

## “The one key for life”

Happy New Year!

I always tell my brothers and sisters at our Bible Study. “You do not have to remember ten things from this Bible Study. Just take home one truth with you. That is enough”. Likewise, please remember “The one key for your life” today.

A man named Paul said about 2000 years ago.

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20).

He said, when we look around our world, we see God’s invisible qualities through what he has made.

Paul also said; For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Our world is governed by His orders. Usually, we do not think about this, but we are living within the order of God. No exception. New born baby, president, business worker, dictator, all people live within that order. As long as we live on the earth, we are never out of the order.

For example, we have the law of gravity, because of gravity; we do not float in the air. We never see a person who flies to our church (if we can do that, we do not have to worry about parking space), and pretty sure we will not see this in the future.

There is also the “Second Law of Thermodynamics”. This is the law that says everything will degenerate and be destroyed. Nothing stays the same. No one will eat spaghetti that was cooked 32 years ago. An eighty year old man does not keep the physical strength of a teenager. This is Second Law of Thermodynamics.

It does not matter if you are Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, republican or democratic, whether you like Pineapples or not, everyone lives in these orders.

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If you do not like the order, and want to be free from it, sorry, you cannot be free from it.

Here is a watch. This watch is made by many tiny gears. There are no unnecessary parts in here. The watch moves with constant speed because a craftsman knows the purpose of the watch and makes detailed structures. The construction of the watch is not random, but there is an intention and purpose.

Here is the earth and sun. Usually, we do not think about the distance between the Sun and Earth, but as you know, if the distance changes, we will be burned or frozen. Who set the precise distance? I am only talking about the Sun and Earth, but what about the whole universe? They are not randomly placed by accident, but there is someone’s intention and purpose in it.

We know that the watch was made by a craftsman. We never think that it came to be from a random occurrence. When we look at the intricate universe, it is difficult to think that it was made without intention.

If we use our knowledge and experience to ponder about the order which dominate our life’s, it can be concluded that there is one who is beyond our knowledge, whom we call “God”. I have one suggestion today. “The one key for your life” in this new year.

Did you know, according to the Bible, when God created the world and put nature in order, he also set a standard of how to live your life? He tells people,

<sup>12</sup>And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,<sup>13</sup> and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

Do you know the principle of orders God has made? It is a premise of the universe. For example, many people say the book of Genesis, especially the article of the creation is a fairy tale. However, the order of creation written here has scientific truth. Yes, God created light first and then He created plants,

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fish, reptiles and human. God did not create fish first, and then human, light and water. The creation found in Genesis is in the same order that is scientifically accepted today. Bible and Science are not against each other.

We cannot exchange the location of the sun and moon, like we do with furniture. There is a certain placement for the sun and moon.

God’s law also says there is one thing we should prioritize in our heart and that is to “Fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that God is giving us today.

I think we are all doing our best to live everyday. But do we receive results that match up to the sacrifice and effort given? Perhaps maybe our efforts do result in the accomplishment of our goals, yet you may not be satisfied. Is there anyone who is thinking, this is not the life I am wishing for?

When we are not satisfied, it is maybe because we are lacking in something. If an Udon soup is bland, we add soy sauce and maybe add chili peppers. How about your life? If we feel like something is lacking, we try to add something. Some people try to attain material things or gain someone’s love. There was a man in the Bible who experienced a lack of satisfaction and although he got everything he wanted, he repeatedly said “I AM EMPTY!”

The man is the third king of Israel, Solomon. Solomon came to the realization; I was wrong, I made a mistake in my priorities. I added everything I wanted to my life. I tried to fill my heart with what I want to have, but I found after all, everything I did was in vain. Therefore he concluded in his book;

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”—<sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; (Ecclesiastes 12: 1-2).

Solomon comes to this conclusion by looking back in his life. What was his conclusion? He was talking about “the priority of his life”. He said, remember your creator before everything else. Remember your creator and follow His order.

There is only “one secret for our life”. It is very important to know what our priority is. Jesus Christ clearly said this in the Bible.

<sup>38</sup> As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” <sup>41</sup> “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “You are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42).

Do you know what this incident is talking about? This incident is talking about the importance of priority. Martha makes a mistake in her priority, so she had bitter feeling even though she was devoted for good work. She did not mistake what she had done. But she mistakes her priority.

“But few things are needed-or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better!” Yes, Jesus is talking about priority.

Jesus also talks in a parable.

<sup>28</sup> “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Luke 14:28-30

At times, we sacrifice God’s work for our own motives. When the Lord’s work becomes our last priority, we are not saving our time, nor are we losing something. But instead, we are losing the most important things by doing God’s things last. When we bring our remaining time before the Lord, do you know how much blessings we are missing that what we were supposed to receive from Him? Dear brothers and sisters, our life is not complex. Don’t you know there is only one secret for our life?

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If we sit and calculate before building a house, then following the same logic, we are careful to build our life plans. It is important to consider and think if you are going to follow your own principles or God's principles.

God said first of all, fear the LORD your God, walk in obedience to him, love him, and serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. He said this is our first priority. Why? Because we will be given God's best blessing for this.

If we do not follow the rules, we cannot enjoy a baseball game. We enjoy baseball because there are rules. When we hit the ball, if we can run toward any direction, it is not fun at all. We enjoy baseball because we have to run to first base. We enjoy it because there is an order which we should follow. To live according to God's rule first is not a restriction but by doing so, we can truly enjoy our life.

What kind of rule and priority do you have for your life? You do not have any? Never think about it? Just pick the order each time you have to pick? Then, our life might be like gambling.

When we pass half of our life, we begin to realize the limits to our knowledge and shaking confidence. Our ability and wisdom is nothing. If we are reliant on our self's, we only know God's wisdom to an extent comparable to looking at a corner of the cover of a book with a magnifying glass. We say, “learn from the past”, we say “learn from people's wisdom”, but that wisdom is only coming from the past couple of hundred years.

Our degree and title is not useful for marriage or raising children. I cannot forget what Stevie Jobs said; “Even though, I have an enormous fortune, nobody can be sick for me”, but these are what we rely on in our life. Sadly, this is our priority in our life.

I found an interesting video on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-Xsgj3-S1Q>

The person recording this video is laughing so hard her hand is shaking. The lady stops once, but she begins to walk again. I believe she finally noticed what

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she is doing when she sees the person walking towards her. She might have laughed at herself for what she was doing.

We also laugh at this movie, but I would like to ask one question. If we keep walking on the escalator towards the wrong direction for our whole life, is that funny? This is not only a question for nonbelievers but also Christians. We eagerly keep walking ahead by following our own priority, and what if the escalator is not the order which we should follow?

One person who retired years ago and baptized two years ago told me, I wish I knew the truth written in the Bible when I was still working. I could have avoided many things and could have done so many things better, but he found the truth now and that was a blessing for him.

What I talked about today will be pass by. I pray there are people who will consider and change their life with this one priority. I might not talk about this topic again for ten years. I pray we will not miss God’s blessing in the next ten years.

The New Year Day is great because we have a brand new 365 days ahead. Dear brothers and sisters let us sit and think about our priority for our new year. We know our life is 100% reliant on God’s order. Knowing this, I think it is reasonable to rely on God in spirit as well. When you write His plan on your new calendar before you write your own, you are standing in God’s order for the first time.

<sup>12</sup>And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup>and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

Jesus often called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” I wish and pray there is a person who hears this single secret to life and live with God. Let us pray.

Translated by Team Okura