ram. Then, we must love one another fervently with the love of the Lord.

Day 21: 1 Chronicles 28:9-10

Father David

As a father, what words of counsel did David give to his beloved son Solomon? Firstly, Father David told Solomon, 'Know the God of your father' (1 Chron. 28:9). David said this to Solomon because he wanted to pass on to his son the right knowledge about God. The correct knowledge he wanted to impart to his son was the fact that their God is a God of covenant. Father David knew that Solomon desired to know the God of the covenant, for Solomon sought to receive the blessings of prosperity from God (1 Kgs. 2:3).

Secondly, Father David told Solomon, 'Serve your father's God with a whole heart and a willing mind' (1 Chron. 28:9). Father David desired not only for Solomon to receive the blessings of prosperity from God but also to keep those received blessings. The key to this was serving the Lord with a whole heart.

Thirdly, Father David told Solomon, 'Be strong and do it' regarding the task of building the holy temple which God had chosen him for (v. 10). Father David encouraged Solomon to be bold in undertaking the task of building the Lord's temple, assuring him that he had the capacity to handle it.

Day 22: Acts 23:11

“Take courage!”

Paul found himself in a situation that, from a human perspective, seemed insurmountable. He was in a dire circumstance, torn in the midst of a great dissension among the Pharisees and Sadducees in the council. He felt the threat of death from the forty-plus men who had bound themselves by an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed him. These members of the fasting conspiracy were not driven by mere emotion to kill Paul, but rather by an extreme expression of religious zeal stemming from their devout beliefs (Sang-seop Yoo). Given these seemingly impossible circumstances, how was Paul able to be courageous?

The reason lies in the fact that Paul received the promise of God's word. The Lord appeared to Paul in his distress and encouraged him to take courage, assuring him that he would testify to the gospel of Jesus Christ not only in Jerusalem but also in Rome. And the Lord faithfully kept this promise. He protected Paul and delivered him from danger.

Day 23: Acts 23:1

A righteous life of faith

A righteous life of faith entails, firstly, serving God with a clear conscience in all things. Paul boldly confessed before the gathering of priests and council members that he served God with a clear conscience in all things. Like Paul, we should strive to have a good conscience every day.

Secondly, it means despising hypocrisy. Paul referred to the high priest Ananias as a "whitewashed wall." This expression means looking beautiful on the outside but being filled with all sorts of filth on the inside (Sang-seop Yoo). In other words, it signifies a disconnect between outward appearance and inner reality. We should disdain such hypocrisy.

Thirdly, it means being led by God's word. We should live in obedience to God's word, not fearing people, but revering God.

Day 24: Romans 2:17-24

A true Christian

Superficial Christians, on the surface, call themselves Christians. They also believe themselves to be true Christians. They think of themselves as guides for others, leading them, not realizing that they themselves are blind, in darkness, foolish, and spiritual infants (Rom. 2:19-20). They enjoy teaching others but do not seek to learn themselves (v. 21). They emphasize an outward appearance while neglecting inner growth.

So, who is a true Christian? A true Christian is not a superficial one, but an inward one. An inward Christian understands that they are saved by God's complete grace. They live with a faith that is active and real. They do not serve with words only but focus on their inner faith rather than an outward display.

The essence of faith lies within, not in appearances. Living according to inner faith, rather than emphasizing outward appearances, is the life of a true Christian.

Day 25: Psalms 90, Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Teach us to number our days aright”

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalms 90:12)

This prayer to be taught to number our days contains two underlying meanings. One is to be taught the brevity of life, and the other is to be taught to live a life valued in the sight of God. Life is considered fleeting because we come from dust and return to dust (v. 3), because it swiftly passes (vv. 4-6, 10b), and because the pride of life consists only of toil and sorrow (v. 10a). When we deeply realize the transitory nature of life, we will earnestly desire to live a life esteemed in the eyes of God.

What does it mean to live a life esteemed by God? Firstly, it is a life of fearing God (v. 7). It is the duty of humanity to fear God and keep His commandments (Eccle. 12:13). Secondly, it is a life satisfied in the kindness of the Lord (Ps. 90:14). Because God's everlasting love is better than life itself, we have no choice but to praise the Lord (63:3). Thirdly, it is a life lived for the glory of God (90:16). Lastly, it is a life lived in the grace of God (v. 17). We pray that God grants us a heart of wisdom to teach us to number our days.

