

November 3, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Testimony: "Be Patient" (2)

—Jesus' Second Coming and Judgment—

Text: James 5:9~11

5:9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

5:10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

5:11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Introduction

We have studied the epistle of James from the beginning and listened to God's voice.

However, we didn't study it every Sunday in a row, so let's first do a review of the last messages before we start today's message.

The epistle of James is said that it emphasizes **deeds**. James intends to teach us **to be humble** throughout the epistle. When a man becomes humble before the Lord, his deeds also become humble eventually.

Then, last Sunday we studied and listened to the Lord's voice from the message of Chapter 5 of the epistle, that was entitled *To Be Patient*. First of all, it teaches that perseverance has two meanings: to become patient by controlling by one's own power or becoming patient by God and His encouragement. He is not able to become truly patient for the first time until his heart is broken and becomes humble before God.

What James teaches "**Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming**" is patience by God's help. Jesus Christ will absolutely come again to this world (the Second Coming). The saints are encouraged to live with patience until that day. James teaches the importance of becoming patient by the example of a farmer's life.

In Israel, the place of the Bible, **the autumn rains** (**the first rains** in October or November) and **the spring rains** (**the latter rains** in March or April) are very precious. The crops grow between these rainfall seasons. And as the rainfall is under God's sovereignty, they must to only wait for the God's time. Therefore, James records, "**Be patient.**"

Let's continue studying what James teaches according to the following two points.

Main Points

1 . **Be Patient Until the Lord's Coming.**

Let's summarize the previous message now.

1) **Jesus' Second Coming**

Why was Jesus' second coming emphasized?

① **Because Jesus promised.**

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Jesus said many times that He would be crucified, resurrected and returned to God the Father and come to this world again. Christians in early days who saw Jesus with their own eyes **firmly believed in** His word.

Why was Jesus' second coming emphasized?

② **Because His second coming should be handed down to posterity.**

Jesus was taken up into heaven from Mt. Olive before the crowd. However, it is natural that those who did not directly meet Jesus increased as time went by and some of them did not recognize Jesus straightaway.

Therefore, when those who didn't believe Jesus' second coming increased the disciples seemed to want to emphasize Jesus' second coming and write down the story.

Why was Jesus' second coming emphasized?

③ **Because Jesus' second coming gave comfort and encouragement to those were under persecution.**

The days of James, Christians were harshly persecuted. The topic of today's text is **to be patient**. The text deals with suffering from persecution.

For the saints suffering under persecution, they must have emphasized Jesus' second coming and talked about meeting Him. They must have been given comfort and encouragement

through the conversation.

Like this, there are at least three reasons for Jesus' second coming.

Then, how should we live in these days for the second coming?

2) The Reasons to Accept the Second Coming

① God's promise never changes.

The things that God wrote in the Bible are established facts, so they never change even a little. God's promises haven't changed since the olden days. We also believe they will not change at all in future.

The second coming is one of God's great plans and promises. It is included in God's master plan, so it never changes.

② God is waiting to fulfill His plan.

The Bible records as below—

2 Peter 3:8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

The Bible records **a thousand years are like a day** and that is a well-known saying.

Some say it means that already 2000 years passed, and the promise is not true. However, it is a kind of expression, so, it doesn't mean that a thousand years is exactly one day. If it is, two thousand years are like two days. Let's study another important point.

③ The reality of the world lines up with the Bible.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

We should keep in mind that what Scripture records becomes reality. Science has made progress, however, humans have put too much confidence in science and made bad choices, as a result, as you know, bombs were made and pollution problems have occurred.

The most significant sign was that the State of Israel was founded in Palestine in 1948. Jewish people were scattered over the world in A.D. 70. They thought that they would never have their own country anymore. Nevertheless, Israel was really founded. We should not overlook that fact. We should remember that God is alive and holds the key of history and steps into it.

Then what should we do? The important thing is to trust in the word of the Bible.

The Bible encourages as below—

2. We Should Control Our Conversation.

One of things that we should work our patience is **to control our words.**

5:9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

1) Don't grumble against each another.

