

June 10, 2018

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (The 20th Anniversary of the Foundation)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Keep the Word of God on Your Hearts"

—Live According to the Cycle of God's Grace—

**Text: Deuteronomy 6:4~9**

**6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.**

**6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

**6:6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.**

**6:7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.**

**6:8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.**

**6:9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.**

### **Introduction**

We celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of KIBC today. We all give thanks to God and praise Him with all our heart.

It has been 20 years since KIBC was founded in a business district of Osaka city. How time flies. Compared with the surroundings at that time, the neighborhood has changed considerably. Many high-rise apartment buildings were built and the business district has become residential area now. The population of city center is gradually increasing and also the number of schoolchildren is rapidly increasing in the neighborhood.

Then, what about Japanese society for these past 20 years? If I had to sum it up, I would say that our society has become very convenient, but it has also become very busy. Science, medicine, and architecture are making progress. The internet has quickly infiltrated our daily lives and AI (artificial intelligence) is also developing. The world seems to be getting very small. We hear about various events and news of the other side of the world within one second by our smart phones. It is an unbelievable development.

However, we have unintentionally become very busy in our convenient society and our workload is increasing. For example, before, when we took on a task, we needed about two or three days, however, now we must finish it in a day. On top of that, we have a quota to achieve goals in our competitive society.

We have an even more difficult problem in the society today. It is human relationships. People have become selfish and interested in only themselves and as a result they feel it difficult to trust in other people. If they trust in others, they may feel pain and are sometimes let down and their hearts are deeply wounded. Therefore, many people have no peace in them.

Then, why should we work so hard and become busy? What are God's purposes in creating human beings? And what should we do?

Originally, human beings, who were created by God, were given authority to control everything. However, those who should be in control of their work are caught up by their work and cannot become free from it. We need to carefully examine our position, our foundation of life.

Today, we would like to celebrate KIBC 20th Anniversary of the Foundation with this problem in mind.

The Bible commands as below—

**Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.**

**6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

Jewish people thought the commandment above the most important law at the time of the Old Testament. Jesus also replied by quoting Deuteronomy 6 to the Pharisees' question, "Which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

**Matthew 22:36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"**

**22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

**22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.**

The whole Bible (the Old Testament and the New Testament) teaches that this is the most important law. Do we forget its importance?

The Israelites were given the Ten Commandments through Moses and the rabbis (teachers of the law) subdivided it into 613 regulations. They taught the Israelites how to keep them. They had to spend much time to follow the laws so their lives became very busy and strict. The laws controlled them. (365 regulations are positive ones and 365 regulations are negative ones.)

This attitude shows our reality, doesn't it? Those who were created by God should control everything, however, they are controlled by work and not able to be freed from it.

Then, what does **Verse 6:5, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" teach us?**

Let's listen to God's voice by the following two points today.

### **Main Points**

**1. Keep God's Word on Your hearts.**

**6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.**

**6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

**6:6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.**

The important word is **"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." (6:4)** The term, "Hear" (Shema) means to listen positively and follow. First of all, the attitude to listen is important. Then, we should keep the Word of God on our hearts. What does it mean to keep the Word on our hearts?

The Epistle to the Romans records as below—

**10:8 "The word is near you: it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim.**

The verse above teaches us that the Scripture is near us, not far from us. The Bible is the Word of God, therefore it is important to read it with the attitude to worship God. We should become calm and read the Bible with the hearts to asking God's will. Then, we understand God's will for us.

Like this, when we read the Bible, the Word of God, it becomes so that **"It is in your mouth and in your heart."** The Word we read comes out of our mouth, because we faithfully accept it in our hearts.

All parents are enthusiastic for education of their children. A large number of people have higher education. They come up with various strategies how to give knowledge. However, do they teach the precious Word of God?

Verse 7 records as below—

**6:7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. It is very important to teach the Word of God to children and it is parents' responsibility for them.**

Deuteronomy continues—

**6:8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.**

**6:9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.**

They are called Tefillin, phylactery and Mezuzah; boxes containing the parchment of the Word of Deuteronomy Chapter 6. They are affixed on every gate of houses and doorways in the hotels and they call it Mezuzah.

The Bible teaches that the Word of God is the position (foundations) where human beings must stand. We must keep the Word of God on our hearts. But why? Because our minds are easily shaken. The foundation of our lives should be on the Word of God; it means to love the Lord. Therefore, the Bible teaches that we should keep the Word of God.