Day 26: Mark 14:3-9

“a beautiful thing”

A woman who broke an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume over Jesus is said to have done a beautiful thing (Mk. 14:6). The beautiful thing she did was simply loving Jesus. She poured the precious perfume worth three hundred denarii on Jesus' head out of love for Him. The beautiful thing she did was having the same vision as the Lord. By pouring the perfume with all her might, she was preparing Jesus for His burial, a vision that aligned with Jesus' willingness to lay down His life for our sins (v. 8). This woman, who prepared the Lord's vision, did a beautiful thing in His sight. What she did was an uncalculating, unconditional act of service. She did not consider wasting three hundred denarii like some others did (vv. 4-5). She broke the valuable alabaster jar without reservation because she loved the Lord. Jesus Himself acknowledges what this woman did as a beautiful thing.

Day 27: Romans 1:1-17

“I am obligated”

We are debtors to the gospel (Rom. 1:14). We owe the gospel to all people. Therefore, we must proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. We should not be ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes (v. 16). What is the gospel? The gospel is Jesus Christ. It is His birth, His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the tomb. It is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ (Mt. 1:18). It is Jesus, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, crucified on the cross to redeem our sins (Rom. 1:4). And it is Jesus, who rose from the dead after three days (v. 4). The nature and holiness of Jesus Christ are the gospel (vv. 3-4). We, as chosen ones, are appointed for this gospel (v. 1). We must proclaim this gospel to both believers and non-believers alike, because we are debtors to the gospel for all people.

Day 28: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Seemingly foolish and weak in the eyes of people

Paul advises the saints of the Corinthian church to remember when they first heard and believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and His crucifixion (1 Cor. 1:26). This is because when they received the gospel of Jesus and accepted Him as their Savior, they appeared foolish and weak in the eyes of the world. The majority of the saints in the Corinthian church had converted not because of their outward superiority, but rather, Paul points out, it was due to their lack of it (Yoon-seon Park). Instead, Paul states that God chose the foolish things of the world, the weak things of the world, the base things of the world, and the despised things—things considered nothing—in order to nullify the things that are (vv. 27-28).

Why did God choose such individuals to hear the gospel of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and believe in Him for salvation? It was to prevent anyone from boasting in His presence. We have all received salvation through God's complete grace and have become established in Christ Jesus. Thus, Jesus Himself became our wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption (v. 30). Therefore, as Apostle Paul states, we should boast in the Lord (v. 31).

Day 29: Jonah 2:3-4, 8-10

Even so, I will look to the Lord again.

We tend to resist the difficult realities given to us, often expressing it through complaints and resentment. However, if we can find God's blessings even in the midst of accepting those challenging realities, we can truly say that person is a blessed believer. Jonah the prophet is considered to be one of such individuals. The reality he faced was that he was on the verge of life and death physically, and spiritually, he felt cast away from God, experiencing the weariness of soul.

However, even in such circumstances, Jonah resolved, "Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple" (Jonah 2:4), looking to the Creator God, who is greater than "the deep" and its "billows" (v. 3). Through this, he came to realize the grace God bestowed upon him (v. 8), and he was reaffirmed in his calling as a worshiper (v. 9). He was reborn not as a complainer or a grumbler, but as a thankful person (v. 9), and further, he ultimately experienced salvation (v. 10) with confidence in God's deliverance (v. 9).

Like Jonah, may we also look to the Lord again in the midst of difficult realities, so that we may enjoy the blessings God has prepared for us.

Day 30: Romans 7:4-6

A life bearing fruit of God

In Romans 7:4-6, Paul explains to the saints in Rome about two types of fruit. The first fruit is for death (Rom. 7:5), representing the fruit we bore while living as slaves to sin before believing in Jesus. We lived producing fruit for death, walking in disobedience and lawlessness. This life under the law is what Paul refers to as living "under the law" (6:15). This life is living in the lusts of impurity (1:24), driven by shameful desires, not living in the proper and natural way but contrary to it (v. 26), doing things that are not fitting before God.

The second fruit is for God. This fruit is holiness, and the end of holiness is eternal life (6:22). If we truly believe in Jesus, we must strive to live a holy life. Holiness is living a life set apart for God, and the ultimate result of holiness is eternal life. We have been called to be saints, set apart for Jesus (1:6) and identified as those who are called to be saints (v. 7). We are not of this world, but we belong to Jesus. We have a clear sense of belonging, living a life separated from the world, and further, we seek to live in pursuit of the holiness of Jesus.