

November 8, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Let's Going Back to the Basic Attitude"

— God's Glory —

Text: 1 Peter 3:13~17

**3:13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?**

**3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,**

**3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,**

**3:16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.**

**3:17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.**

### Introduction

Let us review what we studied in the last several weeks. We studied 1 Peter; an epistle written to the Jewish Christians who were the exiles in the Diaspora. They were under various sufferings and persecutions. Peter taught them God's grace and faith in Christ even though they had suffering.

The theme of the former message is "Do Not Be Caught in a Vortex of Vengeance" – Obtaining a Blessing. Peter took on the problem of people who were suffering for doing good things. When we experience an unreasonable thing, what should we do? Sometimes, we cannot have a peaceful mind and want to take revenge, don't we? In doing so, we come to lose peace of mind.

We sometimes face trouble even though we follow God. Evil power tries to draw us in to a **vortex of vengeance**, the evil spiral. It makes our situation worse.

The important thing is not to be involved in evil and the evil spiral. On the contrary, we should walk in love, sympathy, humbleness, and peace. That life is really the blessed one, however, it is very difficult to put in practice.

Peter teaches two points in today's text about the same theme with a new point of view.

## Main Points

### 1 . The Basic Attitude

#### 1 ) Be Zealous for What Is Good.

#### 3:13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

Some Christian says, "We cannot get along without friction as a Christian in our society that is quite different from Europe and America." In some extreme case, someone may aggressively say, "They all are tools of the devil except Christians."

However, Peter advises them, "**You should be zealous for what is good.**" He encourages to **be zealous for what is good** whether they are Christians or not, or they like you or not. He says, "**Who is there to harm you.**" We sometimes suffer for the righteousness' sake.

Paul also records in 2 Timothy 3:12,

#### 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

We are sometimes treated harshly just by being different from other people. Nowadays, social networking service is growing rapidly, it has created a problem with flaming slander. However, Christians should not be caught up in this. It is the first and most important thing. It is the basic attitude that we should do good to other people.

#### 2 ) Those Who Will Be Blessed

#### 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.

Jesus said as below,

#### Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake for theirs is the kingdom for heaven.

We are blessed when we are persecuted if we follow God. Persecution itself is a proof that we are citizens of the kingdom of heaven and the nation of God.

The Bible teaches that **the blessed one should be zealous for what is good.**

What are we zealous for? Being zealous for what is good is the basic attitude.

### 2 . Christians' Attitude in Faith

#### 1 ) The Things Always to Be Prepared

Peter revealed the following three points of the basic attitude that Christians should have.

#### ① Have no fear.

#### 3:14 b Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

Jesus also said,

**Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.**

**10:30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.**

**10:31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

Jesus said that we should not fear those who kill the body. It is God who controls everything including life and death, not human beings. On top of that, the God of the Bible thinks of each of us valuable and puts us in His hand. The One we must really fear is God the Father in heaven, not persecutors.

Fear becomes the biggest obstacle in our lives. It causes us to lose our motivation and becomes an obstacle. It makes us lose our desire and discouraged us. The saints of the early churches also dealt with fear.

My friends! More or less, we are afraid. Have you ever thought about **worry and fear**? Dr. Grant Mullen, a Christian psychiatrist, writes as follows.

**“Worry cannot be said to be always a bad thing. It is a God’s gift for the purpose of protecting against danger. It is the appropriate element of a child in his childhood when he faces a new situation that may be dangerous. However, Satan uses worry cunningly and raises the level of worry to produce fear. When it raises beyond the limit, it causes mental damage to the heart.”**

It is not God’s will. Originally, the correct relationship between God and us was *cosmos* (order, harmony). However, it was broken and as a result, the level of worry raises, and **fear** has gotten stronger. **Fear** like this does not need in the correct relationship with God.

Surprisingly, the word **fear** (noun) appears 600 times in the Bible.

The Scripture records,

**Psalm 118:6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?**

The Bible records the first **fear** in Genesis 3:10 as below,

It was the word of the first man who gave in to temptation and failed to follow the God’s word.

**3:10 And he (Adam) said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”**

Jesus said as below,

**Luke 12:4 “I’ll tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that**

have nothing more that they can do.

**John 14:1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”**

**14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

The first basic attitude is **not to fear**.

Then what should we do? ⇒ We should trust in God.

## ② **Honor Christ the Lord (The way of life, attitude)**

**3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy.**

God controls everything including persecutors. Therefore, Peter advises us to honor Christ as holy. How about Paul and Silas who were seized in Philippi, beaten with rods, and put into the prison? Yet, they were singing hymns in the prison. As a result, the jailer and his whole family believed in the Lord. (The Acts 16:19~34)

To honor Christ the lord is the important attitude of Christians in faith.

Then, what should we do? ⇒ We should praise the Lord.

## ③ **Preparing to Make a Defense (Preparation)**

**3:15 ...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.**

Maybe some will ask you the following questions.

Why did you become a Christian?

What does a Christian believe in?

What is salvation according to Christianity?

When we are asked like this, how do we answer? Do you tell them, “Please come to church”?

“Please ask a pastor”? It may be good; however, Peter says **always being prepared to make a defense**. Are you ready to answer for these questions?

On top of that, it does not just make a defense.

**3:16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.**

Making a defense is not making an excuse. It is not with an impertinent or arrogant attitude. It is not an assertive one. It means to share what we have. However, we do not understand a everything perfectly. We cannot lead people to salvation with great eloquence or with

persuasive power. The Lord Himself saves them. Peter encourages to do **with gentleness and respect, and a good conscience.**

We should speak frankly including our weakness and mistakes. Our honest and humble testimony make those who revile are put to shame. Preparing for making a defense is the important attitude.

Then, what should we do? ⇒ We should have devotion time every day. We need to be ready for practicing at any time.

## 2) Trusting in God

**3:17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.**

There are two kinds of suffering.

- ① **Suffering brought on oneself:** to reap suffering of his own actions
- ② **Suffering with doing good :** Peter said, **"It is better to suffer for doing good."**

Peter records in Chapter 5 as below,

**5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,**

**5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you**

This world is hurt, troubled, and overrun with fear and confusion because of turning against God's will. Even us, Christians, are sometimes selfish and perverted. Our fellowship of church is not always perfectly free from influence of sins.

Therefore, we feel hurt. We are slandered and spoken ill of by those who are not Christians. However, let us willingly take them. If we think we are in wrong, let us humbly correct our faults.

Let us honor the Lord in our heart and ask Him to make us testify the salvation of Christ if allowed the opportunity. The glory of God is revealed through our attitudes that we live with joy and peace even if we have pain. We come to be covered with God's glory and shine.

### Conclusion

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— God's Glory —

Today, we listened to the important points. We studied that even if we are suffering for righteousness' sake, it reveals the glory of God who is the Lord. The saints of the early churches

were under various sufferings and persecutions.

However, it was not meant to be defeated. The reason was that Jesus Christ, who was crucified and resurrected, was with them. It is the faith of the cross and the faith of resurrection. We are given power to live from there. Today, we studied an especially important point to live. We studied that the important point is to go back to the basic attitude where the glory of God is revealed.

Let us remember the following two important points.

### **1Peter, Chapter 5**

#### **1 . Keep the basic attitude in mind**

**5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,**

#### **2 . Trust in God.**

**5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.**

\* God bless you