If I remember right, when I was in the lower classes of primary school the television set was brought to Japan. At that time it seemed strange for me that I could see animation in a small box. Of course, its programs were monochrome then, so I was really surprised when a color television appeared. (The picture was not so good like today.)

In those days, it was like a dream that each family could afford to keep a washing machine and a car.

However, we are now able to watch television by a small Smart-phone and have conversations with people all over the world. Almost all of families have a washing machine and they are able to buy a car if they want to.

Like this, our lives on the whole become very convenient, however, people seem to grumble much more than people in the past. They are not satisfied with everything such as politics, the economy and their daily lives. They don't grumble for their thoughtless but for faults of other people.

James advises that God's servants should not like them. The reason was that Lord's coming was near.

5:7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

5:8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

James writes here, "**The Judge is standing at the door!**" If Christians remember that they will stand before the Judge the Lord, they may not grumble against one another

Grumbling comes from one's inside, not from outside. The saints in the days of James were also grumbling under persecution. There is a risk of perishing from the inside.

If we grumble against one another even in a rich life, we should live very cautiously. When we only look at Christians and the inside of church, we always come to grumble. James records the reason why we shouldn't grumble as below—

5:9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

When we grumble, our church will be judged. We should forgive and accept one another. We should look outside of church and take the great Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who are perishing. The Church should look outside and cooperate in preaching and helping people who are starving.

2) Speak in the Name of the Lord.

5:10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

In verse above, **spoke in the name of the Lord** means **spoken in the name of God**.

In the days of the Old Testament, almost all prophets in Israel were killed. They were persecuted and faced suffering, however, they became patient because of hope in heaven.

Jesus also said,

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

James finally examples Job's perseverance.

5:11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Job lived before Jesus Christ. He could not live for the sake of Christ but he suffered unreasonable trials.

Job 1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

Job 1:3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

However, he suddenly lost his fortune and ten children in one night.

Job 1:13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

1:14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby,

1:15 and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

1:16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

1:17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you! •

1:18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

1:19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

On top of that, he was afflicted with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

Job 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

That was not all. His wife, who should have been the only helper, said to him as below—

Job 2:9 His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

There are hardly any people like Job who met such a tragedy in life. Even though he suffered terribly, he didn't curse God. On the contrary, he said as below—

2:10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Job asked God the reason of his disaster and sorrow, however, he never cursed God. God

blessed Job.

Job 42:12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys.

Job's perseverance is the good example for us. He received physical and material blessings after his trial. And, what he was blessed more than that was that he came to understand that God **was full of compassion and mercy.**

Let's remember Job's perseverance and pray to receive God's power to confront the each difficulty. Like this, every servant of God should be patient.

However, some servants were continually under trials until death, unlike Job. Even so, they kept faith in God until they died. The following Scripture points the reason of their perseverance.

Hebrews 11:16 Instead, they were longing for a better country — heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

My dear friends, when we believed in Jesus Christ, our purpose of life have quite changed. When we didn't know Jesus, we were selfish and lived family-centered lives. However, Christians live every day to please Jesus more than anyone.

We became able to live in the new world because of Jesus Christ. We are given great joy that the saints (including Job) in the days of the Old Testament were hardly given even though they wanted to be.

It was the grace of **forgiveness of sin by the blood of Christ** that was never given until Christ came to the world. As we are given the grace, we are able to be patient in faith in the Lord even if we face absurdity and injustice of the world.

Paul confessed as below —

Philippians 3:7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

3:8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Conclusion

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— Jesus' Second Coming and Judgment —

Today, God spoke a very important thing to us; God promised Jesus' second coming. It is absolutely a part of God's master plan. The important thing is to trust in God's Word.

What is the important thing we should keep? → **To control our words**

1. We should not grumble.
2. We should speak in the name of the Lord.

These two points are **to control our words**.

Then, how can we keep these two points?

We should keep walking with the Lord. We should receive food of God's Word every day. If we keep walking with the Lord, we are able to follow these two points.

* God bless you !