

September 13, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Memorial Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Live Your Life with Hope."

—He Who Lives—

Text: John 11:17~27

11:17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

11:18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,

11:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

11:20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

11:21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

11:22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Introduction

We have a memorial worship service once a year. It is a very meaningful worship service where we remember our family members who have already passed.

By the way, the world is moving with bewildering speed and time is going by almost beyond imagination. And everyone will face death before long. Death absolutely comes with 100% certainty to everyone. Nobody avoids death. How can we accept death that nobody can avoid?

I know a certain Christian evangelist who preached the Gospel to sick children. One day he told me some stories as below—

① **A girl who had a brain tumor for 24 months and died**

"Brother, it hurts, but I am happy to go heaven where Jesus is waiting me."

② **A 12-year-old girl**

She said with smile and closed her eyes, "Father, Mother, I just want to tell you. Jesus died and has risen and prepared the way to heaven. So, I can go to heaven. Please forgive me for going now before you."

③ A 11-year-old boy

“Father, why are you crying? I go to heaven where Jesus is. Please do not cry. Please believe in Jesus and come to heaven.” Waving his hand and fell into eternal sleep.

The deaths of these children were full of hope. These three children believed in Jesus Christ. They teach that there is **hope** beyond of the river of death.

The word of Jesus Christ:

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live,

Today, I would like to speak about hope that Jesus taught.

Main Points

1. **“I am the resurrection”**

Jesus lived only thirty several years. And his ministry period was about only three years. During the time, Jesus preached in various places, gave food to the poor, healed the sick, performed miracles and sometimes brought the dead back to life. At last, He was arrested by the leaders of the days and crucified.

However, Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection.”** It means that he defeated death. Only God can speak this way. In fact, Jesus resurrected from the tomb and appeared before many people.

The detail story is recorded in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15. (Please read it.) The epistle was written 25 years after Jesus’ resurrection.

In those days, there were living witnesses. If the epistle had been false, it would have been contested. However, there were many people who could not believe that the dead were brought back to life. And that is still continuing now.

Jesus’ resurrection is either true or false.

- ① Does the Bible, which teaches not to give false testimony, record a false thing? What does it mean that churches, pastors, and missionaries survive into modern times?
- ② What does it mean that those who witnessed Jesus’ resurrection were changed and encouraged and given hope?
- ③ If the Bible teaches false things, why is it not burnt up? Why is it continually read for hundreds of years as a best-seller? Please consider these points.

Jesus’ word: **“I am the resurrection.”**

2. **“I am the life”**

Life is the source to live. When man’s life dries up, he dies. Everyone dies someday.

Then, why does man die? The Bible records as below—

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Bible teaches that man commits sin before God the Creator. No parent teaches his or her child to commit sin, however, the child commits sin. It is because humans have a nature to commit sin.

The sin in the Bible means ⇒ **off target**

Man left God (off target). He got lost and then experienced suffering and finally could not understand the purpose of life.

Jesus said, **"I am the life."** The Bible records as below—

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

This life is the one that never dries up. My friends, **death** does not mean an end.

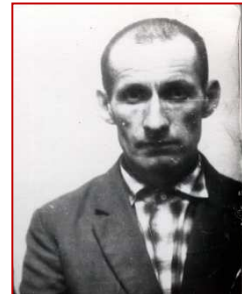
3. "Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live"

⇒ **Those who believe in God find hope**

There is not just hardship and sorrow, but there is light and hope in life.

{Illustration} **David Klassen,**

Mr. David Klassen was an evangelist who traveled all over the world. was someone who had a great influence on me. He was a German Russian and surprisingly was sent to a concentration labor camp in Siberia for 27 years. He came out of the labor camp to Germany by miraculous help.



**He
God's**

<The days in the labor camp>

He sent me a letter right before his death as below—

* * * * *

I give thanks for God's grace and people for the support of many prayers. The doctor said that I was supposed to be carried to a graveyard and buried in 2 weeks.

However, I have lived for ten months since then. Look, I am still alive! I got bone marrow cancer that spread to 206 places in my body. However, I do not have any pain. It is only God's grace. I was given a wheelchair, but I did not move on it even 1 meter. It is God's miracle, isn't it?

The author of Psalms records, "I have been as a portent to many, but you are my refuge." (Psalm 71:7) I really praise God like him. Of course, I understand that I should always prepare for death. However, the Bible teaches, "Whoever believes the Son has eternal life." My state of mind is expressed by Psalm 23:4. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." How blessed I am!

By the way, many people came to the hospital to see me from Africa, America, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and various countries in Europe. And my brother in the dog sledding area of Siberia made an international call.

On top of that, I have calls from Messianic Jews in Kiev, Rom' church in Hamburg, Christian prisoners who were sentenced to imprisonment for life, and many groups of children and the aged. They gave me great comfort. On the other hand, I need your intercessional prayer, too.

God allowed me to see many things and have many experiences. He still allows me to live in this world. I made a crown of thorns for my funeral. I wrote in my will, "Please do not put flowers on my coffin and gravestone but send money for flowers to the poor orphans in Russia."

I really recall that Japan that is far from here with fond memories. I put the souvenirs you gave me in my room when I visited Japan. I remember brothers and who welcomed me with beautiful flowers, brothers and sisters of hearing-impaired persons' church in Tokyo, brothers and sisters welcomed me with flowers in cold and snowy Sapporo. I have many memories. I sincerely give thanks for your love and kindness. Now I writing. Please remember me to your wife and brothers and sisters church. May God be with you...until we meet again.



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who
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< After

back to Germany >

*In the Lord,
David Klassen*

He had hope. He did not fear death, but it was a starting point. It was the departure point to enter the kingdom in heaven. How about you?

Jesus said, **"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."**

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "Live Your Life with Hope."

—He Who Lives—

Please live your own life with hope because we are allowed to live only once.

Let us read the Scripture again.

**Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."
John 11:25**

* God bless you !

