

From the editor

We would like to share with you Pastor Peter's message of New Year worship service, "Delivering Healing to History."

Delivering Healing to History

Peter

We are the witnesses of history. The history of mankind, the history of the earth, is reaching its climax. We are the generation, I believe, which the Lord referred to as the last generation.

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

(Matthew 24:34-35 NAS)

The very kingdom of God is about to emerge in our time. The mystery of God is no longer a remote dream, for we see it face to face. This generation shall witness God's visible manifestation in history. Let me quote a key scripture from J.B. Phillips New Testament:

For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and that is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in Heaven or earth find its perfection and fulfillment in him.

(Ephesians 1:9-10 J.B Phillips)

The original text of the above scripture reads as follows:

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. (Ephesians 1:9-10 NAS)

J.B. Phillips changes the space concept to the time concept; Heaven and earth are rephrased as “all human history.” While all things are gathered together, all human history shall be consummated in Christ.

The word “consummated” means completion. As it also refers to marital union, the context indicates the perfect union between human history and God’s Kingdom, thus creating an entirely new era.

I do not think that J.B. Phillips has gone too far in adopting the word “consummated,” for it is derived from the Latin word *consummatus*, which denotes “summing up.”

The history of mankind is the vast accumulation of tragic events. Surely it contains bright and victorious events, but they are just the tip of huge icebergs in which a majority of the body is concealed. Behind triumphant civilizations commemorated in history, there lies the agony of the oppressed and defeated minority. Tell me if you can name one civilization which did not exclude a minority. History consists of light and shadow.

An interesting point is that the word “history” is said to consist of two words: “His” and “story.” I am for it. You may protest, saying, “How can you say that man’s foolish history is of God?” If so, it could be taken as a *divine comedy* at best. Even Dante would not have dreamed of it.

No matter how hideous and foolish man's history may look, I firmly believe it is the Lord's story from the beginning to the end. For it is the Lord God who initiated man's existence in origin and it is He who will accomplish His sovereign will in the eschatological time. God's story is composed of light and shadow, carrying this characteristic throughout the entire course. In the deepest analysis, Dante was right when he saw man's life as nothing but a divine comedy, though a comedy was not so much a funny play but a drama in his time.

Because man's history has been redeemed already, you can see the footprints of Christ's redemption everywhere. Beneath man's history, the eyes of faith can have a glimpse of the truth that the redemption has been accomplished once for all on Calvary. This is the very foundation. Apart from it you may see nothing but meaningless chaos in the world and fall into apathy.

Watch out. History and life are in the hand of the Lord.

This may be hard for you to understand, but let me share with you an episode illustrating a mystery of life.

I used to make evangelical trips decades ago. And I once met a woman in Tokyo. After giving a lecture at a Catholic church in Yoyogi, the elderly woman came to me and said that she would like to write me a letter. Her letter came a few weeks later, which said:

I was quite moved by your sermon, and wanted to tell you about my late husband.

He was a banker all his life and served as a head of his bank. He was a competent businessman, but as for me he was nothing but a headache. Although he was a family man in his own estimate, I shed a lot of tears over his

indiscretion of womanizing. When he died a few years ago, I was relieved, to be honest. He left enough money for me, and I was grateful to him, but I often wondered what our marriage was for and fell into depression.

It was at Christmas this year. While sitting on the sofa at home, I recalled your sermon on Christ's redeeming love delivered in my church service. Then a Christmas bell of the church sounded in distance. Suddenly I saw my married life flashing in front of me. A number of scenes, both happy and sad, appeared before my eyes: getting married to him, having children, and his playing with them as a father. I also remembered how he was mixed up with other women and tormented me. Every scene was clear, and yet none was bitter any longer. Instead every picture looked as if being wrapped in warm light and love. My husband is a gentle sheep now!

I said to myself, "Oh, everything was good. Everything was perfect. I can now accept him just as he was. Lord, I thank You from the bottom of my heart."