## **2. The Blessings by the Word of God**

Then, why should we keep the Word of God in our hearts?

### **1) The Word Has Power to Save.**

**Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.**

{Illustration}

**Charles Spurgeon was an English, Baptist preacher and is known as the Prince of Preachers. He who had a significant effect over the world was troubled by a problem about sin when he was young. One day he listened to the encouragement of a certain layman. He was a substitute for a pastor who couldn't come to give a sermon because of heavy snow.**

**The layman was very thin and looked harmless. He didn't pronounce some words clearly so it was difficult to understand and also he just read the paper quietly without holding his head up. Please imagine the scene.**

**At first Spurgeon couldn't concentrate on worship by listening to the encouragement. In such a case, many people would begin to sleep. However, he didn't. He was immediately caught by the Word. He felt as if his soul was greatly burning. He recorded the experience of that time.**

**"At that time the clouds cleared. Darkness faded away and I saw the sun. I saw that the chain bound me was cut away. I experienced a certain change at the chapel. I was changed when I looked Jesus Christ who died on the cross by shedding blood. His cross had explosive power. The cross cleans sins and recreate souls. The cross is the power of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

It is astonishing that Spurgeon, the great preacher, was newly born by the simple encouragement of the layman, not by a sermon of a great preacher. The Word of God has power to save human souls.

## **2) The Word of God Has Power to Encourage People.**

Moses, the great leader of the Israel died and Joshua became the new leader. God gave His Word to him and encouraged him.

**Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

**1:6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.**

**1:7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.**

**1:8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**

**1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**

When Jesus and His disciples came to the Sea of Galilee, they got into a boat and set out. A squall came down on the lake.

Jesus calmed the storm by His Word and said to Peter, "**Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.**" (Matthew 14:27)

God encouraged people in the days of the Old Testament and also does in the days of the New Testament. How happy we are because of it.

Then, why should we keep the Word on our hearts?

## **3) The Word of God Has Power to Support.**

Paget Wilks, an English missionary, once worked in Kobe. However, when he came to Japan, he was not a pastor of the Church of England or a missionary but a mere layman. He worked hard to found the theological seminary of Japan Evangelistic Band. Juji Nakata, who was a famous hymnal book editor, and Koji Honda, who was a great evangelist, belonged to Japan Evangelistic Band.

By the way, Rev. Paget Wilks picked up 18 characteristics of human nature as below—  
"They are those who love darkness, pleasure, themselves, money and honor and those who are sinners, the weak and also those who love adultery and are unfaithful by nature and have evil thoughts."

### **{Illustration}**

**A certain business man stayed at a hotel. He was in a difficult condition at that time. When he unintentionally looked at a window, he saw a fly that was bumping at a pane and tried to go out many times. At the same time, he saw a door was open and gave a short smile, "If it changes direction, he could easily go out in only ten seconds. However, I don't think it will go out and as a result it will probably die."**

**At that very moment, he identified himself with the fly, "If I am too stubborn, I will die like the fly!" He looked back his life and realized how foolish he had been.**

My friends, if we are too stubborn, we won't see open doors around us. When we break down in our life, probably our way is wrong. We don't need to be ashamed if we change our way to go or withdraw. We are asked where we stand.

We should feel ashamed of being stubborn and pushing our way to ruin. We need to understand that our purpose in life is to walk the way that God plans.

My friends, let's remember the days that the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. They left Egypt by leading of God.

God gave Joshua the following Word;

**Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God is giving you for your own."**

Let's open the New Testament.

**Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.**

**3:16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.**

How often do we speak out dirty words in a day? If we write down dirty words on a notebook, we must feel very ashamed.

The Bible records as below—

**1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**How about today's message? We celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation. Let's make sure where we and our church stand.**

The Word of God encourages us.

**Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.**

**6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

### **Conclusion**

Title of the Message: "Keep the Word of God on Your Hearts"

—Live According to the Cycle of God's Grace—

We celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation. We considered about the position where we (the church) should stand. What is the most important thing in our life?

- 1. Keep the Word of God on Our Hearts.**
- 2. The Blessings by the Word of God**
  - 1) The Word of God Has Power to Save.**
  - 2) The Word of God Has Power to Encourage.**
  - 3) The Word of God Has Power to Support.**

\* God Bless You !