

## Ephesians III

6/2010

In order to become a glorious church we should deal with **five things on the cross** as we see from 2:1-3:13. It comes down to repentance. Our ego should be torn in pieces on the cross to be pure and holy in order to establish the glorious church. Jesus is the Son of God and He Himself is God but Jesus deferred His divinity and took up on the flesh of man and lived on earth just like us. Jesus made Himself nothing according to Hebrews 5:7 and relied on the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived as a Man and yet He ministered by the power of Almighty God on earth. Furthermore, Jesus confirmed that He was Son of God by dying on the cross.

**There is no other way to glorify the church of God and restore the authority of King but to repent.** All the authors of 66 Books of Bible realized their substance according to their maturity and cried in tears to get to where God had shown them.

**The first thing to nail on the cross is “trespasses and sins” in verse 1 of chapter 2.**

**The second thing to nail down on the cross is the world according to verse 2 “the ways of this world.”**

**The third thing to nail on the cross is devil as we see in verse 2 “the prince of the power of the air.”**

**The fourth thing to nail on the cross is the lust of the flesh.**

**The fifth thing to nail on the cross is the Law.**

The believer is revolutionized when he tears apart these five things on the cross. The church will also mature and restore to the authority of King. That's the secret for the great church. **Just like Jesus confirmed His Kingship on the cross, the church also needs to confirm the Kingship on the cross.** The church that does not have the cross does not have the glory. Church without repentance is incomplete and the revelation of God obviously is limited.

**When the church removes the four things as we see from verse 1 to 10, they can move swiftly to the commands of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church.** Just like all the cells in the body respond to the commands from the head/brain, the church must respond to the head of the church. God created the body to respond to the commands of the brain, so when the virus or bacteria invades the body, the brain commands the body to destroy them utilizing the power of self-purification/immune system. When the cells in the body do not respond to the commands of the brain, they are called cancer which keeps reproducing the cancer/non-responsive cells.

I studied the cancer and I noticed that when cancer patient dies, the cancer cells die with him. When you revive the cancer patient, the cancer cells are not revived. I just can't practice this amazing treatment. The problem is bringing the dead cancer patient back to life after he dies. However, Jesus made that possible. The Bible says that we (Jesus and I) die together and we are revived together as well. Believer must die once and come back to life with Jesus. The cancer cells are now gone. This is how we remove the cancer cells from the church and the church members respond swiftly to the commands of the brain. That's a powerful church! When the new members join the church, we wait until they are all dead.

I would like to address the four things to crucify. First, Paul says in verse 1, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.” We are all dead spiritually if we have trespasses and sins. As much as sin prospers our fellowship with God will sever: thus, we can't pray. On one hand, when prayer is alive, sin dies. On the other hand, when sin is alive, prayer dies. That's the reason we should nail sin on the cross on daily basis.

**How far does the church establish the standard of holiness? It should be up to the point of divorce from sin according to chapter 1.** It is all the way to purity, sanctification, and holiness

Paul experienced. Divorced from the sin means that Jesus became the lump of sin and you became the lump of righteousness according to 2 Corinthians 5:21. You can be holy to the point that your inner being is so white and this is the level of holiness in Ephesian Church. When you start thinking "I am all right now," that's the sign of interference of the legalism in your church. We see the effect of eating the fruit of tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden in the church that the believers consider they are more righteous because they sin 9 times whereas others sin 10 times. We develop the attitude that compares to others and sin becomes relative.

When church is seized by the grace of God and eats the tree of life, sin is no longer relative but absolute. Your single sin all of sudden seems bigger than all the sins in the world. It leads me to the repentance. As we go deeper in our Christian walk, sin becomes absolute in our relationship with God. You should see your sin with the perspective of Jesus Christ and perhaps through a magnifying glass, so you can see how wicked you are to the point of screaming. There is no resurrection unless you have the confirmation of being dead to trespasses and sin. The dead needs life. Church members should confess "I can't help but to die because of trespass and sins." When they consider they are in some pain, they don't seek for life but some medicine. Why? Because they do not realize they are dead by their sins.

