

See the Mystery of Redemption

Peter

The Bible has the perspective of clarifying the truth by comparing two opposite things. This does not simply indicate how to see things, but the way for the one who sees to embody the truth by clarifying contradictions preexisting in matters themselves. The one who sees and what is seen are merged into one. In other words, it is to embody the mystery of redemption.

You may have a clear understanding of the mystery in a flash, but it will take more than lifelong years to express it in words. As far as I am concerned, to live or to be allowed to live in the flesh is to be constantly engaged in the work of verbalizing the mystery of scriptures in my words, which is to pray to God ceaselessly. It will not be completed during my lifelong years, so I will devote myself to this truth all my life. I will seek because I do not think that the task has been completed already. I am caught by the mystery of redemption. Therefore, “one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14 RSV)

In the phenomenal world, conflicting matters are never unified and remain as they are. We can reach a certain point for compromise. However, it is not the wisdom of the heavenly life. In this world the wisdom of compromise is used because the ultimate pursuit of contradictions only produces war.

Certainly, in this world there are many things that we think need compromise. Politicians and countries conflict with each other, and try to eliminate opponents in the end, because they do not want to compromise. Only when they realize that their damage will be enormous if they continue to fight, they begin to seek compromise.

Compromise is the wisdom of this world. Whether it is in politics or in economics, it is better to make a compromise if possible. However, we know that it will be surely torn up because it is the wisdom of this world.

The Bible says that God prepares a totally different way. There is the wisdom of God, which is beyond our imagination.

The revelation from heaven that is far beyond our understanding is the redemption by Jesus Christ.

What I am telling you is not an abstract philosophy but the revelation from God, which is more practical than anything else. And this revelation is given to anyone. The Bible says, “For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified.” (1 Corinthians 1:22-23 RSV) This is where we should see. We are to see everything from the perspective of Christ crucified.

Then, confrontation between the one who sees and what is seen will disappear, and fresh new life will spring up.

For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. (Ephesians 2:14-16 RSV)

He brings peace between the two conflicting things. When we see the two with the redemptive love, the dividing wall of hostility will be broken down and the reconciliation of Christ will be made between them. Then the two conflicting parties will be changed into one new man.

The hostility has been swallowed by One Man on the cross. This is the mystery of redemption.

Look at the mystery of redemption, the greatest mystery in the universe. Those who see the mystery of redemption will bring true reconciliation and true peace to the world. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:8-9 RSV)

To see God is to see the mystery of redemption. And those who see it will make true peace in the world.

It is said that now is the end time and the time of the Revelation.

The end time, the time of the Revelation is the time when the redemption by Christ and His perfect love will be revealed on the earth. In other words, the contradictions deeply existing in matters will reach the limit to hold and lead to the worst in the phenomenon world as it is written in the Bible, “Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” (Revelation 22:11 RSV)

Since the real sides of things come to the surface, people cannot put up with compromise any longer. Antagonism and contradictions will be sharpened to the point of explosion.

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These days global warming is the imminent crisis all over the world. If it further advances, the global catastrophe will take place in our generation without waiting for our children's generation. Since it is caused by our sins of pursuing the convenience of life, all the countries in the world should take actions to decrease the production of carbon dioxide, but they do not. Although they say, "Yes, the earth is certainly in danger," they never intend to take cooperative actions to decrease their production of carbon dioxide, sacrificing their own economic growth. How silly! People and countries pursue instant profits and dream that their foundation will never shake, while knowing deep in their hearts that someday it will collapse. They will go to the extreme end, but they still do not understand why they are behaving that way. The unrighteous will go to the ultimate unrighteousness.

This is why those who see the mystery of redemption in the *heavenly praises* will pray for true peace and true reconciliation in the end time. When we see things with the redemptive love, the redemption by Christ will surely reveal its reality on the earth. One new man stands between the two hostile things.

I see the mystery of redemption in small matters.

I see the mystery of redemption in big matters.

In this is love. In this is salvation.

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