Yes, that is the mystery of the redeeming love of Christ.

You may complain, "No way. It's not fair that a man spends all his life as a self-centered tycoon while his poor wife cries in misery. Doesn't God punish such a narcissistic husband?"

Your protest is no surprise. Man's righteousness insists on coherence even in life after death. You are right, but do you not know that you are choosing death by so doing?

Divine life, however, is not in the realm of man's mindset of making a balance. Man's sense of righteous judgment is not necessary here. What matters most is the bountiful redeeming love of Christ. Yes, here you are immersed and

refreshed in the healing that transcends time. Truly you live, for man's history becomes His story in this dimension.

Now you can see the profound truth in the puzzling scripture:

Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. (Matthew 18:18 NAS)

Let me explain how I understand it, first from the latter part.

There is, I believe, something in heaven to be loosened. Departed souls who have known the redeeming love of Christ will be placed in a heaven with direct access to the Lord Jesus Christ. Other souls may be placed in different heavens where the light of Christ is not as strong as the above heaven. These souls are in need of indirect salvation, which means that they can have access only through our invitation to the salvation of Christ. In any case, souls in heaven are by no means perfect as imagined here on the earth. They still carry a variety of restraints. They desire to be freed from the bonds of their past life, but it is no easy task. The unredeemed souls are wondering here and there in heavens. As birds of a feather flock together, like souls come together as if to lick one another's wound. There is no freedom nor salvation. And it is only Christ, I sincerely believe, who can set them free from the shadow and darkness they suffered on the earth.

Here come the children of God who are called to the heavenly praise. In the name of Jesus, they can declare the freedom of such souls from all bondage, and loose them in heaven so that they may enter the higher dimension of heaven and enjoy perpetual healing by Christ. They can

receive the leaves of the healing tree, which bear twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. (Revelation 22:2) And the most wonderful part is that the healing light of Christ does not remain in one individual but goes to the entire flock.

Think how important it is for us to loose those in heaven.

By the same token, we now can bind on earth. Primarily it means to bind spiritual powers and principalities in the air. Whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven. We have spiritual authority in the name of the Lord.

Furthermore, a new light is dawning from this verse.

Binding is to join history from end to end. We are to pass on history to the future generation. We are not to cease the present history by wars and calamities. We must preserve true peace here on the earth and pass it on to the world to come. The redeemed children have the most serious task to bind the past and the present for the future.

Let me read a part of the article written by Makiko Akashima, a staff worker of the Church of the Wind:

I watched a documentary program on the last war Japan had fought. It was not on any ideological dispute, but simply a narration of a heart's cry of a soldier. An old man said, "None of us wished to die, but we had to defend our country by all means." Numerous lives were sacrificed to defend the country, and I know their life-risking acts saved us. They connected the past to the present that we might have peaceful life. In return, I believe, we must pass on the precious time to the future. That's our task. It is considered that time lies on the

horizontal line. Now, however, I see it in a different way. The past, the present and the future are simultaneously moving in the three-dimensional way. Children in the future, of course, have not taken the physical bodies, and yet they are *alive* in the future time. I feel their earnest prayer that we may bind the present to the future. I feel they are praying together with the heavenly people.

At the very moment when I contemplated like this, I was astounded to hear the multiple voices of the celestial children shouting, “Thank you. Thank you. Thank you . . .”

I wholeheartedly agree with her contemplation on time. People from the past are here with us and with the souls of the future. They are alive. They are all moving toward the Omega Point – Christ. Time is not on the horizontal line, but it is in the spiral movement, resolving the past, the present and the future into the Person of Jesus Christ. Since the Lord God granted us the universal worship, we have received a number of reports that the deceased souls are worshipping the Lord together with us.

Let me share with you a report of another staff worker, Emi Fukuda. When we had mission trip to Hawaii in February this year, she remained at our church in Ashiya.

