

## 2020.12.27 Sunday Sermon <What to Throw Away>

### **2 Thessalonians 3:16**

*Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.*

### **Romans 13:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> *And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.* <sup>12</sup> *The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.* <sup>13</sup> *Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.* <sup>14</sup> *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.*

Today is last Sunday of 2020. From today's scripture, the Lord is telling us how to prepare for the new year. Let us look at the key verses 11, 12, and 14.

- **Romans 13:11**

<sup>11</sup> *And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*

- **Romans 13:12**

<sup>12</sup> *The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.*

- **Roman 13:14**

<sup>14</sup> *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.*

As verse 12 mentions, the Lord is telling us to throw away deeds of darkness. Let us learn more about what we need to throw away before the new year starts.

### **1. Sin**

The first thing we all need to throw away before the new year is our sins.

- **Hebrews 12:1**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,*

- **Job 11:14**

*if you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent,*

- **1 Thessalonians 5:22**

*reject every kind of evil.*

The Lord has pity on all of us - so He asks us to confess and let go of our sins.

- **Proverbs 28:13**

*Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

## 2. Bad Habits

Aside from our sins, the Lord also asks us to let go of our bad habits.

- **Ephesians 4:22**  
*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;*

Today, we want to look at three bad habits - complaining, being lazy, and losing self-control.

- As we look at 1 Corinthians 10, we see what happens to Israelites who started to complain as the Lord took them into the wilderness.

### **1 Corinthians 10:10**

*And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.*

- When we read Matthew 25, we read about a parable that teaches us what happens when you become lazy.

### **Matthew 25:29**

*For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.*

What the lazy debtor said to the creditor...

Wish the creditor will die suddenly

Wish the creditor's documents get burned by fire

Wish a lump sum of money can be found in a sidewalk

...but with my luck none of the above will occur.

- In Proverbs 25, the Lord teaches us what happens when we lose our self-control.

### **Proverbs 25:16**

*If you find honey, eat just enough— too much of it, and you will vomit.*

Before the end of the year, a new reporter interviewed both failed businessman and a successful business owner. The reporter asked the failed businessman what was the reason for his failure. He answered, "when the business was booming, I spent the money as if it was piece of paper." The reporter asked the successful business owner what was the reason for his success. He answered, " when the business was booming, I treated everything as if it was gold...even a piece of paper."

- Benjamin Franklin's is well known about his habit tracker. Below is one of his well-known quote about bad habits: *Each year one vicious habit rooted out, in time might make the worst man good throughout.*
- This was a newspaper article from 10 years ago:  
At Kyung-Book city of Sang Ju, there was a father who had a bad habit of drinking till he passed out. One winter, the father went to his older brother's home and took his 10 year-old son. The father drank heavily, and as they were walking home, he passed out and fell asleep on the sidewalk. The son tried to wake the father up, but was not successful. The worried son took off his jacket and put on-top of his father. They both fell asleep on the sidewalk. The next morning, they were both found dead.

## 3. Worries

Lastly, the Lord asks us to let go of our worries. Most of our worries are filled *with past and future issues* and these worries are 98% that are beyond our control.

- **1 Peter 5:7**  
*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

Let us look at two images on the screen:

- *A large cloud over a small village* - This is similar to us constantly worrying about uncontrollable issues and at the end we cover the sunshine the Lord pours unto us.
- *A man standing in the midst of fog* - The fog here represents all of our worries. As we continue to worry the fog becomes thicker and we can't see what is in front of us.

Let us now look at what Jesus Christ said about our worries:

- Those who worry about the past...  
**Luke 9:62**  
*Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*
- Those who worry about the future...  
**Matthew 6:34**  
*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*
- Those who worry about things that is beyond your control...  
**Matthew 6:27**  
*Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*
- The Lord tells all of us who worry:  
**Psalms 55:22**  
*Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.*

Lastly, I would like to share with you an image of a couple covered in trash. Does this resemble our lives? If so, what must we throw away as we welcome 2021?

#### **In Summary - What Should We Throw Away?**

1. Our Sins
2. Our Bad Habits
3. Our Worries

#### **Prayer**

*My faith looks up to thee  
Thou Lamb of Calvary  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray  
Take all my guilt away  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine!  
May thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart  
My zeal inspire!  
As thou hast died for me*

*O may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be  
A living fire!*

*When life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread  
Be thou my guide  
Bid darkness turn to day  
Wipe sorrow's tears away  
Nor let me ever stray  
From thee aside*

*When ends life's transient  
dream  
When death's cold, sullen  
stream  
Shall o'er me roll  
Blest Savior, then in love  
Fear and distrust remove  
O bear me safe above  
A ransomed soul!*