

May 24, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "A Wonderful Hint for Your Life"

— A Small Kindness —

Text: Galatians 6:7~10

**6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows**

**6:8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.**

**6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

**6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**

### Introduction

People who live today are seeking a hint for life. How should we live? There are quite a few people who are in financial crisis, especially those who are suffering from **the coronavirus problem**. We eagerly hope that **the coronavirus problem** quickly comes to an end. On top of that, the big question is how we should live **after the coronavirus problem**.

The other day, a special election to fill a vacancy of a member of the Osaka municipal assembly was held. There is a big supermarket in front of my condominium. It was an early evening. Many people came to buy food. Putting up a banner-flag, a certain campaign worker was shouting through a loudspeaker to vote for his candidate.

Waiting for a traffic light, I heard his campaigning slogan, "Let's change Osaka!" He stressed the importance of changing society by pointing to injustice, corruption, and bribery in the society. Yes, it is very important to change our society.

At that time, a word of Tolstoy, a great writer in Russia popped into my mind. He said, **"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."** Yes, indeed. Everyone appeals for his contention; however, many wouldn't change their will or nature.

Man has malice, adultery, greed, hatred, jealousy, murderous intent, conflict, delusion, schemes and so on in his mind. How can such a man change society?

The Bible records, **“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. - Genesis 6:5**

The Bible says that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil from the beginning of history.

My dear friends, we hope to change our society, our lives, and other people's lives. However, it is really difficult to change and to be changed, isn't it?

On the other hand, the Bible gives us a hint. The Bible clearly tells us that God created the heavens and the earth. That God gave you life. On top of that, He entrusts life to your decision on how to manage it. Therefore, you are manager who takes care of your life. How do you live your life that is given only once to you? I would like to give a hint on how to live life today. God the Creator gives us two hints to live our lives.

### Main Points

#### **1 . Understanding God's Rules**

##### **1 ) The Natural World Shows God's Rules.**

When we watch nature, we understand it has certain rules: a relationship between plant growth and the weather and temperature, the ratio of air-contained materials such as oxygen, carbon dioxide, hydrogen and other materials. The natural world is not chaotic. It is well known that there are certain rules in the natural world even though it is invisible.

The Bible records as below —

**Acts 17:28 “For in him we live and move and have our being.”**

The Scripture above teaches **God's rules**. We are asked to control our life correctly as the managers of our lives.

However, if we disregard **God's rules**, our life becomes an inefficient one, because no one can overcome God's rules.

The Epistle to the Galatians records as below —

**6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**

**6:8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.**

The destruction of the environment that occurred over the world is likely caused by pollution and waste. The destruction of the natural world is caused by air pollution (a pollution problem). We do not need to talk about this point anymore.

Therefore, understanding God's rules is one of the important hints to live.

## **2) Understanding the Important Rules of God**

From the very beginning, Israel, the people of the Bible, lived based on the Laws (to put it simply, their ancient constitution) that God has given to Moses the prophet. Israel and the Ten Commandments are never separated.

One day, a teacher of the Law came to Jesus and asked as below —

**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.**

**22: 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**

**22: 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

(All the Law and the Prophets refers to the Bible.)

Jesus taught two important things here.

- ① **Love the Lord your God.**
- ② **Love your neighbor.**

The common point is **to love**.

A young businessman asked Jesus like the teacher of the law.

**Matthew 19:16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”**

Jesus answered,

**19:19 “‘Honor your father and mother,’ ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”**

Jesus replied the same things.

- ① **Honor your father and mother.**
- ② **Love your neighbor.**

The young man answered.

**19:20 “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”**

**19:21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”**

**19:22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.**

As it records, the young man succeeded in business at a young age. He must have been an

excellent person. To sell his possessions and **give to the poor** is a **deed of love** and means to practice the Law.

Those who believe in God in the Jewish society are asked to do the following three things: ① pray ② fast and ③ give to the poor. Therefore, Jesus asked the young man, who said that he had kept all the Law, to respond in faith. However, he could not put it into practice.

The young man was directly taught the way to get **eternal life** by Jesus. However, he could not choose the way to put into practice. What was his problem? The Bible records, **“because he had great wealth.”**

My friends, please do not misunderstand the Scripture. The possessions are not the problem. The problem was that his heart was deeply attached to his possessions.