This prompts us to repent deeply. We should examine ourselves. Those who stand facing the Lord are sensitive with regard to sin: therefore, it is painful to have any black mark of sin. However, those that stand facing the world are careless about any black mark because they are already black. "I am dead in this sin, so I need life." They need such repentance and the confirmation of the blood. Those that say they need medicine because they think "it is too dark so let's lessen it" cannot have genuine repentance. To those that can't repent genuinely life will not be given and the blood of the Lamb won't be confirmed.

When you look closely at the priests and what they do, they are basically butchers. But God calls them holy. Why? Because Israel is sanctified by the butchers. Sometimes it seems that a butcher is at work in the church. The church is sanctified by the repentance of the church members. Churches that lack tears and spit/vomit in their ministry are rotting deep inside. Churches should continue revealing that they have inside and remove the elegant spirit. Without experiencing the death by sin we cannot receive life. The secret to daily renewal is to die every day. Pastors should be awake and pray that their churches are fully sensitive to sins. If we detect the disappearance of tears, notice that it is because of the hardened heart. This should prompt for the alarm. If the pastors are sensitive, the Holy Spirit will touch the church sensitively which will result in the deep repentance. Negligence of sin should never take place in the church.

One of the functions of the church is to repent of the sin. We see this in Leviticus in Old Testament. Israelites had peace offering through which they ate with the priests and had merry time. The five sacrifices they had were about removal of sin. The churches should likewise remove sins and deal with them. The Christian walk is all about dealing with sin. God can use us for anything as long as we become pure spirits. We don't want church members to make money and serve in the church and so on until they deal with this matter of sin. Christians should be equipped first to serve in the church. That's how they should build up the body of Christ. This order should be kept. When we try to have them serve before they are equipped, they can serve but they are not equipped. Pastors may say, "We don't have anyone else to serve!" If there is not anyone else to serve, then don't do anything. God uses the stone to make the descendants of Abraham. This is not to say that people are not important. The point is that it is impossible for a man to serve God without being equipped. If anyone wants to speak, let him speak like God. If anyone wants to serve, let him do so with what God supplies. If we do not do things with what God supplies, they are not the work of God. If our souls are bound by sins, then God won't supply us the power. Therefore, we should seriously treat sins in the church. That's necessary in the church. We need to have this system of seriousness & sensitivity to sin in place.

Second, let's look at "in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world." We are the praise of glory of God. We ought to deal away the world. It is impossible to for the believers to live deeply in the world. According to Habakkuk the world will be burned down tomorrow. As time goes on the world should look smaller to the eyes of believers and the heaven should be widened. Everyone lives in the world but they all should retire as soon as they can and focus on the work of God wholly. We should have this attitude "I want to retire soon and become the minister of church of God. I want to retire soon and become a missionary." Let us confirm the identity as the praise of His glory.

**When the church is under the influence of the world, several things take place. First, the church loses the authority of the heir and become legalistic. Believers start to become workers and at the same time the heirs of God who inherit from Him start to decrease. When church is not covered with grace, it will naturally be filled with tendency to imitate the world.**

Like the words of Apostle John, "**For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father, but is from the world,**" that world is consisted of them three. The lust of the flesh is the wickedness that arises within us. All the people that belong to the world have the wicked desire to live by their own ways. The lust of the eyes is the wickedness that comes from the outside and it doesn't arise within us. Wickedness plus wickedness is the boastful pride of life which lives by the life of the beast. That's the reason the people in the world poke fun at church by saying, "Why do you fight? Do you think this is the church?" When churches fight, that's the life of beast not the life of human being. This is all because we live by the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes.

