

June 7, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Living in a New Life"

—Following Jesus—

Text: 1 Peter 1:13~16

1:13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

1:14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

1:16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Introduction

These days, one of the words that we often hear is **after-coronavirus**. Newspapers and magazines write articles about it and lecture meetings are held.

How about you? Not only Japan but also the world is greatly damaged by **coronavirus**. It is probably an event that changes human history. Our way of life will be surely changed **after coronavirus**.

Businesspersons, company and store owners are directly effected and many employees are effected too. The **coronavirus** issue is not another person's problem. We are asked how to live in this new era.

My friends, our way of life is changed by looking beyond our current lives and thinking about hope. Therefore, it is very important to consider our future lives.

Being God's saints, we think about our future hope in two ways—

- ① The hope of life in this world
- ② The hope of life in the Kingdom of Heaven

The following two points are important.

① We trust in the Almighty God and live in this world by receiving His wisdom and guidance. God the Almighty comes close to us and guides us in any difficult situation, because He really loves us.

② We live for the kingdom in heaven by hope that is invisible and not fulfilled yet. Peter teaches us in today's text. It means that man's way of life is changed by depending on his hope.

How about you? What way of life do you plan for? **The after-coronavirus** issue is a real problem even though we are not there yet.

Peter writes, “**Therefore**” in Verse 13. He means that because of the preceding Scripture, we should live appropriately.

Let us study the following two points today.

Main Points

1 . **Living in a New Life**

1:13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

We study the following three points from the Scripture above.

1) **Being Alert in Mind**

A phrase, “**minds that are alert**” means **to fasten a belt around one’s waist of mind**. Let us remember clothes in those days. They could move freely by tucking up their long cloaks in their belts.

Jesus said in Luke, Chapter 17 as below–

17:8 ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink.’

Being alert in mind means to get rid of unnecessary things and concentrate to do God’s will. Being alert in mind to do good things positively by getting rid of obstacle.

2) **Being Sober**

Being sober originally means **to awake and not to drink. It does not mean to be dizzy but to be stable and balanced**. And it is a habitual attitude of life. He who is like this is never deceived by various new doctrines.

3) **Setting Your Hope On Jesus**

The purpose of being alert in mind and being sober is to concentrate and set your hope on something. I have heard that **set your hope on** can be translated **to set all hopes on**.

Then, what do we set our hope on? Where do we set our hope on? It should be set on **the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming**. It is **the fulfilment of salvation** that is completed when Jesus comes again.

Now we should understand that we live between **already** and **still**. That is that we are **already** acknowledged righteous by God and given an eternal life, but the world is **still** under the influence of sin. The world is damaged by sin and controlled by the evil one (Satan). We are still under the influence of sin and troubled. In that sense, the salvation is not completed yet.

We live between **already** and **still**. Therefore, we set our hope on the fulfillment of salvation. How happy we are! God is waiting for us to give lots of additional grace. Therefore, we earnestly keep waiting. Our hope depends on it. We need to be patient.

Romans 5:3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that sufferings produce perseverance;

Like this, we are changed into holy ones on the process of eagerly waiting.

Peter teaches that Christians should **live in the new life** even in sufferings. He teaches the following three points are important to live in the new life: ① being alert in mind, ② being sober and ③ setting your hope on Jesus.

2. God's Invitations

We who believe in God are not only saved, but also, we are invited by Him.

If you go to a restaurant and have a full-course dinner. They serve an appetizer, main-dish and dessert.

However, no one eats only a appetizer and left his seat saying, "It was so delicious." They serve meat and fish for the main dish later. If he only receives God's salvation and does not understand God's grace of the main dish, he is just like a man who finishes the dinner eating only a relish.

Peter records about God's grace as below—

1:14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

1:16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Now let us think about the Scripture above again. Let's study the following two invitations from it.

1) An Invitation for Being Obedient

We should respond (obediently) to God as those who are invited to God's dinner table. What were we like before we met Jesus Christ?

The Epistle to the Ephesians records as below—

2:2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

The life before was ignorant and ruled by desire.

However, we should not live like that. We should leave our selfish lives and follow God obediently. It is a sign of a true believer.

Peter said,

1:14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

① **To conform** means to follow.

The Epistle to Romans, Chapter 12 records as below—

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

You probably thought that it was acceptable for us, human beings, to speak evil of other people. You might assert yourself. However, being a Christian, you should not devote yourself to live a selfish life. You should not **conform** to evil things, rather you should reject them with courage.

② **To conform** means to do the same things. There is an interesting expression, “nach machen” in Germany. (Like a child who imitates what a teacher does) To conform refers to the relationship of the child and the teacher.

Peter continues to teach how should they live. It is the other invitation as the following.

2) An Invitation to a Holy Life

1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

1:16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

① **Following the Holy One**

The holy one is Jesus Christ. We should live by following Jesus. It does not mean to become a **saint** according to the human idea. It means to conform to the likeness of God rather than to become mature as a human being. It is a restoration.

Genesis, Chapter 1 records as below—

1 : 26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

1 : 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

We human beings are created in God's image, therefore, we are restored to our original form.

Peter said, **“But just as he who called you is holy,” (1:15)** It is our goal of life.

The Scripture encourages as below—

Ephesians 5:1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children,

1 Thessalonians 1:6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

Even so, how great our goal of life is, becoming imitators of God!

Peter continues teaching.

② Following in All We Do

1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

What does it mean “**be holy in all you do**”? It means to live all life with love like God Himself. We sometimes are too tolerant of ourselves saying, “Oh, well, it’s an exception.” On the contrary, we should think at home, office school, “If Jesus was in my position, what would He do?” We should follow His example.

As we study, we realize that the Bible asks us to get over a high hurdle; **so be holy in all you do (1:15)** You may think it is impossible to follow! So, do I.

Then, what should we do? Please listen to me very carefully. It is important to seek to be holy. However, I would like to tell you an opposite thing. We are still weak and commit sin even though after we accepted Jesus Christ. We are too weak to achieve holiness that God asks, even if we desperately seek God’ holiness.

However, God gave us the Holy Spirit who is another Advocate. The one of important works of the Holy Spirit is to indicate our sin.

Jesus said,

12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
Matthew

Why is he, who speaks against the Holy Spirit, not forgiven? The reason is that if he denies the Holy Spirit, he comes to block the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we must not speak a word against the Holy Spirit.

The way to become holy is to leave sin. The Holy Spirit speaks to our conscience. When we listen to His word and follow, we are gradually made to be like Jesus.

We are becoming a likeness of God Himself. God works on the heart of Christians, who received the grace of salvation, like this.

Let us faithfully follow His voice.

John 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep

follow him because they know his voice.

10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

The saints who are sheep should follow Jesus who is the good shepherd.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "Living in a New Life"

—Following Jesus—

Today we studied the life that responds to God's invitation. God already invites us to His banquet. How do we live our lives as those who are invited? The following two attitudes help us to live.

1. A chance to live in a new life

1:13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

2. Responding the Invitation that God Gives

1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

The life that responds to God's invitation is:

- ① Being faithful to God
- ② To follow Jesus

* God bless you!