

Church in the City ⑩

Introduction | Children of light

If we had to summarize today's passage in one sentence, we could say that we are now living a purified and beautiful life. What an encouragement! Our old worn-out life was restored by Jesus Christ. This message encourages us to walk as beloved children of light. Let's look into this motivation first. Just as anything starts from an internal energy source, we should reflect on our motivation to live as imitators of God. Secondly, let's have a look at the nature of our lives as children of light, which means, what kind of life should we live? Thirdly, what is the purpose of our lives as children of light? It is to worship God.

To summarize, we will talk about motivation, nature and purpose of our lives as children of light.

Scripture | Ephesians 5:1-21

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Questions |

- 1: (verses 1-2, 8) What kind of life are those in Christ encouraged to live? Here are some keywords for your reflection: "beloved children", "imitators of God", "children of light".
- 2: As imitators of God and children of light, how do we receive our motivation and internal energy in order to walk a life in accordance with God's commandments. Let's have a look at the foreword before the ten commandments and the commandments following (reference: Exodus 20:2-17).
- 3: (verses 3-7) According to Paul, what kind of specific problem do children of light face in their life walk? Why? Note that Paul mentions the word "idolater".
- 4: (verses 9-18) If we become children of light, we are exposed to the light of Jesus. What does it reveal in our lives? What kind of fruit can we bear then? If there anything in your life that was revealed by the light of Christ recently, please share.
- 5: (verses 19-20) According to these verses, what is the purpose of life for children of light who are imitators of God?
- 6: The Bible always reminds us to give thanks to God, in the name of Jesus, anytime, in any circumstances, with all aspects of our lives. In other words, all our life is a response to God's grace toward us. How do you praise and thank God through your life?

Reference |

Exodus 20: 2-17

2 (*foreword*) I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 (1) You shall have no other gods before me.

4 (2) You shall not make for yourself a carved image...

7 (3) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...

8 (4) Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...

12 (5) Honor your father and your mother...

13 (6) You shall not murder.

14 (7) You shall not commit adultery.

15 (8) You shall not steal.

16 (9) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 (10) You shall not covet your neighbor's house...

Prayer |

- Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we became God's beloved children and also children of light who reflect his glory. Let's be thankful of this wonderful reality and praise the Lord.
- When looking into the ten commandments, are you an imitator of God? Do you walk as children of light? Let's confess our sins while remembering about the God's grace. Pray to be able to reflect God's glory through you journey in life.

Upcoming events

Community group leader training #4 (10)

Grace city gospel (10)

Lunchtime meeting (11 Kudanshita, 12 Marunouchi, 13 Otemachi)

Obento project (15)

Worship & Fellowship (16) the Gospel of Matthew | A generous God, 1st service from 13:00, 2nd service from 15:30, @ KDDI hall

Community group leader meeting (16) from 11:00 or from 17:00, @ KDDI hall's lobby

Lunchtime meeting (18 Akasaka, 19 Marunouchi, 20 Otemachi)

Retirement home visit (22)

Worship & Fellowship (23) Church in the city (11) | Ephesians, Marriage #1, A vision for marriage, 1st service from 13:00, 2nd service from 15:30, @ KDDI hall