

May 28, 2017

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Two Unchangeable Truths"

—A Firm and Secure Anchor—

Text: Hebrews 6:13~20

**6:13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,**

**6:14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."**

**6:15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.**

**6:16 People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.**

**6:17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.**

**6:18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.**

**6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,**

**6:20 where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.**

### Introduction

- First of all, let's review what we learned last time. The title of the message was, "Leading a Life for Better Things" (The subtitle was, "Joy of Taking Forward".) God still wants us to lead a life for better things. We know that our God is the *God of love*. He is not God of judgment or a fearful God. He is the *God of grace*.
- Therefore, it is important for us to always keep God's grace in mind and remember that our God is good and merciful One. We learn and experience it through a daily devotional time. We learned three important things as below—

- 1) Salvation is God's *grace*.
- 2) God does not forget our *works* of love.
- 3) God's promises are surely *fulfilled*.

- Like this, the author of the Epistle taught and encouraged Jewish Christians to mature in faith from Chapter 5: 11 to Chapter 6:11. Then he began to teach the main subject according to today's Scripture.
- Our world is really uncertain. It means that those who compose a community are uncertain and easily change. We don't understand even of ourselves, do we?
- Let's think about Peter who was Jesus' disciple.  
The Lord Jesus said to him, "**Tonight, before the rooster crows twice, you yourself will disown me three times.**" Peter insisted, "**Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.**"
- However, Peter denied Lord Jesus three times that night. My friends, it is not only Peter's problem but also ours. We are exactly the same as Peter.
- Then, how should we lead a life? We should trust in the One (God) who never

changes and we should walk with Him together. What the author of the Epistle wants to teach is that we should lead a steadfast life with the One (God) who is unchangeable forever. God gave us *the Word of promise* and *the Word of oath* so that we can lead a steadfast life.

The author urged that if we lead a life by trusting in God's promise and oath, we are able to live an absolutely secure life because He is true and faithful.

- Our God gives an amazing grace to those who believe in Him by faith. It is the eternal truth.

Let's study the following two points today.

## Main Points

### 1 . Unchangeable God's Promise

#### 1 ) God's promise

- If we have no hope, we can't go forward. We are not motivated to do anything. Therefore, God gives us the hope of promise. God wants to have a deep relationship with us.
- However, if we don't believe God's amazing promise, it is meaningless and helpless for us. God's promise is always certain so that every promise He makes is fulfilled.

- Abraham shows us a good example.

**6:13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,**

**6:14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."**

Pay attention to the terms *surely*, *abundant* and *many*. It emphasizes God's grace. This is the promise that God gives Abraham. The author records,

**6:15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.**

- Abraham was already very old when he was given the promise from God. On top of that, he didn't have any heir. A few decades later, God said to Abraham.

**Genesis 17**

**17:15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.**

**17:16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from Her."**

- Abraham was a hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old at that time. (Genesis 17:17)  
It was impossible for them, however, Abraham was given Issac as God promised.
- The Scripture records, **Genesis 15:6: Abraham believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.**
- Twelve or thirteen years later, God told Abraham to sacrifice Issac, God's promised son. It was quite a contradicting Word. If God took Issac from Abraham, it means that He would break his promise. As a result, Abraham would lose his heir.
- However, Abraham decided to follow God's order and offer Issac.

**Genesis**

**22:10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.**

**22:11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham!**

**Abraham!" Here I am," he replied.**

**22:12 Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."**

- God prepared a ram there as a burnt offering instead of Issac. They called that place Adonai-jireh that means, *On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided*. God declared again as below,

### **Genesis**

- **22:17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the shore.**
- The author of the Epistle records as below,  
**6:15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.** God's promise was not quickly fulfilled, but Abraham kept waiting patiently and finally received God's grace that was promised.
- In a real meaning, God's promise, His grace, was fulfilled 2000 years later by the birth of Christ. Our life is the same as Abraham. We can't start a happy life at the very moment when we believe in Jesus. Most Christians have a quite different life. They sometimes are misunderstood by their family and sometimes go through hardships because they can't get along with the world.
- Even if we want to completely offer our life and follow God, it wouldn't be answered immediately. However, when I look back my Christian life (56 years), God prepared a **blessed** time and provided more than I expected. God's promise is absolutely fulfilled.