Like Habakkuk's definition of the wicked "their justice and authority originate with themselves." Their standard of judgment is of themselves. If we live by the world, we have to live by our own efforts. That's the reason if we like something, it is good for us. If we dislike something, it is bad for us. That's the reason people go for power. The typical Christian of this age exhibits the strength in their Christian walk if they have money. If they don't have money, they are powerless. For the wicked, his possession is his god. How many wicked people do we have in the church? If we do have many wicked in the church, then that is not a church but world.

Apostle John calls that the congregation of Satan. That's not a church but a club. That's an example of the church filled with the spirit of legalism and its worship service. That's an example of the church that has been influenced by the world. Can we ignore the churches that are being infiltrated by the world? Of course not! That's the reason we must live by the grace in every way. **When a believer comes to the church, he must be trained to live by God for a while. God trains him/her to live by the provisions of God and what the ravens bring to him/her.**

Apostle Paul was raised as the builder of the Kingdom of God after he had considered all his knowledge as rubbish and feces. Apostle Paul possessed many great things and yet he considered them as rubbish. Why? Because the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus is so great that Paul does not even think about peeking at other things. Once the problems of sin that prevent us to see the perfect God and all the worldliness are extracted from us we will finally know the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus. Then we will give up things on our own. We continue to move on until we get to that point as we work on our spirituality. Deal with your sins, come to understanding of the vanity and corruption of the world and further shake them up. When you finally lay them down, the Spirit of God will seize you. The Kingdom of God is not brought forth by the ways of man but by those that are seized by the Spirit of God. The church should never be led by the secular people. The church should be led by the ways of God and only then it will be pleasing to Him. We must crucify the worldliness.

When the church is infiltrated by the world, it will lose the authority of heir of God. The result is the change of the goal of Christian walk which is now about eating and drinking. Once the believers are dictated by the survival instinct, the church is dead. However, the ordinary and typical attitude of the believers is “if I die, I die. If I live, I live.” You may ask me how that can be possible. Once the spiritual system is established in the church the Spirit of God will seize the believers and train them in unimaginable ways. It is possible with the pure and holy believers.

Yulbang Church is a model and we live out the impossible Christian walk. Many church members are poverty stricken and they are willing to give up what they have for the Lord. Yes, they give up and offer to the Lord, but I am sorry to receive them. I tell them to hold on to it, but they sell and give up. They truly make a commitment to the church. They do it voluntarily. Once the Spirit of God moves in the system of pure and holy church, believers who are willing to die for God rise up all over the church. They touch my heart so deeply that I cannot do anything but cry and pray for them. When the church members start living according to the word that was proclaimed through my mouth, it strikes fear in me. Soon, the fear disappears and I start thanking for them and wondering why they listen to my words. Of course, it is not really my words but the words of God. This is a fellowship we develop for each other life for life. Believers give up their life because of the glory of God for they have received the life of God through the pastors. We give life for each other.

Third, Paul says “you formerly walked ...according to the prince of the power of the air.” Once we deal with sin and righteousness, Satan becomes insignificant. **Our aim in our deliverance ministry is not so much to cast out the demon.** John says in 1 John 3:8, “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” **The Son of God did not appear to destroy the devil, but the works of the devil.** We should take a note of it in our deliverance ministry. **What is the difference between the devil and the works of devil? The works of devil refer to sin.** On one hand, once I remove the garbage inside me, flies won't come. On the other hand, if I have flowers inside me, butterflies will come. When we deal with Satan/devil, please understand that he won't die until the Great White Throne Judgment. Once I remove the garbage, Satan has nothing to do with me. In the original plan of God Satan was not supposed be in our life. When you hold on to yourself, Satan will intervene your life. When you die to yourself, God reigns in you.

Such saints substantiate the Luke 10:19 “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.” Evil spirits are nothing. Many have seen our deliverance ministry that when we blow at them with our breath, they are blown away! How is this possible? Holy Spirit is not limited because of our holiness and purity. Like Colossians 2:15, we can have the authority to completely disarm the enemies. The word of God which says that the enemies cannot even touch us is fulfilled in us. Once we trample over old ego and deal with the sins that enter us every time, Satan is nothing to us.

