

1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-

1:2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-

1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1:4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

[From today's sermon.

This letter of 1 John reminds me of the beginning of the Gospel of John.

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. And in the Word was life. And this life was the light of men. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to those who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave power to become sons of God."

What was from the beginning, what was present from the beginning of the world, what was with God, what was heard by us, what was seen by us, what was brought near to us until we could see and touch it well, was the Word of life.

We have been given that fellowship. It is a close and mutual communion. It is the fellowship of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. God the Father has revealed Himself through Christ the Son.

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. But now you know the Father, and you have already seen Him" (John 14:6-7).

God the Father has given us communion with Himself through His Son. The Son is the precious way of life and truth for us. Let us look at him firmly so that we will not be led astray.

Good morning, everyone.

It has been two weeks since the Noto Peninsula earthquake, and as the full extent of the damage is being fully revealed, it is also becoming clear that the victims are living in extremely difficult conditions in evacuation centers in the cold. The first evacuation shelter was too severe, with limited supplies and limited capacity, and people were living in their cars or in vinyl houses. The term "1.5-time shelter" and "2-time shelter" began to be heard. I saw people on TV who cried just by drinking a bowl of hot miso soup, saying that it had been a long time

since they had had a bowl of miso soup, or telling people to stop crying, that they would all cry together with them. In the midst of the hardships of those who have been separated from the things they took for granted, such as being able to sleep in a warm place with warm bedding, not having to worry about going to the bathroom, not having to worry about changing clothes, and being able to take a bath, and in the midst of the unforgivable emotional loss of having lost their families, I pray that comfort from heaven will be poured out to those affected by the disaster in abundance. I pray with all my heart that comfort from heaven will be poured out abundantly to the victims.

Two thousand years ago, God the Father sent His beloved Son as a sacrifice to the world of dark people. He sent the Savior to a world that had lost love, that was self-centered, that had no regard for others, a world that was cold and cold, a world that was perishing, a world that was bound by sin, death, and damnation. He sent love, light, and life.

1 For what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at closely and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life-- the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

The opening of John's letter reminds us of the beginning of John's Gospel.

1:1 In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

1:2 This Word was with God in the beginning.

1:3 By it all things were made. Not one thing was made that was not according to it.

1:4 And in this word was life, and the life was the light of men. And this life was the light of men.

1:5 The light shineth in the darkness 1:6 And darkness did not prevail against it.

1:9 And there was a light of truth to lighten all men, and he came into the world.

1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him. 1:10 And the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

1:12 But to those who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave power to become the sons of God.

In the beginning was God, and the Son was also with God.

His Son, "by whom all things were made. Christ Jesus, the Son, who is also the Maker of the world, came into the world 2,000 years ago and became for us human beings "what we have

seen with our eyes, what we have looked at with our eyes and touched with our hands.

He came to this world as the One whom we could see with our eyes, and He came to us as the One who was so close that we could see Him closely and touch Him with our hands. And He was the Word of Life, the One who gives us life.

1 That which was from the beginning, which we heard, which we saw with our eyes, which we looked at closely and touched with our hands, that is, about the Word of Life--

2 For this life has appeared, and this eternal life we have seen, and bear witness to, and proclaim to you. This eternal life, which was with the Father, has now appeared to us-- 3.

Life has been manifested. As it says in the Gospel of John

1:4 In this word was life. And this life was the light of men.

Life has appeared. This life is eternal life. When we live now, we have life. But at the same time, we are dying. Everyone experiences death. But those who have eternal life will continue to live, even though their physical life may end.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live.

11:26 And he that liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Do you believe this?

Revelation 20:6 Blessed are those who are partakers of this first resurrection, for they shall be holy. The second death has no power over them. They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

20:12 And I saw them that were dead standing before the throne, both the great and the small. And there were opened many books, but another book was opened, which was the book of life. This was the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, according to what was written in this book.

20:13 The sea brought forth the dead that were in it, and death and Hades brought forth the dead that were in them, and they were judged according to their works.

20:14 Then both death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.

20:15 And everyone whose name is not written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

They are all alive. We do not know what happens after we die. Live your life to the best of your ability while you are alive. Even if we do something a little out of the way, it doesn't matter as long as people don't know about it. In short, many people think that it is enough to be on the winning side, even to succeed in making money, to live a rich life, and to be a winner, regardless of the means. However, the Bible teaches that we should abandon such a way of life as if we were living as living slaves (1 Timothy 5:6) and go on to life.

Ephesians 4:17 "I exhort you therefore in the Lord. 4:18 And be not henceforth walking as the Gentiles walk in vain: but walk in the knowledge of the things which are written in the law of Moses, and in the knowledge of the prophets.

