



시온장로교회

Korean Zion Presbyterian Church

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Dear Zion Presbyterian Church family members, the redemption of suffering, the exit from suffering, is mainly shown in two ways. One is the “effort” to escape from the suffering. Another is the “renunciation” to escape from the suffering. The former is to seek whatever possible and relevant ways to overcome and go through the suffering with strong heart as well as all kinds of efforts. It is similar to the escape of Andy Dufresne, the protagonist of the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*. The latter is suicide, the way when people realize that there is no escape from suffering in sudden shock and discouragement. It is similar to the suicide that Norton, the prison warden in the movie, chose. One paid his redemption of suffering with escape and another paid his redemption of suffering with suicide.

Our problem of suffering is very serious and broad so no one is free from suffering. Most people try to choose the first way to overcome their suffering. But, because the successful case as shown in the movie, when people consider that they are standing before the life cliff, they consider suicide as an option to escape their extreme suffering. The redemption of suffering, shown in Job’s steps in the sermon, was not from anyone in his life nor from anything from his environment. Of course, the second way was not his, too. Even though he was falling down to the abyss of suffering, he was able to confess that his only one Redeemer is alive and wanted to wait till God, the Redeemer, stands on the earth. We understood that this amazing confession of faith from Job’s mouth was not from his faith in God but from God’s sovereign grace from the flow of the context as well from the flow of Job’s thought in his head.

Here, we can think about Jesus Christ, who became the eternal Redeemer by paying in full for the sin (eventuality of suffering) through His cross and resurrection. As Job, by God’s sovereign grace, was saved and kept his salvation, relying on God rather than cursing Him, so do we run our race of suffering with “patience” with expectation that we will meet with Jesus face to face (Romans 8:23~25) by relying on our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. With immense “expectation” of Jesus’ 2nd coming, we should go through the suffering for Christians. In that place, not by relying on our own strength, will, and faith, but by relying on Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, alone. We pray for all of our congregation to be in that.

❖ News to be Shared

1. Regular Congregational Meeting

- Result: Expenditure 2020 & Budget 2021 Accepted
- Thanks for all who served this meeting with labored preparation and proceed as well as all the attendees who were in the meeting in the sanctuary as well at home with prayer, and return all glory to God.

2. Session’s decision on how to send documents

- KakaoTalk or Email will be used for sending documents to Kakao or email users.
- Those who want postal delivery will receive documents via postal mail.

❖ About COVID-19 Vaccination

- Currently, all who are in category 1C (older than 65-year-old) can be vaccinated in Baltimore county as well as in Maryland. If you need help, then please contact Zion Session (Elder James Min: 443-722-3070/ Rev. Sungheum Lee: 267-934-9452) and we will help you.

In Jesus Christ,
Zion Presbyterian Church Session