The function of Satan is to deceive us. When we sin, we are bound to hear the voice of deception. Without sin we don't hear the voice of deception and we only hear the voice of God. All we want to confirm is whether we are putting our foot on the functions of Satan who has the dominion. That's the reason we need the spiritual discernment, prophecy, and deliverance. Pastors particularly believe that they will outstrip the authority of Sheol and triumph against Satan in spiritual battle. However, this is impossible to do in a church that has not dealt with the issue of sin. Such church is bound to lose the inheritance of the church members, their children and so on. Let's deal with the one who has the dominion.

The characteristic of the one that has the dominion is that it is a spirit that works in the sons of disobedience. Ephesian Church encountered the work of this spirit at the time. It is known as Gnosticism. What is the spirit of antichrist? Antichrist is any spirit that denies Jesus as King and it

is any spirit that does not confess that Jesus is from God. That is the work of evil spirit who has the dominion. The world is a big system and Satan has installed the worldliness in this big system. Satan has led the believers astray to obey the secular world under the influence of the worldliness more than the word of God. As a result, churches are now in disobedience.

Spirit is substance and when God created us He gave us the functions of the spirit: intellect, emotion, and will. **In True Will we have two functions: power to resist God and power to embrace God.** When you are seized by the Spirit of God, your will to resist God becomes zero. Therefore, you obey God immediately without any difficulty. However, when the spirit of worldliness comes in and begins to exert influence on you, it raises the level of resistance against God and reduces the level of embracing God. That's the reason Adam only saw the tree of life in midst of thousands of tree of knowledge of good and evil when he hadn't sinned in the Garden. Adam didn't have any difficulty of eating the tree of life willfully before God. However, when sin entered him, Adam who would only look at the tree of life suddenly starts looking at the tree of knowledge of good and evil which now looks good for food, and is delightful to the eyes and desirable. When your spirit is filled with the Holy Spirit, your lifestyle is according to the original creation of God: therefore, there is no disobedience in your Christian walk. The problem begins as soon as the spirit of worldliness enters you and you will naturally be filled with the disobedience. This is spiritual order. The root of all is sin.

Fourth, let's look at "Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh." So, we deal with the lust of the flesh. NIV renders it as sinful nature. When self is eradicated, the lust of flesh is also eradicated. In Galatians 5:17 Paul says, "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." The desire of the flesh and desire of the Spirit cannot coexist. "Sets its desire against" means combat. It is a battle every day. Apostle Paul speaks in Romans chapter 8 that the root of desire of flesh begins with the mind in the body. On one hand, when the mind chooses the things of God, the function of new man is opened up and the new man prospers. On the other hand, when the mind chooses the sin, it opens the desire of the flesh and the old man prospers. What are we going to choose? The lust of the flesh? Or the desire of the Spirit? We should train our minds with excellence. The spiritual battle is the battle of the souls. What I mean by that is the functions of spirit are not corrupted by themselves. Why? Because the spirit is created by God. The spirit is corrupted when it continues to receive the things of the world instead of receiving the things of God. Receiving the right things in the mind leads to spiritual victory. We should train to fix our minds on the things of God. When our intellect, emotion, and will are filled with the Spirit of God, they become what they meant to be at the creation. Intellect, emotion, and will in turn interact to make up the mind. When intellect, emotion, and will are healthy, the mind also becomes healthy. We need to have a spiritual reflex to turn away from the things of the world, frustration, despair and things that are not from the will of God immediately when they try to enter us. Turn your spirit immediately to God. This is meekness in the Beatitude. Let us continue to embody the meekness.