## **2) God's oath**

- **Genesis 6:17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.**
- The verse above refers to an important thing, *an oath*. In every case when people do business they need a contract such as procedure for inter-mediation in the buying and selling of real estate, rental of a house, employment and so on. We cannot easily cancel a contract once we have agreed. Therefore, we make a contract very carefully.
- *An oath* is more important than *a contract*.  
Jesus said as below—  
**Matthew 5:35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.**
- Human beings hardly keep *oaths*. We make promises. On the other hand, we easily break our promises. We carelessly say, "I make *an oath*," however, making an oath is really stepping in God's territory.
- The author of the Epistle records that *God himself confirmed it with oath*. The contract was sealed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The cross of Jesus became the unchangeable guarantee.
- **6:18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.**
- The Epistle was written at the time of severe persecution. The saints were subjected to an icy stare of people around them. The Roman Empire persecuted them violently. However, they believed that their citizenship was in heaven. That was the hope set before the saints at that time.

- \* My friends! The two unchangeable things that the author of the Epistle taught was *God's Word of promise* and *God's Word of oath*. Because of God's faithful nature, it is impossible for Him to change and break His promise. How thankful are we!
- What life do we lead in this uncertain world (society)?

## 2. Unchangeable God's Master Plan

- We have hope in God and His Kingdom, not in this world. God gives those who believe in Him the greatest encouragement which are the *two unchanging things*. It is certain that our Christian life is protected and we surely enter the Kingdom in heaven.
- The fact that Jesus has already entered the Kingdom in heaven (the tabernacle) ensures our hope. Jesus is not only the High Priest but also *our forerunner* who has entered the Kingdom in heaven on our behalf.  
We who believe in Jesus become able to enter the Kingdom in heaven after Jesus. This is quite a new principle that was not taught in Levitical priesthood.
- As God fulfilled the Word of promise and the Word of oath for the sake of Abraham, He also fulfills them for us today. This is the privilege that is given to God's children through His grace.
- The author of the Epistle records as below—  
**6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,**
- Christians at that time were just like a boat on the raging ocean. An anchor was the most helpful thing for a boat on the sea. The hope in Christ is the firm and secure for our soul. Therefore, if we fall away, it is just like a boat that throws away *the anchor*.  
**{Illustration} A Photo : A Man Standing by a Lighthouse in the Storm**
- **I have a dramatic photo of a certain lighthouse standing on the Atlantic Coast of the United States.**
- **The picture shows the scene that the lighthouse is nearly devoured by high and rough waves caused by a violent storm of the Atlantic. The lighthouse is surrounded with the surging rough waves. However, a lighthouse keeper stands on the secure place and looks over the raging sea as usual.**
- **The huge waves keep striking the lighthouse, but the lighthouse keeper stands with his hands in his pants' pockets.**
- **This photo always reminds me of various and violent storms (trials) in our life. When we are suffering from sickness, mental conflict, spiritual attacking and so on, God becomes our shelter. We come to understand that God protects us from every trial and we have full assurance of our secure life.**
- Isn't our Christian life just like a boat on the raging ocean? What is our firm and secure *anchor*? When a ship sails into harbor it anchors so that the ship doesn't drift away. If the ship firmly anchors, the ship doesn't over turn or drift away even though the surface is raging.
- Like this, if we drop an anchor at God, our souls are secure and we are not shaken.

The Epistle to the Hebrews provides solutions for our problems in life. Our *firm and secure anchor* is God's Word of promise and the God's Word of oath and also the fact that Jesus

has already entered the Kingdom in heaven (the tabernacle).

- My friends! The author of the Epistle demonstrates the most important thing of the Gospel of Christ. He didn't focus on Jewish traditional rituals again but he taught the most important and necessary thing of the Gospel of Christ.
- The most important thing is that Jesus Christ has redeemed the sin of human beings by His blood, not the high priest who enters the Most Holy Place once a year to give offerings for sin. Blood of animals can not completely redeem our sin.
- The fact of the cross of Christ is our real hope and forgiveness of sin that is given by His cross is the most important part of the Gospel. As a result, we are able to enter the Most Holy Place freely. There is nothing more precious than that gift that God has given. How blessed we are! Those who live in the days of the New Testament receive God's *grace* that was not given to the people who lived in the days of the Old Testament.

### Introduction

Title of the Message: "Two Unchangeable Truths"

—A Firm and Secure Anchor—

- The author of the Epistle taught *two unchangeable truths* to the Jewish Christians. They are *God's Word of promise* and *God's Word of oath*.  
The saints who live in God's promise and oath are able to lead a firm and secure Christian life.
- On top of that, those who lead such a life are promised to receive the blessed hope from God.  
**6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,**
- Let's remember that leading a life according to two unchangeable truths is the firm and secure anchor for life. Such life has hope.  
The hope is:
  - 1 a firm and secure anchor for the soul
  - 2 an assurance of entering the Kingdom in heaven (the tabernacle)

\* God bless you!