

November 24, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Testimony Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title : "Our Life I Something like a Puzzle"

—To Live the Blessed Life—

Text: Psalm 84:10~12

84:10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

84:12 LORD Almighty, blessed are those who trust in you.

Introduction

We have a **Testimony Worship Service** today. Our brother and sister shared their living witnesses. It is a very blessed life to know God who is alive and who works. We are blessed when we walk with Him. God wants us **to have a blessed life**, that is what we also are seeking.

By the way, let me ask you a question, who here is good at numbers?

Now, look at the figure **10,950**. What do you think of this figure? Probably no one understands its meaning without any tips. It is related to a human life. Yes, it refers to a total day of man's life for 30 years.

Like this, look at the figure **18,250**. It refers to the days if we suppose he lives for 50 years. The figure 25,550 refers to the days if he lives until 70 years old.

My friends, let's think about the days for a while. What will happen in our lives during these days? You may experience various events. Some say that their lives are a series of hardships and struggles. Some say that life is just like a drama. My acquaintance said,

→ **"The most difficult arithmetic is to count God's blessings."** (Positive word)

Our life is short. It may seem long, but it really is short. It is like a breath.

There are many things in our lives that we can't understand, however, we are entrusted how to live it. We should live on **our own responsibility**.

The author of Psalms records as below—

Psalm 84:10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Yes, indeed. He praised God, **“I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God .”**

We also want to live life in the Kingdom of Heaven rather live in this world, that is full of troubles and pain. Then, how can prepare to be a doorkeeper in the house of God?

Today’s short message is entitled “Our Life Is Something Like a Puzzle” according to the following two points.

Main Points

1 . Taking A Look at Ourselves

1) To Stop Walking and Think

Man can clearly see another person’s life, but it usually is difficult to see his own life. He remembers his unforgettable and unbearable pains, sicknesses, trials and great joys. He remembers these impressive events; however, they are just some parts of life.

As I mentioned before, life is an accumulation of each day. A long life, that of 10,000 days, 20,000 days and 30,000 days are all gifts. It is very important for our personal growth to see our life as a totality.

Then, how can we see our real life? → We need to stop walking and think.

{Illustration}

There is Nakanoshima Park near Kitahama Church, that is loved by Osaka citizens. I have seen many pigeons in the park, but I seldom go there lately though. When I sat on a bench and watched the pigeons’ movement, I found something interesting.

One of pigeon’s habits is to surely return to its nest even though it is set free perhaps thousands of kilometers away. However, on the ground, its attitude is quite different. It walks few steps and stop to look around by shaking its head right and left. It keeps moving like this.

Later, I have heard from an expert that the movement of pigeons was to check its standing place when he stops. The pigeon quite different from its movement in the sky, it usually checks where it is every few steps by nature.

My friends, we need to stop and become quiet during a busy life. Martin Luther, a well-known reformer in Germany, said, **“The Bible is the mirror that reflects man’s mind.”** First of all, the important thing is to stop to take time every day.

It means that we should be quiet and open the Bible that is the mirror of our mind in the flow of busy time. The mirror reflects our mind.

2) God is Always Present With Us.

84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

The author of Psalms praises God as He is our Lord, our sun and shield that protect us. We usually have various problems in our lives. No one is without problems.

It is not a surprise that we have problems in life. The point is how to deal with them. ⇒ An accurate judgment (wisdom) is helpful. If he is able to judge correctly, the result will be good. On the contrary, if he makes an error of judgment, the results will be bad.

Then, what should we do? The Proverbs of the Bible records as below —

1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The Bible is the book of God that is full of wisdom and admonition. To study the Bible is the way to receive an accurate judgment (wisdom), because God works there.

God is alive and speaks to us every day. The important thing is to fear God.

When we look at my life, God has been good to me like a small man and He has guided me like sunshine since I became a pastor. He protected me as a shield still some other times. I went to Germany to study when I was 23 years old. God called me and I decided to follow Him. Since then, I have followed Him for 43 years.

{Illustration}

When I began to ministry work in Dusseldorf, I was 30 years old. The reason why I began to server the Lord, when I saw many Japanese people in Germany who didn’t know the true living God, the meaning of life and had various problems and fights, my heart ached.

In those days, I wanted to bring the Gospel to people who spoke Japanese. Though I was a university student at that time, I started to have a Bible study meeting. However, I didn’t have any theological knowledge and experience as church leader.

As I feared the living God who is the Lord, I couldn't refuse God's calling to preach the Gospel of Christ.

God gave His mercy on me, though I had no theological knowledge and I was uneducated. When I looked at those days, I can't stop myself fearing God (I was completely unlearned), but I was nevertheless burning with passion for preaching the Gospel of Christ. I worked for the Gospel of Christ for 3 years. During that time, I had Bible study home meetings 7 or 8 times in a week at a breakneck pace. God allowed me to build a Christian church. It was His work.

My friends, God is alive. He who is alive used me like a small man.

The Bible teaches,

Proverb 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

I believe that the Lord used me who had no knowledge and experiences. How thankful!

God is really alive. **Experience your God!**

2. We Should Trust in God Who Is Rich in Grace.

84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

84:12 LORD Almighty, blessed are those who trust in you.

{Illustration} Five Thousand Pieces of a Puzzle

A number of the aged people in Europe enjoy solving jigsaw puzzles.

The puzzle contains 100 pieces, 500 pieces, 1000 pieces. The biggest one is of 5000 pieces and its completed size becomes approximately 1.5m on a side. Therefore, they put it on a dining table to complete. It requires a lot of patience.

Mr. Jack Harris in England started solving 5,000 pieces puzzle. He worked for 7 years and finally he almost completed it. However, when he looked at the work with joy by taking a step backward, suddenly he realized the last piece was missing. He looked for it around, but he couldn't find it. He thought that his two dogs ate it. He asked a puzzle maker, but unfortunately, they didn't have any stock because it was made long time ago.

This large-scale puzzle was given from his daughter-in-law as a Christmas gift, so it was very precious one. This big puzzle of 5,000 pieces was very complicated and quite

different from the former ones. Its picture was the Prodigal Son, the work of James Tyson who was a painter in 19 Century. It was very precious one.

Mr. Harris realized that he could not finish the 5,000 pieces puzzle even though he worked for many years, so he was very disappointed.

My friends, our lives are just like a puzzle that is completed by putting in one piece at a time. Let's think that one piece is like one day and putting one piece every day (everyday devotion time) leads a completed life.

The mentioned puzzle of 5,000 pieces seemed to be completed with hard work, however it wasn't finished, because of the last piece was missing.

On the other hand, the puzzle in God's hands is completely finished. We are able to praise the work of God by looking at the completed one.

The bible teaches, **"You are precious and honored in God's sight."**

God loves you. ⇒ Let's trust in God.

The Lord who is God is our Sun and a shield. How thankful!

Conclusion

Title of the Testimony: "Let' Get A Blessed Life"

—To Live the Blessed Life—

One day in the Lord's courts is better than a thousand days without God.

1. The light (Sun) shines and protection (a shield) is prepared in the Lord's courts.
2. The blessed one is he who trusts in God.

84:12 LORD Almighty, blessed are those who trust in you.

- God bless you!