The lust of flesh leads one to do what it desires in the heart. In short, it does what it wants to do. If one prospers the lust of flesh, only thing he will face is the wrath of God by nature. All the lusts that rise up inside must be dealt. They must be nailed on the cross on daily basis. When Apostle Paul says that we have the authority of forgiveness of sin, he is speaking of a stage where one can perfectly control the root of the lust of flesh.

In order to deal with the four things such as transgression and sin Paul says in verse 5, "Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ." God made us alive because He confirmed our death. Sin and sinner are not separable. Sin is bad but we can't set the sinners free out of pity. Just like sin and sinner cannot be separated when Jesus died, we died with him. When Jesus resurrected, we resurrected with Him. We must crucify them on the cross. Church must die continuously and resurrect together.

In verse 6 Paul says, "And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Because we died with Him God seated us in the heaven. Please notice that it is all in past tense. Paul never intended to record the second chapter of Ephesians alluding to believe "I am saved because I believe in Jesus." Paul is not speaking about the doctrine of salvation here but how glorious and pure the church of God is. "God seated us with Him in the heavenly places" is not confirmed in the life of someone who does not even have the confirmation of salvation and just say, "I am a child of God." This is not for someone who has simply not nailed the sin on the cross. **I differentiate "I am saved" and "I have the confirmation of salvation."** Of course we all repent of our sin and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. We are forgiven of our sins and become the children of God with authority. However, confirmation of salvation in one's life is a different issue. **The confirmation of salvation takes place when one deals with sin through his life and his righteousness.** Salvation and the confirmation of salvation may take place at the same time or not. However, in my experience of training others in spirituality they don't take place at the same time, especially in Korea. Koreans have strong works of spirit of idolatry in the nation, so it is difficult to have salvation and the confirmation of salvation at the same time. They must first be released and repent beforehand. When Paul speaks of "God seated us with Him in the heavenly place," he means that it is for those who are already completely dead to the sin and transgression. They are the ones that are seated in the heavenly place. Paul is speaking of the complete victory.

Paul says in verse 7, "In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward in Christ Jesus." Paul is emphasizing the riches of grace God has for His church in order that He might show to the ages to come. When we deal with sin and build the glorious church, such amazing grace will fill the church. This is not only for us but also for the churches to come. We are to be an example for them.

In verse 8 Paul says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." **"It" refers to the faith.** Salvation is a gift as well as the faith. The gift of God in verse 8 refers to the faith.

**Faith is the root.** You may ask me **"what is the difference between the gift being salvation and faith?"** Once we believe salvation is the gift, and then we may think "I can build up my faith." No, that's not true. **Because the root is faith as gift, faith is to constantly receive what God gives to us.** Furthermore, we are saved through faith. The salvation in Christian walk is totally grace of God. Why? Because we don't build up our own faith but rather receive it from God as gift. **Since God gives us the faith as gift what shall we do to receive this faith? We should consistently renounce ourselves, give up and wait on God. This is the cycle we go through.** The Christian walk itself is to do things by His provisions. Paul says in verse 9, "Not as a result of work." **We do not labor/work to build up the faith "that no one should boast."**

Paul further speaks in verse 10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." **"Created in Christ Jesus" means that when God had created us, He created functions in us to live by His grace.** However, man fell! So, God recreated us as the original creation in Jesus Christ. The remaining verse is **"which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."** God created us as His workmanship and instilled functions so that we can live by the grace of God. When man fell and corrupted, they were erased. However, now we have the work of recreation through Jesus Christ.

Nail down the four things on the cross. Through the cross we have amazing grace. The first step is that we receive faith as gift and that's how it is built up. Through faith we can discern our salvation and the next step is to consistently empty ourselves, lay them down, and give up. That is the Christian walk in Ephesian Church. The focal point is nailing down the four on the cross. When we realize "we were dead in transgressions and sins," our church can use the life. You alone cannot live every day. You can only die. When you realize that, this church can receive the life. I pray that you will completely crucify the sin, the world, devil, and the lust of the flesh.