International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones, October 2024

WEEK 5

DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

Romans 9 15 to 16

For to Moses He says, I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion. So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

We need to worship God for His sovereignty. We should say, Lord, I worship You for Your sovereignty because Your sovereignty reflects Your mercy. Lord, I am weak and sinful. Sometimes I am even rebellious. But I thank You, Lord, that my heart has been softened and is always willing to repent. Lord, I thank You for giving me such a soft heart.

If you know God’s sovereignty, you will thank Him for His mercy. You will realize, even as you come to the meetings of the church, that you are under the Lord’s sovereign mercy. Consider how many people are involved with sinful things or with worldly things. But we desire to come together in the Lord’s presence, to listen to His word, to seek what is on His heart, and to practice being one with Him. Praise Him that we are under His sovereign mercy!

Today’s Reading

It is of the Lord’s mercy that we can attend the church meetings. Many of us can testify that the happiest nights of the week are the meeting nights. Praise the Lord that, according to His sovereign mercy, we can come together in the meetings!

The more we recognize God’s sovereignty, the more grateful we shall be for His mercy. Hallelujah, God’s mercy has been sovereignly bestowed upon us! Sometimes we may be stubborn, but in the Lord’s sovereign grace, we can be stubborn only for a short while. Then we repent, either to the Lord or to one we have wronged. This desire to repent is the Lord’s mercy to us.

The morning is an excellent time for us to repent and make confession to the Lord. I thank the Lord that every morning we can have a new beginning. As we spend time with Him, we may realize that we have made mistakes. Then we repent, confess, and experience a genuine spiritual cleansing. What a mercy that we are willing to repent, to confess, and to be cleansed by the Lord!

In a time when so many are given to worldly entertainments, we have the desire to seek the Lord and to meet together in His presence. In God’s sovereign mercy, our hearts have been inclined to Him.

If we look back upon our past, we will worship the Lord. Before we were born, He selected us and predestinated us and arranged everything related to us, including the time and place of our birth. Moreover, He appointed all our days and all the places where we are to be. According to God’s arrangement, I was born in the twentieth century. Furthermore, I was born in an area where it was easy to have contact with Christians. This was altogether of God. Everything that happens to us is a matter of divine mercy.

If we would properly serve God in the gospel of His Son, we must know that the gospel includes the selection of grace. The gospel is wholly a matter of God’s sovereign mercy. Through many years of experience, I have become strongly and deeply convinced that everything that happens to us is of God. All is a matter of God’s mercy. The more we see this, the more we will spontaneously bear our responsibility before the Lord.

Why is it that some believers are willing to bear their responsibility and that others are not? The answer lies in God’s mercy. In Romans 9 15 Paul quotes the Lord’s words, I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy. Because of God’s mercy in His selection of grace, we responded to the gospel when others did not respond; we received a word about Christ as our life when others refused to receive it; and we took the way of the Lord’s recovery today when others drew back from taking this way. Some can testify that although they are in the Lord’s recovery today, those who brought them to this way did not come this way themselves.

This is the end of Today’s Morning Revival