

<p>I . We need to bear the ultimate responsibility related to the world's ultimate situation, God's ultimate move, and God's ultimate recovery :</p>	<p>A. Our ultimate responsibility is to be saturated and permeated with Christ for the church as the Body of Christ, the one new man : <u>Ephesians3:16</u> That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the dinner man, <u>4:12</u> For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ, <u>4:16</u> Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in glove. <u>4:24</u> And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.</p>	<p>1. We must realize the great responsibility we have regarding preaching the gospel, teaching the divine truths, and meeting according to the way ordained by God; however, we should not be satisfied with these three things, for they cannot fulfill God's desire. <u>Matthew24:14</u> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. <u>28:19</u> Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,</p>		
	<p>B. Our ultimate responsibility is to bear the testimony of Jesus : <u>Revelation1:2</u> Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw. <u>9</u> I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.</p>	<p>2. Revelation is an unveiling of Christ, and Christ is expressed through the church; therefore, the church is the testimony of Jesus revealed in this book :</p>	<p>2. God's desire, His good pleasure, is for us to live Christ and to have Christ as the reality, the real contents, of the church life, making every local church a golden lampstand : <u>Philippians1:21</u> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <u>2:13</u> For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure. <u>Revelation1:11</u> Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea. <u>12</u> And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,</p>	
	<p>C. Our ultimate responsibility is to spread the testimony of Jesus by establishing local</p>	<p>3. Our ultimate responsibility is to be a living witness to Christ in our daily life and to meet in our locality in such a way that we may be the Body, the new man, the lampstand, and the bride.</p>		
	<p>by establishing local</p>	<p>1. The spreading of the Lord's recovery must be considered part of our ultimate responsibility. <u>Mark16:15</u> And He said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation.<u>20</u> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the accompanying signs. <u>John15:16</u> My name, He may give you. <u>Act1:8</u> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.</p>		

a. Then the Body life will reach the reality of Romans 12, and this will be the spontaneous preparation of the bride for the Lord's coming back.

b. This is the goal of the Lord's recovery; the world situation has been prepared for this purpose.
Revelation1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
Act17:26 And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling,

a. The living person of Jesus is the image, expression, and testimony of God, and the church today is the testimony of Jesus, His corporate expression.2 Corinthians4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.

b. As believers in Christ, we all are reproductions, "photographs," of Jesus; now God has a corporate expression—the church—which is the testimony of Jesus, who is the expression of God.
2 Corinthians3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
Ephesians1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, 23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

	churches as golden lampstands :	<p>2. For the universal spreading of the church as the testimony of Jesus, we need to plant “church trees” as golden lampstands for the corporate expression of the Triune God : <u>1 Corinthians 1:2</u> To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:</p>	<p>a. Although we cannot form the church, we have the position, the right, the opportunity, and even the commission to go to the uttermost part of the earth to establish local churches by planting church trees. <u>Act13:1</u> Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.<u>2</u> And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.<u>3</u> Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.</p> <p>b. The local churches as church trees are golden lampstands, which are actually living, golden trees.</p> <p>c. In figure, the golden lampstand signifies the church as the embodiment and the expression of the Triune God.</p> <p>d. We all need to establish local churches by planting church trees, golden lampstands.</p>
<p>II. In order to bear the ultimate responsibility in God’s ultimate move, we need to know and experience Christ as the center of the divine administration according to God’s eternal economy: <u>Revelation4:2</u> Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting; <u>22:1</u> And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.</p>	<p>A. Christ in His ascension has been enthroned to execute God’s administration, His governmental operation. <u>Revelation 3:21</u> He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.</p> <p>B. Christ as the embodiment of God is the Administrator of the universe today; all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him.</p> <p>C. After the Lord Jesus was crucified and buried, God resurrected Him and set Him at His right hand, making Him the Lord of all the universe. <u>Philippians2:8</u> And 1being found in 2fashion as a man, He 3humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the 4death of a cross. <u>9</u> Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <u>10</u> That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <u>11</u> And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.</p> <p>D. According to the book of Revelation, the throne on which the ascended Christ is sitting is the throne of the divine administration :</p>	<p>1. The Lamb, the Redeemer, the One slain on the cross for our sins, is now on the throne carrying out God’s administration over the entire universe.</p> <p>2. The Lord Jesus has been enthroned to execute God’s governmental administration in the universe :</p> <p>a. As the One enthroned as the heavenly Administrator in God’s universal government, Christ is the Ruler of the kings of the earth; the affairs of the nations are under His rulership.</p> <p>b. In God’s governmental administration, Christ is the Leader and the Savior and the One who has the key of David.</p>	
<p>III. If we would fulfill the ultimate responsibility in God’s ultimate move, we need to follow the Lamb wherever He may go : <u>Revelation14:4</u> These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.</p>	<p>A. To follow the Lamb is to be one with the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and enthroned Redeemer in His move to carry out the divine administration for the consummation of the divine economy.</p> <p>B. We all should follow the Lamb on the journey ordained by Him :</p>	<p>1. We need to seek out the journey that the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk on it, paying any price to wholeheartedly continue on our journey until we reach the end. <u>2 Timothy4:7</u> I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.</p> <p>2. The journey that the Lord has ordained for us is the race that is set before us. <u>Hebrews 12:1</u> Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us, <u>2</u> Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.</p>	
<p>IV. Bearing the ultimate responsibility in God’s ultimate move requires faithfulness; thus, we should ask the Lord for mercy to be faithful. <u>1 Corinthians 7:25</u> Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful. <u>Matthew24:45</u> Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?<u>25:21</u> His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.<u>23</u> His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.</p>			