4:18 Their intelligence is darkened, and they are far from the life of God through their inward ignorance and hardening of their hearts,

4:19 And being themselves insensible, they do all manner of filthiness as they wish, and give themselves up to licentiousness.

4:20 But ye were not so learned in Christ.

4:21 Ye have indeed heard him, and have been taught in him, and have learned the truth as it is in Jesus.

4:22 But ye have put off the old man, which is perishing in the lusts of his former life, and have renewed the depths of your hearts,

4:23 Being renewed to the depths of your mind,

4:24 And put on the new man, which is made in the image of God, full of true righteousness and holiness.

We, by nature, are separated from the life of God. We are a branch apart from the trunk (John 15). A branch apart from the trunk cannot bear fruit. What is important is that we receive fellowship with God and thus receive life. Just because our heart beats does not mean that we are truly alive, but the fact that we are alive means that we are with God and are being kept alive in eternal life.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 Every thing that God does is beautiful in its time. God has also bestowed upon man's heart the thought of eternity. And yet man is not able to discern the work of God from beginning to end.

3:12 And I know that, while he liveth, he shall live, and shall not die. For man has nothing better to do with his life than to live pleasantly and joyfully.

3:13 And it is the gift of God that every man should eat and drink, and have pleasure in all his toil.

3:14 For I know that all that God does is eternal. All that God does is eternal and unchanging, and nothing can be added to it or taken away from it. He does this so that people may have fear before Him.

12:1 Remember thy Maker in the days of thy youth. Before evil days come, and before old age comes and says, "I have no pleasure,

12:2 And before the day or the light, or before the moon or the stars are darkened, before the clouds return again after the rain.

12:3 In that day shall the guardians of the house tremble, and the mighty men shall bow down, and the women that draw back shall rest because they are few, and the eyes of them that look in at the windows shall be dim,

12:4 And the gates of the city shall be shut. 12:4 The gates of the city shall be shut up: then shall the sound of the drawling be lowered, and men shall arise at the voice of the birds, and all the daughters of song shall be brought low.

12:5 They shall also fear the high things. For dreadful things are in the way, and the stamen shall blossom, and the locusts shall walk with their limbs, and their desire shall fail, and men shall go to their eternal home, and there shall be weeping men walking about the streets.

12:6 Then the silver cords shall be broken, and the golden plates shall be shattered, and the cisterns shall be broken by the fountains, and the chariots by the wells.

12:7 The dust will return to the earth as it was before, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. 12:8 The evangelist says, "Empty, empty, everything is empty.

12:9 Moreover, because of his wisdom, the evangelist taught knowledge to the people. He has thought and inquired, and has compiled many proverbs.

12:10 The evangelist strove to obtain beautiful words. And he has written the word of truth correctly.

12:11 The words of the wise man are like a rod, and like a well-hammered nail, which are the words of one pastor gathered together.

12:12 Use your mind for other things, my son. If you write many books, there is no end to them. If you study much, your body will grow weary.

12:13 For it has been said, "All things come to pass. 12:13 And it was said unto him, Fear God, and keep his commands: for this is the true nature of all men. This is every man's duty.

12:14 For God judges all works, and all hidden things, both good and evil.

1:3 That which we have seen and heard, we announce to you also. 1:4 And we will preach to you also the things which we have seen and heard, that you may be partakers of our fellowship.

Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1:4 I write this so that our joy may be full.

Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."

There are many kinds of fellowship. But the one we should seek most is Jesus Christ, His Son, who loved us and laid down His life for us. And he who sees the Son sees God the Father.

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father. But now you know the Father, and you have already seen Him" (John 14:6-7).

Jesus, as His disciples saw Him, in whom there was love, patience, and forgiveness. The message of God the Father, who wants to take the place of man's sins and bring him into life, and whoever receives this and places himself in communion with the Father and the Son will be given eternal life. In God's love and forgiveness, we are already alive in eternal life. A life that produces fruit, a life where nothing is impossible for God, a life where what the Lord has said will come to pass when the time is right. We have been given a life in which the seed of the Word is sown, and the hearts of those who honestly accept it will bear fruit a hundredfold. Here is a life that is full of joy. We give thanks to God who has invited us to this path of life, and we hope to be led and go forward this year in close and mutual communion with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship service. Help the victims who are freezing in this cold weather. Thank you for giving us your Son Jesus Christ to deliver us from this truly difficult situation, from sin, death, and damnation, and for now bringing us into the rich, joyous, and deep mutual fellowship of God the Father and Christ the Son. Please lead all sufferers into this peace. Bless our families and our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.