My dear friends, we learn that the secret to receiving the grace of God is to love God (to honor father and mother and put it into practice) and to love your neighbors. However, it is exceedingly difficult to love and put it into practice like the young businessman.

Then how can we practice loving in our daily lives?

Let's study how to apply it.

## **2 . Walking According to God's Rules (Application)**

### **1 ) Doing a Small Good Thing**

First of all, we should accept our circumstances in our state of life and then do what we can.

**Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

We need to do a small good thing. Even though it may be a small kindness, it is all right.

#### **{Illustration} A Small Kindness**

**It is a story that happened in the latter part of nineteenth century. A certain member of the British Parliament tried hard to pull his carriage out of the muddy road. But he hardly managed it and he was at a loss. A farmer boy happened to pass by and pulled the carriage out successfully.**

**The member of the Parliament was surprised and wanted to pay for his help. But the boy said, “Nothing I want. I was very honored that I could help a great man like you.” Being greatly impressed, he asked the boy again, “What do you want to be when you grow up? The boy said that he wanted to be a doctor, however it was impossible to be because he was born to a poor family. The Parliament member promised him to pay school expenses**

and the boy went to a medical school to become a doctor.

Fifty years have passed since then. Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, was dying because of pneumonia. It was in the middle of the Second World War. Great Britain was attacked from the air by Germany and under the critical situation. The doctors gave Churchill penicillin, a newly developed medicine, as a last resort.

Prime Minister Churchill immediately recovered in a day and brought a victory to the United Kingdom. The doctor who developed penicillin was Alexander Fleming who pulled the carriage out of the muddy road fifty years before.

On top of that, the Parliament member who was helped by the boy was Randolph Churchill who was the father of Winston Churchill. Like this, the boy's small good deed changed his life. Randolph Churchill's good deed for the boy saved his son and saved the United Kingdom later.

God encourages us to do a small good thing.

**6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

The small kindness movement in America has been drawing attention. The idea that the society will be changed if each person tries to do a small kindness to their neighbor agrees with the teaching of the Bible.

Of course, doing a big work is good, however the Bible teaches as below—

**16:10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. Luke 「**

As the Bible tells, we should do a little good thing first.

## **2) Following Jesus' Faithfulness**

It is difficult for us to put a thing into practice, what we understand in our head. When we can carry it out, we likely start a successful way.

The life of Jesus Christ started with **faithfully** carrying out a small thing. Jesus saw small children. He gave a hand to the weak. He spoke to the sick and people who were suffering from sin. Jesus came close to them and gave help.

Jesus directly practiced love that was the nature of God the Father. The most precious love of

Jesus Christ was revealed on the cross. Jesus was perfect One, however, He offered **his life** to the imperfect. Jesus did not commit sin; however, He became a sinner and was crucified. Jesus' precious blood that was shed on the cross cleanses our sin.

**1 John 1:7 ...and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**

Jesus Christ died and was buried in the tomb; however, He was resurrected on the third day. He fulfilled His work as the Savior (the Messiah) of the world. Therefore, we see the example of love in Jesus Christ. The important thing is to follow the example of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **3) Receiving the Help of the Holy Spirit**

Jesus said as below —

**John 14:14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.**

**14:15 "If you love me, keep my commands.**

**14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—**

**14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be<sup>[c]</sup> in you.**

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

Jesus promises that He will give **another advocate**.

**Another advocate** refers to God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit. God revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. Therefore, Jesus said that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father (God).

After Jesus was taken to heaven, God revealed Himself through God's Spirit (the Holy Spirit). It is the One who is called **another advocate**.

Therefore, we live in the days that God directly speaks to us and helps us.

Then how can we receive the help of the Holy Spirit? We should create an environment where the Holy Spirit can easily work.

- ① To get rid of sin (Confession)
- ② To be purified by the blood of Jesus (Prayer)
- ③ To trust in God (Faith)

If we ask Him, He will surely come to appear and help us. How blessed we are!

Jesus said,

**Luke 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.**

## Conclusion

Title of the Message: "A Wonderful Hint for Your Life"

— A Small Kindness —

Today, we listened to an important lesson. Let us conclude today's message.

We studied two hints to live by as below—

1 . Understanding God's rules.

**6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**

**6:8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.** Galatians

2 . Walking by and following God's Rules

It specifically means that we look at Jesus Christ and follow Him. These are the important hints for our lives today.

\* God bless you!