Praying for the Hawaii mission, I had a sudden flash of memory. It was the vision I saw in the evening worship led by Yumi Kuriyama (a staff worker) on May 8, 2015. I must have seen it because I had been very moved by the Hawaii concert held in the Church of the Wind one week prior to that evening.

In the vision, I saw a vast field. White round stones

were placed evenly spaced apart. Looking closely I found they were the tombs in the graveyard. And aboriginal people were surrounding the tombs. The pious natives who, I believe, used to live in the area from generation to generation were now joining their hands in prayer. Astounded as I was, I saw a dignified figure emerging. He was introduced as Kamehameha the Great. Bowing down humbly, the great king said, “We are praying for eternal peace.”

As soon as I got home, I opened my computer and did an internet search on Kamehameha. To my amazement, this very day happened to be the anniversary of Kamehameha’s death! He passed away on May 8, 1819, according to Wikipedia.

Oh, the King and his people must have come to tell us that they were in prayer for peace. They were glad to receive the praise and prayer of our Hawaii mission team. I felt they were telling us how happy they were to pray together with us. Our mission team awakened the deceased souls under the earth and now encouraged them to engage in the prayer for world peace. They were rejoicing before the Lord God, for they were invited to the presence of Christ.

Hawaii, despite her jubilant image, has the history shadowed by sadness and tragedy. The kingdom of Hawaii that had the Kamehameha Dynasty and the Kalākaua Dynasty was abolished and annexed by the United State. The sovereign country was destroyed near the end of 19th century. With no battle and shedding of the blood, the kingdom of Hawaii surrendered her power. Moreover, she was humiliated, not being able to use her native Hawaiian

language. Even to this day, the native people of the islands cannot handle their ancestral language; they speak pidgin English, which is a mixture of Hawaiian and English.

Sad as she is, Hawaii looks like a Man of Sorrows to me. She was oppressed and afflicted, and yet she opened not her mouth. Instead of anger and rage, she chose to pray for peace.

This may be the reason why the Hawaiian islands evoke an air of healing, I wonder. Upon stepping on the islands, anyone can feel the healing breath. Peace prayer initiated by Kamehameha the Great and lasting till Queen Lili‘uokalani still echoes on the seashore, mountains and valleys of the islands. Listen to the wind, and you can discern prayer for eternal peace resounding and vibrating in the universe. The prayer is to connect with the future generation.

Hawaiian people are a representative of the oppressed. The world history saw numerous cases of oppression. A known civilization was once conquerors of a defeated civilization. History could not contain all records of tears and broken hearts of the oppressed people.

In the dispensation of the Cosmic Worship, however, the Lord God is unfolding the mystery of history: Those who have been oppressed and experiencing heartbroken sadness shall receive healing that transcends time, and they become intercessory prayers in order to pass on true peace to the future so that man’s history may become His Story.

In the dispensation of the Cosmic Worship, all human history shall be consummated in Christ. All religions in the world will be purified and lifted to the redeeming love of Christ. Christian Church in history has played an arrogant role to persecute other faith and religions. No more barbarous act, please! Rather we humbly look up to Christ

the Synthesizer who integrates all religions and ideologies into the Cross.

Christ the Synthesizer is now at work in history. Not only that, He is at work in the whole creation.

Let me share with you a cute episode of what our Hawaii mission team experienced in the February trip.

They first went to the Big Island before joining our worship in Honolulu. Intoxicated by the beauty of the nature, they walked through the forest, chanting the heavenly praises. Soon they noticed leaves along the path responding to their singing. They shot a video of it. You can see how lovely leaves clap their hands. No room for doubt; it was not by the wind, for only nearby leaves were clapping, while other leaves on the trees were still.

For you will go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12 NAS)

This is just the beginning of the Cosmic Worship. No doubt that we are standing on a threshold of the Kingdom of God manifested in His Story.

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