Experience: ① Jesus, a picture of God; the new man and church, a picture of Jesus

Man was made in the image of God simply to express God. We may compare man as the expression of God to a photograph. A photograph of a person does not worship the person, work for him, or serve him. The destiny of a photograph is simply to express the person. Man is a “photograph” of God. When God created man, He “took a photo” of Himself. Just as the function of a photograph is to express a person, man was made to express God. However, man failed God in this very respect, but Psalm 8 tells us that a second man would come to resume the responsibility of man to express God (vv. 4-6). This is what Jesus accomplished. While Jesus was on this earth, He fully expressed God. He was the real “photograph” of God.

Now this one photograph has been reproduced. We are all the reproduced “photographs” of Jesus. Therefore, today God has a corporate expression—the church—which is the testimony of Jesus, who is the expression of God. The old man Adam was created in God’s image, but Adam failed God. Now the church is the new man, which is created in Christ according to the image of God, having Christ as God’s expression (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10). This expression is the testimony of Jesus, which in Revelation is first the local churches and eventually the New Jerusalem.

Junior high/ senior high students’ model:

A person was created according to the image of God. It is just like a glove is made according to the image of a hand. By putting the hand into the glove and it manifests the hand. Likewise, a person has the image of God because God puts Himself into man for man to express Him. The first man Adam was depraved by Satan’s temptation and failed. But the second man Jesus Christ was completely dependent on God, filled with God and succeeded in the manifestation of God.

In addition, a believer is a member of the body of Christ, the constituent of the new man.

Ephesians 4: 23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind 24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

Colossians 3: 11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Jesus Christ succeeded in the manifestation of God individually. Now, God advances further in his economy, the new man becomes the witness to Jesus, and there is the need to manifest God in a large and corporate way. For this you need to put your mind on the spirit and let the elements of God spread out from your regenerated spirit into your mind and your soul. This renewal of the mind is having the renewal in the spirit, which is to practically wear the new man.

In the church people are called from various countries and from within different social classes. In order to have the church becoming a new man, the believers who are called should have their minds on their spirit and have their minds renewed after their spirit has been regenerated. Otherwise, we cannot be a corporate new man who can overcome different cultural and social class barriers and express God. You should not only utilize your soul in the studies and in the relation with school teachers or your classmates, which could enhance the hypertrophy of your soul. The utilization of only the soul is like talking to Satan and demon. The Chinese character “soul” is constituted by the characters of “demon” and “saying”. But you need to use your spirit,

call on the Lord’s name, set your mind on the spirit, submit you mind to God, the understanding of your mind will be uplifted and enable you to recognize the will of God. Do not allow your soul to become independent from God, in order to be dependent on God; you need to gradually learn to set your mind on the spirit in the practical life.

② God’s ultimate movement and our responsibility

The most important task for each of us is to put ourselves into God’s hand in a quiet, patient, prayerful, consecrated, and obedient way and wholeheartedly seek after His leading. We should be willing to obey Him and act only in accordance with His will. We should pray that He reveal to us the journey He has designated for us. After this, we should pay any price to wholeheartedly walk on it.

What is to “run”? To “run” means to not stand still; it means to not walk slowly. It means to run forward fast and finish the longest distance within the shortest time. In other words, it means to run fast. Since there are many competitors, one has to be ahead of others if he wants to win the crown. Whether or not we win depends on how fast we run. If we waste our time and linger about, we will surely fail.

The Lord’s appraisal and reward are not related to the size and quantity of our work, but to our faithfulness in using His gift to the fullest extent.

The working young saints’ model:

The Lord has prescribed you on how you can move up in ranks in the company as a business person, as well as how much you can earn. Christians are to express the Lord and to reign in the Lord, if you are normal in principle, you should go for a managerial position. However, to what extent should the managerial position be? Should it be a leader, a manager, a director, or an executive; they are all under conditions required by God. Therefore, put yourself in the hands of God, calm down, renew your consecration, listen to the Lord’s voice and learn to submit yourself. When you try developing beyond your own extent, you will experience failure that is unheard of. In addition, it is rebellious against the Lord to be naturally humble and be self-limited. Furthermore, it does not matter how you will or when you will be promoted, you need to submit yourself to the Lord. Because bearing of the responsibility is entirely depending on the growth of your life. Work out your salvation with fear and tremor.

