

From the editor

Happy Easter! For this issue, we would like to share the message, "Redemption in the Core of Creation" written by Pastor Peter in 2006.

Through his message, you will see the redeeming light of God shining over all things. May all creation return to the eternal love of God who created the heaven and the earth in perfect harmony!

Redemption in the Core of Creation

Peter

God created all things. He created heaven and earth, and various creatures.

"What a mystery! Each one of the creatures is full of God's mystery!" I have marveled since my youth, and marvel even more with age. I am stunned by the mysterious beauty in each creature, which originated in the redemption of Christ. The more I realize this truth, the more deeply I stand in awe.

"Redemption is in creation and creation is in redemption."

When the words came upon me first, I was a little bewildered. I considered myself well versed in theologies of all ages but I had never heard nor read such words in any theology books.

Theologians explain redemption with long words, but mostly they say that it is God's remedy to repair the failure in His own creation. God created man, but since man commits sins, God has to prepare the salvation of the cross in order to straighten out man's sins.

“I see. That is what the cross means,” so saying, we are somehow convinced, though we do not really understand.

But is that really so? If it is true, what kind of deal is that to be created as God’s unsuccessful works?

I could not accept such a theological explanation for a long time. However, since the Bible says, “What is molded should not talk back to its molder,” I thought I should remain silent. What I had been seeking was not mere intellectual satisfaction. I believed there must be a deeper truth hidden somewhere.

Paul talks on the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things (See Ephesians 3:9 RSV). The Bible does not literally say, “Redemption is in creation and creation is in redemption,” but I believe it is the very mystery hidden in God for ages. That must be why the theological explanation did not satisfy my inner spirit.

The cross was given not because God had to bear the consequences of His own failure. God’s creation was perfect and faultless from the beginning, as He saw that it was good. Not an iota, not a dot lacks in His creation.

Perfect in Everything!

Cynical people would say, “You say that creation is perfect, but aren’t too many of them poorly made?” Certainly, we can find a defect or a shadow in any creature, including plants, animals, and of course man. Although man is said to be the lord of creation, he is far from being perfect. The whole creation, including man, is suffering from too much sickness and sorrow. Paul says, “We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now (Romans 8:22 RSV).”

There is a shadow in God’s creation.

However, it is the very reason why I say that the

redemption synchronizes with the creation in our existence. It is the mystery and secret of creation. Because we are created with a shadow, we exist in the redemption. However, this redemption is latent in us. It is not seen from the outside and cannot be perceived on the surface of man's conscious.

Latent redemption. That is the meaning of the mysterious word in the book of Revelation, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (13:8 KJV)." I believe this word reveals the very truth.

The cross existed in the beginning of the world. Redemption is not something God prepared to compensate for defects in His creation. God who created light and darkness in love prepared redemption when He created the world.

When I lived in the United States, I once read about a mystic experience of an ascetic monk in the medieval times in a Catholic library. I do not remember his name, but he wrote how he was surprised when he saw flowers in a garden of heaven because each flower had a cross in the center.

I do not know whether he was right, or whether only the flowers he saw were in such a design, but reading his mysterious experience, I believed it was true.

Owing to the cross, all creation came into existence. Even though we have a shadow, our existence itself already has received the love of God. God's redemptive love is in the core of all creation. An abundant life is flowing in the all living creatures. Even if we see the incompleteness and tragedy on the surface of them, it is not God's reality.

Faith is to see God's reality.

I would like to meditate on the mystery of redemption quietly in this time of Lent.

In the passion week of 2006.