

December 13, 2020

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (the Third Advent Sunday)

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Look at the Shining Light in the Dark World"

— The Light —

Text: John 1:9~13

1:9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

1:11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Introduction

Today is the Third Advent Sunday. It is amazing how fast time flies by! We have lit Advent candles every Sunday and did the third one today. The third candle symbolizes "the light". The light is "the true light" that overcomes the darkness. **John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."**

Japan is full of Christmas lights in cities now. Each illumination looks as if it competes with one another in its beauty. They move us very deeply. However, even these beautiful lights will disappear after the Christmas season. In contrast, the light in the Bible doesn't remain finite like the illuminations in the cities.

John 1:9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

The light that the Bible teaches is the true light that has been present from the beginning and is present now and will be present from now on. We have the Third Advent Sunday today. Let's consider "the true light".

Main Points

1 . The Light the World Is Seeking for

I have heard a story from a certain Japanese man who was in Thailand. He said it was common that there was no electricity in a village surrounded by mountains. They ate an

early dinner as a family under the one light and then slept early for work the next day. It was their everyday life. The light was the only help for people in such a village without electric products.

He visited Thailand again. He found that the country became quite different from his past experience. Electricity was installed in villages deep in the mountains. The life of the people was utterly changed. A road was built to carry power poles in and fluorescent lighting was available and then they could buy T.V sets. They could receive satellite broadcasting using a dish antenna. A T.V set with DVD player was suddenly brought into their home. They could watch events of the world every day and also came to know luxurious life of “durable goods” such as appliances, automobiles and furniture by commercials on T.V.

As the roads became better, strong men went away to work for cash earnings. Parents sent their children to school in cities even though they have financial difficulties, so that they could have good job in future. Many people had gone to big cities for seeking jobs. As a result, only elderly people and children get left behind, and the villages were quickly dying because of depopulation and breaking down of a regional community.

My friends, people in Thailand sought “the light” only for a good life that was surrounded with shining “durable goods”. This is not a phenomenon in one country but of the world now and occurs simultaneously over the world. This is characteristic of our day.

Our fundamental things in life don’t change even though we are receiving new information one after another, do they? People keep thinking night and day, “Why can’t we become rich? How can we lead a good life?”

People are seeking for the rich and peaceful world but it goes in the opposite direction from what is expected. This is the gloomy reality of the world. News is conveyed over the world in an instant. Horrible crimes, unbelievable events, regional wars and terrorist attacks are occurring.

The life is full of complaint, anxiety, conflict, tensions, hatred, and pain and so on. People try hard to get a better life and tend to think that they do anything to get it. As a result, fraud and evil are widespread in society. We come to lead a life in the dangerous society.

Human beings are seeking the light and they are participating in the endless battle so that they reap benefit in life. This is the light the world is seeking for. However where is “the true light”? The Bible gives an answer as the following.

2. “The True Light” Has Come from Heaven.

“The true light” is not the one made by human beings. It is “the true light” from heaven.

John 1:9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him

Jesus Christ Is “The True Light”.

Jesus was born in an animal shed about 2000 years ago. His birth was just like “a weak and tiny light” which was easily blown out. In fact, some people tried to do it. The Bible writes about those people precisely.

Jesus grew and worked as the Messiah for three years in the public life. But people hated Him and finally He was crucified. According to prophesies of the Old Testament, He overcame death and rose from the dead on the third day. He defeated death and became the light of a glorious victory.

“The tiny light” Jesus gives is “the real light” that shines people in darkness of this world. Jesus is the very light of the world.

Then, what is Jesus Christ like?

1) “He” is God the Creator.

1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him,

“The world” is “cosmos” in Greek. It originally means “a world that possesses order” but it is used for the sinful world and its people in this verse above. The world of today is under disorder and confusion. We live and work in this world.

2) “He” Is the Source of Light.

A term light in Greek has two definitions.

“phos” : the source of light

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

“phengos” : a mere light, a small light

Luke 11:33 “None of you lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead you put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world". He said He is phosphorus and it means that He is the source of light.

3) "He" Is God Who Came to this World

1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

1:11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

"He came to that which was his own" ⇒ It is His own thing. It means that God came to the dark world as a human being and showed Himself clearly as "the true light".⇒ Christmas

This is God's master plan for the salvation of human beings.

However, "**the world did not recognize him**". They didn't understand the Messiah who came to the world of disorder and confusion. They saw Him but didn't truly see him. They were so foolish that they saw Him but didn't understand the most important thing. Human beings are really foolish. The Bible records that Israelites "**did not recognize him**". Similarly, people of today don't recognize Jesus Christ.

Why didn't they recognize Him? ⇒ Because their face(eyes) were veiled with sin. The Bible records "**his own did not receive him**".

Let me summarize things that I talked about so far here. The world (cosmos) was ① created by God the Creator and ② God sent the Messiah (the Savior) to the dark "world" but ③ His own people did not receive Him.

My friends, God has His master plan for the real history of the world. God sent the Messiah as a man of a particular race at a specific time in history. He chose Israelites for the purpose and plan of salvation. He revealed the Messiah to Israelites more than any other races and gave a promise of salvation. The days of the Old Testament were the preparation days for God's master plan.

"the true light" ⇒ He is Jesus Christ who came from heaven.

* God shows His love in salvation for human beings. He is the true light who came to this world.

4) God's Grace

God's master plan was to give His grace to human beings through "the true light". Then, what grace is it like?

⇒ The Right to Become Children of God

1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

“Believed in his name” means to “trust Him perfectly”.

It is impossible for human beings to have the right to become children of God.

My friends, one of rights is ⇒ to inherit property.

A child has the right to inherit father’s property without any effort because he is his child.

Like this, children of God are given the right to inherit the kingdom in heaven.

The Bible : 4:13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Romans 4:13

“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Galatians 3:29

Those who trust in God completely are given the right to become children of God. How thankful we are!

Then, how they become children of God?

1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

“of natural descent” (Plural form) ⇒ It indicates a family lineage (a family blood).

“of human decision” ⇒ It indicates human effort, training ,etc.

“a husband’s will” ⇒ It indicates parent’s will or a spouse’s will.

Then, where does this right come from?

“Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” 1:13

but “born of God” ⇒ It is written in John Chapter 3 as below. Jesus said to Nicodemus who was a teacher of the law.

John 3:3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again.

“Being born again”(salvation) is done only by God’s power not by human’s will.

The right to become children of God doesn’t given by natural descent nor training or human’s will ⇒ but “born of God”. “The true light” opened the way to born again even in the dark world.⇒ It is 100 % grace of God. It is God’s grace that is given by only faith in Jesus Christ.

By the way, where do we put the light? It should be put on its stand so that they can see it.

None of you lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead you put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Luke 11:33

Where do we put the light of Christ in our life?

"Look therefore that the light which is in you be not darkness" Luke 11:35

The Bible, Colloquial Japanese

"So be sure that your light isn't darkness." Luke 11:35 The New Japanese Bible

We have a precious opportunity to find "the light" at Christmas this year.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "The True Light Has Come"

—Joyful Message—

1:9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. John 1:9

Aren't we exhausted every day because we are taking part in struggling night and day in this world?

We need to be healed by "the Christmas light" that is "the true light".

Today's message is "The True Light Has Come".

The light ⇒ Jesus Christ

1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

We are given the right as below

1 . We can become children of God by Jesus Christ.

2 . We can become an heir of the Kingdom of God.

This is 100 % God's grace.

*God bless you!