

## To Who shall we go

(Gen 17:1-8, 2 Thes 1:3-12, John 6:66-69)

We don't know how old was Abraham when God called him first. But from that time God had been revealing Abraham His word to Him. As Abraham was walking in obedience to the revealed word he was receiving, in his 90<sup>th</sup> year God renewed and reestablished His covenant He made with Abraham to bless him and He commanded him to be circumcised, as a sign of his obedience. Every new year day reminds us God's intention to bless us because we observe new year day as the day of circumcision of Lord Jesus (8<sup>th</sup> day from the Birth day 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.) who has come into the World as the seed of Abraham. So as usual God wants to bless us this year also. This is the old Testament lesson. He is always ready to come with us in our life's Journey this year also. This is the Gospel lesson. As the years go by who ever makes every effort to make their faith, hope and love perfect, walking with Jess like the Thessalonians they will take part in the glory of Jesus. This is God's promise and He will fulfill all our intentions to do good and all the good works we intend to start. That is to day's epistle lesson.

Old Testament lesson : Gen 17:1-8 God alone can bless us.

Our God always blesses. He never curses any one. But He has told Adam and Eve that they have to walk with Him with in the boundaries of His world to have a living relationship with Him The same thing He is also telling us to day. "He has showed you O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you? To act Justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). But when Adam and Eve broke His command and sinned, our ever merciful God for gave them with out compromising his perfect Justice and gave them clothes of righteousness (to cover the shame of their nakedness of sin) made of the skin of an innocent animal, which is the type of Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. Even though God is loving them His people continue to sin. God has been giving many chances in His love to restore their

relationship with him, judging their sin at the same time. Noah's Flood, happening at Babel Tower reveal this truth.

God is always new. He never becomes old. He is same Yesterday and today. It is the sin that makes us old. That is why the tendency of mankind to sin is called old nature in the Bible.

Beginning with Adam and Eve Satan has been relentlessly luring mankind to sin and make them old and then lead to eternal death (hell). But God's plan of salvation according to His riches of grace for mankind is to make everything new and bless them with eternal life (Rev 21:5). For that purpose God has chosen Israel in old Testament and the Church (the new Israel) in the New Testament. Abraham is the Father of both (Physically of Israel spiritually of the church).

Therefore God has chosen Abraham and his offspring through faith in Jesus Christ, to bless mankind who had brought on themselves curse and are becoming old always. "To Bless all nations, through Abraham and His seed is God's eternal plan of salvation in his abundance of grace (Gen.12:1-2).

This year God is ready to bless us like He blessed Abraham and increase us greatly in everything, make us fruitful and give us his eternal inheritance of heaven. He is asking us to make a covenant with Him to walk blamelessly before Him and circumcise ourselves like Abraham. It is not physical circumcision but spiritual circumcision of our hearts. To do this we have to put to death by nailing to the cross all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander along with every form of malice (Ep 4-31), sexual immorality, impurity, lust evil desires and greed which is idolatry, filthy language from our lips (Ep. 4:31) and drunkenness (1 Pet 4:2). If we confess these things (if they are in us) and ask Jesus to come into our heart that is cleansed by His blood, all the above that continually make us old will go and we became new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). This is what is the circumcision done by Christ (Col. 2:11). To have Jesus is to be new and have life. Not to have Jesus is old and death. Now tell me are you new or Old? To day Jesus is asking us to come with Him so that He can make us new.

**Gospel lesson : John 6:66-69**  
**He alone has words of eternal life**

If we realize that the beginning of everything is fear of the Lord and follow Jesus like Peter and follow Jesus like Peter and desire eternal words of life of Jesus in order to learn to fear the Lord our God and follow carefully all the words of His law and decrees, then this year will be a blessed year in every way (Deut 17:19-26, Pro 1:7, 9:10 14:26,27, 119:23). Whoever does not make up their mind to follow Jesus like those in John 6:66 (Mark 666), they will remain in darkness and the old age. Hell is their destiny, even though all may wish them Happy New Year. But whoever come to Him and receive the word and become disciples of Jesus Christ God is promising to fulfill our every good purpose and all the good deeds of our faith. That is today's Epistle lesson.

**Epistle lesson. 2 Thess 1:3-`2**  
**He alone is the one who rewards us**

The people at Thessalonica heard the Gospel during Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary Journey, and accepted the Gospel. The church was established. Majority of them were poor and after they accepted the Gospel, they were severely persecuted. Paul wrote his first letter comforting them and teaching them to abide by the standards of the Gospel or Jesus Christ and cleared some of the misconceptions they had regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Lord's Jesus. Even then same false teachers started teaching them that the Lord's day had already come. So some people left their Jobs and stopped working and became lazy in the name of spirituality. The church was burdened because of those people. So Paul wrote the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to correct this erroneous interpretations. Today many TV preachers are also doing the same like the false teachers in Thessalonica. Therefore we have to search the scriptures daily to verify the truth of all those who are preaching and teaching God's word (Act 17:11). All those who are not born again by confessing their sin and accepting Jesus Christ, the first thing then have to do is accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. The second resolution we have to make is study and meditate on the word of God daily.

Then only we grow in faith like those at Thessalonica (Ram 10:17). That faith leads to living hope no matter what troubles and trials we may face in this year (Ram 15:4). Then our hearts will be filled with sincere love for one another (1 Pet 1:24).

Faith, hope and love are the graces of the Holy Spirit. It is only the word of God that leads us to maturity. Therefore we have to give utmost priority to the word of God. Then only we will be considered worthy of His Kingdom.

Those who do not obey the Gospel, they will be punished with everlasting destruction and sent out of the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power on the day He comes to be glorified in His people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed including all of us who have believed.

He is promising by His power to fulfill our every good purpose and every good work of faith and complete it.

Today God is calling all of us to come to share in the glory of Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is saying, "I want to come with you, won't you come with me". So let us draw near to our Lord like Peter saying, "Lord to whom shall we go, you alone have the words of eternal life". May God help us.

Wish you blessed Christ following, God glorifying, fruit full 2012!

**Life Application :**

1. God the Father is asking us to renew our Covenant so that He may bless us. Let us circumcise our hearts.
2. God the Son is ready to go with us unto the ends of the world. So let us decide to follow Him as His disciples.
3. God the Holy spirit is warning us of the consequences of not accepting the Gospel.

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