You need to run without fail while staying at your given level. Do not waste your time by lingering. You should run fast and move ahead. What is practically important in running is to properly restrict working overtime and working on holidays, participate in various meetings, pursue the truth, preach the gospel, nourish newcomers, prophesy and build up the church. If your business life is for your own success, it will only be a chaff life in vain. Even if you are able to move up, the divine history will disappear in your human history if not for the testimony of the Lord, and the building up of the church. Therefore, business life is a side job or chaff, the building up of the church is the main business or the core in chaff.

In addition, in order to keep you running, you need to spend about 15 minutes every day to have morning revival with brothers and sisters. Whether to revive every morning to have your business life uplifted is a matter of life or death. Amen!

The milestone of John 5, the necessity of a helpless man: To make use of life

by Kobe U. BSG OB/OG

1 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the sheepgate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes.

3 In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down from time to time in the pool and stirred up the water; the first then to step in after the stirring up of the water was made well of whatever disease he was being held by.

5 And a certain man was there, who had been thirty-eight years in his sickness.

6 When Jesus saw this one lying there and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, Do you want to get well?

7 The sick man answered Him, Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.

8 Jesus said to him, Rise, take up your mat and walk.

9 And immediately the man became well, and he took up his mat and walked. Now it was the Sabbath on that day;

"A sheep's gate" means the gate of the religious enclosure that adheres to the law, "Bethesda" means "the house of mercy". This is a man who is helpless and weakly troubled, and cannot comply with the law on his own, which indicates that God's mercy is necessary. The helpless man here was sick and had no happiness even on a festival day and he had no rest even on the Sabbath.

In the religion that tries to keep the law, there was the means of healing. However, it did not benefit a helpless man, because he had no power to meet the demands of the law. Religious observance of the law depends on the efforts, the deeds, and the outer appearance of a man. Man is helpless; therefore he cannot comply with the law of religion. Festivals, the Sabbath, the angels, Moses were all good things of this religion. But they could not do anything for this helpless man.

Man is helpless; therefore he cannot execute matters by religion, moral education or by listening to good teachings. According to the statistics, man with higher level of education tends to have higher divorce rate. No one wants divorce or has wishes to make a child unhappy, but good teachings cannot save a man from divorce. Read the following Romans 7 in the Bible:

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.

20 But if what I do not will, this I do, it is no longer I that work it out but sin that dwells in me.

Due to the sin living inside the man, man does not have the power to carry out the good teachings even if he likes them. In the eyes of the Lord, man is a sinner as well as helpless. Continue with the reading in John 5.

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

25 Truly, truly, I say to you, An hour is coming, and it is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

A helpless man needs to be alive by life. The Word of the Lord can impart life to man. There is no requirement for the service of the Lord. In the salvation of the Lord, I was asked from the Lord Jesus, "Do you want to get better?" That helpless man was made alive when he heard his voice.

Many Japanese business persons have dark and stern faces on the crowded trains during commuting hours. In addition, college students tend to have dark and stern faces when they began with their job hunting. Everyone hopes to have a life with joy, but many people on the crowded trains are having stern faces and wrinkled brows. People do not have the power to turn sadness and sorrow into joy. The necessity of a helpless man is neither religion nor a good teaching, but the Lord as life is making use of the man. The life of the Lord can change the mourning into joy and praise.

Read the following verses in John 5.

39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.

40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

"Searching the Scriptures" and "Coming to me" can be considered separately. The Jewish scribes searched the Scriptures but did not proceed to come to the Lord. These two should be put together. Since the Bible is witnessing the Lord, never separate the Bible from the Lord. Although we touch the Bible, we may not be touching the Lord. Only the Lord can impart life.

When reading the Bible, the important thing is to utilize your spirit, go to the Lord with your prayer and fellowship with Him. In addition, you need to pray with the Word of the Bible you read. The Bible says in Ephesians 6, to receive the Word of God by means of prayer and petition.

6:17 And receive ...which Spirit is the word of God, 18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit ...

The best prayer is to pray by using Bible verses, and pray-reading the Words. The truth in the Bible is not doctrine but real. John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth." By pray-reading the Word of the Lord you can apply the truth to your real life. For example, when you feel the weakness or helplessness in real life, you can pray as follows. "Lord Jesus, I am a helpless person, it is difficult for me to concentrate and study during the test period. I cannot make the full use of myself merely by the good teachings. Oh Lord Jesus, I need you. Your life can save me from the helpless state, make me alive. I pray in the precious name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!"

Hymns 841 (Japanese 381): Experience of Christ as Life

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| 1. Thou art all my life, Lord, In me Thou dost live;
With Thee all God's fulness Thou to me dost give.
By Thy holy nature I am sanctified,
By Thy resurrection, Vict'ry is supplied. | 4. Lord, Thy life abundant, Flowing, rich and free,
Constantly refreshes And empowers me.
Death by life is swallowed, Weakness is made strong,
All my bonds are broken, Gloom is turned to song |
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